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S.313

Introduced by Senators Ram Hinsdale, Bongartz, Clarkson, Hardy, Harrison,  
Major, Perchlik, Weeks and Westman

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; career technical education

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to express  
legislative intent to transform Vermont’s career technical education (CTE)  
system.

An act relating to transforming Vermont’s career technical education  
system

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont has unmet workforce needs and skills gaps, while a  
growing percentage of the decreasing school-aged population is not continuing  
on to higher education. Career technical education (CTE) creates a bridge  
between education and career that is valuable to all Vermont students, whether  
they are entering the workforce immediately after graduation, continuing their  
education immediately, or joining the military. For Vermont to have student

1 outcomes that match students' individual aspirations and to prepare the  
2 workforce of the future, every Vermont high school student should have access  
3 to career technical education.

4 (2) A thriving prekindergarten through grade 12 education system is one  
5 that prepares every student to graduate prepared for what comes next after high  
6 school, whether that is continued education or training, military service, or  
7 entering the workforce.

8 (3) Creating and maintaining a thriving education system requires  
9 intentional, coordinated, and equitable local, regional, and statewide  
10 programming from elementary school through high school. The education  
11 system should ensure that students gain awareness of post-high school career  
12 and education opportunities through career exploration, personalized guidance,  
13 work-based learning, flexible pathways programming, and credentials of value  
14 that support successful transitions beyond high school.

15 (4) CTE is an essential tool to realize this vision. CTE engages students  
16 in hands-on instruction and applied learning that builds practical skills,  
17 develops career readiness, and provides pathways to industry-recognized  
18 credentials and postsecondary credit. Vermont's CTE system must ensure that  
19 every student, regardless of geography, identity, or school, has access to high-  
20 quality career technical education opportunities.

1       Sec. 2. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

2                   TRANSFORMATION; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

3           To realize a strong statewide career preparation system, it is the intent of the  
4           General Assembly to transform Vermont's career technical education (CTE)  
5           system as follows:

6                   (1) Provide universal access to CTE, ensuring that every student can  
7                   participate in CTE programming, including pretech and foundations courses,  
8                   by:

9                           (A) increasing access to CTE in middle school and the first two years  
10                   of high school;

11                           (B) addressing barriers such as transportation, scheduling conflicts,  
12                   and awareness;

13                           (C) providing consistency in admissions policies across all CTE  
14                   centers; and

15                           (D) ensuring that no student may be placed on a waitlist or prevented  
16                   from accessing CTE when there is a viable alternative to the locally accessible  
17                   program through the provision of transportation.

18                   (2) Enable flexible delivery models, expanding beyond regional  
19                   technical centers to offer multiple pathways for students to access CTE  
20                   programming and graduate with required high school courses by:

1           (A) delivering programs at sending high schools or in a hybrid format  
2           where appropriate to improve accessibility; and

3           (B) utilizing shared resources and technology to improve educational  
4           access and limit transportation needs.

5           (3) Align the CTE system with workforce needs by designing and  
6           evaluating programs based on current and emerging Vermont labor market  
7           demands, continue robust evaluation of the system through the Comprehensive  
8           Local Needs Assessment process, and utilize statewide research from  
9           Vermont’s Most Promising Jobs and VT Labor Market Information to assess  
10          student outcomes in continuing to the workforce.

11          (4) Create a sustainable, student-centered funding system that removes  
12          disincentives for participation and supports program growth and innovation.  
13          Flexible delivery models and access must be taken into consideration to ensure  
14          the sustainability of program delivery.

15          (5) Explore the viability and impact of CTE centers becoming diploma-  
16          conferring institutions or comprehensive high schools. In situations where this  
17          is not possible, high schools shall be required to award the credits  
18          recommended by a CTE center.

19          (6) Maintain a strong adult CTE system by building robust adult and  
20          continuing education pathways within CTE that meet Vermont’s upskilling,  
21          reskilling, and workforce development needs while connecting seamlessly with

1 secondary programs and regional workforce partners. Such a system shall  
2 have a governance and funding model that promotes coordination, quality,  
3 program consistency, and sustainability.

4 (7) Coordinate CTE governance by establishing governance approaches  
5 that strengthen collaboration across districts, improve consistency and program  
6 quality, and better support positive student outcomes. CTE governance should  
7 align with the ongoing education transportation process, with the above goals  
8 as the lens through which decisions are made.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.