



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Johnson, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Rep. Botzow, Chair, House Committee on Commerce & Economic Development
Rep. Sharpe, Chair, House Committee on Education

Date: March 20, 2015

Subject: FY2016 Budget – Dual Enrollment Funding
Proposed Revision to Committees’ Earlier Recommendations

On behalf of our respective committees, we request that the Appropriations Committee consider the following recommendations to reconcile the conflicting recommendations of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development (March 13, 2015; Recommendation #1) and of the Committee on Education (March 12, 2015, as revised on March 16, 2015; Recommendations #1 and #2).

Sec. B.1100 NEXT GENERATION; APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS

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(C) Dual enrollment programs. The amount of ~~\$600,000~~ **\$625,000** is appropriated to the Vermont State Colleges for dual enrollment programs consistent with 16 V.S.A. Sec. 944, **of which amount \$25,000 is transferred to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation pursuant to Sec. E.605.1 of this act.** The State Colleges shall develop a voucher program that will allow Vermont students to attend programs at a postsecondary institution other than the State College system when the student will be better served at a non-State college or when available programs are not geographically suited to student need.

Sec. E.504 Education – adult education and literacy

(a) Of this appropriation, ~~\$3,250,000~~ **\$3,225,000** from the Education Fund shall be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of high school completion services pursuant to

16 V.S.A. § 1049a(c). Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. Sec. 4025(b), of this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

(1) ~~\$650,000~~ \$625,000 is available for dual enrollment programs consistent with 16 V.S.A. Sec. 944(f)(2), of which amount \$25,000 is transferred to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation pursuant to Sec. E.605.1 of this act; and

(2) \$100,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative at the River Valley Regional Technical Center School District.

ADD NEW Sec. E.605.1:

Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

(a) The sum of \$50,000 shall be transferred to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) as follows:

(1) \$25,000 from Sec. B.1100(a)(3)(C) (Next Generation funds appropriated for dual enrollment purposes).

(2) \$25,000 from Sec. E.504(a) (adult education and literacy funds appropriated for dual enrollment purposes).

(b) The sums transferred to VSAC in this section shall be used to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially needy students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4011(e) to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. VSAC shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(c) VSAC shall report on the program to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations on or before January 15, 2016.