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H.703

Representative Marcotte of Coventry moves that the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 11, CTE construction and rehabilitation experiential learning program; revolving loan fund, in subdivision (b)(1), by striking out “\$15,000,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “14,700,000.00”

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 11a to read as follows:
Sec. 11a. SECONDARY STUDENT ADVANCEMENT GRANTS PILOT

PROJECT; REPORT

(a) Pilot Project creation. There is created the Secondary Student Advancement Grants Pilot Project (Pilot Project) to provide funding for secondary students taking nondegree postsecondary or adult courses at a career and technical center.

(b) Eligible students.

(1) A Vermont resident who has completed grade 10 but has not received a high school diploma is eligible to participate in the Pilot Project if:

(A) none of the payment to the regional career and technical center will be used to support religious instruction, religious indoctrination, religious worship, or the propagation of religious views, except for religious instruction that is designed to provide an overview of religious history and teachings and does not support religious instruction, religious indoctrination, religious

1 worship, or the propagation of religious reviews of any one religion or
2 theology over others;

3 (B) the student is not enrolled in a recognized independent school or
4 a school or program that is not recognized for attendance purposes under
5 16 V.S.A. § 1121;

6 (C) enrolling in a postsecondary or adult career and technical center
7 course is an element included within the student's personalized learning plan;
8 and

9 (D) the secondary school and the career and technical center have
10 determined that the student is sufficiently prepared to succeed in the selected
11 postsecondary or adult course and meets the course prerequisites.

12 (2) An eligible student may enroll in one postsecondary or adult career
13 and technical center course prior to completion of secondary school for which
14 neither the student nor the student's parent or guardian shall be required to pay
15 tuition. A student may enroll in a course offered while secondary school is in
16 session and during the summer.

17 (c) Postsecondary and adult career technical education. Secondary students
18 may take courses that fall under the definitions of adult career technical
19 education or postsecondary career technical education as they are defined in
20 16 V.S.A. § 1522(11) and (12). The postsecondary or adult course may be

1 taken at any regional career and technical center, as defined in 16 V.S.A.
2 § 1522(4).

3 (d) Pilot Project management. The Agency of Education, in consultation
4 with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), shall manage the
5 Pilot Project by:

6 (1) marketing the Pilot Project to Vermont students and their families;

7 (2) coordinating with VSAC on the disbursement of funds for tuition
8 and stipends;

9 (3) evaluating all aspects of the Pilot Project and ensuring overall
10 quality and accountability; and

11 (4) performing other necessary or related duties.

12 (e) Funding. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), in fiscal year 2023, the
13 sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of
14 Education, which may be used over not more than three years, for the purpose
15 of funding the Pilot Project. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a
16 first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

17 (1) The funds appropriated in this section may be used by an eligible
18 student for tuition for one postsecondary or adult course at a regional career
19 and technical center.

20 (2) The funds appropriated in this section may also be used to fund a
21 flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher for financially needy students taking a

1 course under the Pilot Project. The stipend or voucher shall be used for the
2 purchase of books, supplies, equipment, cost of transportation, and payment of
3 fees. The Agency of Education shall coordinate with the VSAC to establish
4 criteria for stipend eligibility and for stipend disbursement.

5 (f) Report. The Secretary of Education shall report to the House and
6 Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Commerce and
7 Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Economic
8 Development, Housing and General Affairs on or before the January 15 of
9 each year the Pilot Project has funds to use regarding the Secondary
10 Advancement Grants Pilot Project, including data relating to student
11 demographics, levels of participation, marketing, and program success. In the
12 year the Pilot Project has depleted its funds, or the third year of the Pilot
13 Project, whichever comes first, the report shall include a recommendation for
14 whether the Pilot Project shall be extended, including specific
15 recommendations for legislative action.