

1 *TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:*

2 *The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 703*
3 *entitled “An act relating to promoting workforce development” respectfully*
4 *reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate*
5 *propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:*

6 **Sec. 1. PURPOSE; IMPLEMENTATION**

7 (a) The purpose of this act is to expand opportunities for workforce
8 education, training, and development for Vermonters and to make meaningful
9 investments to support and expand the workforce across the State.

10 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that each recipient of funding
11 through this act shall conduct significant outreach to ensure that all
12 Vermonters, and particularly populations that have experienced unequal access
13 to public or private economic benefits due to geography, socioeconomic status,
14 disability status, gender or gender identity, age, immigration or refugee status,
15 or race, have the opportunity to benefit from the financial and programmatic
16 benefits made available through this act.

17 **Sec. 1a. IMMEDIATE STRATEGIES AND FUNDING FOR EXPANDING**
18 **THE LABOR FORCE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF**
19 **PARTICIPANTS AND PARTICIPATION RATES;**
20 **APPROPRIATIONS**

1 (a) In fiscal year 2023, the following amounts are appropriated from the
2 General Fund to the following recipients for the purposes specified:

3 (1) \$2,500,000.00 to the University of Vermont Office of Engagement,
4 in consultation with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, to
5 administer a statewide forgivable loan program of \$5,000.00 per graduate for
6 recent college graduates across all Vermont higher education institutions who
7 commit to work in Vermont for two years after graduation.

8 (2) \$387,000.00 to Vermont Technical College to develop a skilled meat
9 cutter training and apprenticeship facility.

10 (b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the
11 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
12 Funds to the Agency of Human Services to provide grants, which may be
13 administered through a performance-based contract, to refugee- or New
14 American-focused programs working in Vermont to support increased in-
15 migration or retention of recent arrivals.

16 **Sec. 1b. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

17 **TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS; HIGHER EDUCATION;**

18 **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS**

19 (a) In order to increase the supply of mental health and substance use
20 disorder treatment professionals in Vermont, the Office of Professional
21 Regulation, in coordination with public and private institutions of higher

1 education in this State, shall identify new and existing educational
2 opportunities available to certified alcohol and drug counselors and apprentice
3 addiction professionals, completion of which could provide both continuing
4 education credits toward the requirements of their current professions and
5 credits toward the course requirements for attaining an advanced degree in the
6 field of mental health or of substance use disorder treatment, or both.

7 (b) On or before January 15, 2023, the Office of Professional Regulation
8 shall report to the House Committees on Health Care, on Human Services, on
9 Education, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on
10 Health and Welfare, on Education, and on Government Operations on the
11 opportunities identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any new
12 programs to be established as a result.

13 Sec. 1c. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; EMPLOYEE EDUCATION
14 PROGRAMS

15 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall
16 catalogue all educational programs and opportunities it makes available to its
17 employees, including identifying which programs and opportunities are offered
18 to which employees, and report those findings to the House Committees on
19 Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and
20 Welfare.

21

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

* * *

Sec. 16. CTE CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM; REVOLVING LOAN
FUND

(a) Purpose. This section authorizes and provides funding for the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund, the purposes of which are to:

(1) expand the experiential and educational opportunities for high school and adult CTE students to work directly on construction projects;

(2) build community partnerships among CTE centers, housing organizations, government, and private businesses;

(3) beautify communities and rehabilitate buildings that are underperforming assets;

(4) expand housing access to Vermonters in communities throughout the State; and

(5) improve property values while teaching high school and adult students trade skills.

(b) Appropriation; creation of fund; administration.

(1) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to

1 create and administer the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential
2 Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund pursuant to this section.

3 (2) The Board may use not more than five percent of the Fund for its
4 costs of administration.

5 (c) Proposals; applications; funding.

6 (1) A regional CTE center, working in collaboration with one or more
7 housing and community partners, private businesses, nonprofit organizations,
8 or municipalities, shall identify construction projects that would be relevant
9 and appropriate for CTE students enrolled in construction, electrical,
10 plumbing, design, business management, or other CTE programs, including:

11 ~~(A) rehabilitation of residential properties that are blighted or not~~
12 ~~code compliant;~~

13 ~~(B) new residential construction projects or improvements to land in~~
14 ~~cases of critical community need; and~~

15 ~~(C) commercial construction projects that have substantial~~
16 ~~community benefit.~~

17 (2) Prior to or during the application process, a CTE center and its
18 partners ~~may~~ shall consult with the Board and other organizations to identify
19 and consider potential funding partners to leverage amounts available through
20 the Fund.

1 (3) A CTE center and its partners shall apply to the Board for funding
2 by submitting a project application that includes the information required by
3 the Board and addresses the following:

4 (A) the educational benefits for students and fit with the CTE
5 curriculum;

6 (B) the community benefits for the neighborhood, municipality, or
7 region in which the project is located; and

8 (C) the partners with whom the CTE center is collaborating and the
9 respective responsibility for the aspects of a project, including:

10 (i) educational instruction and academic credit;

11 (ii) project management;

12 (iii) insurance coverage for students and the property;

13 (iv) compensation and benefits, including compliance with labor
14 laws, standards, and practices; and

15 (v) property acquisition, ownership, and transfer.

16 (4) A CTE center may use funding for, and shall specify in its
17 application the allocation of costs associated with:

18 (A) acquisition, design, permitting, construction, marketing, and
19 other building-related expenses; and

1 (B) costs for labor, including for student wages and for instructor
2 compensation during the academic year as well as for summer or other work
3 that is not otherwise budgeted during the academic year.

4 (d) Eligibility; review; approval. The Board may approve an application
5 that includes the information required by subsection (c) of this section and
6 provide funding for a project that meets the following eligibility criteria:

7 (1) The project involves the rehabilitation of one of the following types
8 of property that require repair and improvement:

9 (A) blighted or otherwise non-code compliant residential property
10 that results in a building with not more than four dwelling units that are
11 affordable to seniors, households with lower income, or other communities that
12 need access to affordable housing;

13 (B) municipal facilities; or

14 (C) school buildings or related educational facilities.

15 or new residential construction projects or improvements to land in
16 eases of critical need.

17 (2) The project includes a weatherization component.

18 (3) Students working on the project receive academic credit, a
19 competitive wage, or both.

1 (e) Affordability; flexibility. If appropriate in the circumstances, the Board
2 may shall condition funding for a project on the inclusion of one or
3 mechanisms addressing the affordability of the property upon rent or sale.

4 (f) Funding; proceeds; revolving loans.

5 (1) The Board shall provide funding for projects from the amounts
6 available in the Fund in the form of zero-interest loans, in an amount, for a
7 period, and upon terms specified by the Board.

8 (2) If a completed project results in a gain for a CTE Center, upon the
9 sale or transfer of a completed project, or upon completion of any
10 rehabilitation work, the CTE Center shall return any loan proceeds and any
11 profits realized to the Board to provide funding for future projects through the
12 Fund.

13 (3) If a completed project results in a loss for the CTE Center, upon the
14 sale or transfer of a completed project, or upon completion of any
15 rehabilitation work, the Board shall hold the CTE Center harmless for the
16 amount of the loss and the CTE Center shall return any remaining loan funds
17 to the Board to provide funding for future projects through the Fund.

18 (g) Report. The Board shall address the implementation of this section in
19 its annual report to the General Assembly.

20 * * *

21

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE