

# House Calendar

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Thursday, February 2, 2023

30th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 3:00 P.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Third Reading**

**H. 45**

An act relating to abusive litigation filed against survivors of domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Rachelson of Burlington to H. 45**

In Sec. 1, 15 V.S.A. chapter 21, subchapter 5, in subsection 1185(d), in the second sentence, by striking out “judge” and inserting in lieu thereof “judicial officer”

**Committee Bill for Second Reading**

**H. 145**

An act relating to fiscal year 2023 budget adjustments.

(Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes will speak for the Committee on Appropriations.)

**Amendment to be offered by Reps. McCarthy of St. Albans City, Marcotte of Coventry and Durfee of Shaftsbury to H. 145**

First: In Sec. 45, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, in subdivision (a)(7)(H), by striking out the final sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new sentence to read: “The plan shall be submitted not later than March 15, 2023 and shall be reviewed by the committees of jurisdiction and enacted into law by the General Assembly prior to implementation.”

Second: In Sec. 45, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (24) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (24) to read:

(24) \$3,000,000 to the Secretary of Administration to provide funding for municipal technical assistance and related services pursuant to Sec. 87a of this act.

Third: By adding a Sec. 87a to read:

Sec. 87a. MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ACCESS STATE  
AND FEDERAL FUNDING

(a) Expanding municipal access to State and federal funding. The Agency of Administration, consistent with the provisions of this section, shall design and implement a process to provide expanded technical and administrative assistance to municipalities with high need that may be eligible for State or federal funding for the following activities:

(1) Community needs assessment. Conducting a review of community assets and needs, strategic planning, and identifying potential eligible projects, including in the following categories:

(A) water supply and wastewater infrastructure;

(B) housing;

(C) community recovery, workforce development, and business support;

(D) climate change mitigation and resilience; and

(E) other community economic development projects identified by a municipality and approved by the Agency of Administration.

(2) Opportunity assessment. Assessing the technical assistance and funding available from State, federal, and private sources; evaluating eligibility and compliance requirements; and conducting a feasibility analysis of whether the municipality has, or can develop, the capacity to complete a project and meet applicable requirements.

(3) Application and permit assistance. Providing technical and administrative assistance with completing funding applications, permit applications, and satisfying initial regulatory requirements.

(4) Project management and implementation. Providing ongoing support to successful grant recipients with project management, funding program implementation, funding program compliance, and administrative and regulatory compliance through project completion.

(5) Other capacity-building activities. Providing additional assistance, subject to approval by the Agency, to advance priority projects identified by municipalities.

(b) Eligible service providers; service delivery.

(1) Eligibility.

(A) The Agency shall develop eligibility criteria, issue a request for proposals, and implement an approval process for service providers within each region to provide the technical assistance and services specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(B) The Agency may exercise its discretion in structuring the terms of service and payments, provided that the Agency shall adopt a set of minimum standards, duties, and performance requirements applicable to all service providers.

(2) Providers; mode of delivery. The Agency may:

(A) award a grant or contract for services to a regional planning commission, regional development corporation, or other similar instrumentality; to a private for-profit or nonprofit contractor; or to a combination of these;

(B) award funding to two or more municipalities to create a shared full-time, part-time, or limited-service position; or

(C) authorize an eligible municipality to directly contract for services from one or more providers approved by the Agency, subject to terms approved by the Agency.

(3) Regional collaboration. In approving service providers, the Agency shall give priority to applicants that demonstrate a commitment and ability to promote regional collaboration and maximize the efficient use of resources.

(c) Eligible municipalities; communities index.

(1) The Agency shall develop an index that ranks Vermont municipalities based on their relative administrative capacity to access and maximize the benefits of technical assistance and funding that is available from State, federal, and other sources.

(2) In developing the index, for each municipality in this State, the Agency shall consider its demographic profile, geographic location, and economic resources; the current size and administrative capacity of the municipal government; the availability of regional partners and supports; and other factors the Agency determines to be relevant in assessing the municipality's capacity to fully access available funding and related assistance.

(d) Eligible municipalities; priority.

(1) The Agency shall approve funding on a first-come, first-served basis to municipalities that rank in the top 25th percentile on the index developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Agency may adopt a process to consider and approve funding for a municipality that ranks below the top 25th percentile but demonstrates exceptional circumstances.

(3) If funds remain available after meeting the funding requirements of municipalities that qualify under subdivisions (1)–(2) of this subsection, the Agency may award funding to other municipalities according to index ranking.

(e) Outreach; implementation.

(1) The Agency, in coordination with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, shall conduct a general public engagement campaign to make municipalities aware of the potential opportunity for services and funding pursuant to this section.

(2) The Agency, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and each regional planning commission and regional development corporation that serves a municipality that is eligible for funding priority under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall work collaboratively to ensure that individual outreach to each eligible municipality occurs:

(A) to inform the municipality that it is eligible for funding for technical assistance and related services based on its index ranking;

(B) to educate the municipality on the process for identifying the types of services and assistance available, identifying eligible service providers, and accessing funding pursuant to this section; and

(C) to determine whether the municipality intends to further pursue funding for technical assistance and related services or waives its priority for funding.

(f) Reporting.

(1) The Agency shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on or before the following dates:

(A) April 1, 2023;

(B) July 1, 2023; and

(C) January 15, 2024.

(2) The Agency shall address in its reports the design and implementation of the process for providing municipal technical assistance pursuant to this section, including information addressing:

(A) the activities specified in subsection (a) of this section for which the Agency provided funding and the type and amount of State, federal, or other funds that were leveraged for each activity;

(B) the eligibility criteria, request for proposals, and approval process for service providers; the standards, duties, and performance requirements applicable to service providers; and the identity and scope of services performed by approved service providers;

(C) the mode of delivery, amount, and purpose of funding awarded to municipalities;

(D) the design, methodology, and efficacy of the index; the effectiveness of the index in identifying relative priority and capacity of municipalities; and, if applicable, the basis of any funding awards made due to exceptional circumstances pursuant to subdivision (d)(3) of this section; and

(E) the design, implementation, and effectiveness of outreach efforts undertaken pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

#### **Amendment to be offered by Rep. Clifford of Rutland City to H. 145**

In Sec. 45, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (34) in its entirety and inserting a new subdivision (34) to read as follows:

(34) \$13,424,710 to the Department for Children and Families to extend the General Assistance Temporary Housing program between March 15, 2023 and July 1, 2023 for households that are otherwise eligible for GA housing pursuant to section 2652.3 of DCF's General Assistance rule (13-170-260) and that have an individual who is either 60 years of age or older, are in receipt of SSI or SSDI, or have a child who is 18 years of age or younger. These households shall be eligible for temporary housing independent of maximum nights received or weather forecasts or conditions.

### **NOTICE CALENDAR**

#### **Consent Calendar**

#### **Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d**

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or

the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar.

#### **H.C.R. 22**

House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2023 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 21, 2023 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont

#### **H.C.R. 23**

House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of mental health treatment in Vermont

### **For Informational Purposes**

#### **NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY**

**Thursday, February 16, 2023 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber** - Election of a Sergeant at Arms, and three (3) trustees for the University of Vermont, and Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Candidates for the positions of Sergeant at Arms, and legislative candidates for University of Vermont trustees must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 9, 2023, by 4:00 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

**First:** All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

**Second:** There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

#### **CROSSOVER DATES**

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 17, 2023**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they

may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 17, 2023**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 24, 2023**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

**Note:** The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill and the Fee/Revenue bills).**