

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 483
3 entitled “An act relating to potential new models of funding and governance
4 structures to improve the quality, duration, and access to career technical
5 education in Vermont” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
6 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
7 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

9 (a) Vermont’s career and technical education (CTE) system is critical to
10 ensuring that all Vermonters have access to the high-quality resources they
11 need to explore a wide variety of career pathways, earn a postsecondary
12 credential of value, and establish a productive career.

13 (b) CTE is a vital component of our educational system, supporting and
14 delivering on the goals established by the General Assembly in 2013 Acts and
15 Resolves No. 77 (flexible pathways), 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 189
16 (workforce development), and in achieving our attainment goal, which is that
17 70 percent of working-age Vermonters have a credential of value by 2025
18 (10 V.S.A. § 546).

19 (c) CTE is also an equity lever, providing every student access to critical
20 workforce training, postsecondary coursework, and the real-world skills and

1 networks that prepare our youth to continue to earn and learn during and after
2 high school.

3 (d) As of the fall semester of the 2021–2022 school year, students were
4 enrolling in CTE programs at a higher rate than at the beginning of the
5 pandemic, increasing from 4,160 to 4,565. In the 2020–2021 school year,
6 Vermont’s CTE system awarded Tier II credentials of value to 459 students.

7 (e) Since 2015, through legislative initiatives such as 2015 Acts and
8 Resolves No. 51, 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 69, 2018 Acts and Resolves No.
9 189, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 80, and most recently 2021 Acts and
10 Resolves No. 74, the General Assembly and other stakeholders in education
11 and in State government have been working to identify, understand, and
12 resolve long-standing concerns related to the functioning of the CTE system.

13 (f) In 2018, the Agency of Education embarked on a collaborative process
14 that included students, legislators, and communities across the State to develop
15 a strategic vision and aspirational goals to help guide the transformation of the
16 CTE system.

17 (g) The State Board of Education adopted the Agency of Education’s
18 vision and goals for CTE that “all Vermont learners attain their postsecondary
19 goals by having access to career and technical education systems that are
20 equitable, efficient, integrated and collaborative.”

1 (h) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 189 committed Vermont to a redesign of
2 its workforce development and training system, including the approval of up to
3 four pilot sites or projects to examine the way our CTE system is funded and
4 governed.

5 (i) In a report dated June 14, 2021, the Agency of Education reported on its
6 progress, which was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report
7 presented possible alternatives to our current funding structure, which is
8 widely seen as a barrier to enrollment. However, these alternatives were based
9 on an examination of only the CTE school district funding model and did not
10 include the study of governance models. The report recommended completing
11 this study of CTE funding and governance models to propose actionable
12 implementation steps for the State.

13 (j) The Agency of Education’s State plan for federal Perkins funds is
14 aligned to the vision and goals created through collaborative processes that
15 included a public comment period. Processes required in the federal
16 legislation like the biennial Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment will
17 strengthen the role of CTE in each region and help to focus the use of limited
18 federal funds to improve the system.

1 Sec. 2. FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF
2 CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN VERMONT

3 (a) There is appropriated to the Agency of Education for fiscal year 2023
4 the amount of \$180,000.00 from the General Fund to contract for services to:

5 (1) complete a systematic examination of the existing funding structures
6 of career technical education (CTE) in Vermont and how these structures
7 impede or promote the State’s educational and workforce development goals;

8 (2) examine CTE governance structures in relationship to those funding
9 structures;

10 (3) examine the implications of the existing funding and governance
11 structures for kindergarten through grade 12 schools and adult education;

12 (4) consider the CTE funding and governance structures in other states;
13 and

14 (5) identify and prioritize potential new models of CTE funding and
15 governance structures to reduce barriers to enrollment and to improve the
16 quality, duration, impact, and access to CTE statewide.

17 (b)(1) On or before March 1, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
18 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
19 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate
20 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on the
21 status of its work under subsection (a) of this section.

