

ATTACHMENT:

Committee on Health Care

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:

* * *

(30) \$9,225,000 to the Department of Mental Health to continue construction of the Southwest Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) Youth Inpatient Facility.

EXPLANATION: Funds will be used to complete construction of the facility.

NOTE: The Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Committee on Human Services are also reviewing this section.

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

* * *

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

* * *

(1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from the funds indicated:

<u>21220 Mental Health Risk Pool</u>	<u>\$449.17</u>
<u>21910 Counselor Regulatory Fee Fund</u>	<u>\$2,125.00</u>
<u>21945 DOC-Corrections Donations</u>	<u>\$4.52</u>

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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:

<u>3330892202 GMCB – Benchmarking Analyses</u>	<u>\$ 80,443.00</u>
<u>3400891804 Medicaid Financial Requirements</u>	<u>\$ 40,341.34</u>

EXPLANATION: Net new General Fund balances available for reappropriation

Sec. 23 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72 is amended to read:

Sec. 72. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVE

GRANT FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYERS

(a)(1) Program established. The Secretary of Human Services shall establish a workforce recruitment and retention incentive grant program for employees of eligible employers, as defined in this section. Eligible employers may apply for a grant within the grant application period determined by the Secretary.

(2) For all eligible employers except for home health agencies, tThe total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of \$2,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application. For home health agencies, the total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of \$3,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application.

* * *

~~(4) Eligible employers shall distribute the full amount of their awards within 12 months following receipt of the grant funds.~~

* * *

(f) Allocations. Of the funds made available in subsection (e) of this section, \$45,000,000 shall be allocated for a first round of funding, to be made available to the eligible employers identified in subsection (b) of this section. The remaining \$15,000,000 shall be reserved for a second round of funding pending identification of a set of additional health care and social service provider employers with a demonstrated need for the recruitment and retention incentive grant funding, as recommended by the Agency of Human Services and accepted by the General Assembly, or by the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, except that the Agency is authorized to access all or a portion of the reserved funding to the extent that a funding deficiency is identified when meeting the needs of the first round of eligible employers. Any remaining funds following a second round of funding may be used for one or more of the following workforce recruitment and retention purposes:

(1) Incentive grants to nurses employed by health care employers in Vermont for serving as preceptors for nursing students enrolled in Vermont nursing schools. The Agency shall distribute all or a portion of the remaining funds to health care employers employing nurses who provide student preceptor supervision based on the number of preceptor hours to be provided, at a rate of \$5.00 per preceptor hour, or a lesser hourly rate if the need exceeds the available

funds. The Agency shall prioritize funding for health care employers that provide matching funds for additional preceptor compensation or that commit to providing future compensation and support to expanding the number of preceptors.

(2) If nurse preceptors receiving compensation pursuant to a grant awarded to a health care employer under this section are subject to a collective bargaining agreement, the use of the grant funds provided to the health care employer for the nurse preceptors shall be subject to bargaining between the health care employer and the collective bargaining representative of the nurses to the extent required by the collective bargaining agreement.

(3) Grants to health care employers, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, designated and specialized service agencies, federally qualified health centers, and other health care providers, to establish or expand partnerships with Vermont nursing schools to create nursing pipeline or apprenticeship programs, or both, that will train members of the health care employers' existing staff, including personal care attendants, licensed nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses, to become higher-level nursing professionals. Through a combination of scholarship awards, grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to this section, grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to Act 183 of 2022 Sec. 22, and the health care employer's contributions, the trainees' tuition and fees shall be covered in full, and trainees shall be provided with assistance in meeting their living costs, such as housing and child care, while attending the program.

* * *

EXPLANATION:

- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(2) necessary to expend a portion of the remaining premium pay funds on a 50% increase in grants to home health agencies.
- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(4) necessary to avoid complexities with potential end of public health emergency and the IT platform that supports the grant program.

Amendment to Sec.72(f) necessary to maximize effectiveness of nursing programs and ensure impact beyond public health emergency. Additional programs will expand programs authorized in Act 183, Secs. 21 and 22 by adding funding and additional health care employer types to the nurse preceptor program and adding a more flexible funding source that can cover living costs for the nursing pipeline or apprenticeship program

NOTE: The Committees on Education, Human Services, and Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 27 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

* * *

(a) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$227,169.00 in Global Commitment funds is appropriated to the Department of Health for forgivable loans for nursing students under the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

(b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment ~~appropriation~~Program for the State match for the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

(c) In fiscal year 2023, \$127,169.00 in federal funds is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment ~~appropriation~~Program for the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

EXPLANATION: Technical correction to ensure these appropriations are correctly categorized as one-time in nature, and not additive to the Global Commitment base appropriation.

NOTE: The Committee on Education is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 31 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186, Sec. 4(b) is amended to read:

(b) In fiscal year 2023, \$102,000.00 is ~~appropriated~~ allocated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 72a as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Sec.105 to fund the Residential Program Developer position established in subsection (a) of this section.

EXPLANATION: Technical language clarifying that the \$102K was not a new appropriation but an allocation of funding from a previous appropriation as amended.

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

Sec. 32 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186, Sec. 5(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b)(1) In fiscal year 2023, \$500,000.00 is ~~appropriated~~ allocated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 72a as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Sec.105 to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the State, in partnership with designated and specialized service agencies, for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Department shall issue a request for proposals seeking entities to develop regional pilot

planning grants with not more than one grant per designated agency catchment area.

EXPLANATION: Technical language clarifying that the \$500K was not a new appropriation but an allocation of funding from a previous appropriation as amended.

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

Sec. 33 REPEALS; MENTAL HEALTH RISK POOL

1998 Acts and Resolves No. 147, Sec. 138a is repealed effective on passage.

EXPLANATION: Language necessary for the repeal of the Mental Health Risk Pool special fund.

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