

**H.456 as passed by Senate
Section-by-Section**

May 5, 2022

(Prepared by ESJ/JDM)

* * * Vermont State Colleges; Strategic Goals and Reporting * * *

Sec. 1. Adds new 16 V.S.A. § 2171a that requires VSC to establish strategic goals.

(a) Requires VSC to establish its priorities, budget and allocate its resources, and develop its capabilities to ensure that students successfully achieve their academic goals in a manner and in an environment that provides a high-quality education and that is:

- (1) affordable;
- (2) accessible;
- (3) equitable; and
- (4) relevant to Vermont's needs.

(b) Defines terms used in the VSC chapter of Title 16. VSC and VSAC are required to report back on the proposed definition of "affordability standard," which generally means the extent to which affordability is being achieved for students at VSC.

(c) Requires VSC's Board of Trustees to approve and maintain institutional missions that align to the strategic goals.

Sec. 2. Adds new 16 V.S.A. § 2171b that requires VSAC, in collaboration with VSC, to report annually to the Committees of jurisdiction on VSC's progress in attaining affordability for students and information on students' yearly continuation rate, academic progress, and graduation rate.

Sec. 3. REPORT

Requires that, on or before July 1, 2023, VSAC, in collaboration with AOE, submit a written report to the Committees of jurisdiction on whether and how to implement a

requirement that all high school students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.

Sec. 4. Amends 16 V.S.A. § 2171 to relocate into subsection (c) of that section language that was added last session as a new statute (16 V.S.A. § 2188) because subsection (c) already addresses disposal of property. This relocated language reads: “The sale, lease, demolition, or disposal of property by the Corporation shall comply with the applicable requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 962.”

FYI [32 V.S.A. § 962 provides that “[a]ny entity receiving an appropriation financed with proceeds of tax-exempt bonds of the State shall notify and receive approval from the State Treasurer and the Secretary of Administration at least 90 days prior to finalizing an agreement with a nonpublic or for-profit entity to rent, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of property financed with those proceeds and also shall pay any cost related to compliance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, resulting from disposal of the property. This notification requirement shall not apply if the proceeds were included in the five percent allowance for private use prior to the issuance of bonds, or if the proceeds were provided, or the property was disposed of, as a grant or otherwise with no payment or repayment made or required to be made to the State or to the entity.]

Sec. 5. REPEAL

Repeals 16 V.S.A. § 2188 from which the language was relocated.

Sec. 6. AFFORDABILITY STANDARD; DETERMINATION

Requires, on or before July 1, 2023, the VSC and VSAC to jointly recommend to the Committees of jurisdiction the definition of the affordability standard under Sec. 1 of the act.

* * * Vermont State Colleges Corporation; Board of Trustees * * *

Sec. 7. Amends 16 V.S.A. § 2172, VSC's Board of Trustees, to increase Board membership from 15 to 17 trustees by adding one student trustee (one- year term) and one trustee who shall be faculty or staff employed by VSC and elected by the faculty and staff (four-year term). Requires student appointments, together with appointments by the Governor and elections by the General Assembly, to be made with consideration of the geographic distribution of members to prevent an unfair focus on any single college or campus.

Sec. 8. Amends 16 V.S.A. § 2173 to make a conforming change in the reference to the number of VSC trustees.

Sec. 9. TRANSITION

(a) Provides that, on or before August 1, 2022, the new faculty or staff member of VSC's Board of Trustees shall be elected.

(b) Provides that, on or before September 15, 2022, the new student member of VSC's Board of Trustees shall be appointed and shall serve a partial term, commencing on September 15, 2022 and ending on March 1, 2023.

* * * University of Vermont and State Agricultural College; Board of
Trustees * * *

Sec. 10. Amends 16 App. V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 1-2, UVM Board of Trustees, to increase Board membership from 25 to 27 trustees by adding one self-perpetuating trustee (six-year term) and one trustee who shall be faculty or staff employed by UVM and elected by the faculty and staff (six-year term).

Sec. 11. TRANSITION

Provides that, on or before August 1, 2022, the new members UVM's Board shall be appointed or elected.

Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES

On passage, except Secs. 1 and 2 that take effect on July 1, 2023.

After passage, the title of the bill is amended to read: "An act relating to the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College"