

1 H.504

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; career technical education; special education; education
5 weightings

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) create the
7 CTE Innovation Pilot Program to support CTE programming for students in
8 grade 7; (2) reduce the fiscal year 2018 appropriation for special education in
9 order to providing funding for the CTE Innovation Pilot Program; and (3)
10 create the Education Weighting Study Committee to consider and make
11 recommendations on the criteria used for determining the weighted long-term
12 membership of a school district and other methods to further the quality and
13 equity of educational outcomes for students.

14 An act relating to career technical education, special education, and
15 education weightings

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

17 Sec. 1. CTE INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM

18 (a) CTE Innovation Pilot Program created. There is created the CTE
19 Innovation Pilot Program to support CTE programming for students in grade 7.
20 The program shall be administered by the Agency of Education.

1 (b) Grants.

2 (1) The Agency of Education shall award grants on a competitive basis
3 to public schools that operate grade 7. Grants shall be used by public schools
4 to implement programs for grade 7 students to support CTE programming,
5 including programming designed to assist students in deciding whether to
6 enroll in career technical education courses. The maximum grant award
7 amount to all schools in a technical center region shall be \$100,000.00, and for
8 this purpose, the Burlington Technical Center and the Essex Technical Center
9 shall be considered separate technical center regions.

10 (2) The Agency shall develop all aspects of the program, including
11 creating an application process, setting funding priorities, and determining
12 criteria for evaluating applications on a competitive basis and for awarding
13 grants, provided that, in order to qualify for a grant, a public school shall
14 provide its grade 7 students with practical learning opportunities in career
15 technical education, such as in-class training by trade members or class visits
16 to trade sites.

17 (c) Funding. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 16 V.S.A.
18 § 4025, the sum of \$1,600,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund for
19 fiscal year 2018 to the Agency of Education, which the Agency shall
20 administer in accordance with this section, and any unused funds shall revert to
21 the Education Fund.

1 (d) Reporting. On or before November 15, 2017 and January 15, 2018, the
2 Agency shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on the
3 status and results of the program, including the effect of the program on special
4 education costs.

5 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

6 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the fiscal year 2018
7 appropriation from the Education Fund for special education shall be reduced
8 by \$1,600,000.00 from the fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the Education
9 Fund for special education.

10 Sec. 3. EDUCATION WEIGHTING STUDY COMMITTEE

11 (a) Creation. There is created the Education Weighting Study Committee
12 to consider and make recommendations on the criteria used for determining
13 weighted long-term membership of a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010.

14 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following nine
15 members:

16 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, not from the
17 same party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

18 (2) two current members of the Senate, not from the same party, who
19 shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

20 (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

1 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendent's Association
2 or designee;

3 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
4 designee; and

5 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
6 Association or designee.

7 (c) Powers and duties.

8 (1) The Committee shall consider and make recommendations on the
9 criteria used for the determining weighted long-term membership of a school
10 district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010, including the following:

11 (A) the relationship between each of the current weighting factors
12 and the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students;

13 (B) whether any of the weighting factors, including the weighting
14 factors for students from economically deprived backgrounds and for students
15 for whom English is not the primary language, should be modified, and if so,
16 how the weighting factors should be modified and if the modification would
17 further the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students; and

18 (C) whether to add any weighting factors, including a school district
19 population density factor, and if so, why the weighting factor should be added
20 and if the weighting factor would further the quality and equity of educational
21 outcomes for students.

1 (2) In addition to considering and make recommendations on the criteria
2 used for the determining weighted long-term membership of a school district
3 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Committee may consider and
4 make recommendations on other methods that would further the quality and
5 equity of educational outcomes for students.

6 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
7 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

8 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2018, the Committee shall submit a
9 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its
10 findings and any recommendations.

11 (f) Meetings.

12 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the
13 Committee to occur on or before May 30, 2017.

14 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
15 first meeting.

16 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

17 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2018.

18 (g) Reimbursement.

19 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
20 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem

1 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
2 no more than seven meetings.

3 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
4 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
5 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
6 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than seven meetings.

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.