

1 S.187

2 Introduced by Senator Collins

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; career and technical centers; budgets; voting

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to revise the  
7 funding mechanism of regional career technical education (CTE) centers so  
8 that a sending district that operates a secondary school would pay a percentage  
9 of the CTE budget based on that district's own long-term membership for  
10 grades 9–12, rather than pay an assessment for each student enrolled in the  
11 CTE center. The host district and each sending district that operate secondary  
12 schools would vote on the total proposed CTE budget as a separate article on  
13 the same day each district votes its school budget. The CTE budget would be  
14 approved if a majority of the commingled votes were in favor of the budget.

15 An act relating to funding career technical education

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

17 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1522(10) is amended to read:

18 (10) "CTE tuition" means the amount calculated by ~~subtracting from~~  
19 ~~total regional technical CTE center costs all expenditures from state and~~  
20 ~~federal grants except for incentive grants, adult education grants, or other state~~

1 ~~grants as defined by State Board rule, then dividing the result by the sum of the~~  
2 ~~actual number of full time equivalent out of state students and the average of~~  
3 ~~the full time equivalent Vermont students for the three prior years~~ a regional  
4 CTE center pursuant to section 1552 of this title and assessed for each student  
5 enrolled in the regional CTE center who does not reside in the CTE region or  
6 who resides in the CTE region in a school district that does not operate a  
7 secondary school.

8 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1541 is amended to read:

9 § 1541. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS THAT  
10 OPERATE CAREER TECHNICAL CENTERS

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) A school board that operates a CTE center shall ~~establish a regional~~  
13 ~~advisory board.~~ It shall give due regard to the policy and financial  
14 recommendations of its regional advisory board created by section 1542 of this  
15 title. When the school board rejects a written recommendation of a regional  
16 advisory board, or fails to adopt a recommendation after 30 days, it shall notify  
17 the advisory board and the Secretary in writing, stating its reasons. If the State  
18 Board designates a service region for two or more comprehensive high  
19 schools, the boards of ~~the~~ those high schools shall establish a joint regional  
20 advisory board.

1 (c) In consultation with its regional advisory board, a school board that  
2 operates a regional CTE center shall:

3 (1) ~~annually set the budget for operation of the center;~~

4 (A) establish a regional CTE tuition pursuant to subsection 1552(a)  
5 of this title to be assessed for each student enrolled in the regional CTE center  
6 who does not reside in the CTE region or who resides in the CTE region in a  
7 school district that does not operate a secondary school; and

8 (B) prepare a budget for operation of the center for presentation to  
9 the voters of the school districts within the center's service region that operate  
10 a secondary school for a vote pursuant to subsection 1552(b) and section 1554  
11 of this title;

12 \* \* \*

13 (d) A school board that operates a CTE center shall:

14 (1) ~~shall establish a CTE tuition;~~

15 (2) ~~shall~~ make the center's facilities and equipment available for  
16 providing CTE to adults; and

17 (3) ~~shall~~ (2) use and maintain all facilities designed and constructed for  
18 career technical education in a manner consistent with that purpose, except  
19 when those facilities are not needed for CTE and the Secretary consents.

1 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1542(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) ~~Each~~ For each CTE region, there is created a regional advisory board  
3 that shall consist of:

4 (1) one member from each ~~public high school district~~ in the center's  
5 service region that operates a secondary school, elected by and from among the  
6 members of that ~~high school~~ board for a term determined by ~~that high school~~  
7 the board; and

8 (2) the superintendent or his or her designee of each supervisory union  
9 within the center's service region; ~~and~~

10 (3) one member elected for a term of three years by and from among the  
11 members of the school board of each sending district in the center's service  
12 region that does not have operate a public high secondary school represented  
13 on the advisory board under subdivision (1) of this section; except; provided,  
14 however, that if there are more than three such districts in the center's service  
15 area, the advisory board shall select three school boards to represent the  
16 interests of all such districts, shall rotate its selections among the districts, and  
17 shall stagger the expiration of ~~initial~~ terms; ~~and~~

18 (4) one member of the board of each independent comprehensive high  
19 school within a the service region, elected by the members of that board for a  
20 term determined by that board; and

1           (5) ~~once constituted, the regional advisory board shall elect three~~  
2 additional members elected by the advisory board for terms of three years to  
3 represent the interests of employers or employees, provided that no two terms  
4 shall expire in any one year.

5           Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is amended to read:

6           § 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION; CAREER TECHNICAL  
7                     CENTER BUDGETS; FINANCIAL OBLIGATION OF SCHOOL  
8                     DISTRICTS

9           (a) Tuition.

10           (1) Each ~~technical~~ CTE center shall establish a tuition charge for  
11 secondary technical education. The amount shall reflect the actual cost, as  
12 defined by ~~rule of the state board~~ State Board rule, of attendance in the  
13 ~~technical~~ CTE courses offered by the center. The tuition charge shall be  
14 reduced proportionally for pupils enrolled in a part-time program.

15           ~~(b) Secondary~~

16           (2) A CTE center shall calculate the tuition by subtracting from the total  
17 regional CTE center budget all expenditures from State and federal grants,  
18 except for incentive grants, adult education grants, or other State grants as  
19 defined by State Board rule, then dividing the result by the average of all  
20 full-time equivalent students enrolled in the center for the three prior years.

1           (3) A CTE center shall charge tuition under this subsection only for:

2                   (A) an enrolled secondary student residing in a school district outside  
3 the center's service region; and

4                   (B) an enrolled secondary student residing in a school district within  
5 the service region that does not operate a secondary school.

6           (4) Vermont secondary students are eligible for tuition assistance in  
7 technical education for CTE provided in another state when the state board  
8 State Board determines that such technical education the CTE center can  
9 properly serve the needs of Vermont the students.

10           ~~(e)~~(5) For students from a school district within who are Vermont residents,  
11 funds received under subsection 1561(c) of this title shall be subtracted when  
12 calculating the tuition charge. For students who are not Vermont residents,  
13 funds received under subsections 1561(b) and (c) of this title shall not be  
14 subtracted when calculating the tuition charge.

15           ~~(d) The tuition charged to a school district within Vermont shall be based~~  
16 ~~on the average of the district's three prior years' full-time equivalent student~~  
17 ~~enrollment in the technical center.~~

18           (b) CTE center budget; payment by districts that operate secondary  
19 schools.

1           (1) As used in this chapter, the “center’s net budget” means the CTE  
2 center’s total annual budget, excluding any portion of the budget paid for:

3           (A) pursuant to subsection (a) of this section;

4           (B) pursuant to subchapter 5 of this chapter;

5           (C) by any other State or local funding source, including payments  
6 for special education services except for incentive grants, adult education  
7 grants, or other State grants as defined by State Board rule; and

8           (D) by any other source, such as endowments, grants, and parental  
9 fundraising.

10          (2) Each school district within a CTE center’s service region that  
11 operates a secondary school, including the district that operates the CTE  
12 center, shall pay that percentage of the center’s net budget that represents the  
13 ratio of the district’s long-term membership for grades 9–12 for the year  
14 preceding the year of the proposed budget, as defined in section 4001 of this  
15 title, to the aggregate long-term membership for those grades of all districts  
16 within the service region that operate a secondary school for that same year;  
17 provided, however:

18           (A) a school district that is a member of more than one CTE region  
19 shall work with the advisory boards of the regions to develop a fair and  
20 accurate method to apportion costs to be paid by the district; and

1           (B) A CTE region that has more than one CTE center shall develop a  
2 fair and accurate method to apportion costs to be paid by the district.

3       Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 1554 is added to read:

4       § 1554. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER

5           BUDGET

6           (a) As used in this chapter:

7           (1) “Member school district” means each school district within a  
8 technical center’s service region that operates a secondary school, including  
9 the school district that operates the technical center.

10          (2) “Regional CTE center clerk” means the clerk of the school district  
11 that operates the CTE center.

12          (b) Annually, a school district that operates a CTE center shall prepare an  
13 itemized report detailing the portion of the center’s proposed net budget,  
14 calculated pursuant to subsection 1552(b) of this title, for which each member  
15 school district shall be responsible. The report shall identify the component  
16 costs of the total budget by category and the center’s net budget, and shall set  
17 forth the calculation by which each member school district’s share was  
18 calculated. The regional CTE center clerk shall provide the proposed total  
19 budget and the report to the clerk of each member school district at least  
20 14 days before the CTE center budget is voted on by the voters of each  
21 member district.



1       (c) The board of each member school district shall present the total  
2       proposed CTE center budget to the district voters as a separate article in the  
3       warning for the school district's annual budget, expressing the sum in dollars  
4       and indicating the district's proportionate share of the total budget. The voters  
5       in each member school district within a CTE center service region, including  
6       the district that operates the CTE center, shall vote on the CTE center's budget  
7       on the same day and during the same hours.

8       (d) The vote on the CTE center budget shall be warned and held in the  
9       same manner as for the school district's annual budget. If a district does not  
10       vote by Australian ballot, then the number of votes in favor of and opposed to  
11       the CTE center budget shall be tallied but the budget shall not be amended.

12       (e) The clerk of each member school district shall certify the number of  
13       votes in favor of and opposed to the CTE center budget in that district. Within  
14       ten days of the vote, the regional CTE center clerk shall convene a meeting of  
15       the clerks of the member school districts to establish if a majority of the  
16       commingled votes were in favor of or in opposition to the budget.

17       (f) The CTE center's budget is established if the clerks of the member  
18       school districts jointly issue a certificate, signed by a majority of the clerks,  
19       declaring that a majority of the commingled votes were in favor of the budget.  
20       The regional CTE center clerk shall deliver a copy of the certificate to the  
21       board of each member district and the Secretary of Education. Upon receipt of

1 the certificate, a member district's proportionate share of the budget shall be a  
2 legal obligation of that district without need for further vote of the electorate of  
3 the member district and the amount shall be included in the member district's  
4 education spending, as defined in section 4001 of this title.

5 (g) If the clerks determine that the proposed budget is rejected, then the  
6 school district that operates the CTE center shall prepare a revised budget and  
7 shall identify a date on which all member school districts shall vote whether to  
8 approve it. The board of each member school district shall warn the vote on  
9 the revised budget, which shall take place in the same locations as the original  
10 vote. If the revised budget is rejected, then the boards shall repeat the  
11 procedure in this subsection until the budget is adopted.

12 (h) If the voters fail to approve a CTE center budget by July 1 of any year,  
13 then, until a budget passes, the budget for the fiscal year shall equal 87 percent  
14 of the most recently adopted budget and the school district that operates the  
15 CTE center shall assess each member school district for payment of its  
16 proportionate share pursuant to the method required in subdivision 1552(b)(2)  
17 of this title.

18 (i) Early and absentee voting as provided by 17 V.S.A. §§ 2531–2550 is  
19 permitted.

20 (j) Unless clearly inconsistent, the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 55 shall  
21 apply to actions taken under this section.

1        (k) This section shall not apply to regional CTE center districts created  
2        pursuant to subchapter 5A of this chapter.

3        Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 1561 is amended to read:

4        § 1561. TUITION REDUCTION

5                                \* \* \*

6        ~~(b) On behalf of a sending school district within Vermont, a technical~~  
7        ~~center shall receive from the education fund for each full-time equivalent~~  
8        ~~student from the district 87 percent of the base education amount and an~~  
9        ~~equivalent amount shall be subtracted from the amount due to the sending~~  
10        ~~district under section 4011 of this title. The amount sent to the technical center~~  
11        ~~and subtracted from the sending district shall be considered a revenue and an~~  
12        ~~expenditure of the district and shall be reported as such in appropriate accounts~~  
13        ~~and in the district's annual budget. [Repealed.]~~

14        (c) Annually, the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly shall appropriate  
15        funds to pay for a supplemental assistance grant per full-time equivalent  
16        student. The amount of the grant shall be equal to 35 percent of the base  
17        education amount for that year.

18        (d) ~~In any year following a year in which fall semester full-time equivalent~~  
19        ~~enrollment of students at a technical center increased by 20 percent or more~~  
20        ~~over the previous fall semester, in addition to other aid, the technical center~~  
21        ~~shall receive an extra supplemental assistance grant equal to two-thirds of the~~

1 ~~35 percent of the base education amount for that year, multiplied by the actual~~  
2 ~~full time equivalent enrollment increase. The next year, if the increase in fall~~  
3 ~~semester full time equivalent enrollment is less than 20 percent, in addition to~~  
4 ~~other aid, the technical center shall receive an extra supplemental assistance~~  
5 ~~grant equal to one third of the 35 percent of the base education amount for the~~  
6 ~~year multiplied by the actual full time equivalent increase of the previous fall~~  
7 ~~semester. [Repealed.]~~

8 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014 and shall apply to budgets for the  
10 2015–2016 budget year and after.