

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.

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Sec. 3. FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF  
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN VERMONT

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

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

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

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

(4) examine the funding and alignment of early college and dual enrollment;

(5) consider the CTE funding and governance structures in other states in relation to Vermont’s unique system of funding education; and

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

1       (b) In performing its work, the contractor shall consult with the consultant  
2       and any other stakeholders involved in completing the report on the design,  
3       implementation, and costs of an integrated and coherent adult basic education,  
4       adult secondary education, and postsecondary career and technical education  
5       system pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. H.3.

6       (c) On or before March 1, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office Agency of  
7       Education shall issue a written report to the House and Senate Committees on  
8       Education, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development,  
9       the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General  
10       Affairs, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee  
11       on Finance on the work performed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

12       (d)(1) The Agency of Education shall consider the work performed by the  
13       contractor and report issued pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and shall  
14       develop an implementation plan, including recommended steps to design and  
15       implement new funding and governance models.

16       (2) On or before July 1, 2023, the Agency shall issue a written report to  
17       the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on  
18       Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Economic  
19       Development, Housing and General Affairs, the House Committee on Ways  
20       and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance that describes the results of

1 its work under this subsection and the implementation plan and makes  
2 recommendations for legislative action.

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4 **[Sec. 4a]. EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;**  
5 **APPROPRIATION; REPORT**

6 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to encourage and support the  
7 development and retention of qualified and effective Vermont educators. To  
8 combat the growing educator shortage throughout the State and meet the needs  
9 of Vermont students, it is necessary to invest in nontraditional educator  
10 training programs.

11 (b) Grant program.

12 (1) Program creation. In fiscal year 2023, there is established the Peer  
13 Review Support Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of  
14 Education, to provide grants to expand support, mentoring, and professional  
15 development to prospective educators seeking licensure through the Agency of  
16 Education's peer review process, with the goal of increased program  
17 completion rates.

18 (2) Program administration. The Agency shall adopt policies,  
19 procedures, and guidelines necessary for implementation of the Program  
20 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1           (3) Eligibility criteria. The Agency shall issue grants to organizations or  
2 school districts with programs designed to provide prospective educators in the  
3 peer review program the support necessary for successful completion of the  
4 peer review process by providing:

5                   (A) support through the Praxis exam process;

6                   (B) local educator lead seminars designed around the Vermont  
7 licensure portfolio themes;

8                   (C) local educator mentors;

9                   (D) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing  
10 process; and

11                   (E) continued professional development support within the first year  
12 of licensure.

13           (4) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education  
14 shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the status of  
15 the implementation of the Peer Review Support Grant Program and a summary  
16 and performance review of the programs to which grants were awarded. The  
17 report shall include any metrics used in the performance review, the number of  
18 program participants, endorsement areas of participants, feedback from  
19 participants and mentors, and any recommendation for legislative action.

20           (c) Appropriation. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), the sum of  
21 \$712,500.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of

1 Education in fiscal year 2023 for the purpose of funding the Peer Review  
2 Support Grant Program.

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4 Sec. 16. CTE CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

5 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM; REVOLVING LOAN  
6 FUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (b) Appropriation; creation of fund; administration.



1           (1) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated  
2           from the Education Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to  
3           create and administer the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential  
4           Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund pursuant to this section.

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

7           (c) Proposals; applications; funding.

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

13           (A) rehabilitation of residential properties that are blighted or not  
14           code compliant;

15           (B) new residential construction projects or improvements to land in  
16           cases of critical community need; and

17           (C) commercial construction projects that have substantial  
18           community benefit.

19           (2) Prior to or during the application process, a CTE center and its  
20           partners ~~may~~ shall consult with the Board and other organizations to identify

1 and consider potential funding partners to leverage amounts available through  
2 the Fund.

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

6 (A) the educational benefits for students and fit with the CTE  
7 curriculum;

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

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

12 (i) educational instruction and academic credit;

13 (ii) project management;

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

15 (iv) compensation and benefits, including compliance with labor  
16 laws, standards, and practices; and

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

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

20 (A) acquisition, design, permitting, construction, marketing, and  
21 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           (D) commercial construction projects that have substantial  
16           community benefit.

17           or new residential construction projects or improvements to land in  
18           eases of critical need.

19           (2) The project includes a weatherization component.

20           (3) Students working on the project receive academic credit, a  
21           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.

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE