

1 H.405

2 Introduced by Representatives Manwaring of Wilmington and Buxton of  
3 Tunbridge

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; tuition

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to commission  
8 an outside study that would perform an economic analysis of the positive and  
9 negative fiscal impacts of the State's current practices of paying tuition for  
10 prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary students.

11 An act relating to commissioning a study on Vermont's current practices of  
12 paying tuition

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

14 Sec. 1. TUITIONING MODEL; ECONOMIC ANALYSIS; CONTRACT;

15 REPORT

16 (a) The Joint Fiscal Office, with the assistance of the Office of Legislative  
17 Council and the Agency of Education, shall develop a request for proposals to  
18 perform an economic analysis of the positive and negative fiscal impacts of the  
19 State's current practices of paying tuition for prekindergarten, elementary, and

1 secondary students. The Joint Fiscal Office shall select and enter into a  
2 contract with a consultant from among those submitting proposals.

3 (b) The consultant shall analyze the impact of Vermont's publicly funded  
4 tuitioning practices on the overall cost of education in the State by:

5 (1) identifying all of the instances in which districts pay tuition,  
6 including payment of tuition on behalf of:

7 (A) all resident students in one or more grades, both when the district  
8 does and does not also operate a school offering grades for which it does not  
9 pay tuition;

10 (B) an individual student;

11 (C) students enrolled in career technical education centers;

12 (D) a student attending a school not operated by the district pursuant  
13 to his or her individualized education program; and

14 (E) prekindergarten students;

15 (2) identifying how the costs identified in subdivision (1) of this  
16 subsection have changed since the enactment of 2003 Acts and Resolves  
17 No. 68;

18 (3) identifying the institutions to which publicly funded tuition dollars  
19 are sent and, for each approved independent school, identifying which services  
20 required of public schools are not provided and which of these unprovided

1 services have the effect of disadvantaging students from lower socioeconomic  
2 families;

3 (4) determining whether elementary students, and middle school  
4 students as appropriate, experience reduced educational opportunities as a  
5 result of paying publicly funded tuition on behalf of secondary school students;

6 (5) evaluating whether any of Vermont's tuition-paying practices lead to  
7 higher or lower total education spending in the State as a whole; and

8 (6) identifying the ways in which current tuitioning practices lead to  
9 better outcomes for students.

10 (c) After review and analysis of research and other literature regarding the  
11 education spending patterns and student outcomes for countries participating in  
12 the Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), the  
13 consultant shall evaluate how Vermont's education spending practices achieve  
14 equity of opportunities and outcomes for Vermont's students in comparison to  
15 the other OECD countries.

16 (d) The consultant shall develop a proposal for potential changes in  
17 Vermont's education spending patterns, financing framework, or governance  
18 structures, or any combination of the three, in order to lead toward continuous  
19 improvements in student outcomes.

20 (e) On or before January 15, 2016, the consultant shall present its findings,  
21 analysis, and any proposals to the House and Senate Committees on

1 Appropriations and on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means,  
2 and the Senate Committee on Finance.

3 (f) Of the special funds appropriated to the Agency of Education in  
4 2014 Acts and Resolves No.179, Sec. E.500.3, the sum of \$250,000.00 shall be  
5 transferred to the Joint Fiscal Office to fund the work of the consultant  
6 required in this section.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.