

1       Sec. XX. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE VERMONT  
2                   STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM; REPORTS

3           (a) Creation. There is created the Select Committee on the Future of the  
4           Vermont State College System (Committee) to assist the State of Vermont and  
5           the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) in developing a vision and plan for a high-  
6           quality, affordable, sustainable future, a future that is workforce-connected and  
7           robust in its online capacities.

8           (b) Membership.

9           (1) The Committee shall be composed of up to the following 15  
10          members:

11           (A) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall  
12          be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

13           (B) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
14          Committee on Committees;

15           (C) the President of the University of Vermont or designee and a  
16          representative of the UVM Board of Trustees, appointed by the President;

17           (D) the Interim Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) or  
18          designee, and a representative of each of the VSC Board of Trustees, VSC  
19          campus administration, VSC faculty, VSC students, and VSC alumni or donor  
20          community, each appointed by the Interim Chancellor;

1           (E) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or  
2           designee;

3           (F) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

4           (G) two representatives of the business community, appointed by the  
5           Steering Group created under subsection (c) of this section; and

6           (H) the President of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or  
7           designee.

8           (2) A Committee member may be appointed to fill more than one role as  
9           identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

10           (3) Appointers of members of the Committee shall seek to ensure that  
11           the geographical areas of the State hosting VSC campuses are represented on  
12           the Committee.

13           (c) Steering Group. On or before June 29, 2020, the Speaker of the House  
14           and the President Pro Tempore shall jointly appoint three members of the  
15           Committee, and the Governor shall appoint two members of the Committee, to  
16           serve as members of a Steering Group. The Steering Group shall provide  
17           leadership to the Committee and shall work with a consulting firm to analyze  
18           the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing VSC, as well as create a formal  
19           action plan to drive change and innovation in the VSC system. The Steering  
20           Group may form one or more subcommittees of the Committee to address key  
21           topic areas in greater depth.

1       (d) Collaboration. The Committee shall seek input from and collaborate  
2       with key stakeholders, as directed by the Steering Group.

3       (e) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the structure of the  
4       current VSC system and build on previous studies and white papers in this  
5       area, including the ongoing work and work products of the VSCS Forward  
6       Task Force, the NVU Strong Advisory Committee, and the VTC Transition  
7       Advisory Task Force. The Select Committee shall also offer  
8       recommendations on how to increase affordability, access, retention,  
9       attainment, relevance, and fiscal sustainability, including the following issues:

10       (1) the financial sustainability of the VSC system and its impact on  
11       institutional capacity to innovate and meet State goals and learners' needs,  
12       including a comparison of higher education programs, delivery models, and  
13       structures in other states;

14       (2) the current organizational structure of VSC and its ability to promote  
15       student success;

16       (3) the alignment of the VSC system and workforce development goals,  
17       policy frameworks, and partnerships between businesses and institutions of  
18       higher education that are designed to meet the needs of employers and promote  
19       the public value of education; and

20       (4) potential collaboration or partnership, or both, with The University  
21       of Vermont.

1       (f) Consultant. The Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office, in  
2       collaboration with the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE),  
3       shall issue a request for proposal to hire a consultant to assist the Committee  
4       with responses due from interested parties on or before July 17, 2020. On or  
5       before July 31, 2020, the Steering Group shall select the consultant.

6       (g) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative and technical  
7       assistance of the Agency of Education. NEBHE shall provide project  
8       management support to the Committee.

9       (h) Reports. Recognizing the need for short-term solutions on system  
10       structure, governance, funding, and sustainability, the Committee, through its  
11       Steering Group, shall use a phased approach to reporting. The first interim  
12       report shall be due on or before December 20, 2020 and shall focus on the  
13       topics described in subdivision (e)(1) of this section; the second interim report  
14       shall be due on or before June 15, 2021 and shall focus on the topics described  
15       in subdivisions (e)(2), (3), and (4) of this section; and the final report, which  
16       shall collate findings relative to subsection (e) of this section and include the  
17       action plan, shall be due on or before December 15, 2021. All reports shall be  
18       in writing and be delivered to the General Assembly and the Governor.

19       (i) Meetings.

1           (1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or  
2           designee shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before  
3           August 28, 2020.

4           (2) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore shall  
5           jointly select the Committee chair.

6           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

7           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 31, 2022.

8           (j) Compensation and reimbursement.

9           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
10          Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in his or her  
11          capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
12          reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

13          (2) Other members of the Committee, who are not employees of the  
14          State of Vermont, shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
15          reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

16          (3) Compensation and reimbursement under this subsection shall be, in  
17          each fiscal year 2021 and 2022, for a maximum of:

18                (A) six in-person meetings of the Committee;

19                (B) eight in-person meetings of the Steering Group; and

1           (C) four remote meetings of up to four subcommittees, assuming  
2           compensation and reimbursement for up to five members of each  
3           subcommittee.

4           (k) Appropriations.

5           (1) The sum of \$20,500.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Education  
6           from the General Fund in fiscal year 2021 for per diem compensation and  
7           reimbursement of expenses for members of the Committee, Steering Group,  
8           and subcommittees.

9           (2) The Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office is authorized to transfer  
10          funds identified in Sec. A.3(b) of this act to carry out the actions required  
11          under this section.