

ATTACHMENT:

Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry

Please review the provisions below that are included in the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2023 proposed Budget Adjustment bill. The explanations highlighted in yellow were provided by the Department of Finance and Management. The notes in gray are from the House Appropriations Committee.

Sec. 1 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

a) In fiscal year 2023, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

* * *

(24) \$3,000,000 to the Secretary of Administration to implement the Rural

Infrastructure Assistance Program created in Sec. E.100.4 of this act.

EXPLANATION: The administration proposes \$3M to provide Vermont’s rural communities with technical assistance in applying for and utilizing available ARPA funds.

NOTE: The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 4 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

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(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023:

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(4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

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3400892109 St Match-Act 155 4(a),5(a) \$ 277,500.00

NOTE: The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is also reviewing this reversion.

3400892112 AHS-VT Food Bank-Food Box \$ 1,376,000.00

NOTE: The Committee on Human Services is also reviewing this reversion.

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5100892214 AOA School Food Program Administration \$ 50,670.70

NOTE: The Committee on Education and the Committee on Human Services are also reviewing this reversion.

Sec. 7 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.100.4 is added to read:

Sec. E.100.4 RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(a) Rural Infrastructure Assistance Program. The Agency of Administration shall develop a program to support rural communities in accessing, and managing, competitive grant funds available for clean water initiatives, development of a wide array of housing, broadband development, community recovery, workforce development and business supports and climate change mitigation and resiliency infrastructure projects to be administered by the State.

(b) Eligible communities. This Program will be designed to serve communities which score 75 percent or higher on the Vermont Underserved Communities Index developed by the Agency of Administration. The Agency shall have the option to expand the Program to additional communities after one calendar year from the date of implementation to the extent funds remain available.

(c) The Agency will make the following community support services available upon request from eligible communities:

(1) Community Needs Assessments to evaluate need as directed by a municipality in the following categories:

(A) Water quality infrastructure improvement;

(B) Housing development;

(C) Community recovery, workforce development and business supports;

(D) Climate change mitigation and resilience; and

(E) Other projects related to community economic development as determined by the Agency of Administration.

(1) Opportunity Assessment to identify available state and federal funding programs.

(2) Application and Permitting support to assist municipalities to apply for applicable funding sources and develop necessary permits.

(3) Project management and implementation support to assist successful grant recipients with project management and funding program compliance.

EXPLANATION: Directs the Agency of Administration to develop a program to provide technical assistance to rural communities seeking ARPA-funded opportunities. \$3M is provided for this purpose in Section XX of this Act, amending Sec. B.1100 of 2022 Act 185.

NOTE: The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs are also reviewing this section