



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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March 3, 2023

Dear Rep. Lanpher,

Please find this letter as the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (HGO&MA) response to the HAC Memo requesting feedback on the Governor's Recommended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget as it relates to areas that touch on our jurisdiction.

In addition to the items in the HAC memo, the committee discussed these two additional items for your consideration:

CIS Salesforce Rollout to Three Additional Sites

The Committee supports \$768,180 in one-time funds being allocated in FY24 to the Child Development Division to fund grants to three Children's Integrated Services (CIS) Fiscal Agents to support their implementation of a Salesforce-based community data system.

Medicare Advantage

The majority of the HGO&MA committee is opposed to the administration's proposal to move retired state employees to a Medicare Advantage healthcare plan. We plan to take additional testimony and may make further recommendations.

Response to Items included in the HAC memo:

B.100 & B.1100(a)(1)(A) Office of Racial Equity - Language Access Plan - \$700,000 + \$2,300,000

We support these recommendations. We heard from the Office of Racial Equity that the implementation of recommendations to translate vital documents and meet federal access requirements will be a multi-year project. We further recommend investigating, and are willing to take further testimony, determining how much of this translation and implementation can be accomplished in the coming Fiscal Year.

B.1100(a)(6) - Technology Modernization Fund - \$15,000,000

We support the Agency of Digital Services proposals, which will likely be rolled out over 2 years. The testimony we heard from the Agency suggested that the \$10,000,000 for Network & Security Infrastructure Modernization and the \$5,000,000 for IT investments to modernize existing IT systems would likely need about half of these funds spent in the coming year and half in the following fiscal year. We recommend approving these amounts over two years, with a

check back on the progress and needs. If it would be helpful our committee could work on check-back language about these projects and funds.

B.1100 (a)(7) - Treasurer VSERS/VSTRS - \$18,000,000

We support the full funding of the pension system amounts in Act 114 of 2022 and believe these funds reflect the intent of the legislature's pension work last biennium.

B.1100(a)(9)- Military - USS Vermont and North Country Honor Flight - \$20,000

We support these proposals. The committee was especially moved by the presentation by former Rep. Al Perry.

B.1100(a)(10)- Criminal Justice Council - \$1,420,000

The committee supports the VCJC's move toward competency over specified hours and the development of alternate routes to certification. Since this is a 3 year project it is likely that there may be some of these funds that could be appropriated as one-time investments in future years. At the request of the VCJC we are working on a committee bill that includes pushing the deadline for the final report on alternate routes to Law Enforcement Certification out to 2025 to reflect the 3 year plan.

We will be taking testimony from the Dept. of Public Safety after the Town Meeting Day break and will provide recommendations at that time on these items:

B.1100(a)(8) - Vests and Hiring Initiatives - \$690,000

B.1100(a)(1)(A) Community Safety Grant Program - \$10,000,000

**Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Mike McCarthy, Chair House Government Operations & Military Affairs**