

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 180 An act relating to the investment of State funds in credit unions..... 152

H. 599 An act relating to retroactively reinstating 10 V.S.A. § 6081(b)..... 152

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 839 An act relating to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments

Appropriations Report - Sen. Kitchel 152

Amendment - Sens. Kitchel, et al 152

Amendment - Sen. Wrenner 155

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 109 An act relating to Medicaid coverage for doula services

Health and Welfare Report - Sen. Gulick 163

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 94 An act relating to the City of Barre tax increment financing district... 164

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

H.C.R. 148 -150 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 8, 2024)..... 164

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 180.

An act relating to the investment of State funds in credit unions.

H. 599.

An act relating to retroactively reinstating 10 V.S.A. § 6081(b).

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 839.

An act relating to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment
by Senator Kitchel for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(For text of Report of Committee on Appropriations, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 7, 2024.)

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 25, 2024, page 148.)

**Amendments to proposal of amendment of the Committee on
Appropriations to H. 839 to be offered by Senators Kitchel, Baruth,
Lyons, Perchlik, Sears, Starr and Westman**

Senators Kitchel, Baruth, Lyons, Perchlik, Sears, Starr and Westman move to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Appropriations as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be Sec. 27a to read as follows:

Sec. 27a. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.509 is amended to read:

Sec. B.509 Education - Afterschool Grant Program

Grants	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	4,000,000	4,000,000

Source of funds

Education fund <u>Special funds</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	4,000,000	4,000,000

Second: By striking out Sec. 53, amending 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.101, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 53 to read as follows:

Sec. 53. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS, REVERSIONS, AND RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the following amounts shall be transferred from the funds indicated:

(1) From the General Fund to:

* * *

(E) the Fire Prevention/Building Inspection Special Fund (21901): \$1,500,000.00; ~~and~~

(F) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909): \$3,600,000.00;

(G) the State Liability Insurance Fund (56200): \$9,500,000.00;

(H) the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (21555): \$17,250,000.00;

(I) the Act 250 Permit Fund (21260): \$120,300.00;

(J) the General Government Projects Fund (31100): \$139.24;

(K) the Protection Projects Fund (31200): \$1,180,584.31;

(L) the Natural Resources Projects Fund (31500): \$2,127,949.51;

(M) the Commerce and Community Development Projects Fund (31600): \$545,295.85; and

(N) the General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (35100): \$71,202,993.00.

* * *

(2) From the Education Fund to:

(A) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909):
\$1,300,000.00; and

(B) the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund:
\$2,836,982.94.

* * *

Third: By adding three new sections to be Secs. 94a–94c to read as follows:

Sec. 94a. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER

(a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be managed by the Secretary of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be transferred to the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Secretary shall use the assets in the Fund as follows:

(1) To set up programs to support the expansion of universal afterschool and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the State.

(2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

(A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

(B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

(C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require the grantee to comply with 9 V.S.A. § 4502, regardless of whether the grantee meets the definition of a place of public accommodation under 9 V.S.A. § 4501(1).

(D) The Agency may use up to \$500,000.00 for administrative costs to allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant program.

(b) An Advisory Committee is created to support the Secretary of Education in administering the funds. The Agency will provide administrative and technical support to the Committee. The Committee is to be composed of:

(1) State’s Chief Prevention Officer;

(2) DCF Commissioner or designee;

- (3) VDH Commissioner or designee;
- (4) DMH Commissioner or designee;
- (5) ANR Secretary or designee;
- (6) ACCD Secretary or designee;
- (7) Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or designee; and
- (8) a representative from the Governor's Office.

(c) On or before each November 15, the Agency of Education shall submit to the General Assembly a plan to fund grants in furtherance of the purposes of subsection (a) of this section and report outcomes data on the grants made during the previous year. The Agency shall also report on the number of programs, slots, weeks, or hours; geographic distribution; and what is known about costs to families. The report should be inclusive of 21C programming. The amount of grant funds awarded shall be in alignment with the actual revenue collected from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. § 233 on cannabis or cannabis products in this State. Discrepancies between the amount of grant funds awarded and actual revenue shall be reconciled through the budget adjustment process. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 94b. 32 V.S.A. chapter 207 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 207. CANNABIS EXCISE TAX AND CANNABIS
SALES TAX REVENUE

* * *

§ 7910. CANNABIS SALES TAX REVENUE; UNIVERSAL
AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

Revenue from the sales and use tax imposed by chapter 233 of this title on retail sales of cannabis or cannabis products in Vermont shall be deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund.

Sec. 94c. REPEAL; AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING
PROGRAMS

16 V.S.A § 4018 (afterschool and summer learning programs) is repealed.

Proposal of amendment to H. 839 to be offered by Senator Wrenner

Senator Wrenner moves that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 48 in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 48 to read as follows:

Sec. 48. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

(1) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the retention of technical experts to assist the Public Safety Communications Task Force with the analysis and planning required by ~~Sec. C.112 of this act~~ 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114 and to fund the administrative expenses incurred by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. If the Task Force determines ~~in calendar year 2023~~ that additional funding is necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to an additional \$1,000,000.

(2) Up to \$4,500,000 shall be available to provide funding for pilot projects pursuant to ~~Sec. C.112(f), of this act~~ 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114(f).

(3) Any remaining amounts not obligated pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection (b) shall ~~be held in reserve~~ remain unobligated and unexpended until approval to expend the funds is authorized by further enactment of the General Assembly.

(4) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Public Safety~~ In order to extract the greatest value from the limited State and federal dollars currently available for public safety communications modernization, it is the intent of the General Assembly that all such funding is expended in an efficient and complementary manner. To that end, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances, to the greatest extent possible, the goals of a statewide public safety communications system developed by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall ~~consult with~~ promptly inform the Public Safety Communications Task Force as ~~the~~ federal parameters for expending the funds become available and as the Commissioner develops a and, if necessary, revises the plan to expend such

funds. ~~The Commissioner shall solicit recommendations from the Task Force regarding the plan, including any revisions to the plan, the implementation schedule, and specific expenditures~~ Expenditures of the funds must be authorized by the Task Force. The Task Force shall only authorize an expenditure upon making a determination that such expenditure is in accordance with completed plans for the transition to statewide regional emergency communications and in a manner that ensures usefulness and integration with any not-yet completed plans required by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114. In addition, the Commissioner shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned expenditures.

* * *

Second: By striking out Sec. 49 in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 49 to read as follows:

Sec. C.114 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;
DISPATCH; INVENTORY; DESIGN

(a) The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and welfare is an essential function of State government and it is in the public interest to establish a statewide reliable, secure, and interoperable public safety communications system, comprising integrated 911 call-taking and regional dispatch systems, and to ensure that the system is equitably and sustainably financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State.

(b) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to establish a public safety communications system that disrupts or in any way jeopardizes the exceptional dispatch services currently in place or the existing 911 system, but rather to support, enhance, strengthen, and build upon those efforts and initiatives.

(c) The transition to a public safety communications system as specified in subsection (a) of this section shall be overseen and managed by the temporary Public Safety Communications Task Force established in subsection (d) of this section.

(d)(1) There is established a Public Safety Communications Task Force to oversee and manage all phases of the development, design, and implementation of a statewide public safety communications system as required by this section.

(2) The Task Force shall consist of ~~seven~~ 11 members as follows:

(A) the Executive Director of the Enhanced 911 Board, ~~who shall serve as Co-Chair~~ or designee;

(B) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee, ~~who shall serve as Co-Chair;~~

(C) ~~one~~ two municipal ~~official~~ officials appointed by the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns;

(D) one representative from a ~~public safety answering point overseen by a~~ municipal police department appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police;

(E) one emergency medical technician or paramedic appointed by the Vermont State Ambulance Association;

(F) one firefighter appointed by the Vermont State Firefighters' Association; ~~and~~

(G) the Chair of the Regional Dispatch Working Group established by the General Assembly in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185;

(H) one sheriff appointed by the Vermont Sheriffs' Association;

(I) one regional emergency planner appointed by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies; and

(J) one representative appointed by the Vermont Communications Union District Association.

(3) At its initial organizational meeting as an 11-member Task Force the Task Force shall elect from among its members a chair and a vice chair. Meetings may be held at the call of a ~~Co-Chair~~ the Chair or at the request of two members. A majority of sitting members shall constitute a quorum, and action taken by the Task Force may be authorized by a majority of the members present and voting. Except for those members regularly employed by the State, members are entitled to a per diem in the amount of \$150 for each day spent in the performance of their duties. All members, including members otherwise regularly employed by the State, shall receive their actual and necessary expenses when away from home or office upon their official duties pursuant to this section. A vacancy shall be filled by the respective appointing authority. If the Chair of the Regional Dispatch Working Group declines to participate as a member of the Task Force, the Task Force shall appoint one member who shall have expertise relevant to the purposes of this section.

(4) The Task Force is authorized to retain a ~~project~~ program manager and one or more ~~additional~~ consultants with relevant expertise in public safety communications technology, design, governance, law, and financing to assist with the requirements of this section. The program manager shall not be a direct competitor of the other consultants.

(5) The Department of Public Safety shall provide the Task Force with administrative services and support.

(6)(A) The Task Force, in consultation with the Secretary of Administration, shall develop procedures and best practices for State agency cooperation and coordination on matters of overlapping jurisdiction. The primary purpose of this subdivision is to ensure the Task Force has access to expertise and data related to its mission, including expertise within and data maintained by the Department of Public Service, the Agency of Digital Services, the Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Injury within the Department of Health, the Department of Taxes, the Agency of Transportation, the Enhanced 911 Board, and the Department of Public Safety.

(B) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to waive any privilege or protection otherwise afforded information by law due solely to the fact that the information is shared with the Task Force pursuant to this subdivision.

(7) All meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. All records of the Task Force are subject to the Vermont Public Records Act.

(8) The Task Force shall cease to exist when a State entity authorized by legislative enactment to permanently oversee and manage the public safety communications system becomes operational.

(e) The establishment of a statewide public safety communications system shall occur in essentially three phases, which include data collection and analysis, design, and implementation. Certain aspects of each phase may occur simultaneously as deemed appropriate by the Task Force.

(1) Data collection and analysis. On or before ~~September 15, 2024~~ May 15, 2025, the Task Force shall conduct a complete inventory and assessment of all aspects of dispatch service currently provided in Vermont and, ~~to the extent possible,~~ dispatch service currently provided outside Vermont for response agencies located in Vermont, which shall include:

(A) an inventory of all existing dispatch infrastructure and equipment, including facilities, hardware, software, applications, and land mobile radio systems, referring to and incorporating any existing relevant data collected by a State or municipal entity;

(B) the number of full-time and part-time personnel currently performing dispatch service, taking into account personnel who have other responsibilities in addition to providing dispatch service;

(C) the current total spending on dispatch service in Vermont that includes and itemizes for each municipality and dispatch center all federal, State, and municipal appropriations and fees, every contract for dispatch or first responder service, and projected budgets;

(D) identification of the communications dead zones in the State, meaning those areas that lack the infrastructure to support public safety land-mobile-radio communications or cellular voice and data service, or both, and taking into consideration all cell towers, including those that are part of the FirstNet statewide public safety radio access network; cellular mapping efforts conducted by the Department of Public Service; and any existing, relevant mapping data collected by a dispatch center or other entity;

(E) with the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a needs assessment to determine where and to what extent there are gaps in dispatch service or significant challenges to the delivery of dispatch service and to identify those municipalities that are likely to be most affected by either the curtailment of dispatch service from the two State-run public safety answering points or from a new financing mechanism for the continuation of such service;

(F) an assessment of the ~~service~~ services provided by each dispatch center and identification of particular challenges or vulnerabilities, if any, including with regard to workforce, failover procedures, communications technology, costs, and governance; and

(G) collection and assessment of any other information the Task Force deems relevant.

(2) Design. On or before ~~January 15, 2024~~ September 15, 2024, the Task Force shall develop findings and recommendations related to draft elements of a preliminary design for a public safety communications system, including identification of a proposed implementation timeline and any additional data and resources needed to develop a final design on or before ~~December 15, 2024~~ September 15, 2025. The final design shall include:

(A) technical and operational standards and protocols that ensure an interoperable and resilient system that incorporates computer-aided dispatch systems and land mobile radios;

(B) technology life-cycle standards to ensure system and database upgrades are timely, sufficiently financed, and properly managed;

(C) system and database security and cybersecurity standards;

(D) continuity of operations standards and best practices that encompass failover procedures and other system redundancies to ensure the continuous performance of mission-critical operations;

(E) workforce training standards and other staffing best practices that support the retention and well-being of dispatch personnel;

(F) a resource allocation plan that ensures dispatch service is available in all regions of the State, including the establishment of new dispatch centers or expanded capacity and capability of existing dispatch centers, if deemed appropriate by the Task Force;

(G) a process for annually reviewing the budgets of dispatch centers;

(H) a recommended governance model to ensure effective State and regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system, including identification of staffing or operational needs to support such oversight and management of the system;

(I) cost estimates for implementing the system in Vermont, including operational and capital costs;

(J) options for sustainably and equitably structuring the financing of the public safety communications system, taking into consideration:

(i) existing budgets for regional and local dispatch;

(ii) the population, grand list, and call volume of each municipality;

(iii) existing and potential State funding streams;

(iv) available federal funding opportunities for public safety agencies and emergency communications systems, including equipment, network infrastructure, and services;

(v) financing models adopted in other jurisdictions for public safety communications systems; and

(vi) any other standards or procedures deemed necessary or appropriate by the Task Force.

(f)(1) If the Task Force determines that sufficient minimum technical and operational standards have been developed to warrant the funding of one or more pilot projects, the Task Force may submit for approval a pilot project plan to the Joint Fiscal Committee ~~in calendar year 2023~~ in calendar year 2024.

(2) Pilot projects eligible for funding under this subsection may include new regional dispatch centers or expanded capacity at existing regional dispatch centers, provided the Task Force determines the pilot demonstrates project readiness and is otherwise consistent with the standards and purposes of this section.

(3) In evaluating proposed pilot projects, the Task Force shall give a high priority to projects in geographical areas of the State that presently face significant challenges with respect to reliably providing dispatch service.

(4) The pilot project plan shall include a description of each proposed project, the resources needed, and an explanation of how the project will align with, inform, and further the development of a statewide public safety communications system and ensure transparency and accountability particularly with respect to the expenditure of State funds pursuant to this subsection.

(5) The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to \$4,500,000.00 in total for pilot projects authorized by this subsection.

(g) On or before ~~January 15, 2024~~ September 14, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a progress report on the data collection and analysis required by subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the findings and recommendations required by subdivision (e)(2) of this section, and a description and status report of any pilot projects funded pursuant to subsection (f) of this section in a written report to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Finance and the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs, on Ways and Means, and on Environment and Energy. On or before ~~December 15, 2024~~ September 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit to the same legislative committees a written report containing its final design plan as required by subdivision (e)(2) of this section.

(h) All activities described in this section are “information technology activities” as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 3301(b)(2) and, as such, are subject to the record keeping, strategic planning, and independent expert review requirements specified in 3 V.S.A. § 3303(b)-(c).

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 109.

An act relating to Medicaid coverage for doula services.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1901m is added to read:

§ 1901m. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide reimbursement to a qualified doula for providing childbirth education and support services, including physical and emotional support, to an individual covered by Medicaid during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period, regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy.

(b) As used in this section, “qualified doula” means a doula who is registered with or certified or licensed by the Office of Professional Regulation.

Sec. 2. MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR DOULA SERVICES; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Vermont Health Access reimburse qualified doulas in amounts that are reasonable and adequate for the services provided and that are consistent with the reimbursement rates set by other states’ Medicaid programs.

Sec. 3. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; DOULAS; SUNRISE REVIEW

(a) The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall undertake a review of doulas in accordance with 26 V.S.A. chapter 57 to determine the appropriate form of regulation for the profession. For purposes of this review, and in accordance with 26 V.S.A. § 3105(b), the General Assembly finds that it is necessary for the State to regulate doulas.

(b) On or before January 8, 2025, the Office of Professional Regulation shall report the results of the review required by subsection (a) of this section to the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations, including a recommendation regarding whether doulas in Vermont would be regulated most appropriately through a registration, certification, or licensure process, along with the Office's proposals for legislative action to establish that process.

Sec. 4. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

The Department of Vermont Health Access shall seek a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services if needed to allow Vermont's Medicaid program to provide coverage for doula services in accordance with Sec. 1 of this act.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2025 or, if a state plan amendment is necessary, upon approval of the state plan amendment, whichever is later.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 3-2-0)

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 94.

An act relating to the City of Barre tax increment financing district.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

Concurrent Resolutions For Notice Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

H.C.R. 148 - 150 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar of February 8, 2024)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission, underlined below, shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Alexander N. Burke of Arlington – Superior Court Judge – Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary (2/1/2024)

Susan Ann McManus of Manchester – Superior Court Judge – Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary (2/1/2024)

Navah C. Spero of Richmond – Superior Court Judge – Senator Vyhovsky for the Committee on Judiciary (2/1/2024)

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber - Election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Candidates for the positions of Adjutant and Inspector General, and legislative candidates for trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation must notify the Secretary of State in writing of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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.

Friday, March 1, 2024 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber - Election of a Sergeant at Arms.

Candidates for the position of Sergeant at Arms, must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Friday, February 23, 2024, 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 this election:

First: All nominations for this office 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.

JFO NOTICE

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3):

JFO #3176: \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. These funds will increase rapid access to behavioral health care by supporting the peer service component of the mental health urgent care clinic being established in Chittenden County. This clinic will offer an alternative to seeking mental health care in emergency departments.

[Received January 11, 2024]

JFO #3177: \$2,543,564.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary's Office from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Funding is phase one of a two-phase funding opportunity aimed to support Vermont with climate change mitigation planning efforts. A comprehensive climate action plan will be developed, to overlap with and be synonymous to the required update to Vermont's Climate Action Plan in 2025.

[Received January 12, 2024]

JFO #3178: \$456,436.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary's Office from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Funds will support (1) limited-service position, Environmental Analyst IV. This position will serve as administrative lead developing the updated Climate Action Plan with the Vermont Climate Council and perform added work required by the EPA grant. Position is funded through 6/30/2027.

[Received January 11, 2024]

JFO #3179: Two (2) limited-service positions. One (1) to the Department of Mental Health, Project AWARE Lead Coordinator and one (1) to the Agency of Education, Project AWARE Co-Coordinator. The positions will liaison to coordinate and expand the state's efforts to develop sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health. Both positions are fully funded through 9/29/28 from previous SAMHSA grant award JFO #2934.

[Received January 26, 2024]

JFO #3180: One (1) limited-service position, Administrative Services Director III, to the Agency of Administration, Recovery Office. Position will ensure that flood recovery projects are integrated with existing state and federal programs. Will also ensure compliance and tracking of already awarded grants as well as those anticipated in the wake of the July 2023 flooding event. Position is funded through already approved JFO Request #3165 as well as Acts 74 (2021) and 185 (2022). The position is fully funded through 7/31/2027.

[Received January 31, 2024]

JFO #3181: \$409,960.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development from the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service. Funds will be used for the preservation, repair, and restoration of the Old Constitution House, located in Windsor, Vermont. The first Constitution of Vermont was adopted on this site, then known as Elijah West's Tavern, on July 8, 1777. *[Note: A State match of \$53,714.00 is accomplished within the agency budget through the reduction of a fraction of an existing position base and existing capital bill funds.]*

[Received January 31, 2024]

JFO #3182: \$125,000.00 to Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation from the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission to expand current monitoring of cyanotoxins in Lake Champlain and Vermont inland lakes.

[Received January 31, 2024]

JFO #3183: \$182,500.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Funds will be used to complete the purchase of a conservation easement on a 183-acre parcel of land in Townshend, Vermont (Peterson Farm). *[Note: Remainder of the easement (\$82,500) is supported by a State appropriation agreement between the department and the VHCB. Closing costs, including department staff time, is funded by already budgeted federal funds. Ongoing enforcement costs are managed by the department's*

Lands and Facilities Trust Fund. A \$15,000.00 stewardship contribution to this fund will be made by the landowner at the time of the sale.]

[Received January 31, 2024]

JFO #3184: Three (3) limited-service positions to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health. One (1) Substance Abuse Program Evaluator, funded through 8/31/28; and one (1) Public Health Specialist II, and one (1) Family Service Specialist both funded through 9/29/2024. The positions are fully funded by previously approved JFO requests #3036 and #1891. These positions will support Vermont's Overdose Data to Action program and the Maternal Mortality Review Panel.

[Received January 31, 2024]

JFO #3185: \$70,000.00 to the Attorney General's Office from the Sears Consumer Protection and Education Fund to improve accessibility and outreach of the Vermont Consumer Assistance Program to underserved populations in Vermont.

[Received January 31, 2024]