

1 H.405

2 Introduced by Representative Clark of Vergennes

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; K-12 and higher education partnerships; study and  
6 recommendations

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the Vermont state colleges,  
8 in consultation with various persons and organizations, to study and  
9 recommend strategies for expanding educational opportunities to prepare  
10 Vermonters to succeed in postsecondary education.

11 An act relating to K-12 and higher education partnerships

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

13 Sec. 1. POLICY, FINDINGS, AND PURPOSE

14 (a) It is the policy of the state of Vermont to make available as many  
15 opportunities as possible for Vermont students to succeed in their K-12  
16 education, to encourage and facilitate high school students to progress toward  
17 higher education, and to prepare postsecondary students to succeed.

18 (b) Completing high school cannot be considered the minimum educational  
19 attainment. As stated by President Obama in his address before Congress on  
20 February 24, 2009, every American should “commit to at least one year or

1 more of higher education or career training. This can be community college or  
2 a four-year school; vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the  
3 training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school  
4 diploma. And dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just  
5 quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country — and this country needs  
6 and values the talents of every American. That is why we will provide the  
7 support necessary to ... meet a new goal: By 2020, America will once again  
8 have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.”

9 (c) For Vermont to thrive economically it must develop, attract, and retain  
10 a well-educated and highly skilled citizenry, who will in turn enable the  
11 development, recruitment, and retention of successful businesses and support  
12 healthy communities.

13 (d) Higher levels of educational attainment translate into higher earnings  
14 and tax revenues, increased civic engagement and community contributions,  
15 better overall health, decreased dependency on government services, and an  
16 improved quality of life.

17 (e) To increase educational attainment among Vermonters, educational  
18 partnerships between higher education and the K-12 educational system are  
19 crucial to increasing postsecondary aspirations, increasing the enrollment of  
20 Vermont high school graduates in higher education programs, increasing the  
21 postsecondary degree completion rates of Vermont students, and increasing

1 public awareness of the economic, intellectual, and societal benefits of higher  
2 education.

3 Sec. 2. STRATEGIES TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

4 (a) The Vermont state colleges shall develop strategies to expand  
5 educational opportunities for Vermont students to succeed in elementary and  
6 secondary school and to be prepared to succeed in postsecondary education as  
7 well. The Vermont state colleges shall consult with other institutions of higher  
8 education and with representatives of the K-12 education system, including the  
9 department of education and the workforce development, business, and  
10 industry communities.

11 (b) On or before January 15, 2010, Vermont state colleges shall submit a  
12 report to the general assembly detailing its recommended strategies. When  
13 developing its recommendations, the Vermont state colleges shall consider and  
14 evaluate:

15 (1) Evidence-based educational models in Vermont and elsewhere,  
16 including early college programs, alternatives to a senior year, and K-12  
17 laboratory schools.

18 (2) Partnerships between higher education and the K-12 system to  
19 improve instruction and increase postsecondary aspiration, continuation, and  
20 completion rates.

21 (3) Potential funding sources for implementing its recommendations.