



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE  
**Joint Fiscal Office**

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**Fiscal Note**

March 21, 2023

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**H.484 – An act relating to enhancing workforce and economic development opportunities**

**As introduced by the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development<sup>1</sup> and proposed to be amended by the House Committee on Ways and Means, Draft 1.1<sup>2</sup>**

**Bill Summary**

This makes several appropriations for programs that educate, train, and help businesses hire and retain workers. The bill includes appropriations for forgivable loan programs, scholarships, degree and certificate programs, assistance to businesses and other miscellaneous proposals to enhance workforce and economic development opportunities in the State.

**Fiscal Impact**

JFO estimates the bill would have a fiscal impact of \$41.4 million in fiscal year 2024. This includes approximately \$41.3 million in appropriations and \$105,000 in forgone fee revenue. Of the appropriations, approximately \$39.1 million would be general funds, \$1.7 million would be federal funds as part of a Global Commitment match, and \$500,000 would be from the Education Fund. The bill also includes a suspension of teacher licensing fees for fiscal years 2024 through 2029, which JFO estimates would result in approximately \$105,000 in annual forgone revenue.

Appropriations (millions)		
Fund	Amount	Fiscal Year
General Fund	\$39.5	2024
Federal Funds	\$1.7	2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41.3</b>	<b>2024</b>
Revenue (millions)		
Program	Annual Amount	Fiscal Year
Teacher Licensing Fee Suspension	-\$0.1	2024-2029

<sup>1</sup><https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/H.484/H.484~David%20Hall~As%20Introduced~3-21-2023.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup><https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/H.484/W~David%20Hall~H.484%20Ways%20and%20Means%20Amendment,%20Draft%201.1~3-21-2023.pdf>

## Background and Details

### Revenue Impact

#### **Teacher Licensing Fee Suspension**

Section 3 suspends the peer review process one-time licensure fee requirements that are established under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) for fiscal years 2024 through 2029. JFO estimates this fee suspension would result in approximately \$105,000 in annual foregone revenues to the Teacher Licensing Fund. Over the five-year period from fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2029 this would result in \$525,000 in foregone revenue to the Fund.

### Appropriations

#### **Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program**

Section 4 appropriates \$2,500,000 in General Fund dollars in fiscal year 2024 to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to provide forgivable loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a teacher at a Vermont public school for at least one year through a grant program established in Section 1 of the bill.

#### **Emerging Pathways Grant Program**

Section 4 also appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Agency of Education (AOE) in fiscal year 2024 to fund the Emerging Pathways Grant Program established in the Section 2 of the bill. The program will provide grants to expand support, mentoring, and professional development for prospective educators seeking licensure.

#### **Educator Workforce Diversity**

Section 5 appropriates \$30,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to AOE to fund the Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant Program. The program will provide grants to support existing and the development of new educator affinity groups for historically underrepresented groups.

#### **Professional Development Contract**

Section 6 appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Department of Corrections to contract with a vendor to provide supervisory and management professional development services to the Department's employees.

#### **Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn Program**

Section 8 appropriates \$2,400,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to continue the pilot project Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn Program. This program supports workforce development goals through paid service and learning opportunities for young adults.

#### **Adult Education and Literacy**

Section 9 appropriates \$1,500,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to AOE for adult learning services.

#### **Climate Workforce Education Campaign – Advance Vermont**

Section 10 appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSAC to create a three-year climate workforce-focus public education campaign. The program will engage current and prospective employees, young Vermonters, adults interested in career changes, and individuals without a postsecondary credential or those interested in upskilling.

#### **Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund**

Section 11 appropriates \$60,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) to subgrant to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund for a three-

year period to expand its Business Coaching program. The fund will recruit a group of up to 12 Vermont companies and up to 12 trained tradespeople to receive business assistance so they can pivot their existing business or start a new business in a way that will deploy renewable energy and efficiency technologies in the State.

### **University of Vermont Office of Engagement**

Section 12 appropriates \$2,500,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the University of Vermont (UVM), in consultation with VSAC, for additional forgivable loans of \$5,000 per graduate who commits to working in Vermont for two years after graduation.

### **Restorative Justice Bachelor of Science**

Section 13 appropriates \$700,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to Vermont State Colleges (VSC) to establish a Bachelor of Science program in restorative justice.

### **Certificate in 3-D Technology**

Section 15 appropriates \$1,500,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSC to establish a certificate in 3-D Technology program which will be a full-time, six-week, residential summer program at the Randolph and Castleton campuses.

### **Critical Occupations Scholarships**

Section 16 appropriates \$3,800,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSC to provide Critical Occupations Scholarships for students with a household income of \$75,000 or less enrolled in education programs that lead to a career in an occupation with critical need, including early childhood care, clinical mental health counseling, criminal justice occupations, and nursing.

### **Upskilling Vermont Scholarships**

Section 17 appropriates \$3,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the UVM to provide free additional classes through the Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program for Vermont residents seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance job skills.

### **Vermont Trades Scholarships**

Section 18 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSAC to provide additional scholarships through the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program created in Act 183 of 2022.

### **Vermont Training Program**

Section 19 appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Vermont Training Program to fulfill Vermont's obligation to procure incentives in accordance with the Produce Semiconductors for America (CHIPS) Act.

### **Credential of Value Goal**

Section 20 appropriates \$350,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSAC for a performance-based contract to support the goal that 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025.

### **United Way of Lamoille County – Working Bridges**

Section 21 appropriates \$255,026 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to subgrant to the United Way of Lamoille County to expand resource coordination for employee stability through the Working Bridges program.

### **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners**

Section 23 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to VSAC for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created in 18 V.S.A. § 39.

**Emergency Medical Services Training**

Section 24 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to provide training for emergency medical services personnel.

**Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program**

Section 25 appropriates \$3,000,000 in Global Commitment funds in fiscal year 2024 to VDH forgivable loans for nursing students. Of this, \$1,695,600 will be federal funds and the balance of \$1,304,400 will be General Fund dollars.

**Healthcare Workforce Position**

Section 26 appropriates \$170,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to AHS for one additional year of funding for the classified, three-year limited-service Health Care Workforce Coordinator at the Office of Health Care Reform created in Act 183 of 2022.

**Agency of Human Services Designated and Specialized Service Agencies**

Section 28 appropriates \$4,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to AHS for distribution to the designated and specialized service agencies for student loan forgiveness and tuition assistance.

**Small Business Technical Assistance**

Section 30 appropriates \$1,250,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to ACCD to establish the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange, established in Section 29 of the bill, to provide grants of no more than \$5,000 per business for technical services.

**National Endowment for the Arts**

Section 31 appropriates \$72,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Vermont Arts Council to provide the State match for National Endowment for the Arts funding.

**Rural Industry Development Fund**

Section 36 creates the Rural Industry Development Grant Program which will provide grants through local development corporations for business relocation and expansion efforts. It establishes the Rural Industry Development Grant Fund for this purpose. Grants shall not exceed \$1,000,000 or 20 percent of the total project cost. Section 37 transfers \$10,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Rural Industry Development Grant Fund.

### Summary Table of Appropriations

Section	Entity	Description	Amount	Source
Sec. 2	VSAC	VT Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program	\$2,500,000	General Fund
Sec. 4	AOE	Emerging Pathways Grant Program	\$500,000	General Fund
Sec. 5	AOE	Educator Workforce Diversity	\$30,000	General Fund
Sec. 6	DOC	Professional Development Contract	\$500,000	General Fund
Sec. 8	FPR	VT Serve, Learn & Earn Program	\$2,400,000	General Fund
Sec. 9	AOE	Adult Education and Literacy	\$1,500,000	General Fund
Sec. 10	VSAC	Climate Workforce Education Campaign - Advance VT	\$250,000	General Fund
Sec. 11	ACCD	VT Sustainable Jobs Fund	\$60,000	General Fund
Sec. 12	UVM	Office of Engagement - UVM with VSAC - forgivable loans	\$2,500,000	General Fund
Sec. 13	VSC	Restorative Justice BA	\$700,000	General Fund
Sec. 15	VSC	Certificate in 3-D Technology	\$1,500,000	General Fund
Sec. 16	VSC	Critical Occupations Scholarships	\$3,800,000	General Fund
Sec. 17	VSC	Upskill VT Scholarships	\$3,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 18	VSC	VT Trades Scholarships	\$1,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 19	VSC	VT Training Program	\$5,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 20	VSAC	Credential of Value Goal	\$350,000	General Fund

Sec. 21	AHS	United Way of Lamoille County - Working Bridges	\$255,026	General Fund
Sec. 23	VSAC	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners	\$1,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 24	VDH	EMS Training	\$1,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 25	VDH/AHS	VT Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program	\$1,304,400	General Fund
Sec. 25	VDH/AHS	VT Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program	\$1,695,600	Federal Funds
<b>Sec. 25</b>	<b>VDH/AHS</b>	<b>VT Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>Global Commitment</b>
Sec. 26	AHS	Health Care Workforce Position	\$170,000	General Fund
Sec. 28	AHS	Agency of Human Services Designated and Specialized Service Agencies	\$4,000,000	General Fund
Sec. 30	ACCD	Small Business Technical Assistance	\$1,250,000	General Fund
Sec. 31	VT Arts Council	State match for NEA grant	\$72,000	General Fund
Sec. 37	ACCD	Rural Industry Development Fund	\$5,000,000	General Fund
		General Fund Total	\$39,641,426	
		Federal Funds Total	\$1,695,600	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,337,026</b>	