

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
  
9  
10  
  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

H.456

Introduced by Representatives Fagan of Rutland City and James of  
Manchester  
Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; Vermont State Colleges; strategic goals

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish  
strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges.

An act relating to establishing strategic goals and reporting requirements for  
the Vermont State Colleges

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

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2171a is added to read:

§ 2171a. STRATEGIC GOALS

(a) The Corporation shall 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 is:

(1) affordable;

(2) accessible;

(3) equitable; and

(4) relevant to Vermont's needs.

1           **(b) As used in this chapter:**

2                   **(1) “Accessible” means each student, regardless of where the student’s**  
3                   **home campus is located, has increased access to academic opportunities,**  
4                   **majors, and courses across the Corporation’s academic system.**

5                   **(2) “Affordability standard” means the extent to which affordability is**  
6                   **being achieved for students and for the Corporation as determined jointly by**  
7                   **the Corporation and VSAC.**

8                   **(3) “Affordable” means a level of financial commitment that results**  
9                   **from the application of the affordability standard.**

10                  **(4) “Relevant to Vermont’s needs” means that students matriculate as**  
11                  **informed and engaged citizens who are prepared for the world of work and for**  
12                  **participating in a democratic society.**

13                  **(5) “Unmet need” means the annual amount of student borrowing that**  
14                  **exceeds the total debt amount that is reasonable for graduates to pay off, where**  
15                  **the annual amount of student borrowing that results in a total debt amount that**  
16                  **is reasonable for graduates to pay off is determined pursuant to the**  
17                  **affordability standard.**

18                  **(6) “VSAC” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.**

19                  **(c) The Corporation’s Board of Trustees shall approve and maintain**  
20                  **institutional missions that align to the strategic goals set out in subsection (a)**  
21                  **of this section.**

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2171b is added to read:

2 § 2171b. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION;

3 REPORTING

4 On or before January 15, 2024 and on or before January 15 annually

5 thereafter, VSAC shall submit a written report to the House and Senate

6 Committees on Education containing:

7 (1) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for full-time  
8 students enrolled with the Corporation for the first time;

9 (2) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for all other  
10 students;

11 (3) the average amount of unmet need for full-time students enrolled  
12 with the Corporation for the first time and the average amount of unmet need  
13 for all other students;

14 (4) for students enrolled with the Corporation who receive State grants,  
15 their average:

16 (A) yearly continuation rate;

17 (B) academic progress, showing satisfactory and unsatisfactory  
18 progress; and

19 (C) graduation rate; and

20 (5) metrics, designed by VSAC, that demonstrate the extent to which the  
21 strategic goals set out in subsection 2171a(a) of this title are being met.

1       Sec. 3. REPORT

2           On or before January 15, 2023, the Vermont Student Assistance  
3           Corporation, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a  
4           written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on how to  
5           implement a requirement that all high school students complete the Free  
6           Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.

7       Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(c) is amended to read:

8           (c) The Corporation may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in fee or in  
9           trust, or any other estate, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section;  
10          shall have a common seal; and shall be an instrumentality of the State for the  
11          purposes set forth in this section. The State of Vermont shall support and  
12          maintain the Corporation. The sale, lease, demolition, or disposal of property  
13          by the Corporation shall comply with the applicable requirements of 32 V.S.A.  
14          § 962.

15       Sec. 5. REPEAL

16           16 V.S.A. § 2187 is repealed.

17       Sec. 6. AFFORDABILITY STANDARD; DETERMINATION

18           On or before January 15, 2023, the Vermont State Colleges and the  
19           Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall jointly recommend to the  
20           Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House

1 Committees on Appropriations the definition of the affordability standard  
2 under Sec. 1 of this act.

3 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2023 and Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6  
5 and this section shall take effect on passage.