

1 H.582

2 Introduced by Representative Sabilia of Dover

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; Flexible Pathways Initiative; career technical education;
6 workforce development

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
8 Pipelines and Pathways Grant Program that would create a 50 percent match
9 grant to partially fund career preparation programs on a regional level. The
10 grant would be used to connect regional career and technical centers, school
11 districts providing high school education, regional development corporations,
12 the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and other regional workforce
13 resources, providing a bridge from the educational system to the regional
14 economy and regional workforce programs.

15 An act relating to the creation of the Pipelines and Pathways Grant Program

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

18 Through 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 77, the General Assembly created the
19 Flexible Pathways Initiative, which, among other things, encouraged the
20 creativity of school districts to develop, expand, and promote high-quality

1 educational opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary
2 readiness, while acknowledging individual goals, learning styles, and abilities.
3 Implementation of the Flexible Pathways Initiative has not been consistent
4 across the State. The Pipelines and Pathways Grant Program has been piloted
5 for two years in the field with great success. This grant program is intended to
6 provide a flexible means to implement 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 77
7 statewide.

8 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 948 is added to read:

9 § 948. PIPELINES AND PATHWAYS GRANT PROGRAM

10 (a) Creation. There is created the Pipelines and Pathways Grant Program
11 that provides grants to connect regional career and technical centers, school
12 districts providing high school education, regional development corporations,
13 the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and other regional workforce
14 resources. The Program provides funding and guidance to create a bridge from
15 the educational system to the regional economy and regional workforce
16 programs, ensuring all Vermont high school students have access to develop
17 and build career skills while being connected to career pathways.

18 (b) Definitions.

19 (1) “Program” means the Pipelines and Pathways Grant Program created
20 under this section.

1 (2) “Region” and “regional” mean the geographic regions served by the
2 12 workforce development offices operated by the Department of Labor’s
3 Workforce Development Division.

4 (c) Program administration. The Program shall be administered by the
5 Agency of Education through the Program Coordinator. The Agency shall
6 maintain a full-time position within its Career Pathways section that shall
7 coordinate and oversee the Program. In addition, the Agency shall be
8 responsible for organizing and facilitating continuing education opportunities
9 for teaching staff related to expanding faculty participating in career education,
10 as well as an annual statewide convention for core implementers of the
11 Program.

12 (d) Regional coordination grant. Each region in the State is eligible to
13 apply for a grant up to \$75,000.00 under the Program. The grant shall be used
14 to coordinate services between school districts, career technical centers,
15 guidance professionals, regional development corporations, the Vermont
16 Student Assistance Corporation, and other regional workforce resources to
17 provide high school students with the resources they need to develop and build
18 career skills while being connected to career pathways. Grants shall be
19 awarded on a match-basis, with the grant amount matching a regional
20 contribution to fund career preparation programming. Regions shall submit

1 applications for grant funding to the Agency on forms developed by the
2 Agency for this purpose. Grant applications shall include:

3 (1) a regional coordination team that shall include representation from
4 all career and technical education programs in the region, all high schools in
5 the region, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Community College
6 of Vermont, and the regional development corporation;

7 (2) a designated lead Program coordinator for the region;

8 (3) a Program plan that includes the following core concepts:

9 (A) career education in the classroom, including resume writing,
10 professionalism, mock interviews, and alternative pathway exploration;

11 (B) workplace visits;

12 (C) training for educators and counselors regarding career education,
13 awareness, and preparation;

14 (D) sophomore summit, an annual daylong conference that provides
15 the sophomore students in each region with access to the employers and
16 organizations in their region;

17 (E) mentorships; and

18 (F) workplace immersion; and

19 (4) a detailed regional budget including the amount of grant money
20 sought and the regional match funding plan.

1 (e) Funding of Program plan. Fifty percent of a region’s career preparation
2 programming shall be funded by the State through an annual appropriation by
3 the General Assembly, administered through the Program. The remaining
4 50 percent of a region’s career preparation programming shall be funded
5 separately by each region.

6 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION

7 The sum of \$900,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Agency of Education in fiscal year 2023 for the purpose of funding up to
9 12 regional coordination grants under the Pipelines and Pathways Grant
10 Program established by this act.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.