

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 VS.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
21 the 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 Vermont
19 Student Assistance Corporation shall jointly recommend to the Senate and
20 House Committees on Education and the Senate and House Committees on

1 ~~Appropriations the definition of the affordability standard under Sec. 1 of this~~
2 ~~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.~~

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.

(b) As used in this chapter:

(1) "Accessible" means each student, regardless of where the student's home campus is located, has increased access to academic opportunities, majors, and courses across the Corporation's academic system.

(2) "Affordability standard" means the extent to which affordability is being achieved for students and for the Corporation as determined jointly by the Corporation and VSAC.

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

(4) “Equitable” means the extent to which gaps in educational access and success are being reduced for students from economically deprived backgrounds, first-generation students, students of color, and other marginalized groups.

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

(6) “Total cost of attendance” has the meaning provided in 20 U.S.C. § 1087ll, as amended.

(7) “Unmet need” means the total cost of attendance minus:

(A) the Student Aid Index, as determined under 20 U.S.C. § 1087mm, as in effect on July 31, 2023; and

(B) all nonloan student financial assistance.

(8) “VSAC” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

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

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

§ 2171b. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION AND

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; REPORTING

On or before January 15, 2024 and on or before January 15 annually thereafter, VSAC, with the assistance of and in collaboration with the Corporation, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education containing:

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

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

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

(4) the average, median, annual, and cumulative student and parent debt by loan type (federal direct to student, federal direct to parent, state, or private) for students obtaining a two-year or four-year degree; and

(5) for students enrolled with the Corporation, their average:

(A) yearly continuation rate;

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

(C) graduation rate.

Sec. 3. REPORT

~~On or before July 1, 2023, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on how to implement a requirement that all high school students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.~~

Sec. 3. REPORT

On or before July 1, 2023, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education 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. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(c) is amended to read:

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

Sec. 5. REPEAL

16 V.S.A. § 2188 is repealed.

Sec. 6. AFFORDABILITY STANDARD; DETERMINATION

On or before July 1, 2023, the Vermont State Colleges and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall jointly recommend to the Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations the definition of the affordability standard under Sec. 1 of this act.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

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