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H.456

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Peter: Introduced by Representatives Fagan of Rutland City and James of

3

Manchester

4

Referred to Committee on

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Date:

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Subject: Education; Vermont State Colleges; strategic goals

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Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish

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strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges.

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An act relating to establishing strategic goals and reporting requirements for
the Vermont State Colleges

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

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Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2171a is added to read:

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§ 2171a. STRATEGIC GOALS

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(a) The Corporation shall establish its priorities, budget and allocate its

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resources, and develop its capabilities to ensure that students successfully

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achieve their academic goals in a manner and in an environment that is:

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(1) affordable;

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(2) accessible;

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(3) equitable; and

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(4) relevant to Vermont's needs.

1 (b) As used in this chapter:

2 (1) “Accessible” means each student, regardless of where the student’s
3 home campus is located, has increased access to academic opportunities,
4 majors, and courses across the Corporation’s academic system.

5 (2) “Affordability standard” means the extent to which affordability is
6 being achieved for students and for the Corporation as determined jointly by
7 the Corporation and VSAC.

8 (3) “Affordable” means a level of financial commitment that results
9 from the application of the affordability standard.

10 (4) “Relevant to Vermont’s needs” means that students
11 graduate as informed and engaged citizens who are prepared for the
12 world of work and for participating in a democratic society.

13 (5) “Unmet Need” means the total cost of attendance minus (i) the
14 Student Aid Index, as determined by the federal Higher Education Act 1965,
15 20 U.S.C. Ch. 28, sec. 1001 et seq., as amended, (the “Higher Education Act”),
16 or a successor index or the equivalent, and (ii) all non-loan student financial
17 assistance.

18 (6) “VSAC” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

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20 (7) “Total Cost of Attendance” has the meaning provided in Section 472
21 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1087I)

1 (c) The Corporation's Board of Trustees shall approve and maintain
2 institutional missions that align to the strategic goals set out in subsection (a)
3 of this section.

4 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2171b is added to read:

5 § 2171b. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION AND

6 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES;

7 REPORTING

8 On or before January 15, 2024 and on or before January 15 annually

9 thereafter, VSAC, with the assistance of and in collaboration with

10 the Corporation, shall submit a written report to the House and

11 Senate Committees on Education containing:

12 (1) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for full-time
13 students enrolled with the Corporation for the first time;

14 (2) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for all other
15 students;

16 (3) the average and median amount of unmet need for full-time students
17 enrolled with the Corporation for the first time and the average and median
18 amount of unmet need for all other students;

19 (4) the average and median annual and cumulative student and parent
20 debt by loan type (Federal Direct Student, Federal Direct Parent, state or
21 private) for students obtaining a two-year or four-year degree; and

1 (5) for students enrolled with the Corporation, their average:

2 (A) yearly continuation rate;

3 (B) academic progress, showing satisfactory and unsatisfactory
4 progress; and

5 (C) graduation rate.

6 Sec. 3. REPORT

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8 On or before January 15, 2023, the Vermont Student Assistance
9 Corporation, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a
10 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on how to
11 implement a requirement that all high school students complete the Free
12 Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.

13 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) The Corporation may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in fee or in
15 trust, or any other estate, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section;
16 shall have a common seal; and shall be an instrumentality of the State for the
17 purposes set forth in this section. The State of Vermont shall support and
18 maintain the Corporation. The sale, lease, demolition, or disposal of property
19 by the Corporation shall comply with the applicable requirements of 32 V.S.A.
20 § 962.

21 Sec. 5. REPEAL

1 16 V.S.A. § 2187 is repealed.

2 Sec. 6. AFFORDABILITY STANDARD; DETERMINATION

3 On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont State Colleges and the
4 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall jointly recommend to the
5 Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House
6 Committees on Appropriations the definition of the affordability standard
7 under Sec. 1 of this act.

8 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2023 and Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6
10 and this section shall take effect on passage.