



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE  
**Joint Fiscal Office**

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## Fiscal Note

April 27, 2026

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

**As recommended by the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, Draft 5.1<sup>1</sup>**

#### **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, and updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative.

Further, this bill would require Vermont schools to accept CTE grades and credits from SBE-approved centers. It would also create a legislative working group to study CTE governance. This bill would be effective on passage.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

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

This bill would create a legislative working group that would cost an estimated \$13,300 in per diems and expense reimbursement for the legislative members in fiscal year 2027. This cost would be absorbed by the General Assembly’s budget.

#### **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.

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

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, and updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative. This 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.

### **Section 8: CTE Governance Legislative Working Group**

Section 8 would create the CTE Governance Legislative Working Group. The Group would be tasked with studying and recommending how to transform Vermont's CTE governance structure. The Group's membership would consist of eight members; four from the House, and four from the Senate.

The Group would, working with stakeholders, make recommendations on incorporating CTE governance systems within the State's larger education governance system. The recommendations would include:

1. a transition plan;
2. a timeline for moving to a single governance system;
3. how State aid for school construction could be utilized;
4. locations for comprehensive high schools;
5. funding adult education and students' access to CTE;
6. integrating adult CTE into the education system;
7. avoiding placing students on CTE waitlists; and
8. ensuring adult diploma participants have access to educational programs.

The Group would begin meeting by August 15, 2026 and would cease to exist by January 15, 2027. The members would be eligible for per diems and expense reimbursement for six meetings. The Group would submit its findings and proposed legislation to the General Assembly by December 15, 2026.

JFO estimates that the fiscal impact of this section would be approximately \$13,300 in fiscal year 2027. This cost would be absorbed by the General Assembly's budget.

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<sup>i</sup> 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.