



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.874 – An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education laws

As introduced by the House Committee on Education

Bill Summary

This bill would make miscellaneous changes to Vermont’s education laws. These proposed changes include several provisions with a fiscal impact, such as amending the Adult Diploma Program to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program and expanding eligibility, repealing the high school completion program, and appropriating \$1.9 million from the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025. There are also other sections of the bill that are not estimated to have a fiscal impact.

Fiscal Impact

JFO estimates this bill would have a revenue neutral impact to the Education Fund for fiscal year 2025; associated costs and savings to the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025 would offset each other.

- Section 6 would appropriate \$1.9 million from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education (AOE) in fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of providing funding to school districts for a community schools program.
- Section 2 would repeal the High School Completion Program on July 1, 2024, which is estimated to result in savings of \$1.9 million from Education Fund in fiscal year 2025.

The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) estimates that Section 1 of the bill would result in a cost to the General Fund of \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2025 due to an expansion of eligibility for the Adult Diploma Program. Section 1 also renames the program the “Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program.”

Background and Details

The following sections would have a fiscal impact.

Section 1

Section 1 would rename the Adult Diploma Program to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program and expand age eligibility requirements to correspond with the General Educational Development Program. The eligibility expansion also corresponds with the eligibility criteria of the High School Completion Program (which is repealed in Section 2 of this bill). JFO estimates this would cost \$2.5 million to the General Fund in fiscal year 2025. This program expansion would be an ongoing obligation to the General Fund in future years.

Section 2

Section 2 would repeal the High School Completion Program. This program is estimated to cost \$1.9 million to the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025. Repealing this program would therefore save the Education Fund \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2025.

Section 5

Section 5 would amend Act 67 (2021), Sec. 3 to expand the years that community school funding can be provided. This amendment would allow for the funding to be provided in any year at the determination of the Secretary of Education.

Section 6

Section 6 would appropriate \$1.9 million from the Education Fund to AOE in fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of providing funding to school districts for the community school program. This cost would be net neutral to the Education Fund due to the repeal of the High School Completion Program in Section 2.