

1 S.242

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin, Lyons and White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; Vermont Technical College; dental care; dental therapy
6 program; laboratory; appropriation

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to appropriate
8 \$100,000.00 in general funds for a laboratory for the dental therapy program at
9 the Vermont Technical College, provided that Vermont Technical College
10 raises \$300,000.00 through private funds.

11 An act relating to funding to support a dental therapy laboratory at Vermont
12 Technical College

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

14 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

15 (a) The General Assembly finds that the State of Vermont has a looming
16 oral health challenge due to a dental workforce nearing retirement age, no
17 dental school, and a rural landscape that limits access to oral health care. As a
18 result, approximately 100,000 people in the State went without oral health care
19 in 2011 and 2012, and 38 percent of children covered by the State's Medicaid
20 program received no dental health services in 2014.

1 (b) The General Assembly also finds that dental therapy is an effective
2 approach to address the State’s oral health care crisis. In 2016, Vermont
3 became the third State in the U.S. to authorize the licensing of dental
4 therapists.

5 (c) The General Assembly further finds that Vermont Technical College
6 (VTC) offers the only dental hygiene program in the State and therefore has
7 the facility and infrastructure to develop a dental therapy program.
8 Accordingly, the General Assembly supports the establishment of a dental
9 therapy program at Vermont Technical College, including the funding of
10 expenses for a new laboratory, and laboratory and clinic supplies.

11 Sec. 2. FY 2021 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION; VERMONT
12 TECHNICAL COLLEGE; DENTAL THERAPY LABORATORY

13 (a) The sum of \$100,000.00 in general funds is appropriated in FY 2021 to
14 Vermont Technical College for the purpose of funding clinic and laboratory
15 supplies for a dental therapy laboratory.

16 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amount appropriated in
17 subsection (a) of this section shall be used as a challenge grant to raise funds to
18 construct the dental therapy laboratory at Vermont Technical College. The
19 funds shall only become available after Vermont Technical College has
20 notified the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and
21 the Commissioner of Finance and Management that \$300,000.00 in committed

1 funds has been raised to match the appropriation in subsection (a) of this
2 section and finance the construction costs for the laboratory.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.