



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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S.313 – An act relating to transforming Vermont’s career technical education system

As passed by the General Assembly^{1,i}

Bill Summary

This bill would require the Agency of Education (AOE) to issue Career Technical Education (CTE) rules guidance and require the State Board of Education (SBE) to periodically review CTE rules. It would also require AOE to report to the General Assembly recommendations on CTE educator endorsement requirements, a pre-enforcement pathway for CTE rules and statutes, updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative, and recommendations for Adult Diploma Program (ADP) participants.

Further, this bill would require Vermont schools to accept CTE grades and credits from SBE-approved centers. This bill would also make several miscellaneous changes to fair employment practices. This bill would be effective on passage.

Fiscal Impact

The overall fiscal impact of this bill is unknown. It would depend on future rulemaking and changes to employment practices, which the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) cannot estimate at this time.

Background and Details

The following sections may have a fiscal impact.

Sections 3-5: CTE Guidance, Review, Report

Section 3 would require AOE to, with stakeholders, issue guidance to the field on the State’s CTE regulations prior to rulemaking. This guidance would be due by September 18, 2026.

Section 4 would require the SBE to review and update as needed the CTE minimum standards at least every five years.

Under Section 5, AOE and the Standards Board for Professional Educators would submit a report of recommendations on CTE educator endorsement requirements, a pre-enforcement pathway for CTE rules and statutes, updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative, and recommendations on ensuring ADP participants have access to the educational programs which best serve their needs.

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

This report would be submitted to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Education and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Education by January 15, 2027.

The fiscal impact of these sections is unclear, as it depends on future rulemaking.

Section 6 Defining Comprehensive High School

Section 6 would state the General Assembly's intent to update the definition of "comprehensive high school". This section has no fiscal impact.

Section 7: CTE Program Credits

Section 7 would require schools in Vermont to apply CTE program credits towards student graduation. This would apply to credits earned at SBE-approved centers. The fiscal impact of this section is unclear, as JFO does not have information on schools previously not accepting CTE center credits.

Sections 8a-8e: Changes to Definitions, Fair Employment Practices

Section 8a would add a citation to the Code of Federal Regulations. This would apply to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act's definition of "employee" for determining eligibility for coverage under Vermont's Parental and Family Leave Act.

Section 8b adds victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to the definition of "crime victim," a protected category under the Fair Employment Practices Act. This amendment provides consistency in the documentation requirements for such victims under the Fair Employment Practices Act and the Parental and Family Leave Act

Section 8c repeals 21 V.S.A. § 495g, thereby removing language in the Fair Employment Practices Act that allows institutions of higher education to require tenured faculty to retire at age 70.

Section 8d would amend 21 V.S.A. § 383 to exempt elected and appointed municipal offices from the definition of "employee" under the State's minimum wage statute.

Section 8e would add 21 V.S.A. § 495q to the Fair Employment Practices Act, prohibiting the inclusion of provisions (such as non-compete provisions, non-disparagement provisions, etc.) in contracts or agreements with health care providers. This section would apply to all contracts and agreements entered into on or after July 1, 2026.

ⁱ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.