

1 H.494

2 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 * * * Purpose, Definitions, Legend * * *

5 Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

6 (a) This bill may be referred to as the BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2024
7 Appropriations Act.

8 Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

9 (a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of
10 State government during fiscal year 2024. It is the express intent of the
11 General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments,
12 divisions, boards, and commissions be limited to those which can be supported
13 by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2023.
14 Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service
15 levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2024 to meet this condition unless
16 otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General
17 Assembly.

18 Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

19 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the
20 primary source and reference for appropriations for fiscal year 2024.

1 (b) The sums stated in this act are appropriated for the purposes specified
2 in the following sections of this act. When no time is expressly stated during
3 which any of the appropriations are to continue, the appropriations are single-
4 year appropriations and only for the purpose indicated and shall be paid from
5 funds shown as the source of funds. If in this act there is an error in either
6 addition or subtraction, the totals shall be adjusted accordingly. Apparent
7 errors in referring to section numbers of statutory titles within this act may be
8 disregarded by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

9 (c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act
10 apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024.

11 Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

12 (a) As used in this act:

13 (1) “Encumbrances” means a portion of an appropriation reserved for
14 the subsequent payment of existing purchase orders or contracts. The
15 Commissioner of Finance and Management shall make final decisions on the
16 appropriateness of encumbrances.

17 (2) “Grants” means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to
18 community and quasi-public agencies for providing local services, and to
19 persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash
20 or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

21

1 (3) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and
2 maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities;
3 office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway
4 materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and
5 construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

6 (4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per
7 diems, contracted third-party services, and similar items.

8 Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

9 (a) Except as specifically provided, this act shall not be construed in any
10 way to negate or impair the full force and effect of existing laws.

11 Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

12 (a) In the absence of specific provisions to the contrary in this act, when
13 total appropriations are offset by estimated receipts, the State appropriations
14 shall control, notwithstanding receipts being greater or less than anticipated.

15 Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

16 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Governor, with the approval of the General
17 Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in
18 session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including
19 block grants in lieu of or in addition to funds designated as federal in this act.
20 The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal
21 Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any

1 portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for
2 which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

3 (b) If, during fiscal year 2024, federal funds available to the State of
4 Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2023 session of
5 the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants or are
6 abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new
7 title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for
8 any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were
9 appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for no
10 more than 45 days prior to legislative or Joint Fiscal Committee approval.
11 Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the
12 Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint
13 Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's
14 request for approval.

15 Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

16 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the total number
17 of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary
18 positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during
19 fiscal year 2024 except for new positions authorized by the 2023 session.
20 Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 5 shall not
21 be subject to this restriction.

1 Sec. A.108 LEGEND

2 (a) The act is organized by functions of government. The sections between
3 B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming budget
4 year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that relates to
5 specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The function areas
6 by section numbers are as follows:

7 <u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>	<u>General Government</u>
8 <u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>	<u>Protection to Persons and</u>
9	<u>Property</u>
10 <u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>	<u>Human Services</u>
11 <u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>	<u>Labor</u>
12 <u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>	<u>General Education</u>
13 <u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
14 <u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
15 <u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>	<u>Commerce and Community</u>
16	<u>Development</u>
17 <u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
18 <u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
19 <u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u>	<u>One-time and other</u>
20	<u>appropriation actions</u>

1 (b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year and
2 the D sections contain fund transfers, reversions, and reserve allocations for the
3 upcoming budget year, the F sections contain workforce and economic
4 development policies, and the G sections contain changes to transportation
5 fees.

6 * * * Fiscal Year 2024 Base Appropriations * * *

7 * * * Fiscal Year 2024 One-time Appropriations * * *

8 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME
9 APPROPRIATIONS

10 (a) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated
11 for the following:

12 (1) \$2,300,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a
13 comprehensive statewide language access plan; and

14 (2) \$15,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied claims
15 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement.

16 (b) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for
17 the following:

18 (1) \$3,820,000 General Fund and \$5,180,000 ARPA-SFR for bridge
19 funding to support ongoing system transformation; and

1 (2) \$4,000,000 General Fund for the Community College of Vermont
2 to reduce the tuition fee for certificates, degrees, and courses that have a direct
3 nexus to Vermont business and industry needs.

4 (c) Department of Human Resources. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
5 appropriated for the following:

6 (1) \$725,000 General Fund to fund seven new permanent full-time
7 positions in the Operations division in fiscal year 2024. These position costs
8 shall be funded through the Department of Human Resources Internal Service
9 Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025.

10 (2) \$75,000 General Fund to fund one new permanent full-time position
11 in the VTHR Operations division in fiscal year 2024. This position cost shall
12 be funded via the Department of Human Resources Internal Service Fund
13 beginning in fiscal year 2025.

14 (3) \$1,900,000 General Fund for implementation of a Paid Family and
15 Medical Leave Insurance program available for all State employees in fiscal
16 year 2024. This program cost shall be funded through the Department of
17 Human Resources Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025.

18 (d) \$200,000 General Fund to the Department of Libraries in fiscal year
19 2024 to support the FiberConnect project relating to Internet access in public
20 libraries.

1 (e) Department of Public Safety. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
2 appropriated for the following:

3 (1) \$190,000 General Fund for external carriers (vests) that improve the
4 ergonomics of ballistic personal protective equipment; and

5 (2) \$500,000 General Fund for hiring incentives, including hiring
6 bonuses, to be paid to all new sworn members and emergency communication
7 dispatchers; recruitment awards to current members for successful recruitment
8 of a new member (criteria dependent); and student loan debt repayment,
9 offering up to \$10,000 per new hire toward the repayment of preexisting
10 student loan debt.

11 (f) Military Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the
12 following:

13 (1) \$10,000 General Fund for granting to the USS Vermont Support
14 Group, a nonprofit organization supporting military members serving on the
15 USS Vermont (SSN 792) and their families; and

16 (2) \$10,000 General Fund for granting to North Country Honor Flight,
17 an organization that sponsors escorted trips for veterans to visit the war
18 memorials on the National Mall, to cover the expenses of 10 Vermont resident
19 attendees.

20 (g) Criminal Justice Council. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated
21 for the following:

1 (1) \$1,200,000 General Fund for a three-phase accreditation process to
2 include job task analysis, curriculum development and piloting;

3 (2) \$20,000 General Fund for a records management system to ensure
4 efficient and compliant recordkeeping, including case management tracking
5 and reporting and compliance monitoring for remote learning; and

6 (3) \$200,000 General Fund for request for proposals and contracts
7 related to procedure development; off-site course development, records
8 management system transition, developing pathways to certification, and
9 medical personnel.

10 (h) \$210,000 General Fund to the Office of the Defender General in fiscal
11 year 2024, for the case management system.

12 (i) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2024, funds
13 are appropriated for the following:

14 (1) \$110,000 General Fund for electric vehicle charger inspections.
15 Funds shall be used for the purchase of two testing units and related equipment
16 to support the development and implementation of the Commercial Electric
17 Vehicle Fueling Systems regulatory program;

18 (2) \$1,070,000 General Fund for replacement of the existing Food
19 Safety Inspection Database;

20 (3) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Salvation Farms to expand
21 access to locally grown food for all Vermonters.

1 (j) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
2 appropriated for the following:

3 (1) \$105,000 General Fund for expediting competency and sanity
4 evaluations; and

5 (2) \$9,225,000 to the Department of Mental Health to (DMH) continue
6 construction of the Southwest Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) Youth
7 Inpatient Facility to increase the number of psychiatric youth inpatient beds in
8 the State.

9 (k) Green Mountain Care Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
10 appropriated for the following:

11 (1) \$620,000 General Fund for costs associated with the implementation
12 of the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System
13 (VHCURES) database;

14 (2) \$120,500 General Fund for the implementation of a new financial
15 database solution; and

16 (3) \$50,000 General Fund for the development of the statutorily required
17 Health Resources Allocation Plan Tool.

18 (l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds
19 are appropriated for the following:

20 (1) \$1,000,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for the
21 Employment Assistance Grants program created in 2022 Acts and Resolves

1 No. 185, amended by the 2023 Budget Adjustment Act H.145. Funds
2 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the General Fund.

3 (2) \$8,834,000 General Fund and \$11,483,302 Federal Revenue Fund
4 #22005 for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke
5 program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the
6 program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic
7 investments with community partners.

8 (3) \$10,000,000 General Fund to continue to address the emergent and
9 exigent circumstances impacting health care providers following the COVID-
10 19 pandemic.

11 (4) \$10,534,603 General Fund and \$13,693,231 Federal Revenue Fund
12 #22005 for use as Global Commitment matching funds for one-time caseload
13 pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

14 (m) \$366,066 General Fund and \$372,048 Federal Revenue Fund #22005
15 to the Department of Vermont Health Access in the non-waiver or state-only
16 lines for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke
17 program and \$15,583,352 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the
18 Department of Health Access Medicaid program for a two-year pilot to expand
19 the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program.

20 (n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for
21 the following:

1 (1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of
2 Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for a two-year pilot to expand the
3 Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program.

4 (2) \$5,000,000 General Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year
5 2024 for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention
6 Program established by 18 V.S.A. § 13. Unexpended appropriations shall carry
7 forward into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this
8 purpose.

9 (3) \$30,000 General Fund for a housing voucher program administered
10 by the Vermont Association of Recovery Residences and Jenna’s Promise to
11 pay for a recovery home residents’ first month of rent.

12 (4) \$1,590,000 General Fund for the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
13 Program, in conjunction with \$1,410,000 appropriated from the General Fund
14 in Sec. B.313 of this act representing 30 percent of the fiscal year 2023
15 forecast for cannabis excise tax, and to be used in a manner consistent with the
16 Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition funding intent as stated in 2022 Acts
17 and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100(a)(12)(A)(i).

18 (5) \$500,000 Tobacco Settlement Fund for Division of Substance Use
19 Programs for tobacco and substance use disorder prevention and cessation
20 activities. The Division shall require that information on the use of the funds
21 appropriated in accordance with this section be provided to the Division by

1 grantees in an agreed-upon time frame, including the specific activities
2 supported by the funds, a description of the number of individuals served, and
3 information on the outcomes achieved by this investment. On or before,
4 January 10, 2024, the Division shall report on these metrics to the House and
5 Senate Committees on Appropriations, to the House Committee on Human
6 Services, and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

7 (6) \$100,000 General Fund to the Department of Health to support the
8 Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordination study.

9 (7) \$100,000 General Fund for Division of Substance Use Programs for
10 a grant to Jenna's Promise program.

11 (o) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
12 appropriated for the following:

13 (1) \$2,000,000 General Fund to implement the two-year Reach Ahead
14 Pilot Program. Funds shall be used to increase monthly food assistance
15 benefits to Reach Ahead participants, expand the eligibility window for those
16 leaving Reach Up, and provide incentive payments.

17 (2) \$650,000 General Fund for the 2-1-1 service line. The Department,
18 in consultation with the Agency of Human Service Central Office shall report
19 to the Joint Fiscal Committee in November, 2023 on the status of this program.

1 (3) \$40,000 General Fund to fund the purchase of a driving school
2 vehicle for the Youth Development Program to support foster and former
3 foster youth access to driver's education.

4 (4) \$18,884,610 General Fund to address the estimated need for the
5 Adverse Weather Conditions policy and General Assistance emergency
6 housing hotel and motel expenditures in fiscal year 2024.

7 (5) \$2,500,000 General Fund to the Housing Opportunity Grant Program
8 to expand and provide wrap-around support services for households
9 participating in the General Assistance Emergency Housing program.

10 (6) \$3,000,000 General Fund to grant to the Vermont Food Bank to
11 support increased capacity of services to meet persistent food insecurity.

12 (7) \$375,000 General Fund to be granted to the Parent Child Centers in
13 consultation with the Junior League of Vermont for the statewide distribution
14 of vision of diapers to families in need.

15 (8) \$50,000 General Fund to be granted to the Vermont Donor Milk
16 Center for statewide activities.

17 (9) \$130,000 General Fund to be granted to the Snelling Center to restart
18 the Early Childhood Education Leadership Program.

19 (10) \$1,000,000 General Fund to be granted to Mentor Vermont. The
20 Department shall identify alternative fund sources for future grants to Mentor

1 Vermont and shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on its findings on or
2 before November 15, 2023.

3 (p) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for
4 the following:

5 (1) \$200,000 General Fund to be granted to the State Workforce
6 Development Board for the New American Labor Force Program; and

7 (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund to provide services under the Work-Based
8 Learning and Training Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 547.

9 (q) Natural Resources Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated
10 for the following:

11 (1) \$1,000,000 General Fund for the digitization of Natural Resources
12 Board documents. Funds shall be used for the continued digitization of
13 permanent, paper-based Act 250 land use permit records currently located at
14 the Natural Resources Board's five district offices.

15 (2) \$200,000 General Fund for an Act 250 study contract. Funds shall
16 be used to contract with a consultant to assist with the preparation of a report
17 on updates necessary to the Act 250 program, per 2022 Acts and Resolves No.
18 182, Sec. 41(a).

19 (r) \$200,000 General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Education
20 for the work of the School Construction Task Force.

1 (s) \$35,000 General Fund to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to support
2 celebration of the Symphony's 90th season.

3 (t) \$1,200,000 General Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation
4 Board to administer and support the Land Access and Opportunity Board.

5 (u) \$1,750,000 Tax-Current Use Administration Fund #21594 to the
6 Department of Taxes for the digitization of the Current Use program.

7 (v) Public Service Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated
8 for the following:

9 (1) \$500,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to upgrade and
10 expand the ePSD case management system;

11 (2) \$400,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to complete
12 the Telecom Plan Update scheduled for June 2024; and

13 (3) \$300,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to craft policy
14 proposals to reform and streamline electric sector policy.

15 (4) \$1,000,000 General Fund to the Secretary of State for a grant to the
16 Vermont Access Network to provide a third year of bridge funding to a secure
17 funding stream to replace declining cable revenues.

18 (w) Agency of Digital Services. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated
19 for the following:

20 (1) \$10,000,000 from the Technology Modernization Fund #21951 for
21 Network & Security Infrastructure Modernization for the planning and design

1 and for the replacement of legacy infrastructure, hardware and software,
2 platforms underlying the network and security architecture.

3 (A) The Agency of Digital Services shall select a vendor through a
4 competitive bid process. The Agency of Digital Services shall consider bids
5 with options to buy or lease equipment. Per 3 V.S.A. § 3303, any project with
6 a total cost of \$1,000,000 or greater shall be subject to an expert independent
7 review. The review shall include an analysis of all options, although the
8 Agency of Digital Services is limited to the bids that it receives. The Agency
9 of Digital Services may also purchase or lease equipment through a separate
10 competitive bid process.

11 (B) Once a vendor has been selected and an independent review
12 completed, the Agency of Digital Services shall issue a verbal or written report
13 to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee.

14 (y) \$4,680,000 General Fund to the Judiciary for the Judiciary network
15 replacement project.

16 (z) \$117,000 General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community
17 Development to be granted the Vermont 250th Commission for the 250th
18 celebration.

19 (aa) Vermont Center for Crime Victims' Services. In fiscal year 2024,
20 funds are appropriated for the following:

1 (1) \$25,000 General Fund to the Vermont Center for Crime Victims;
2 Services for a grant for a monument to the survivors of St Joseph's Orphanage.

3 (2) \$10,000 General Fund to continue the work of the Intercollegiate
4 Sexual Harm Prevention Council.

5 (bb) \$450,000 Global Commitment Fund to the Department of Disabilities,
6 Aging, and Independent Living to continue the SASH pilot for another year.

7 \$195,660 General Fund and \$254,340 Federal Funds is appropriated to the
8 Agency of Human Service Global Commitment program for the state federal
9 match for the SASH pilot extension.

10 (cc) \$100,000 to the Vermont Pension Investment Commission for a study
11 on the assets of the State's pension systems.

12 (dd) \$750,000 to the State Treasurer for the initial costs of the Vermont
13 Saves program.

14 * * * Workforce Development * * *

15 Sec. B.1101 WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FISCAL
16 YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

17 (a) Education workforce.

18 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the
19 General Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of funding the
20 Emerging Pathways Grant Program to encourage and support the development
21 and retention of qualified and effective Vermont educators by providing grants

1 to expand support, mentoring, and professional development to prospective
2 educators seeking licensure through the Agency of Education’s emerging
3 pathways, including peer review and apprentice pathways, with the goal of
4 increased program completion rates and increased rates of licensure of
5 underrepresented demographics.

6 (A) Program administration. The Agency shall adopt policies,
7 procedures, and guidelines necessary for implementation of the grant program.
8 The agency shall report to General Assembly on the status of the program on
9 or before January 15, 2024.

10 (B) Eligibility criteria. The Agency shall issue grants to
11 organizations, school districts, or a group of school districts for the
12 development and administration of programs and program coordinators
13 designed to provide prospective educators in emerging pathways to teaching
14 with the support necessary for successful entry into the educator workforce.
15 Recruitment, support, and retention of prospective educator candidates shall
16 focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Support provided through the
17 Program may include:

18 (i) support through the Praxis exam process;

19 (ii) local, educator-led seminars designed around the Vermont
20 licensure portfolio themes;

21 (iii) local educator mentors;

1 (iv) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing
2 process; and

3 (v) continued professional development support within the first
4 year of licensure.

5 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated from
6 the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the
7 Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program to provide forgivable
8 loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a
9 teacher in a Vermont public school and who meet the eligibility requirements
10 in subsection (d) of this section. The intent of the Program is to encourage
11 students to enter into teaching professions, with an emphasis on encouraging
12 Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color Vermonters, New Americans, and
13 other historically underrepresented communities in an effort to diversify the
14 educator workforce.

15 (A) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an
16 individual, whether a resident or nonresident of Vermont, shall satisfy all of
17 the following requirements:

18 (i) be enrolled in teaching program at an eligible school;

19 (ii) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the
20 individual is enrolled;

1 (iii) agree to work as a teacher in Vermont employed directly by a
2 public school located in Vermont for a minimum of one year following
3 licensure for each year of forgivable loan awarded;

4 (iv) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will
5 reduce the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to
6 subsection (f) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of
7 service required in this subsection;

8 (v) have completed the Program's application form, the Free
9 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and for Vermont residents, the
10 Vermont grant application each academic year of enrollment in accordance
11 with a schedule determined by the Corporation; and

12 (vi) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation
13 may require.

14 (B) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a teacher in a Vermont
15 public school for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable
16 loan benefit received by the individual, other than for good cause as
17 determined by the Corporation, then the individual shall receive only partial
18 loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant to the terms of the
19 interest-free credit agreement or promissory note signed by the individual at
20 the time of entering the Program.

1 (C) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under
2 this section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as
3 funds are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall
4 roll over and shall be available to the Corporation in the following fiscal year
5 to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this section.

6 (D) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
7 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum
8 forgivable loan amounts. The Corporation shall not use more than seven
9 percent of the funds appropriated for the Program for its costs of
10 administration and may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable
11 loans in repayment.

12 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the sum of \$30,000 is appropriated from the
13 General Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of funding the
14 Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant Program to
15 provide grants for the support of existing and the development of new educator
16 affinity groups for historically underrepresented groups. The Agency of
17 Education shall administer the Program.

18 (2) The Agency shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
19 necessary for the implementation of the Program established pursuant to this
20 subsection

21 (b) Youth workforce.

1 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,275,974 is appropriated from
2 the General Fund to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to
3 continue funding through the pilot project the Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn
4 Program, which supports workforce development goals through creating
5 meaningful paid service and learning opportunities for young adults, through
6 the Serve, Learn, and Earn Partnership made up of the Vermont Youth
7 Conservation Corps, Vermont Audubon, Vermont Works for Women, and
8 Resource VT. The Department shall enter into a grant agreement with the
9 Partnership that specifies the required services and outcomes for the Program.

10 (d) Higher education.

11 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the
12 General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish a Bachelor of Science
13 program in restorative justice at Vermont State University.

14 (2) In fiscal year 2024 the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from
15 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish the Certificate in
16 3-D Technology program.

17 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,800,000 is appropriated from
18 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to provide Critical
19 Occupations Scholarships for eligible students with a household income of
20 \$75,000 or less enrolled in education programs that lead to a career in an
21 occupation with critical need, including early childhood occupations, clinical

1 mental health counseling, criminal justice occupations, dental hygienists, and
2 all levels of nursing.

3 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from
4 the General Fund to the University of Vermont to provide additional free
5 classes through the Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program for Vermont
6 residents seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance job skills.

7 (5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$350,000 is appropriated from the
8 General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a subgrant to
9 Advance Vermont to continue work pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No.
10 183, Sec. 39 in support of the State's goal articulated in 10 V.S.A. § 546 that
11 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025. On
12 or before December 15, 2023, Advance Vermont shall report to the General
13 Assembly regarding outcomes achieved, the use of these State funds and the
14 other fund sources Advance Vermont has secured for this project.

15 (e) Healthcare and social services workforce.

16 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from
17 the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the
18 Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan
19 Incentive Program created in 18 V.S.A. § 39.

1 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from
2 the General Fund to the Department of Health to provide training for
3 emergency medical services personnel.

4 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$170,000 is appropriated from the
5 General Fund to the Agency of Human Services to provide one additional year
6 of funding for the classified, three-year limited-service Health Care Workforce
7 Coordinator position created in the Agency of Human Services, Office of
8 Health Care Reform, pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 34(a).

9 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from
10 the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health to be distributed to the
11 designated and specialized service agencies equitably based on each agency's
12 proportion of full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff to the total number of FTE staff
13 across all designated and specialized service agencies statewide for workforce
14 incentives. Funds shall be administered by each agency for student loan
15 repayment, tuition assistance, or recruitment and retention payments in
16 exchange for an agency specified service obligation of no less than one year.

17 (A) The State Auditor shall review the designated and specialized
18 service agencies' utilization of this appropriation and report to the General
19 Assembly on the outcomes and effectiveness of this program

20 (f) Economic development.

1 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from
2 the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development
3 for the Vermont Training Program to fulfill Vermont's obligation to procure
4 incentives in accordance with the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce
5 Semiconductors for America (CHIPS) Act.

6 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,250,000 is appropriated from the
7 General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for a
8 grant to the regional development corporations to provide small- and mid-sized
9 businesses with professional and technical assistance.

10 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$72,000 is appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the Vermont Council on the Arts to provide a State match for
12 National Endowment for the Arts funding to enable the Council to continue its
13 work boosting the creative economy in Vermont.

14 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 from the Rural
15 Industry Development Special Fund to the Agency of Commerce and
16 Community Development to make grants to assist nonprofit entities in rural
17 regions of the State, with addressing building and property needs for growing
18 or new businesses consistent with 10 V.S.A. § 6 as created in this act.

19 (5) \$8,000,000 General Fund for Brownfields redevelopment consistent
20 with Sec. F.18 of this act.

1 (6) \$500,000 General Fund to augment service support funding in the
2 Reach Up program.

3 (7) In fiscal year 2024 the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from
4 the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development
5 for awarding new relocating employee incentives pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4.

6 (g) Agriculture Economic Development

7 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from
8 the General Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the
9 Working Lands Enterprise grant program.

10 (2) In fiscal year 2024, \$2,300,000 is appropriated from the General
11 Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund Agriculture
12 Development Grants for meat, produce, and maple processing. The Secretary
13 of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall determine that there are significant
14 interests in establishing certain parameters in the grant program before making
15 an award. Grants should be awarded to farmers, processors, and businesses,
16 which shall not include hydroponic operations. Furthermore, the Secretary
17 shall not allocate more than 25 percent of grant funds toward the maple
18 industry. Of the funds appropriated under this subdivision, an amount not to
19 exceed \$125,000 may be used by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and
20 Markets to support the cost of temporary employees to administer the grants.

1 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,900,000 is appropriated from
2 the General Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund
3 Agriculture Development Grants for the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance
4 Program.

5 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,900,000 is appropriated from
6 the General Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund
7 Agriculture Development Grants for a grant to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs
8 Fund as follows:

9 (A) \$100,000 to the Independent Retail Grocers Project;

10 (B) \$200,000 to the Beef on Dairy Project; and

11 (5) In fiscal year 2024, \$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund
12 to the Vermont Housing Conservation Board for the establishment by the Farm
13 Viability Program of a pilot program to award grants to farmers for the use of
14 virtual fences, solar powered collars, and solar powered transmitters to control
15 livestock. As used in this section. As used in this section, “livestock” means
16 cattle, horses, sheep, swine, and goats.

17 (6) In fiscal year 2024, \$200,000 is appropriated to the Agency of
18 Agriculture, Food and Markets in fiscal year 2024 to fully fund the Dairy Risk
19 Management Assistance Program for farmers who enroll in calendar year
20 2023. These funds are in addition to the unexpended funds appropriated under

1 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 68 for use to implement the Dairy Risk
2 Management Assistance Program.

3 (7) In fiscal year 2024, \$150,000 General Fund is appropriated to the
4 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Small Farmer Diversification
5 and Transition Program. The Agency staff that support the Working Lands
6 Enterprise Board shall administer the Program and provide small farmers in
7 Vermont with State financial assistance in the form of grants.

8 (1) Program applicants shall

9 (A) be a small farmer and not permitted as a medium farm or large
10 farm at the time of application.

11 (B) have a proposed plan for diversification or transition that includes
12 possible markets for the proposed product and probable income; and

13 (C) demonstrate to the Agency that there is potential from the
14 proposed diversification or transition to create additional income for the
15 applicant.

16 (2) Small Farmer Diversification and Transition Program grants shall be
17 used for costs of:

18 (A) diversifying the farm products produced by the applicant;

19 (B) transitioning the applicant from one form of farming to another;

20 (C) processing of farm products on the farm owned or controlled by the
21 applicant; and

1 services supported through Medicaid. Funded projects may utilize a range of
2 housing options including the expansion of shelter capacity, the conversion of
3 hotels to housing, creation of permanent supportive housing, and utilization of
4 manufactured homes on infill sites.

5 (2) \$50,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for the
6 production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and
7 homeownership units; including improvements to manufactured homes and
8 communities, permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness, recovery
9 residences, and housing available to farm workers and refugees. The Vermont
10 Housing and Conservation Board is asked to target at least 15 percent of units
11 for households experiencing homelessness and 15 percent of units for
12 households above 60 percent Area Median Income and below 120 percent
13 Area Median Income to help address the workforce housing shortage. The
14 Board is authorized to utilize up to 10 percent of resources for innovative
15 approaches to helping communities meet their housing needs.

16 * * * Climate and Environment * * *

17 Sec. B.1103 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2024

18 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

19 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$700,000 General Fund is
20 appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for
21 refrigerant management. Funds shall be used for incentives to improve

1 commercial and industrial refrigeration systems, focused on reducing the use
2 of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants or replacing outright,
3 older systems prone to leaks, or both.

4 (b) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$900,000 General Fund is
5 appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for Climate
6 Office technical analyses, tools, and training. Funds shall be used for
7 investments in ongoing evaluation, implementation support and tracking of the
8 impact of programs, and policy approaches needed to reduce greenhouse gas
9 emissions and improve landscape-level resilience consistent with the Global
10 Warming Solutions Act.

11 (c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 General Fund is
12 appropriated to the Department of Public Service for the School Heating
13 Assistance with Renewables & Efficiency Program (SHARE) to assist Title I
14 eligible schools in repairing or renovating their existing wood chip or pellet
15 heating systems, or to install new wood chip or pellet heating systems.

16 (d) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$150,000 General Fund is
17 appropriated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wildlife Crop Damage
18 Payments. Funds shall be used for payments to farmers under the provisions
19 of 10 V.S.A. §§ 4829 and 4831.

20 (e) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 General Fund is
21 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for Parks

1 personnel housing. Funds shall be used to renovate, remediate, and expand on-
2 site housing opportunities, including installation of full hook-ups for RVs;
3 splitting existing staff housing into multiple units; and making critical (health
4 and safety) repairs to the existing housing stock for Vermont State Parks staff
5 in critical locations statewide.

6 (f) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is
7 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for Small
8 Communities Outdoor Recreation Grant matching funds. Funds shall be used
9 to support communities with low income in Vermont by providing State match
10 funds for federal recreation grants.

11 (g) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 General Fund is
12 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for emerald
13 ash borer mitigation and low-income heating assistance. Funds shall be used
14 to remove high-risk ash trees on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
15 lands and provide free firewood to households with low income.

16 (h) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 General Fund is
17 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the
18 Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act/Brownfields.
19 Funds shall be used for the assessment and cleanup planning for a maximum of
20 25 brownfields sites.

1 (i) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$600,000 General Fund is
2 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the
3 Emissions Repair Program. Funds shall be used for the emissions repair
4 program established by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 25 for fiscal
5 years 2024 through 2026.

6 (j) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,100,000 ARPA-SFR is
7 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Healthy
8 Homes Initiative. Funds shall be used to make repairs or improvements to
9 drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater systems for Vermonters who have
10 low to moderate income or who live in manufactured housing communities, or
11 both.

12 (k) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is
13 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for
14 Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) technical assistance. Funds shall be used
15 to support statewide groundwater PFAS remediation efforts.

16 (l) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 Environmental
17 Contingency Fund #21275 is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
18 Conservation for statewide Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) groundwater
19 remediation.

20 * * * Pension Funding * * *

1 Sec. B.1104 FISCAL YEAR 2024 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS'

2 RETIREMENT SYSTEM; SUPPLEMENTAL COST OF

3 LIVING PAYMENT; FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION

4 (a) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the amount of
5 \$3,000,000 is appropriated to VSTRS from the Education Fund, for Calendar
6 Year 2023 supplemental payments made in Sec. E.514.1 of this act and
7 associated costs.

8 (b) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the amount of
9 \$9,100,000 is reserved in the Education Fund to fund future supplemental cost
10 of living payments to qualifying retired members and beneficiaries of the
11 Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System or the present value of any
12 changes made to the methodology for calculating the postretirement
13 adjustments allowance set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949, or both.

14 * * * Capital Projects * * *

15 Sec. B.1105 CAPITAL PROJECTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME

16 APPROPRIATIONS

17 **SENATE INSTITUTION RECOMMENDATIONS COMING**

18 (a)

19 (b)

20 (c) In fiscal year 2024, \$3,000,000 as appropriated in Sec. B.903

21 Transportation - program development of this act from the Cash Fund for

1 Capital and Essential Investments, is for projects as specified in the State
2 transportation plan.

3 (d) In fiscal year 2024, to the extent funds are available under 32 V.S.A.
4 1001b§ (b)(3) the following appropriations from the Cash Fund for Capital and
5 Essential Investments shall be made in this order:

6 (1)

7 (2)

8 (3)

9 * * * Fiscal Year 2023 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

10 Sec. C.100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 GENERAL FUND UNALLOCATED

11 CARRYFORWARD

12 (a) After satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308, and after other
13 reserve requirements have been met, but prior to satisfying the requirements of
14 32 V.S.A. § 308c, the first \$335,200,000 of remaining unreserved and
15 undesignated funds at the close of fiscal year 2023 shall remain in the General
16 Fund and be carried forward to fiscal year 2024.

17 Sec. C.101 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022 OUT

18 OF STATE BEDS CARRYFORWARD FUNDS AND JUSTICE

19 REINVESTMENT II FUNDING

20 (a) Notwithstanding 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.335, as
21 amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 62, and by 2022 Acts and

1 (c) ~~Any funds expended on community-based service programs pursuant to~~
2 ~~subsection (b) of this section shall be included in the subsequent year~~
3 ~~Department of Corrections budget for the same purpose at the same amount.~~

4 [Repealed.]

5 Sec. C.104 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

6 ARPA-SFR PROJECT FUNDS REVERSION

7 (a) \$1,100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State
8 Fiscal Recovery Funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental
9 Conservation in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.501(a)(2) shall revert
10 to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
11 Funds for reallocation in fiscal year 2024.

12 Sec. C.105 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

13 § 1001b. CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CASH FUND AND
14 ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

15 (a) Creation. There is hereby created the ~~Capital Expenditure-Cash Fund~~
16 for Capital and Essential Investments to be administered by the Commissioner
17 of Finance and Management, in consultation with the State Treasurer, ~~for the~~
18 purpose of using general funds. The Fund shall have the following three
19 subaccounts:

20 (1) the Capital Infrastructure subaccount, to defray the costs of future
21 capital expenditures that would otherwise be authorized in the capital

1 construction act and paid for using the State's general obligation bonding
2 authority and debt service obligations or paid for as a direct associated cost of
3 a capital project;

4 (2) the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves
5 subaccount, to fund essential investments and infrastructure needs or to create
6 reserves for these expenditures, including transportation-related projects; and

7 (3) the Supplemental Contingent Revenues subaccount, to capitalize
8 revolving loan funds and other expenditures, as authorized by the General
9 Assembly.

10 (b) Fund Accounts. ~~The Fund may consist of:~~

11 (1) Capital Infrastructure Reserve subaccount. The Capital
12 Infrastructure Reserve subaccount may consist of transfers made by the
13 General Assembly up or equal to four percent of the last completed fiscal
14 year's General Fund appropriations, less the amount necessary to fund the
15 State's general obligation debt service in the year for which the transfer is
16 being made, as determined by the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of
17 Finance and Management.

18 (2) Other Infrastructure and Essential Investments subaccount. The
19 Other Infrastructure and Essential Investments subaccount may consist of any
20 appropriations or transfers made by the General Assembly; from the General
21 Fund or any other State fund and

1 ~~(2)~~ any interest earned by the Fund.

2 (3) Supplemental Contingent Revenues subaccount. The Supplemental
3 Contingent Revenues subaccount may consist of any contingent transfers made
4 by the General Assembly from the General Fund after satisfying the
5 requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308 but prior to satisfying the requirements of 32
6 V.S.A. § 308c in any fiscal year and any contingent transfers made by the
7 General Assembly from other State funds.

8 (c) Use of funds. ~~Expenditure shall only be made from the Fund by~~
9 ~~appropriations by the General Assembly. Plans for use shall be submitted as~~
10 ~~part of the operating budget adjustment or operating budget process. Monies~~
11 in the Fund Accounts shall only be used ~~for~~ as follows:

12 ~~(1) costs associated with a proposed capital project that occur prior to~~
13 ~~the construction phase of that project, including feasibility, planning, design,~~
14 ~~and engineering and architectural costs; Expenditures shall only be made by~~
15 the General Assembly from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve subaccount for:

16 (A) tangible capital investments, as described in section 309 of this
17 title, with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years or more; and

18 (B) engineering and architectural costs directly associated with a
19 proposed capital project.

1 ~~(2) projects with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years;~~ Expenditures shall
2 only be made by the General Assembly from the Other Infrastructure, Essential
3 Investments, and Reserves subaccount for:

4 (A) any expenditure eligible under subdivision (1) of this subsection
5 (c); and

6 (B) any other essential investments and infrastructure needs,
7 including transportation-related projects.

8 ~~(3) costs associated with the early redemption of general obligation~~
9 ~~bonds; and~~

10 ~~(4) other eligible capital projects receiving an appropriation from the~~
11 ~~General Assembly~~ Expenditures shall only be made by the General Assembly
12 from the Supplemental Contingent Revenues subaccount for:

13 (A) any expenditure eligible under subdivision (1) of this subsection
14 (c); and

15 (B) any other purpose, including capitalization of revolving loan
16 funds.

17 (d) Fund balance. All balances in the Fund accounts at the end of any
18 fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of the Fund accounts.

19 Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 511, the Commissioner of Finance and
20 Management shall not anticipate receipts for the Fund accounts and issue
21 warrants thereon.

1 section 1001b of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of
2 required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.
3 In developing its annual estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the
4 Committee shall consider:

5 * * *

6 **Sec. C.107** RESERVES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND
7 JOBS ACT (IIJA) MATCH

8 (a) To the extent available the amount of \$25,000,000 is reserved in the
9 Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the
10 Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to provide the State match in
11 fiscal years 2025 and 2026 needed for federal funding for transportation related
12 projects under the IIJA. These funds shall only be expended if authorized by
13 the General Assembly.

14 (b) To the extent available, the amount of \$14,500,000 is reserved in the
15 Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the
16 Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to provide the State match in
17 fiscal years 2025 and 202g needed for federal funding for water and waste
18 water related projects under the IIJA. These funds shall only be expended if
19 authorized by the General Assembly.

20 **Sec. C.108** SUPPLEMENTAL CONTINGENT TRANSFERS TO CASH
21 FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, to the extent any fund
2 specified in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101(b)(2) as amended by
3 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 48 has an unobligated fund balance in
4 fiscal year 2023 the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transfer
5 to the subaccount created under 32 V.S.A. 1001b(b)(3) the respective fiscal
6 year 2023 unobligated special fund balances. The Commissioner shall report
7 the amounts transferred pursuant to this provision to the Joint Fiscal
8 Committee in July 2023.

9 (b) To the extent available in fiscal year 2023, \$XXXXXX shall be
10 transferred from the General Fund to the Cash Fund pursuant to the provisions
11 of 32 VSA 1001b(b)(3).

12 Sec. C.109 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 51a is amended to read:

13 Sec. 51a. COVID-19-RELATED PAID LEAVE GRANT PROGRAM

14 (a) Establishment and appropriation.

15 (1) There is established in the Department of Financial Regulation the
16 COVID-19-Related Paid Leave Grant Program to administer and award grants
17 to employers to reimburse the cost of providing COVID-19-related paid leave
18 to employees as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

19 (2) The sum of ~~\$15,180,000~~ \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the
20 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
21 Funds to the Department of Financial Regulation for fiscal years 2023 and

1 2024 for the provision of grants to reimburse employers for the cost of
2 providing COVID-19-related paid leave. ~~Not more than seven percent of the~~
3 ~~amount appropriated pursuant to this subdivision may be used for expenses~~
4 ~~related to Program administration and outreach.~~

5 * * *

6 (c) Grant program.

7 * * *

8 (3)(A) Employers may submit applications for grants during the period
9 beginning on October 1, 2022 and ending on September 30, 2023 and may
10 submit an application not more than once each calendar quarter during that
11 period. Grant applications shall be submitted for paid leave provided during
12 the preceding calendar quarter and, subject to subdivision (B) of this
13 subdivision (3), for calendar quarters in the program period prior to the
14 preceding calendar quarter.

15 (B) An employer shall be permitted to request grant funds for costs
16 related to COVID-19-related paid leave described in subsection (e) of this
17 section in a calendar quarter prior to the preceding calendar quarter if:

18 (i) the employer has not already received grant funds in relation to
19 the COVID-19-related leave; and

1 the number of hours of COVID-19-related paid leave provided to each
2 employee multiplied by the greater of either the minimum wage established
3 pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 384 or the employee's regular hourly wage.

4 ~~(B) For COVID-19-related paid leave that will be provided retroactively to~~
5 ~~employees who took unpaid leave for COVID-19 related reasons, the~~
6 ~~employer may, subject to the limitations of subdivision (2) of this subsection~~
7 ~~(e), apply for a grant in an amount equal to the number of hours of COVID-19-~~
8 ~~related paid leave to be provided to each employee multiplied by the greater of~~
9 ~~either the minimum wage established pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 384 or the~~
10 ~~employee's regular hourly wage.~~

11 Sec. C.110 FUNDING OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB)

12 REMEDIATION AND REMOVAL IN SCHOOLS

13 (a) Education Fund; PCB appropriations. Notwithstanding 2022 Acts and
14 Resolves No. 178, Sec. 2(b):

15 (1) the funds reserved within the Education Fund for purposes of
16 investigation, remediation, and removal of PCBs from schools are unreserved;
17 and

18 (2) the unexpended or unobligated amount of the \$2,500,000 transferred
19 by the Emergency Board to the Agency of Education for PCB remediation
20 shall revert to the Education Fund for further allocation.

21 (b) Agency of Education; PCB remediation and removal reimbursement.

1 (1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), \$29,500,000 and the
2 unexpended funds identified under subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be
3 appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal
4 year 2024 for one or more of the following purposes:

5 (A)(i) Grants to schools in the State that are required to conduct
6 remediation or removal of PCB contamination in the school after ANR testing
7 but have not received a grant from ANR for the costs of remediation or
8 removal. The grants shall be in an amount sufficient to pay for 100 percent of
9 the school's remediation or removal costs, including the costs incurred when
10 necessary under State or federal law to relocate students to a facility during
11 remediation or removal activities.

12 (B) Grants to schools in the State that conducted remediation or
13 removal of PCBs in the school after ANR testing and received a grant from
14 ANR for 80 percent of the costs of remediation or removal from the Agency of
15 Natural Resources. The grants under this subdivision (b)(1)(B) shall be in an
16 amount that will reimburse the school for any remediation or removal costs not
17 paid by the Agency of Natural Resources.

18 (C) A grant not to exceed \$16,000,000 to the Burlington School
19 District to reimburse the school district for the costs of demolition and removal
20 of PCB contamination at Burlington High School.

1 (c) Grant criteria. The Secretary of Education, after consultation with the
2 Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents
3 Association, the Vermont School Custodian and Maintenance Association, and
4 other stakeholders, shall develop criteria for priority use of funds and criteria
5 for the costs of remediation and removal of PCB contamination that will be
6 eligible for a grant under subsection (b) of this section.

7 Sec. C.111 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 8. MUNICIPAL ENERGY REVOLVING FUND; ~~FY 2023~~

9 APPROPRIATION TRANSFER; REPORT

10 (a) ~~In FY 2023,~~ Upon receipt of the following federal funds and to the
11 extent permitted by federal law, the following amounts shall be transferred to
12 the Department of Buildings and General Services from the Department of
13 Public Service for the Municipal Energy Revolving Fund, as established in 29
14 V.S.A. § 168b:

15 * * *

16 Sec. C.112. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

17 DISPATCH; INVENTORY; DESIGN

18 (a) The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and welfare is
19 an essential function of State government and it is in the public interest to
20 establish a statewide reliable, secure, and interoperable public safety

1 communications system, comprising integrated 911 call-taking and regional
2 dispatch systems, and to ensure that the system is equitably and sustainably
3 financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State.

4 (b) The transition to a public safety communications system as specified in
5 subsection (a) of this section shall be overseen and managed by the Enhanced
6 911 Board, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Safety, the
7 Secretary of Digital Services, the Commissioner of Public Service, and
8 relevant State and local public safety and government stakeholders. In
9 addition, the Board is authorized to retain a project manager and one or more
10 additional consultants with relevant expertise in public safety communications
11 technology, design, and financing to assist with the requirements of this
12 section.

13 (c) The establishment of a statewide public safety communications system
14 shall occur in essentially three phases that include data collection and analysis,
15 design, and implementation. Certain aspects of each phase may occur
16 simultaneously as deemed appropriate by the Board.

17 (1) Data collection and analysis. The Board shall conduct a complete
18 inventory and assessment of all aspects of dispatch service currently provided
19 in Vermont and, to the extent possible, dispatch service currently provided
20 outside Vermont for response agencies located in Vermont, which shall
21 include:

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

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

8 (C) identification of the person at each dispatch center who is
9 responsible for coordinating and overseeing dispatch service;

10 (D) the current total spending on dispatch service in Vermont, taking
11 into account all federal, State, and municipal appropriations and fees;

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

19 (F) with the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a
20 needs assessment to determine where and to what extent there are gaps in

1 dispatch service or significant challenges to the delivery of dispatch service
2 and to identify those municipalities that are likely to be most affected by either
3 the curtailment of dispatch service from the two State-run public safety
4 answering points or from a new financing mechanism for the continuation of
5 such service;

6 (G) a review of the contracts or agreements between existing dispatch
7 centers and the municipalities and response agencies each center serves;

8 (H) an assessment of the service provided by each dispatch center
9 and identification of particular challenges or vulnerabilities, if any, including
10 with regard to workforce, failover procedures, communications technology,
11 costs, and governance.

12 (2) Design. On or before January 15, 2024, the Board shall develop a
13 preliminary design for a public safety communications system and, on or
14 before January 15, 2025, the Board shall submit to the General Assembly a
15 final design proposal. To the extent practicable in the time allotted, the
16 preliminary design shall incorporate:

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

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

1 (C) system and database security and cybersecurity standards;

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

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

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

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

12 (H) a recommended governance model to ensure effective State and
13 regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system,
14 including identification of staffing or operational needs to support such
15 oversight and management of the system by the Board or by another State
16 agency, if deemed appropriate by the Board;

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

19 (J) a recommendation for sustainably and equitably financing the
20 system that shall include consideration of:

21 (i) existing budgets for regional and local dispatch;

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

3 (iii) existing and potential State funding streams;

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

7 (v) a review of financing models adopted in other jurisdictions for
8 public safety communications systems;

9 (K) any other standards or procedures deemed necessary or
10 appropriate by the Board.

11 (3) Implementation. It is the intent of the General Assembly that a
12 statewide public safety communications system will be fully operational on or
13 before July 1, 2026. To that end, the Board shall develop a strategic
14 implementation plan that includes target dates for how and when the transition
15 to a fully operational system will occur.

16 (d) On or before January 15, 2024, the Board shall submit the findings,
17 recommendations, and preliminary design required by this section in a written
18 report to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Finance
19 and the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs, on
20 Ways and Means, and on Environment and Energy.

21 Sec. C.113. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 * * *

4 (b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
5 ~~Department of Public Safety~~ Enhanced 911 Board for regional dispatch
6 funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

7 (1) ~~\$4,500,000 shall be held in reserve until the report required by~~
8 ~~Sec. E.209.1 of this act is submitted and further approval to expend the funds is~~
9 ~~granted by the General Assembly~~ Up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the
10 retention of technical experts to assist the Executive Director of the E-911
11 Board with regional dispatch analysis and planning as required by Sec. XXXX
12 of this act.

13 (2) ~~\$6,500,000 to provide grants to regional dispatch facilities upon~~
14 ~~approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee subsequent to review of a Regional~~
15 ~~Dispatch Facility grant plan submitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety.~~
16 ~~The plan shall include the extent to which federal funding sources may be~~
17 ~~available for regional dispatch~~ \$10,500,000 shall be held in reserve until the
18 report required by Sec. XXXX of this act is submitted and further approval to
19 expend the funds is granted by the General Assembly.

20 (3) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of
21 Public Safety seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally

1 Directed Spending to support Vermont’s transition to a modernized, regional
2 communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances the
3 goals of the statewide public safety communications system designed by the E-
4 911 Board. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall consult with the
5 Executive Director of the E-911 Board as the federal parameters for expending
6 the funds become available and as the Commissioner develops a plan to
7 expend such funds. In addition, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall
8 update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned expenditures.

9 * * *

10 Sec. C.114 ORGANIC DAIRY FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

11 (a) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish an organic
12 dairy farm assistance program consistent with the requirements of this section.

13 (b) An organic dairy farm is eligible for assistance under this section if:

14 (1) the farm is currently operating as a dairy farm producing milk, either
15 organic or conventional;

16 (2) the farm shipped organic milk through the end of calendar year 2022
17 and provides documentation to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
18 of the amount of milk shipped per hundredweight;

19 (3) the farm is in good standing with the Agency of Agriculture, Food
20 and Markets; and

1 (4) the farm submits an application for assistance to the Agency of
2 Agriculture, Food and Markets by a date specified by the Secretary of
3 Agriculture, Food and Markets.

4 (c) Assistance. The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall award
5 eligible organic dairy farms financial assistance in the form of a grant in the
6 amount of \$5 per hundredweight of milk shipped by the organic dairy farm in
7 calendar year 2022.

8 * * * Fiscal Year 2024 Fund Transfers and Reserve Allocations * * *

9 Sec. D.100 APPROPRIATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

10 (a) This act contains the following amounts appropriated from special
11 funds that receive revenue from the property transfer tax. Expenditures from
12 these appropriations shall not exceed available revenues.

13 (1) The sum of \$560,000 is appropriated from the Current Use
14 Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of
15 the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c),
16 amounts in excess of \$560,000 from the property transfer tax deposited into the
17 Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred into the General
18 Fund.

19 (2) The sum of \$21,462,855 is appropriated from the Vermont Housing
20 and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
21 (VHCB). Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of \$21,462,855

1 from the property transfer tax and surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a
2 that are deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund
3 shall be transferred into the General Fund.

4 (A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property
5 transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the
6 affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) shall be offset by the reduction of
7 \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation
8 Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a.
9 The fiscal year 2024 appropriation of \$21,462,855 to the Vermont Housing and
10 Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing
11 bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed
12 after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, it is the
13 intent of the General Assembly that the \$1,500,000 reduction in the
14 appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board should be
15 restored.

16 (3) The sum of \$7,545,993 is appropriated from the Municipal and
17 Regional Planning Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts in
18 excess of \$7,545,993 from the property transfer tax that are deposited into the
19 Municipal and Regional Planning Fund shall be transferred into the General
20 Fund. The \$7,545,993 shall be allocated for the following:

1 (A) \$6,211,650 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in
2 a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

3 (B) \$898,283 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner
4 consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

5 (C) \$436,060 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont
6 Center for Geographic Information.

7 Sec. D.100.1 LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

8 PLANNING FUNDS

9 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that at least \$500,000 of the
10 increased planning funds provided in Sec. D.100 of this act be available for
11 municipal bylaw modernization.

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

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

15 (1) From the General Fund to:

16 (A) the Environmental Contingency Fund (21275): \$5,000,000;

17 (B) the Enhanced 9-1-1 Board Fund (21711): \$2,115,000;

18 (i) Of the funds transferred to the Enhanced 9-1-1 Board Fund in
19 subdivision (C) of this section, \$815,000 shall be used to support necessary 9-
20 1-1 system upgrades beginning in fiscal year 2024;

1 (D) the Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951):

2 \$10,000,000;

3 (E) the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (21952):

4 (i) \$18,000,000 for the Capital Infrastructure subaccount for use
5 on capital projects as authorized in the capital bill and appropriated in this act;
6 and

7 (ii) \$40,000,000 for the Other Infrastructure, Essential
8 Investments, and Reserves subaccount for other expenditures and reserves as
9 authorized by the General Assembly.

10 (F) the Rural Industry Development Special Fund: \$5,000,000.

11 (G) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund #21909:
12 \$2,7000,000.

13 (2) From the Education Fund to:

14 (A) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund #21909:
15 \$1,1000,000

16 (3) From the Clean Water Fund (21932) established by 10 V.S.A.
17 § 1388 to:

18 (A) the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (21933) created
19 under 6 V.S.A. §4803: \$6,684,880; and

20 (B) the Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (21938)
21 created under 10 V.S.A. § 1315: \$120,000.

1 (4) From the Transportation Fund to:

2 (A) the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement
3 Fund (21575) established by 24 V.S.A. § 2796 to be used by the Vermont
4 Downtown Development Board for the purposes of the Fund: \$523,966.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year
6 2024:

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

9	<u>22005</u>	<u>AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts</u>	<u>\$4,641,960</u>
10	<u>50300</u>	<u>Liquor Control Fund</u>	<u>\$21,200,000</u>
11		<u>Sports Wagering Fund</u>	<u>\$1,204,000</u>
12		<u>Caledonia Fair</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
13		<u>North Country Hospital Loan Repayment</u>	<u>\$24,047</u>
14		<u>Springfield Hospital Promissory Note Repayment</u>	<u>\$121,416</u>

15 (2) The following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of
16 unencumbered fund balances, shall be transferred to the General Fund. The
17 Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal
18 Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund
19 and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department
20 reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

21	<u>21638</u>	<u>AG-Fees & reimbursement – Court order</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
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1 (a) In fiscal year 2024, \$700,000 in general funds reserved per 2022 Act
2 and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.107.2(b) are unreserved and available for
3 appropriation.

4 * * * General Government * * *

5 Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

6 (a) The establishment of 54 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year
7 2024 for the following:

8 (1) Permanent classified positions:

9 (A) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets:

10 (i) one Consumer Protection Specialist I; and

11 (ii) two Food Safety Specialist Is;

12 (B) Criminal Justice Council: two FIP Instructors;

13 (C) Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living:

14 (i) five Quality and Program Participant Specialists;

15 (ii) one Dementia Coordinator; and

16 (iii) three Public Guardians;

17 (D) Department of Financial Regulation: two Insurance Examiners;

18 (E) Department of Human Resources:

19 (i) one Compensation Analyst;

20 (ii) one Configuration Analyst II;

21 (iii) one Employee Support Specialist;

- 1 (iv) one FMLI Manager;
2 (v) one HR Administrator III;
3 (vi) one HR Administrator IV;
4 (vii) one HR Manager; and
5 (viii) one Talent Coordinator;

6 (F) Department of Liquor and Lottery:

- 7 (i) one Financial Analyst; and
8 (ii) one Sports Betting Director;

9 (G) Department of Mental Health:

- 10 (i) one Crisis Program Director;
11 (ii) one Mental Health Analyst I;
12 (iii) one Operations Manager; and
13 (iv) one Training and Curriculum Development Supervisor; and
14 (v) one Quality and Program Specialist;

15 (H) Department of Taxes – State Appraisal and Litigation Assistance

16 Program:

- 17 (i) one Property Valuation and Review Program Manager;

18 (I) Office of the State Treasurer:

- 19 (i) one Program Technician;
20 (ii) one Administrative Services Coordinator;
21 (iii) one Financial Specialist III;

1 (iv) one Financial Manager I;

2 (v) one Financial Manager II; and

3 (vi) one Program Technician II;

4 (J) E911 Board:

5 (i) one Program Technician I;

6 (K) Department of Motor Vehicles:

7 (i) three Motor Vehicle Inspectors;

8 (L) Office of the Defender General:

9 (i) one Financial Director;

10 (M) Agency of Natural Resources:

11 (i) one Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Specialist;

12 (N) Agency of Transportation – Highway Division:

13 (i) one Transportation Operations Technician III; and

14 (ii) one Transportation Technician IV;

15 (O) Department for Children and Families – Child Development

16 Division:

17 (i) one Business Applications Support Manager;

18 (ii) two Licensing Field Specialist Is;

19 (iii) one Child Care Business Tech;

20 (iv) two Administrative Services Coordinator IIs;

21 (v) one Program Integrity Investigator;

- 1 (vi) one Grants and Contracts Manager – Compliance.
- 2 (vii) one Business Application Support Specialist;
- 3 (viii) one Process and Policy Administrator;
- 4 (ix) one Business Project Manager;
- 5 (x) one Business Services Specialist II;
- 6 (xi) one Training and Curriculum Development Specialist;
- 7 (xii) one Communications and Outreach Coordinator;
- 8 (xiii) one Financial Manager II;
- 9 (xiv) two Grants and Contracts Mangers; and
- 10 (xv) one Administrative Services Manager II.
- 11 (P) Department for Children and Families – Parental Leave Program:
- 12 (i) one Child Benefits Program Administrator.
- 13 (Q) Agency of Human Services – Central Office
- 14 (i) three Quality and Program Specialists.
- 15 (2) Permanent exempt positions:
- 16 (A) Department of Taxes – State Appraisal and Litigation Assistance
- 17 Program: one Staff Attorney;
- 18 (B) Agency of Commerce and Community Development – Division
- 19 for Historic Preservation – Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs:
- 20 one Executive Director;
- 21 (C) Human Rights Commission – one Staff Attorney;

1 (D) Office of the Attorney General – one private secretary; and

2 (D) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

3 (i) five Deputy State’s Attorneys;

4 (ii) one Victim Advocate; and

5 (iii) two Legal Assistants.

6 (b) The conversion of 46 limited service positions to classified permanent
7 status is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

8 (1) Department of Public Safety, State Police:

9 (A) one Victim Services Specialist;

10 (2) Department of Vermont Health Access, Blueprint for Health Unit:

11 (A) one HCR Integration Manager;

12 (3) Department of Vermont Health Access, Health Care Reform Unit:

13 (A) one Administrative Services Manager I;

14 (B) five DVHA Program Consultants;

15 (C) one DVHA Quality Control Manager;

16 (D) one Health Reform Enterprise Director I;

17 (E) two Medicaid Operations Administrators;

18 (F) one Project & Operations Director;

19 (G) one Project & Operations Specialist; and

20 (H) one Project Director;

1 (4) Department of Vermont Health Access, Medicaid Policy Fiscal &

2 Support Unit:

3 (A) two Audit Liaison/Internal Control positions;

4 (B) three DVHA Healthcare QC Auditors;

5 (C) one DVHA Healthcare QC CAP Auditor;

6 (D) two DVHA Program & Operations Auditors;

7 (E) one DVHA Program Consultant;

8 (F) one Health Reform Enterprise Director I; and

9 (G) one Nurse Auditor;

10 (5) Department of Vermont Health Access, Payment

11 Reform/Reimbursement Unit:

12 (A) one Admin HC Payment Reform Analytics position;

13 (B) three Change Management Practitioners;

14 (C) one Deputy Director of Payment Reform;

15 (D) one Director of Operations for ACO Programs;

16 (E) one Grant Programs Manager;

17 (F) one Health Care Project Director;

18 (G) one Payment Reform Special Project Lead; and

19 (H) one Senior Policy Advisor; and

20 (6) Agency of Transportation – Aviation Program:

21 (A) nine Airport Maintenance Workers;

1 (B) one Airport Operations Specialist.

2 (c) The establishment of 24 new classified limited service positions is
3 authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

4 (1) Department for Children and Families for the Reach Ahead pilot
5 program:

6 (A) one Benefits Program Assistant Administrator; and

7 (B) two Reach Up Case Manager IIs;

8 (2) Department for Children and Families – Parental Leave Program:

9 (A) one Process and Policy Administrator; and

10 (B) one Process and Performance Analyst;

11 (3) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

12 (A) one Communications & Outreach Coordinator;

13 (B) one Climate Forester; and

14 (C) three Forester IIs;

15 (d) The establishment of 20 new exempt limited service positions is

16 authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

17 (1) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

18 (A) six Deputy State’s Attorneys.

19 (B) six State’s Attorney Legal Assistants;

20 (C) six State’s Attorney Victim Advocates; and

21 (D) four State’s Attorney Secretaries.

1 Sec. E.107 3 V.S.A. § 473 is amended to read:

2 * * *

3 (c)(8) Annually, the Board shall certify an amount to pay the annual
4 actuarially determined employer contribution, as calculated in this subsection,
5 and additional amounts as follows:

6 (A) in fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$9,000,000.00;

7 (B) in fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$12,000,000.00; and

8 (C) in fiscal year 2026 and in any year thereafter when the Fund is
9 calculated to have a funded ratio of less than 90 percent, the amount of
10 \$15,000,000.00.

11 (d) Contributions of State. As provided by law, the Retirement Board shall
12 certify to the Governor or Governor-Elect a statement of the percentage of the
13 payroll of all members sufficient to pay for all operating expenses of the
14 Vermont State Retirement System and all contributions of the State that will
15 become due and payable during the next biennium. The contributions of the
16 State to pay the annual actuarially determined employer contribution and any
17 additional amounts pursuant to section (c)(8) of this chapter shall be charged to
18 the departmental appropriation from which members' salaries are paid and
19 shall be included in each departmental budgetary request. Annually, on or
20 before September 15, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall

1 provide to the Joint Fiscal Committee a breakdown of the components of the
2 payroll charge applied to each department's budget for the current and next
3 fiscal year. This report shall itemize the percentages of payroll assessments
4 used to fund:

5 (1) the actuarially determined employer contribution to the Vermont
6 State Retirement System;

7 (2) any additional payments made pursuant to section (c)(8) to the
8 Vermont State Retirement System; and

9 (3) the employer contribution to the State Employees' Postemployment
10 Benefits Trust Fund made pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 479a (e)(3).

11 Sec. E.107.1 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT;

12 PENSION PLUS APPROPRIATION DIRECTIVE

13 (a) In fiscal year 2024, funds appropriated to the Department of Finance
14 and Management/Agency of Administration in Sec. B.104.1 of this act to fund
15 additional payments to the Vermont State Retirement System made pursuant to
16 3 V.S.A. § 473 (c)(8) may be directly deposited in the Vermont State
17 Employees Retirement System fund. In fiscal years 2025 and 2026 funds
18 appropriated for this purpose shall be distributed to departments and agencies
19 up to the amount determined necessary by the Commissioner of Finance and
20 Management to fund additional payments to the Vermont State Retirement

1 System made pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473 (c)(8). Prior to distribution, the
2 Commissioner shall require departments and agencies to demonstrate
3 insufficient appropriation capacity to absorb the cost of the payroll charge
4 assessed to fund the additional payments made pursuant to 3 V.S.A.
5 § 473(c)(8). Any undistributed portion of this appropriation shall be reverted to
6 the General Fund in fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner shall report to the
7 Joint Fiscal Committee at its September 2023 meeting on the status of this
8 appropriation.

9 Sec. E.108 3 V.S.A. § 479 is amended to read:

10 § 479. GROUP INSURANCE

11 (a)(1) As provided under section 631 of this title, a member who is insured
12 by the respective group insurance plans immediately preceding the member's
13 effective date of retirement shall be entitled to continuation of group insurance
14 as follows:

15 ~~(A)~~(i) coverage in the group medical benefit plan provided by the
16 State of Vermont for active State employees who are not eligible for Medicare;

17 or

18 ~~(B)~~(ii) for a Group F and Group G plan member first included in the
19 membership of the system on or after July 1, 2008, coverage in the group
20 medical benefit plan offered by the State of Vermont for active State

1 employees who are not eligible for Medicare and pursuant to the following,
2 provided:

3 ~~(i)~~(I) a member who has completed five years and less than 10
4 years of creditable service at the member's retirement shall pay the full cost of
5 the premium;

6 ~~(ii)~~(II) a member who has completed 10 years and less than 15
7 years of creditable service at the member's retirement shall pay 60 percent of
8 the cost of the premium;

9 ~~(iii)~~(III) a member who has completed 15 years and less than 20
10 years of creditable service at ~~his or her~~ the member's retirement shall pay 40
11 percent of the cost of the premium;

12 ~~(iv)~~(IV) a member who has completed 20 years or more of
13 creditable service at ~~his or her~~ the member's retirement shall pay 20 percent of
14 the cost of the premium; and

15 ~~(2)~~(B) members who have completed 20 years of creditable service at
16 their effective date of retirement shall be entitled to the continuation of life
17 insurance in the amount of \$10,000.00.

18 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (1)(A)(i) or (ii) of this
19 subsection to the contrary, a member may be offered health coverage other
20 than coverage in the group medical benefit plan provided by the State of

1 Vermont for active State employees who are not eligible for Medicare if the
2 following conditions are met:

3 (A) the alternative health coverage is substantially equivalent to the
4 coverage offered through the group medical benefit plan provided by the State
5 of Vermont for active State employees who are not eligible for Medicare; and

6 (B) the alternative health coverage is mutually agreeable to:

7 (i) the State;

8 (ii) the Vermont State Employees' Association;

9 (iii) the Vermont Troopers' Association; and

10 (iv) the Vermont Retired State Employees' Association.

11 (b) As of July 1, 2007, members of the Group C plan who separate from
12 service prior to being eligible for retirement benefits under this chapter, who
13 have at least 20 years of creditable service, and who participated in the group
14 medical benefit plan at the time of separation from service shall have a one-
15 time option at the time retirement benefits commence to participate in the
16 group medical benefit plan provided by the State of Vermont for active State
17 employees who are not eligible for Medicare or any alternative health coverage
18 provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section. Premiums for the plan
19 shall be prorated between the retired member and the Retirement System
20 pursuant to section 631 of this title.

1 (c) Premiums for coverage of retired members of the Group C plan and
2 their dependents in the group medical benefit plan or any alternative health
3 coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be
4 prorated on the same basis as is provided for active employees by the current
5 collective bargaining agreement for the nonmanagement unit. The amounts
6 designated as the State's share of premium for the medical benefit plan and the
7 total premium for group life insurance provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this
8 section shall be paid by the Fund as an operating expense in accordance with
9 subsection 473(d) of this title.

10 (d) After January 1, 2007, the State Treasurer may offer and administer a
11 dental benefit plan for retired members, beneficiaries, eligible dependents, and
12 eligible retirees of special affiliated groups and the dependents of members of
13 those groups who are eligible for coverage in the State Employee Group
14 Medical Benefit Plan or any alternative health coverage provided pursuant to
15 subdivision (a)(2) of this section. The Plan shall be separate and apart from
16 any dental benefit plan offered to Vermont State employees. The original plan
17 of benefits, and any changes thereto, shall be determined by the State Treasurer
18 with due consideration of recommendations from the Retired Employees'
19 Committee on Insurance established in section 636 of this title.

20 * * *

1 (3) Dependent eligibility shall be determined in the manner applied to
2 determinations for coverage in the State Employee Medical Benefit Plan or any
3 alternative health coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this
4 section.

5 (4) [Repealed.]

6 (e) As of January 1, 2007, and thereafter, upon retirement, members
7 entitled to prorated group medical benefit plan premium payments from the
8 Retirement System under the terms of this section shall have a one-time option
9 to reduce the percentage of premium payments from the Retirement System
10 during the member's life, with the provision that the Fund shall continue
11 making an equal percentage of premium payments after the member's death
12 for the life of the dependent beneficiary nominated by the member under
13 section 468 of this title, should such dependent beneficiary survive the
14 member. The Retirement Board, after consultation with its actuary, shall
15 establish reduced premium payment percentages that are as cost neutral to the
16 Fund as possible.

17 (f) [Repealed.]

18 (g) A member of the Group F or Group G plan who is first included in the
19 membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who separates from service
20 prior to being eligible for retirement benefits under this chapter, who has at
21 least 20 years of creditable service, and who participated in the group medical

1 benefit plan at the time of separation from service shall have a one-time option
2 at the time retirement benefits commence to reinstate the same level of
3 coverage, in the group medical benefit plan provided by the State of Vermont
4 for active State employees who are not eligible for Medicare or any alternative
5 health coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, that
6 existed at the date of separation from service. Premiums for the plan shall be
7 prorated between the retired member and the Retirement System pursuant to
8 subsection 479(a) of this title.

9 * * *

10 Sec. E.108.1 3 V.S.A. § 925 is amended to read:

11 § 925. MEDIATION; FACT FINDING

12 * * *

13 (i)(1) In the case of the Vermont State Colleges or the University of
14 Vermont, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of
15 findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time frame mutually
16 agreed upon by the parties that may be not more than an additional 30 days,
17 each party shall submit as a single package its last best offer on all disputed
18 issues to the Board. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with the Board
19 under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the public record only when
20 both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board. The Board shall hold one
21 or more hearings. Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board shall select

1 between the last best offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without
2 amendment.

3 (2) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's
4 Attorneys and Sheriffs, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after
5 transmittal of findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time
6 frame mutually agreed upon by the parties that may be not more than an
7 additional 30 days, each party shall submit as a single package its last best
8 offer on all disputed issues to the Board, or upon the request of either party, to
9 an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree
10 on an arbitrator, the American Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral
11 third party to act as arbitrator. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with
12 the Board or the arbitrator under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the
13 public record only when both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board
14 or the arbitrator. A party's last best offer shall not include a proposal to
15 provide alternative health coverage to retired State employees that has not been
16 agreed to pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 479(a)(2) of this title. The
17 Board or the arbitrator shall hold one or more hearings. Within 30 days of the
18 certifications, the Board or the arbitrator shall select between the last best
19 offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without amendment.

20 * * *

21 Sec. E.108.2 3 V.S.A. § 1018 is amended to read:

1 § 1018. MEDIATION; FACT-FINDING; LAST BEST OFFER

2 * * *

3 (i)(1) If the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of
4 findings and recommendations or within a period of time mutually agreed upon
5 by the parties that may be not more than an additional 30 days, each party shall
6 submit to the Board or, upon the request of either party, to an arbitrator
7 mutually agreed upon by the parties its last best offer on all disputed issues as a
8 single package. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the American
9 Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral third party to act as arbitrator.

10 (2) Each party's last best offer shall be:

11 (A) filed with the Board or the arbitrator under seal;

12 (B) certified to the Board or the arbitrator by the fact finder; and

13 (C) unsealed and placed in the public record only when both parties'
14 last best offers are filed with the Board or the arbitrator.

15 (3) A party's last best offer shall not include a proposal to provide
16 alternative health coverage to retired employees that has not been agreed to
17 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 479(a)(2) of this title.

18 (4) The Board or the arbitrator shall hold one or more hearings and
19 consider the recommendations of the fact finder.

1 collected in the prior fiscal year by the Department of Taxes. The fund may
2 receive other receipts as directed or authorized by the General Assembly.

3 (c) The Fund shall be used for the development, implementation,
4 enhancement, and maintenance of information technology systems and
5 services for the administration of taxes and programs administered by the
6 Department. This shall include requests for proposal, business requirements,
7 analysis, implementation of new tax types, enhancements to existing systems,
8 and payments due to vendors of information technology systems and services.

9 (d) The Commissioner of Taxes shall submit an annual report on the
10 receipts, expenditures, and balances in the Tax Computer System
11 Modernization Fund to the Joint Fiscal Committee each year at or prior to the
12 Committee's November meeting each year.

13 **Sec. E.111.1b TAX COMPUTER SYSTEM MODERNIZATION FUND**

14 **TRANSFER**

15 (a) Any remaining funds on June 30, 2023 in the Tax Computer System
16 Modernization Fund established by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 282,
17 and amended from time to time, shall be deposited into the fund established by
18 32 V.S.A § 3209.

19 Sec. E.111.2 24 V.S.A. § 138(c) is amended to read:

20 (c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected
21 and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with State law

1 governing such State tax or taxes; provided, however, that a sales tax imposed
2 under this section shall be collected on each sale that is subject to the Vermont
3 sales tax using a destination basis for taxation. Except with respect to taxes
4 collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, a per-return fee of \$5.96 shall be
5 assessed ~~to compensate the Department for the costs of administration and~~
6 ~~collection~~, 70 percent of which shall be borne by the municipality, and
7 30 percent of which shall be borne by the State to be paid from the PILOT
8 Special Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law or municipal charter to
9 the contrary, revenue from the fee shall be used to compensate the Department
10 for the costs of administering and collecting the local option tax and of
11 administering the State appraisal and litigation program established in
12 32 V.S.A. § 5413. The fee shall be subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A.
13 § 605.

14 Sec. E.124 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 8 is amended to
15 read:

16 Sec. 8. REPEAL

17 ~~On June 30, 2024:~~

18 ~~(1) Sec. 3 of this act (creating the Executive Director of Racial Equity~~
19 ~~and Racial Equity Advisory Panel in 3 V.S.A. chapter 68) is repealed and the~~
20 ~~Executive Director position and Panel shall cease to exist; and~~

21 ~~(2) Sec. 4 of this act (authorization for the Executive Director of Racial~~

1 ~~Equity position) is repealed.~~ [Repealed.]

2 Sec. E.127 FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEE REPORT; NATURAL RESOURCES
3 AND HUMAN SERVICES; NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD;
4 VETERANS' HOME

5 (a) Fiscal Year 2024 Fee Information. The Secretary of Natural Resources,
6 the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural
7 Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans'
8 Home shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a
9 comprehensive fee report for the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of
10 Human Services, the Natural Resources Board, and the Vermont Veterans'
11 Home, respectively, for each fee in existence on July 1, 2023. Each fee report
12 shall contain the following information:

13 (1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;

14 (2) the current rate or amount and date the fee was last set or adjusted by
15 the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;

16 (3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;

17 (4) the revenues derived from each fee in the previous five fiscal years;

18 (5) the number of instances that each fee was paid in the two most
19 recent fiscal years;

20 (6) a projection for fee revenues in the current fiscal year and the next
21 fiscal year;

1 (7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory
2 function performed;

3 (8) the relationship between the revenue raised and the cost of the
4 service, product or regulatory function supported by the fee;

5 (9) the amount of the fee if it would have been adjusted by inflation
6 since the fee was last set;

7 (10) for any fees deposited in a special fund, the percent of the special
8 fund that the fee represents;

9 (11) whether any comparable fees exist in other jurisdictions;

10 (11) any policies that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

11 (12) any other relevant considerations for setting the fee amount.

12 (b) Reports.

13 (1) On or before October 15, 2023, the Secretary of Natural Resources,
14 the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural
15 Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans'
16 Home shall each submit a written draft report of the fiscal year 2024 fee
17 information described in subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office
18 for review and feedback. The Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of
19 Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Board, and
20 the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home shall each work

1 with the Joint Fiscal Office to respond to feedback prior to submission of the
2 final report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

3 (2) On or before December 15, 2023, the Secretary of Natural
4 Resources, the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the
5 Natural Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont
6 Veterans' Home shall each submit a written final report of the fiscal year 2024
7 fee information described in subsection (a) of this section to the House
8 Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate
9 Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

10 (3) If any of the information on any fee that is requested in this section
11 cannot be provided, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of
12 Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Board, and
13 the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home shall include in
14 both the draft and final reports described in this subsection (b) a written
15 explanation for why the information is not available.

16 (c) Fee Report Moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal
17 year 2024, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated
18 Executive Branch fee report and request to the General Assembly.

1 Sec. E.128 OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS; NEW POSITIONS

2 (a) The establishment of two new permanent exempt Capitol Police Officer
3 positions in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms are authorized in fiscal year
4 2024.

5 Sec. E.128.1 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.126(a) is amended to
6 read:

7 Sec. E.126a LEGISLATIVE – HUMAN RESOURCES ASSOCIATE
8 POSITION

9 (a) One ~~limited-service~~ permanent exempt position, Human Resources
10 Associate Generalist, is authorized for establishment in fiscal year 2022.

11 Sec. E.128.2 FARMERS' NIGHT CONCERT SERIES; APPROPRIATION

12 (a) The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is authorized to use not more than
13 \$10,000 from resources available within the General Assembly's budget to
14 provide honoraria to speakers and performing groups who are invited to
15 participate in the 2024 Farmers' Night Concert Series and who are not
16 otherwise sponsored or compensated for their participation.

17 Sec. E.131 STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE – VCBB ESCROW
18 ACCOUNT

19 (a) In fiscal year 2024, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 10, the Treasurer is
20 authorized to use up to \$20,000,000 of the State's average cash balance to
21 establish an escrow account for the exclusive benefit of the Vermont

1 Community Broadband Board and for the sole purpose of securing federal
2 funding under the National Telecommunications and Information
3 Administration’s Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

4 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Community Broadband
5 Board shall submit a recommendation to the House and Senate Committees on
6 Appropriations with a recommendation for legislative action to create a long-
7 term funding plan for the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure
8 Program.

9 **Sec. E. 131.1 TREASURER CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING**
10 **COORDINATION**

11 (a) The Treasurer may use funds appropriated in fiscal year 2024 to
12 coordinate the State’s climate infrastructure financing efforts. Use of funds
13 can include administrative costs and third part consultation. The Treasurer will
14 collaborate with, among others, the Vermont Climate Council, the Agency of
15 Natural Resources – Climate Office, the Public Service Department, Vermont
16 members of the Coalition for Green Capital, and the three financial
17 instrumentalities of the State to create a framework for effective collaboration
18 among Vermont organizations, agencies, and the financial instrumentalities of
19 the State to maximize the amount of federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds
20 the State may receive and effectively coordinate the deployment of these and
21 other greenhouse gas reduction funds. The Treasurer shall submit

1 recommendations to the General Assembly regarding legislation for Vermont's
2 climate infrastructure financing on or before January 15, 2024.

3 Sec. E.131.2 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID TASK FORCE; REPORT

4 (a) Creation. The School Construction Aid Task Force is created to
5 examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

6 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
7 members:

8 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, who shall be
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10 (2) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
11 Committee on Committees;

12 (3) the State Treasurer or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;

13 (4) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;

14 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
15 Association or designee;

16 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
17 designee;

18 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
19 designee;

20 (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
21 or designee;

1 (9) the Executive Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee;

2 (10) the President of the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance
3 Association or designee;

4 (11) a person with expertise in historic preservation, appointed by the
5 Governor;

6 (12) a person with expertise in the construction industry specializing in
7 school facilities projects, appointed by the Governor; and

8 (13) a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association,
9 appointed by the Governor.

10 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall review the results of the
11 statewide school facilities inventory and conditions assessment and the school
12 construction funding report required by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 72 and
13 study the following issues relating to school construction aid:

14 (1) the needs, both programmatic and health and safety, of statewide
15 school construction projects;

16 (2) funding options for a statewide school construction program,
17 including any incentive plans;

18 (3) a governance structure for the oversight and management of a school
19 construction aid program;

20 (4) the appropriate state action level for response to polychlorinated
21 biphenyl contamination in a school; and

1 (5) criteria for prioritizing school construction funding.

2 (d) Assistance.

3 (1) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
4 assistance of the Agency of Education, the Department of Health, and the
5 Office of the State Treasurer.

6 (2) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to contract for
7 services for the Task Force for technical assistance from a school construction
8 expert and any administrative, technical, financial, or legal assistance required
9 by the Task Force.

10 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a
11 written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on
12 Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education,
13 on Finance, and on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for
14 legislative action, including a recommendation on how the State should expend
15 the funding in the Education Fund reserved for future school construction.

16 (f) Meetings.

17 (1) The State Treasurer shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to
18 occur on or before July 15, 2023.

19 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

20 (3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

21 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

1 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
2 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's
3 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
4 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than 10
5 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
6 General Assembly.

7 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
8 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
9 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from
10 monies appropriated to the Office of the State Treasurer.

11 Sec. E.133 VERMONT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS AND VERMONT
12 PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; SOURCE OF
13 FUNDS

14 (a) Of the \$2,990,679 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$2,018,947
15 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating
16 budget, and \$971,732 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension
17 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State
18 Employees' Retirement System.

19 Sec. E.134 VERMONT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS AND VERMONT
20 PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING
21 BUDGET

1 (a) Of the \$1,721,823 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,361,777
2 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating
3 budget, and \$360,046 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension
4 Investment

5 Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

6 (a) Of the appropriation in Sec B.139 of this act, \$9,000 shall be transferred
7 to the Attorney General and \$70,000 shall be transferred to the Department of
8 Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review and reserved and used with
9 any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment
10 of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list
11 appeals regarding the reappraisals of hydroelectric plants and other expenses
12 incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in the State of Vermont.

13 Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

14 (a) The appropriation in Sec. B.142 of this act is for State payments in lieu
15 of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. Chapter 123, Subchapter 4. The payments
16 shall be calculated in addition to and without regard to the appropriations for
17 PILOT for Montpelier and for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act.
18 Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT
19 Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

20 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the payments under this
21 section shall be adjusted so that the total payments made under Secs. E.142,

1 E.143, and E.144 of this act do not exceed 100 percent of the assessed value of
2 State buildings as defined by 32 V.S.A § 3701(2).

3 Sec. E.143 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES – MONTPELIER

4 (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under Sec. B.143 of this act shall be paid from
5 the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

6 Sec. E.144 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES – CORRECTIONAL

7 FACILITIES

8 (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under Sec. B.144 of this act shall be paid from
9 the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

10 * * * Protection * * *

11 Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

12 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the
13 Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to
14 retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries
15 from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State
16 share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional
17 recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential
18 Abuse Unit activities.

19 (b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A.
20 § 2458(b)(4), \$1,545,393 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

21 Sec. E.204 JUDICIARY; NEW POSITIONS

1 Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to
2 pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.

3 Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY – ADMINISTRATION

4 (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a
5 performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff’s Department to
6 provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the
7 Commissioner of Public Safety and the Essex County Sheriff.

8 Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY – STATE POLICE

9 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$35,000
10 shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue
11 Team, which comprises State Police, the Department of Fish and Wildlife,
12 county sheriffs, and local law enforcement personnel in Bennington,
13 Windham, and Windsor Counties, for snowmobile enforcement.

14 (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$405,000 is
15 allocated for grants in support of the Drug Task Force. Of this amount,
16 \$190,000 shall be used by the Vermont Drug Task Force to fund three town
17 Task Force officers. These town Task Force officers shall be dedicated to
18 enforcement efforts with respect to both regulated drugs as defined in 18
19 V.S.A. § 4201(29) and the diversion of legal prescription drugs. Any
20 unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to the Drug Task
21 Force or carried forward.

1 Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE SAFETY

2 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.212 of this act, \$55,000
3 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force to design dry
4 hydrants.

5 Sec. E.215 MILITARY – ADMINISTRATION

6 (a) The amount of \$1,319,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student
7 Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program
8 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

9 Sec. E.219 MILITARY – VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

10 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, \$1,000 shall be used
11 for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program, \$4,800 shall be used for the
12 expenses of the Governor’s Veterans’ Advisory Council, \$7,500 shall be used
13 for the Veterans’ Day parade, and \$10,000 shall be granted to the American
14 Legion for the Boys’ State and Girls’ State programs.

15 Sec. E.223 9 V.S.A. § 2730 is amended to read:

16 § 2730. LICENSING FOR OPERATION OF WEIGHING AND
17 MEASURING DEVICES

18 (a) As used in this section:

19 * * *

1 31, 2024. Households approved for assistance in this section will also be
2 offered services outlined in subdivision (4) of this subsection.

3 * * * Human Services * * *

4 Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE
5 ADVOCATE; VERMONT LEGAL AID

6 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

7 (1) \$1,847,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the
8 Health Care Advocate;

9 (2) \$1,717,994 for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty
10 Law Project and mental health services; and

11 (3) \$650,000 is for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal
12 Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including
13 eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

14 Sec. E.300.1 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;
15 INCREASE

16 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Human Services shall increase
17 funding to the designated and specialized service agencies in the following
18 manner:

19 (1) a three percent base increase.

20 (2) The remaining fund increase shall be used to provide payment equity
21 across the provider agencies. These funds will be distributed as determined by

1 the Agency of Human Service in the annual agreements or appropriate
2 valuation model allocations for providers. The Agency shall report the
3 General Assembly in the fiscal year 2023 budget adjustment process and the
4 status of these payment changes and shall recommend the reallocation of
5 funding across budget line items if necessary.

6 Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE – GLOBAL COMMITMENT

7 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec.
8 B.301 of this act for payment of the actuarially certified premium required
9 under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human
10 Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health
11 Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment to Health Section 1115
12 demonstration (Global Commitment) approved by the Centers for Medicare
13 and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

14 (b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a
15 total estimated sum of \$25,231,644 is anticipated to be certified as State
16 matching funds under Global Commitment as follows:

17 (1) \$21,957,400 certified State match available from local education
18 agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under
19 Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$28,542,600 of federal
20 funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated
21 expenditure of \$50,500,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal

1 matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services
2 under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment
3 Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A.
4 § 2959a.

5 (2) \$3,093,521 certified State match available from local designated
6 mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health
7 services provided under Global Commitment.

8 (c) Up to \$4,034,170 is transferred from the AHS Federal Receipts Holding
9 Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount
10 appropriated in Sec. B.301, Secretary's Office – Global Commitment, of this
11 act.

12 Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER;
13 REPORT

14 (a) To facilitate the end-of-year closeout for fiscal year 2024, the Secretary
15 of Human Services, with approval from the Secretary of Administration, may
16 make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and
17 Medicaid-waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment
18 appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business
19 days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the
20 Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section.
21 A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint

1 Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2024 meeting.

2 The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to

3 modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the

4 Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the

5 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social

6 Security Act.

7 Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a as amended by 2022

8 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105 is further amended to read:

9 * * *

10 (f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this
11 section may be obligated in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 for the
12 purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal year
13 2024 and fiscal year 2025, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections
14 (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in
15 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 in the same manner as the Global
16 Commitment appropriations in ~~Sec. E.301 of H.740 of 2022~~ 2022 Acts and
17 Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal
18 Committee in September 2023 and September 2024, respectively, on transfers
19 of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in
20 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, respectively, and any obligated funds

1 carried forward to be expended in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025,
2 respectively.

3 Sec. E.306 VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE RULES

4 (a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.
5 chapter 25 to conform Vermont's rules regarding health care eligibility and
6 enrollment and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to State
7 and federal law and guidance. The Agency may use the emergency rules
8 process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 prior to June 30, 2024, but only if new
9 State or federal law or guidance requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules
10 in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking
11 process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall
12 be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required
13 pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

14 Sec. E.306.1 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by
15 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187,
16 Sec. 5, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, and 2021 Acts and Resolves
17 No. 73, Sec. 14, is further amended to read:

18 (10) Secs. 48–51 (health claims tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and
19 Sec. 52 (Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2023~~ 2025.

1 Sec. E.306.2 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019
2 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19 and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec.
3 75, is further amended to read:

4 Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 * * *

6 (b) Sec. 73 (further amending 32 V.S.A. § 10402) shall take effect on
7 July 1, ~~2023~~ 2025.

8 * * *

9 Sec. E.307 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.334.1 is amended to read:

10 Sec. E.334.1 LONG-TERM CARE – PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE
11 INCREASE

12 (a) The amount of the State supplement for Medicaid beneficiaries who
13 reside in a nursing home and receive Supplemental Security Income shall
14 increase by 10 percent to the degree practicable effective January 1, 2023 but
15 not later than January 1, 2024.

16 (b) The amount of the personal needs allowance for all Medicaid
17 beneficiaries who reside in a nursing home shall increase by 10 percent to the
18 degree practicable effective January 1, 2023 but not later than January 1, 2024.

1 Sec. E.307.1 33 V.S.A. § 1992 is amended to read:

2 § 1992. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES

3 (a) Vermont Medicaid shall provide coverage for medically necessary
4 dental services provided by a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist
5 working within the scope of the provider's license as follows:

6 * * *

7 (2)(A) Diagnostic, restorative, and endodontic procedures, to a
8 maximum of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,500.00 per calendar year, provided that the
9 Department of Vermont Health Access may ~~approve~~ adjust the maximum
10 pursuant to the process outlined in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2) and
11 may approve expenditures in excess of that amount when exceptional medical
12 circumstances so require.

13 (B) The Department may set the maximum for coverage of
14 diagnostic, restorative, and endodontic procedures in excess of the amount set
15 forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) for a calendar year based on the
16 Department's annual assessment of available funds, provided that the
17 Department submit a report to the House Committee on Health Care, the
18 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate
19 Committees on Appropriations, or to the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General
20 Assembly is not in session, each time the Department adjusts the maximum.

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* * *

Sec. E.312 HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) AIDS/HIV funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to an RFP process.

(2) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$295,000 to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES - \$140,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont - \$100,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center - \$55,000.

(3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont Medication Assistance Program (VMAP) shall be distributed in accordance with federal guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or services funded solely by State general funds.

1 (A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the
2 Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in VMAP to
3 assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with
4 persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to VMAP
5 medications until such time as the General Assembly can act.

6 (B) The Secretary of Human Services shall work in collaboration
7 with the VMAP Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less
8 than 50 percent of members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification
9 to the program's eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the
10 Committee shall make recommendations regarding the program's formulary of
11 approved medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and
12 eligibility for the program.

13 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in
14 the amount of \$100,000 in general funds to Vermont AIDS service
15 organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers for
16 community-based HIV prevention programs and services. These funds shall
17 be used for HIV/AIDS prevention purposes, including syringe exchange
18 programs; improving the availability of confidential and anonymous HIV
19 testing; prevention work with at-risk groups such as women, intravenous drug
20 users, and people of color; and anti-stigma campaigns. Not more than 15
21 percent of the funds may be used for the administration of such services by the

1 recipients of these funds. The method by which these prevention funds are
2 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of
3 Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont
4 HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

5 (5) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in
6 the amount of \$300,000 in general funds to Vermont AIDS service
7 organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers for syringe
8 exchange programs. The method by which these prevention funds are
9 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of
10 Health, the Vermont AIDS service organizations, and other Vermont
11 HIV/AIDS prevention providers. The performance period for these grants
12 shall be State fiscal year 2024. Grant reporting shall include outcomes and
13 results.

14 (6) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall not reduce any
15 grants to Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe
16 service programs from funds appropriated for AIDS/HIV services to levels
17 below those in fiscal year 2023 without receiving prior approval from the Joint
18 Fiscal Committee.

19 **Sec. E.312.1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: EMERGENCY MEDICAL**
20 **SERVICES COORDINATION; REPORT**

1 (a) The Commissioner of the Department of Health shall provide a report to
2 the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2024, on Emergency Medical
3 Services in Vermont.

4 (b) The Commissioner shall design and conduct a stakeholder engagement
5 process that ensures input and representation from all types of emergency
6 medical service providers serving Vermonters, as well as hospital and health
7 systems, public safety and municipal government.

8 (c) The report shall identify issues and provide recommendations for
9 legislative consideration that will sustain and improve the provision of
10 emergency medical services for Vermonters. This may include:

11 (1) Issues related to costs of service and existing funding models

12 (2) Issues related to coordination across agencies

13 (3) Issues related to EMS District structure and authority, including
14 consideration of recommendations on the number and configuration of EMS
15 Districts and their powers, duties, and authority.

16 Sec. E.313 HEALTH; SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

17 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide additional
18 grants from the Global Commitment fund in the amount of \$1,850,000 to
19 Vermont's 12 recovery centers. The methods by which these funds are
20 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department and the

1 recipients. The performance period of these grants shall be State fiscal year
2 2024. Recipients shall report outcomes to the Department.

3 (b) The Department of Health shall review and analyze the capital and
4 operating model for recovery residences. This shall include the portion of
5 capital investment for these facilities that is privately and publicly financed, a
6 description of the existing operating models of these facilities, existence and
7 content of sustainability plans, the current operating margins net of rental
8 income generated and the array of existing other operating funding available to
9 the facilities, and the annual amounts of depreciation claimed by investors
10 related to these facilities. The Department shall report to the General
11 Assembly on this analysis and any related recommendations.

12 **Sec. E.316 REPORT; EMERGENCY HOUSING**

13 (a) On or before January 1, 2024, the Department for Children and Families
14 shall develop and submit a plan to coordinate and deliver emergency housing
15 and shelter with strong connections to housing, health, and employment
16 services, to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and
17 Housing and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing
18 and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare. In developing the plan, the
19 Department shall consult with stakeholders who specialize in homelessness
20 prevention and mitigation, including those organizations who participated in

1 developing the Vermont Roadmap to End Homelessness developed pursuant to
2 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. B.1102(a).

3 Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE HOUSING: ADVERSE WEATHER
4 CONDITIONS

5 (a) The Commissioner for Children and Families may, by policy, provide
6 temporary housing for a limited duration in adverse weather conditions when
7 appropriate shelter space is not available.

8 Sec. E.323 33 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

9 § 1001. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in this chapter:

11 (1) ~~“Able to work” means to be free of any physical, emotional, or~~
12 ~~mental condition that would prevent the individual from engaging in any~~
13 ~~combination of the work activities for at least 35 hours per week. [Repealed.]~~

14 (2) ~~“Able to work part time” means having a physical, emotional, or~~
15 ~~mental condition that would allow the individual to engage in any combination~~
16 ~~of the work activities for at least 10 hours per week but would prevent the~~
17 ~~individual from engaging in such activities for 35 or more hours per week.~~
18 ~~[Repealed.]~~

19 * * *

20 (25) ~~“Unable to work” means not able to work and not able to work part~~
21 ~~time. [Repealed.]~~

1 ~~(26) “Work activities” means the following activities limited to the~~
2 ~~extent and degree that they are allowed and countable in accordance with Part~~
3 ~~A of Title IV of the Social Security Act:~~

4 ~~(A) unsubsidized employment;~~

5 ~~(B) subsidized private sector employment;~~

6 ~~(C) subsidized public sector employment;~~

7 ~~(D) work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing~~
8 ~~of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not~~
9 ~~available;~~

10 ~~(E) on the job training;~~

11 ~~(F) job search and job readiness assistance;~~

12 ~~(G) community service programs;~~

13 ~~(H) vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with~~
14 ~~respect to any individual);~~

15 ~~(I) job skills training directly related to employment;~~

16 ~~(J) education directly related to employment, in the case of a~~
17 ~~recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high~~
18 ~~school equivalency;~~

19 ~~(K) satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of~~
20 ~~study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient~~
21 ~~who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate;~~

1 Sec. E.323.3 33 V.S.A. § 1006 is amended to read:

2 § 1006. CASE MANAGEMENT; FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLANS;
3 COORDINATED SERVICES

4 * * *

5 (b) The family development plan shall include:

6 (1) Each ~~parent~~ parent's or caretaker's employment goal or plan to
7 engage in the program, to the best of the parent's or caretaker's ability.

8 * * *

9 Sec. E.323.4 33 V.S.A. § 1011 is amended to read:

10 § 1011. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

11 * * *

12 ~~(b) If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~
13 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, but is~~
14 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, the Department shall transfer the family to~~
15 ~~Reach Up, unless the family chooses not to participate. A family transferring~~
16 ~~from Reach First to Reach Up shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of~~
17 ~~income calculation. [Repealed.]~~

18 ~~(c) If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~
19 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, is not~~
20 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, and is eligible for the Reach Ahead program,~~
21 ~~the Department shall transfer the family to Reach Ahead, unless the family~~

1 ~~chooses not to participate. A family transferring from Reach First to Reach~~
2 ~~Ahead shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of income calculation.~~

3 [Repealed.]

4 * * *

5 Sec. E.323.5 33 V.S.A. § 1203 is amended to read:

6 § 1203. ELIGIBILITY

7 A family shall be eligible for Reach Ahead if the family resides in Vermont
8 and:

9 (1) has left Reach Up or the postsecondary education program within the
10 prior six months for employment that meets the federal work requirements for
11 the ~~Reach-Up~~ TANF program for the family's size and composition;

12 * * *

13 Sec. E.323.6 33 V.S.A. § 1212 is amended to read:

14 § 1212. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

15 If a family loses employment meeting or exceeding the work requirements
16 for ~~Reach-Up~~ TANF for the family's size and composition and is financially
17 eligible for Reach Up, the family shall be transferred to Reach First or Reach
18 Up without an additional application process, unless the family chooses not to
19 participate. Verification of income or other documentation may be required as
20 provided for by rule.

1 Sec. E 323.7 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

2 (a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 33 V.S.A. chapter 12,
3 funds appropriated to the Department for Children and Families for the Reach
4 Ahead Pilot Program in fiscal year 2024 shall be used to:

5 (1) enroll families that have left the Reach Up program or the
6 postsecondary education program within the prior 12 months for employment
7 that meets the federal work requirements for the Temporary Assistance for
8 Needy Families program for the family's size and composition;

9 (2) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$50 to \$100 in
10 the first 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead;

11 (3) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$5 to \$50 in the
12 second 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead; and

13 (4) provide incentive payments to participating families in the amounts
14 of:

15 (A) \$750, to be paid after participating in the Program for six
16 months;

17 (B) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for
18 12 months;

19 (C) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 18
20 months; and

1 (D) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 24
2 months.

3 (b) This program is funded with one time money and is only in effect for
4 fiscal years 2024 and 2025, unless additional funding is authorized.

5 Sec. E.323.8 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

6 (a) The Department for Children and Families – Economic Services
7 Division shall collect and report data that measures outcomes for participants
8 of the Reach Ahead Pilot Program established in Sec. E.323.7 of this act; the
9 indicators used to measure participant and Pilot Program progress; and the
10 strategies that are implemented.

11 Sec. E.324 EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

12 (a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize
13 crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for
14 an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it if the benefit
15 cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The
16 crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the one crisis
17 fuel grant allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33
18 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

19 Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE
20 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

1 (e) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before ~~January~~ February 15 of
2 each year, the Department shall report to the Governor and the committees of
3 jurisdiction regarding implementation of the plan, the extent to which the
4 principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title are achieved, and
5 whether people with a developmental disability have any unmet service needs,
6 including the number of people on waiting lists for developmental services.

7 * * *

8 Sec. E. 334 NURSING HOME RATE SETTING

9 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the
10 Department of Vermont Health Access shall report to the House Committees
11 on Human Services and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on
12 Health and Welfare and on Appropriations not later than December 15, 2023,
13 on the budgetary impact of eliminating the minimum occupancy threshold in
14 the nursing home rate setting process and reducing the minimum occupancy
15 threshold to not more than 80 percent in the nursing home rate setting process.
16 The report shall include a recommendation on whether to eliminate or reduce
17 the minimum occupancy requirement, timeline, and next steps for
18 implementing the recommendation and anticipated impact on sustainability of
19 Vermont nursing homes.

20 Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

1 (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special funds appropriation of
2 \$152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield
3 shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

4 Sec. E.345 HOSPITAL SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PLANNING;

5 PILOT PROJECTS; UPDATE

6 (a) The Green Mountain Care Board Shall submit an update to the Health
7 Reform Oversight Committee on or before November 1, 2023 regarding the
8 financial status of hospitals as reflected in the fiscal year 2022 actual operating
9 results, any early indications for fiscal year 2023 hospital budget performance,
10 and an overview of the fiscal year 2024 budget guidance provided to hospitals.
11 The update shall address how budget guidance development aligns with the
12 intent and requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167.

13 * * * General Education * * *

14 Sec. E.500 EDUCATION – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

15 (a) The Global Commitment funds appropriated in Sec. B.500 of this act
16 shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of
17 Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These services are intended to
18 increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured
19 persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

20 Sec. E.500.1 16 V.S.A. § 4018 is added to read:

21 § 4018. AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

1 (a) Revenue from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233
2 on retail sales of cannabis or cannabis products in this State shall be used to
3 fund grant programs for the expansion of summer and afterschool programs
4 with an emphasis on increasing access in underserved areas of the State.

5 (b) The Secretary of Education shall administer the grant programs, as
6 follows:

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

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

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

14 (4) The Agency may use up to \$500,000 for administrative costs to
15 allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to
16 communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant programs.

17 (c) An Advisory Committee is created to support the Secretary of
18 Education in administering funds pursuant to this section. The Agency shall
19 provide administrative and technical support to the Committee. The
20 Committee is to be composed of:

21 (1) the State's Chief Prevention Officer;

1 (2) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

2 (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

3 (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

4 (5) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

5 (6) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or
6 designee;

7 (7) the Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or designee; and

8 (8) a representative from the Governor's Office.

9 (d) On or before each November 15, the Agency of Education shall submit
10 to the General Assembly a plan to fund grants in furtherance of the purposes of
11 subsection (a) of this section and report outcomes data on the grants made
12 during the previous year. The Agency shall also report on the number of
13 programs, slots, weeks, or hours; geographic distribution; and what is known
14 about costs to families. The report should be inclusive of 21C programming.
15 The grants shall be in an amount equal to the official forecasted revenues to be
16 raised from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. § 233 on cannabis or
17 cannabis products in this State. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration
18 of required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this
19 subsection.

20 Sec. E.500.2 REPEALS

1 (a) 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Secs. 17c. (dedicated use of sales and
2 use tax on cannabis) and 17d. (annual budgeting of sales and use tax revenue)
3 are repealed.

4 Sec. E.502 EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

5 (a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and
6 notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed
7 \$4,195,600 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 as
8 funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the
9 Secretary will not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. §
10 2969(c)–(d).

11 Sec. E.503 EDUCATION – STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

12 (a) The Independence Place Program of the Lund Family Center will be
13 considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of
14 education costs.

15 Sec. E.504 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING; REPORT

16 (a) The Secretary of Education shall review and report to the Joint Fiscal
17 Committee on or before November 1, 2023 on the annual level of Education
18 Funds directed to Adult Basic Education providers since fiscal year 2019
19 through the high school completion funding provided in the flexible pathways
20 line item. The report shall include information on the cause of any changes in
21 the level of Education Funds directed to Adult Basic Education Providers.

1 Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION – FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

2 (a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$1,900,000 from the
3 Education Fund will be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of
4 high school completion services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 943(c).

5 (b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), of this Education Fund
6 appropriation, the amount of:

7 (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding
8 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

9 (2) \$2,000,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

10 (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

11 (4) \$4,000,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §
12 946.

13 (c) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the
14 General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

15 Sec. E.511.1 MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW APPROVED

16 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

17 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Board
18 of Education shall be prohibited from approving an application for initial
19 approval of an approved independent school until further direction by the
20 General Assembly.

21 Sec. E.514 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

1 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to
2 the Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement System (VSTRS) shall be
3 \$194,281,051 of which \$184,811,051 shall be the State’s contribution and
4 \$9,470,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational
5 entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c).

6 (b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution,
7 \$34,825,673 is the “normal contribution,” and \$159,455,378 is the “accrued
8 liability contribution.”

9 **Sec. E.514.1a VERMONT STATE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM;**

10 **OPERATING BUDGET**

11 (a) Of the \$3,448,255 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,401,835
12 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement System operating budget,
13 and \$1,046,420 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment
14 Commission’s budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement
15 System.

16 **Sec. E.514.1b VERMONT STATE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM;**

17 **CALENDAR YEAR 2023–2024 SUPPLEMENTAL COST OF**

18 **LIVING PAYMENTS; INTENT; ACTUARIAL COST**

19 **ANALYSIS**

20 (a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

1 (1) The maximum percentage value methodology set forth in 16 V.S.A.
2 § 1949 that applies to the postretirement adjustment allowances for the
3 Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (VSTRS) shall be actuarially
4 evaluated to determine the cost required to revert to the methodology used
5 prior to the enactment of 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 114.

6 (2) The General Assembly further intends to make such a reversion by
7 future legislative action amending 16 V.S.A. § 1949, provided that the present
8 value of changes to the postretirement adjustment allowance methodology be
9 fully funded at the time the change is made and not increase the unfunded
10 liability in VSTRS.

11 (3) The General Assembly further intends that if the June 30, 2023,
12 change in the Consumer Price Index exceeds the statutory maximum
13 percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949 (b)(1), the General Assembly
14 will provide a sufficient appropriation in the 2024 Budget Adjustment Act to
15 make a one-time supplemental payment, similar in form to that described in
16 subsection (b) of this section, to qualifying VSTRS retired members and
17 beneficiaries in calendar year 2024.

18 (b) Calendar year 2023 supplemental payment. A one-time supplemental
19 payment during calendar year 2023 shall be made to VSTRS retired members
20 and beneficiaries who received a 2.5 percent postretirement adjustment
21 allowance in an amount equal to the net difference between what members

1 actually received in calendar year 2023 and what they would have received
2 under a 3.8 percent postretirement adjustment allowance.

3 (c) Actuarial cost analysis. Following the completion of the next
4 experience study, expected in fall 2023, the State Treasurer shall conduct an
5 actuarial analysis to evaluate the cost of changing the current methodology for
6 calculating the postretirement adjustment allowance for the Vermont State
7 Teachers' Retirement System to a methodology calculated by applying the
8 maximum percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949(b)(1) to the
9 postretirement adjustment allowance rather than applying the statutory
10 maximum percentage values to the net percentage change in the Consumer
11 Price Index. The actuarial analysis shall take into account any changes to
12 actuarial assumptions that may occur following the experience study to be
13 performed at the end of fiscal year 2023, as required by 16 V.S.A. § 1942.

14 (d) Report. Based on the actuarial cost analysis described in subsection (c)
15 of this section, on or before January 15, 2024, the State Treasurer shall submit
16 a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with an
17 actuarial cost estimate for changing the VSTRS postretirement adjustment
18 allowance methodology as set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

19 **Sec. E.514.1c** 16 V.S.A. § 1944 is amended to read:

20 § 1944. VERMONT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND

1 (a) Pension Fund. All of the assets of the System shall be credited to the
2 Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund.

3 (b) Member contributions.

4 (1) Contributions deducted from the compensation of members shall be
5 accumulated in the Pension Fund and separately recorded for each member.

6 (2) The proper authority or officer responsible for making up each
7 employer payroll shall cause to be deducted from the compensation:

8 (A) Of each Group A member, five and one-half percent of the
9 member's total earnable compensation, including compensation paid for
10 absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title.

11 (B) Of each Group C member, the following shall apply:

12 * * *

13 (ii) Beginning on July 1, 2023, a Group C member shall have the
14 rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) applied to the member's total
15 earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include compensation
16 paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title, and any
17 additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not be
18 adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency
19 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and
20 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who
21 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total

1 have the rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii) applied to the member's
2 total earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include
3 compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title,
4 and any additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not
5 be adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency
6 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and
7 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who
8 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total
9 earnable compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base
10 salary. If a member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or
11 more employers, the highest rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted from
12 each employer. A member's effective rate shall be calculated according to the
13 following ~~marginal~~ rates and income brackets:

14 (I) if a member's base salary is at or below \$40,000.00, the rate
15 is ~~6.25~~ 6.15 percent;

16 (II) if a member's base salary is \$40,000.01 or more but not
17 more than ~~\$60,000.00~~, the rate is the equivalent of ~~\$2,900.00 on \$40,000.00~~
18 ~~and 6.75 percent of the member's salary that is \$40,000.01 or more~~
19 \$50,000.00, the rate is 6.20 percent;

20 (III) if a member's base salary is ~~\$60,000.01~~ \$50,000.01 or
21 more but not more than ~~\$80,000.00~~ \$60,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~

1 ~~\$3,850.00 on \$60,000.00 and 7.5 percent of the member's salary that is~~
2 ~~\$60,000.01 or more~~ 6.30 percent;

3 (IV) if a member's base salary is ~~\$80,000.01~~ \$60,000.01 or
4 more but not more than ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~
5 ~~\$5,350.00 on \$80,000.00 and 8.25 percent of the member's salary that is~~
6 ~~\$80,000.01 or more~~ 6.40 percent; and

7 (V) if a member's base salary is ~~\$100,000.01~~ \$70,000.01 or
8 more but not more than \$80,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of \$7,000.00 on~~
9 ~~\$100,000.00 and 9.0 percent of the member's salary that is \$100,000.01 or~~
10 ~~more~~ 6.55 percent.

11 (VI) If a member's base salary is \$80,000.01 or more but not
12 more than \$90,000.00, the rate is 6.80 percent.

13 (VII) If a member's base salary is \$90,000.01 or more but not
14 more than \$100,000.00, the rate is 7.10 percent.

15 (VIII) If a member's base salary is \$100,000.01 or more, the
16 rate is 7.35 percent.

17 Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL
18 BENEFITS

19 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2), and 16 V.S.A.
20 § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and
21 Medical Benefits plan shall be \$61,290,528, of which \$53,740,528 shall be the

1 State's contribution and \$7,550,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher
2 health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1944d. Of the
3 annual contribution, \$17,589,046 is the "normal contribution," and
4 \$43,701,482 is the "accrued liability contribution."

5 * * *Higher Education* * *

6 Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

7 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to
8 pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of
9 Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

10 (b) Of this appropriation, \$380,326 shall be transferred to the Experimental
11 Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to comply with State
12 matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or
13 private funds, or both.

14 Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

15 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to
16 pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State
17 Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

18 (b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont
19 Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund
20 requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or
21 both.

1 Sec. E.602.1 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

2 (a) For the appropriation in B.1100(a)(3)(B) of this act, those programs
3 eligible for the 50 percent tuition reduction shall be determined annually in
4 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce and
5 Community Development, and the Executive Director of the State Workforce
6 Development Board. The Community Colleges of Vermont (CCV) shall report
7 annually on or before December 15 to the Governor and General Assembly on
8 enrollment and degree or certificate completion in programs that receive the
9 50 percent tuition reduction, including any enrollment or graduation growth
10 trends as compared to the previous five years.

11 Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES – ALLIED HEALTH

12 (a) If Global Commitment fund monies are unavailable, the total grant
13 funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the
14 General Fund or other State funding sources.

15 (b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment funds
16 appropriated in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory
17 therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care
18 providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care
19 services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

20 Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

1 (a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act, \$25,000 is appropriated
2 from the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
3 (VSAC) to be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845.

4 (b) Of this appropriation, not more than \$300,000 may be used by VSAC
5 for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools.

6 (c) Of the appropriated amount remaining after accounting for subsection
7 (a) and (b) of this section, not less than 93 percent of this appropriation shall be
8 used for direct student aid.

9 (d) In this act or any other legislation enacted into law this year or in 2022,
10 to the extent other funding is appropriated or otherwise provided to VSAC, or
11 is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services or any of its Departments for
12 disbursement to VSAC for the administration of a program or initiative, up to
13 seven percent may be used by VSAC for its costs of administration, and VSAC
14 may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in
15 repayment. Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent these are
16 federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds
17 shall be consistent with federal grant requirements.

18 (e) \$1,000,000 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act
19 will be used to continue operating the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program in
20 accordance with 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

21 Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND

1 EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

2 (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), the sum of \$41,225 in education
3 funds and \$41,225 in general funds is appropriated to the Vermont Student
4 Assistance Corporation (VSAC) for dual enrollment and need-based stipend
5 purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for
6 financially needy students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to
7 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for
8 the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The
9 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for
10 program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come,
11 first-served basis until funds are depleted.

12 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Student Assistance
13 Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on
14 Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate
15 Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and
16 General Affairs.

17 **Sec. E.811 LAND ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD;**

18 **ATTACHMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION; REPORT**

19 (a) On or before December 15, 2023, the Land Access and Opportunity
20 Board shall submit a written report to the House Committees on
21 Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the

1 Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations
2 regarding the appropriate State entity for the Board to be attached to for
3 administrative purposes. The report shall, in consideration of the mission,
4 powers, and duties of the Board, identify various State entities to which the
5 Board could be attached for administrative purposes and shall examine the
6 potential benefits and drawbacks of the Board being attached to each of the
7 entities identified. The report shall consider the benefits and drawbacks of the
8 Board continuing to be attached to the Vermont Housing and Conservation
9 Board for administrative purposes.

10 Sec. E.900 TRANSPORTATION FUND RESERVE – REVERSIONS

11 EXCLUDED

12 (a) To calculate the fiscal year 2024 Transportation Fund Stabilization
13 Reserve requirement of five percent of prior year appropriations, reversions of
14 \$20,727,012 are excluded from the fiscal year 2023 total appropriations
15 amount.

16 Sec. E.1000 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 53(b)(5), as amended by
17 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.102, is further amended to read:

18 * * *

19 (B) \$20,000,000 shall be appropriated to the State Treasurer's Office
20 and used for redeeming State of Vermont general obligation bonds prior to
21 maturity. ~~Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. §1001b(e), beginning in fiscal year~~

1 ~~2024, to the extent bonds are redeemed, an amount equal to the reduction in~~
2 ~~payments for debt service required resulting from any redemption shall be~~
3 ~~transferred and reserved in the Capital Expenditure Cash Fund, as establish in~~
4 ~~32 V.S.A. §1001b created in Sec. E. 106.1 of H.740 of 2022.~~

5 * * * Workforce and Economic Development Policies (H.484) * * *

6 **Sec. F.1** TEACHER LICENSING FEES; SUSPENSION

7 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, peer review
8 process one-time licensure fee requirements under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) are
9 suspended during fiscal years 2024 through 2029.

10 (b) In fiscal year 2024, the estimated fees that would have been
11 collected under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) shall be accounted for through funds
12 appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General Fund.

13 **Sec. F.2** EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

14 (a) Educator demographics. In order to understand and improve the
15 longstanding and well-documented issue of underrepresentation in the
16 Vermont educator workforce, including underrepresentation of Black,
17 Indigenous, and Persons of Color; New Americans; and other historically
18 underrepresented communities, the Agency of Education shall collect
19 demographic information from educators and report such information in its
20 annual teacher and staff full-time equivalencies report. The Agency shall

1 submit the educator demographic information section of the report annually to
2 the General Assembly on or before each January 15.

3 **Sec. F.3** 18 V.S.A. § 39 is added to read:

4 § 39. VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

5 PRACTITIONER FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
8 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

9 (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility
10 requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

11 (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education
12 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

13 (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering
14 tuition, which may also cover room, board, and the cost of required books and
15 supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

16 (5) “Program” means the Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse
17 Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created under this section.

18 (b) The Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable
19 Loan Incentive Program is created and shall be administered by the
20 Corporation in collaboration with the Department of Health. The Program
21 provides forgivable loans to students enrolled in a master’s program at an

1 eligible school who commit to working as a psychiatric mental health nurse
2 practitioner in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in
3 subsection (d) of this section.

4 (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program
5 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the
6 General Assembly for this purpose.

7 (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,
8 whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following
9 requirements:

10 (1) be enrolled at an eligible school in a program, whether through in-
11 person or remote instruction, that leads to a master's degree or specialty in
12 psychiatric mental health;

13 (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual
14 is enrolled;

15 (3) agree to work as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in
16 Vermont for a minimum of one year following licensure for each year of
17 forgivable loan awarded;

18 (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce
19 the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to
20 subsection (f) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of
21 service required in subdivision (3) of this subsection;

1 (5) have completed the Program’s application form and the Free
2 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), in accordance with a schedule
3 determined by the Corporation; and

4 (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may
5 require.

6 (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a psychiatric mental health
7 nurse practitioner in this State in compliance with the Program for a period that
8 would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit received by the
9 individual, other than for good cause as determined by the Corporation in
10 consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the individual shall
11 receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant
12 to the terms of the interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the
13 individual at the time of entering the Program.

14 (f) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
15 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum
16 forgivable loan amounts.

17 Sec. F.4 18 V.S.A. § 40 is added to read:

18 § 40. VERMONT DENTAL HYGIENIST FORGIVABLE LOAN

19 INCENTIVE PROGRAM

20 (a) As used in this section:

1 (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
2 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

3 (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility
4 requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

5 (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education
6 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

7 (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering
8 tuition, which may also include room, board, and the cost of required books
9 and supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

10 (5) “Program” means the Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan
11 Incentive Program created under this section.

12 (b) The Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan Incentive Program is
13 created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration
14 with the Corporation. The Program provides forgivable loans to students
15 enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a dental hygienist in
16 this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (d) of this
17 section.

18 (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program
19 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the
20 General Assembly for this purpose.

1 (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,
2 whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following
3 requirements:

4 (1) be enrolled at a dental hygienist program at an eligible school;

5 (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual
6 is enrolled;

7 (3) agree to work as a dental hygienist in Vermont for a minimum of
8 one year following licensure for each year of forgivable loan awarded;

9 (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce
10 the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to
11 subsection (g) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of
12 service required in this subsection;

13 (5) have completed the Program's application form, the Free
14 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant
15 application each academic year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule
16 determined by the Corporation; and

17 (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may
18 require.

19 (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a dental hygienist in this State
20 for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit
21 received by the individual, other than for good cause as determined by the

1 Corporation in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the
2 individual shall receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of
3 the loan pursuant to the terms of the interest-free credit agreement or
4 promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

5 (f) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under this
6 section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds
7 are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over
8 and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation in the
9 following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this
10 section.

11 (g) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
12 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum
13 forgivable loan amounts.

14 **Sec. F.5** BROWNFIELDS FUNDING; USE IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

15 (a) The Department of Economic Development shall use the funds
16 appropriated in fiscal year 2024 for brownfields redevelopment for the
17 assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfield sites to be used in
18 the same manner as the Brownfields Revitalization Fund established by 10
19 V.S.A. § 6654 except, notwithstanding the grant limitations in 10 V.S.A. §
20 6654, projects supported by this appropriation shall not be limited to a
21 maximum amount per site. The Agency of Commerce and Community

1 Development shall award the amount of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 to
2 regional planning commissions for the purposes of brownfields assessment. In
3 awarding funds under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the
4 Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall select one
5 regional planning commission to administer these funds. To ensure statewide
6 availability, the selected regional planning commission shall subgrant to
7 regional planning commissions with brownfield programs, with not more than
8 10 percent of the funds being used for administrative purposes.

9 **Sec. F.6** 10 V.S.A. § 6654(e) is amended to read:

10 (e) A grant may be awarded by the Secretary of Commerce and
11 Community Development with the approval of the Secretary of Natural
12 Resources, provided that:

13 (1) A grant may not exceed \$50,000 for characterization and assessment
14 of a site.

15 (2) A grant may not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ \$500,000 for remediation of a site.

16 (3) A grant may be used by an applicant to purchase environmental
17 insurance relating to the performance of the characterization, assessment, or
18 remediation of a Brownfield site in accordance with a corrective action plan
19 approved by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

1 (4) Financial assistance may be provided to applicants by developing a
2 risk sharing pool, an indemnity pool, or other insurance mechanism designed
3 to help applicants.

4 (5) All reports generated by financial assistance from the Brownfield
5 Revitalization Fund, including site assessments, site investigations, feasibility
6 studies, corrective action plans, and completion reports shall be provided as
7 hard copies to the Secretaries of Commerce and Community Development and
8 of Natural Resources.

9 **Sec. F.7** 10 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

10 § 4. NEW RELOCATING EMPLOYEE INCENTIVES

11 * * *

12 (e) As used in this section:

13 * * *

14 ((2) “Relocating employee” means an individual who submits an
15 application before becoming a resident of this State and who meets the
16 following criteria:

17 (A)(i) ~~On or after July 1, 2021~~ the individual is a new relocating
18 employee who meets the following criteria:

19 (I) the individual becomes a full-time resident of this State;

1 (II) the individual becomes a full-time employee at a Vermont
2 location of a for-profit or nonprofit business organization domiciled or
3 authorized to do business in this State, or of a State, municipal, or other public
4 sector employer; and

5 (III) the employer attests to the Agency that, after reasonable
6 time and effort, the employer was unable to fill the employee's position from
7 among Vermont applicants; or

8 (ii) ~~on or after February 1, 2022~~ the individual is a new remote
9 employee who meets the following criteria:

10 (I) the individual becomes a full-time resident of this State; and

11 (II) the individual is a full-time employee of an out-of-state
12 business and performs the majority of ~~his or her~~ the employee's employment
13 duties remotely from a home office or a co-working space located in this State.

14 (B) The individual receives gross salary or wages that equal or
15 exceed the Vermont livable wage rate calculated pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 526.

16 (C) The individual is subject to Vermont income tax.

17 **Sec. F.8** 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. H.18, as amended by 2022 Acts
18 and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 46, is further amended to read:

19 Sec. H.18. COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION

20 GRANT PROGRAM

21 * * *

1 (b) Eligible applicants.

2 * * *

3 (3) The following are ineligible to apply for a grant:

4 (A) ~~a State or local government-operated business~~ [Repealed]

5 (B) a business that, together with any affiliated business, owns or
6 operates more than 20 locations, regardless of whether those locations do
7 business under the same name or within the same industry; and

8 (C) a publicly traded company.

9 * * *

10 Sec. F.9 10 V.S.A. § 6 is added to read:

11 § 6. RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

12 (a) Creation; purpose.

13 (1) A Rural Industry Development Grant Program is created within the
14 Agency of Commerce and Community Development to provide grant funding
15 through local development corporations for business relocation and expansion
16 efforts, including the purchase, demolition, and renovation of property for
17 industrial use.

18 (2)(A) There is established a Rural Industry Development Special Fund
19 comprising amounts appropriated to the Fund, contributions from other
20 sources, and the return of principal from the sale of any property invested
21 through the Program.

1 (B) Monies in the Fund shall be available to Agency to make grants
2 through the Program to assist local development corporations with business
3 relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.

4 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, interest
5 earned and any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained
6 by the Fund and carried forward in the Fund.

7 (b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall
8 consider:

9 (1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including
10 nonprofit organizations, in the applicant's region;

11 (2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of
12 businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;

13 (3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a
14 grant award; and

15 (4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.

16 (c) Eligible applicants; priority.

17 (1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development
18 corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this
19 State.

1 (2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may
2 designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities
3 that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.

4 (d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient may use funding for the following:

5 (1) to purchase land for potential industrial use;

6 (2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing
7 infrastructure for property the recipient owns;

8 (3) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the
9 Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12,
10 subchapter 3; or

11 (4) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant
12 consistent with this section.

13 (e) Application; market assessment.

14 (1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional
15 market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed
16 development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth
17 opportunities.

18 (2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to
19 begin and complete the proposed project:

20 (A) community and regional support for the project;

21 (B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;

1 (C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a
2 plan for fiscal viability; and

3 (D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the
4 project and a plan for obtaining the permits.

5 (f) Awards; amount.

6 (1) An award shall not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 20 percent of
7 the total project cost.

8 (2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other
9 sources.

10 (3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the
11 applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.

12 (4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future
13 amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but
14 eligible use.

15 (g) Deed restrictions; property sales. The Agency shall include deed
16 restrictions that require the return of the principal amount of the grant to the
17 Special Fund and may require the payment of a percentage of the sales profit.

18 **Sec. F.10** 24 V.S.A. § 2799 is amended to read:

19 § 2799. BETTER PLACES PROGRAM; CROWD GRANTING

1 (a)(1) There is created the Better Places Program within the Department of
2 Housing and Community Development, and the Better Places Fund, which the
3 Department shall manage pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

4 (2) The purpose of the Program is to utilize crowdfunding to spark
5 community revitalization through collaborative grantmaking for projects that
6 create, activate, or revitalize public spaces.

7 (3) The Department may administer the Program in coordination with
8 and support from other State agencies and nonprofit and philanthropic partners.

9 (b) The Fund is composed of the following:

10 (1) State or federal funds appropriated by the General Assembly;

11 (2) gifts, grants, or other contributions to the Fund; and

12 (3) any interest earned by the Fund.

13 (c) As used in this section, “public space” means an area or place that is
14 open and accessible to all people with no charge for admission and includes
15 village greens, squares, parks, community centers, town halls, libraries, and
16 other publicly accessible buildings and connecting spaces such as sidewalks,
17 streets, alleys, and trails.

18 (d)(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall
19 establish an application process, eligibility criteria, and criteria for prioritizing
20 assistance for awarding grants through the Program.

1 (2) The Department may award a grant to a municipality, a nonprofit
2 organization, or a community group with a fiscal sponsor for a project that is
3 located in or serves a designated downtown, village center, new town center, or
4 neighborhood development area that will create a new public space or
5 revitalize or activate an existing public space.

6 (3) The Department may award a grant to not more than ~~one project~~
7 three projects per calendar year within a municipality.

8 (4) The minimum amount of a grant award is \$5,000, and the maximum
9 amount of a grant award is \$40,000.

10 (5) The Department shall develop matching grant eligibility
11 requirements to ensure a broad base of community and financial support for
12 the project, subject to the following:

13 (A) A project shall include in-kind support and matching funds raised
14 through a crowdfunding approach that includes multiple donors.

15 (B) An applicant may not donate to its own crowdfunding campaign.

16 (C) A donor may not contribute more than \$10,000 or 35 percent of
17 the campaign goal, whichever is less.

18 (D) An applicant shall provide matching funds raised through
19 crowdfunding of not less than 33 percent of the grant award.

20 (e) The Department of Housing and Community Development, with the
21 assistance of a fiscal agent, shall distribute funds under this section in a manner

1 that provides funding for projects of various sizes in as many geographical
2 areas of the State as possible.

3 (f) The Department of Housing and Community Development may use up
4 to 15 percent of any appropriation to the Fund from the General Fund to assist
5 with crowdfunding, administration, training, and technological needs of the
6 Program.

7 **Sec. F.11** 24 V.S.A. § 2792(d) is amended to read:

8 (d) The Department shall provide staff and administrative support to the
9 State Board, ~~and~~ shall produce guidelines to direct municipalities seeking to
10 obtain designation under this chapter, and shall pay per diem compensation for
11 board members pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010(b).

12 **Sec. F.12** 24 V.S.A. § 2793(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first
14 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed
15 application, the State Board shall designate a downtown development district if
16 the State Board finds in its written decision that the municipality has:

17 * * *

18 **Sec. F.13** 24 V.S.A. § 2793a(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first
20 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed

1 application, the State Board shall designate a village center if the State Board
2 finds the applicant has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

3 **Sec. F.14** 24 V.S.A. § 2793b(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first
5 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed
6 application, the State Board shall designate a new town center development
7 district if the State Board finds, with respect to that district, the municipality
8 has:

9 * * *

10 **Sec. F.15** 24 V.S.A. § 2793e(d) is amended to read:

11 (d) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first
12 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed
13 application, for designation of a neighborhood development area, the State
14 Board, after opportunity for public comment, shall approve a neighborhood
15 development area if the Board determines that the applicant has met the
16 requirements of this section.

17 **Sec. F.16** 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 196, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts
18 and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 13, is further amended to read:

19 Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

20 (a) The Secretary of ~~State~~ Digital Services shall serve as the chair of a
21 steering committee, composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of

1 Commerce and Community Development, the Secretary of Administration,
2 and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees.

3 (b) The ~~Secretary of State, in collaboration with the~~ steering committee,
4 and in collaboration with other State agencies and departments and interested
5 stakeholders ~~as necessary~~, shall:

6 (1) review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps
7 to enhance the Secretary of State's one-stop business portal for businesses,
8 entrepreneurs, and citizens to provide information about starting and operating
9 a business in Vermont; and

10 (2) submit on or before December 15, ~~2019~~ 2023:

11 (A) a design proposal that includes a project scope, timeline,
12 roadmap, and cost projections;

13 (B) any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the
14 proposal; and

15 (C) a sustainable funding model for the portal.

16 (c) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy, and
17 integrate into the current one-stop portal to the extent feasible, features that:

18 (1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a ~~clear~~
19 comprehensive, one-stop compilation of other State business requirements,
20 including permits and licenses;

1 (2) implement a data collection component that offers the registrant the
2 option to self-identify, and make available to the public through the business
3 search function, demographic information concerning ownership of the
4 business, including whether the business is woman-owned, veteran-owned,
5 BIPOC-owned, LGBTQ-owned, or minority-owned;

6 (3) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State by
7 allowing a person to pay amounts ~~he or she~~ the person owes to the State for
8 taxes, fees, or other charges to a single recipient within State government;

9 ~~(3)~~(4) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make
10 a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if
11 nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

12 ~~(4)~~(5) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to
13 persons who are forming or operating a small business;

14 ~~(5)~~(6) after registration, provide information about additional and
15 ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or
16 explore any assistance needed;

17 ~~(6)~~(7) provide guidance and information about State and federal
18 programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-
19 based businesses of interest; and

20 ~~(7)~~(8) map communication channels for project updates, including
21 digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

1 (d) All State agencies and departments shall designate a single employee or
2 team of employees who are charged with the duty to provide assistance to the
3 steering committee upon its request.

4 (e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services
5 through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses
6 with 20 or fewer employees.

7 (f) The Agency of Digital Services shall assign a project manager or
8 business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the
9 implementation of this act through June 30, ~~2020~~ 2025 for the purpose of
10 developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses,
11 entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in
12 Vermont, and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State
13 government.

14 * * * Fees * * *

15 * * * Enhanced Driver's License * * *

16 Sec. G.100 23 V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

17 § 7. ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE; MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE

18 INFORMATION; FEE

19 * * *

1 (d) The fee for an enhanced license shall be ~~\$30.00~~ \$36.00 in addition to
2 the fees otherwise established by this title.

3 * * *

4 * * * Department of Motor Vehicles * * *

5 Sec. G.101 23 V.S.A. § 114 is amended to read:

6 § 114. FEES

7 (a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees for miscellaneous
8 transactions:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 9 | (1) Listings of 1 through 4 registrations | \$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u> |
| 10 | (2) Certified copy of registration application | \$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u> |
| 11 | (3) Sample plates | \$18.00 <u>\$22.00</u> |
| 12 | (4) Lists of registered dealers, transporters, periodic inspection stations, | |
| 13 | fuel dealers, and distributors, including gallonage sold or delivered and rental | |
| 14 | vehicle companies | \$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u> per page |
| 15 | (5) [Repealed.] | |
| 16 | (6) Periodic inspection sticker record | \$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u> |
| 17 | (7) Certified copy individual crash report | \$12.00 <u>\$15.00</u> |

1	(8) Certified copy police crash report	\$18.00 <u>\$22.00</u>
2	(9) Certified copy suspension notice	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
3	(10) Certified copy mail receipt	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
4	(11) Certified copy proof of mailing	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
5	(12) Certified copy reinstatement notice	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
6	(13) Certified copy operator's license application	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
7	(14) Certified copy three-year operating record	\$14.00 <u>\$17.00</u>
8	(15) [Repealed.]	
9	(16) Government official photo identification card	\$6.00 <u>\$8.00</u>
10	(17) Listing of operator's licenses of 1 through 4	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
11	(18) Statistics and research	\$42.00 <u>\$51.00</u> per hour
12	(19) Insurance information on crash	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u>
13	(20) Certified copy complete operating record	\$20.00 <u>\$24.00</u>
14	(21) Records not otherwise specified	\$8.00 <u>\$10.00</u> per page
15	(22) Public records request for Department records requiring custom	
16	computer programming	\$100.00 per hour, but not less than \$500.00

1 veteran or a veteran discharged under honorable conditions, the identification
2 card shall include the term “veteran” on its face. The Commissioner shall
3 require payment of a fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 at the time application for an
4 identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card
5 shall be issued at no charge to an individual who surrenders ~~his or her~~ the
6 individual’s license in connection with a suspension or revocation under
7 subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition.

8 (b) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00
9 midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the
10 cardholder following the date of original issue, and may be renewed every four
11 years upon payment of a ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 fee. A renewed identification card
12 shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth
13 anniversary of the date of birth of the cardholder following the expiration of
14 the card being renewed. At least 30 days before an identification card will
15 expire, the Commissioner shall mail first-class to the cardholder or send the
16 cardholder electronically an application to renew the identification card; a
17 cardholder shall be sent the renewal notice by mail unless the cardholder opts
18 in to receive electronic notification. An individual born on February 29 shall,
19 for the purposes of this section, be considered as born on March 1.

1 (c) In the event an identification card is lost, destroyed, mutilated, or a new
2 name is acquired, a replacement may be obtained upon furnishing satisfactory
3 proof to the Commissioner and paying a ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 fee.

4 * * *

5 * * * Registration; General Provisions * * *

6 Sec. G.103 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

7 § 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY

8 AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES

9 * * *

10 (b) The authority to issue vanity motor vehicle number plates or special
11 number plates for safety organizations and service organizations shall reside
12 with the Commissioner. Determination of compliance with the criteria
13 contained in this section shall be within the discretion of the Commissioner.
14 Series of number plates for safety and service organizations that are authorized
15 by the Commissioner shall be issued in order of approval, subject to the
16 operating considerations in the Department as determined by the
17 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall issue vanity and special organization
18 number plates in the following manner:

1 (1) Vanity plates. Subject to the restrictions of this section, vanity plates
2 shall be issued at the request of the registrant of a motor vehicle unless the
3 vehicle is registered under the International Registration Plan, upon application
4 and upon payment of an annual fee of ~~\$48.00~~ \$58.00 in addition to the annual
5 fee for registration. The Commissioner shall not issue two sets of plates
6 bearing the same initials or letters unless the plates also contain a
7 distinguishing number. Vanity plates are subject to reassignment if not
8 renewed within 60 days of expiration of the registration.

9 (2) Special organization plates.

10 * * *

11 (B) The officer of a safety organization or service organization may
12 apply to the Commissioner to approve special plates indicating membership in
13 a qualifying organization to be issued to organization members for a ~~\$17.00~~
14 \$21.00 special fee for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for
15 registration. The application shall include designation of an officer or member
16 to serve as the principal contact with the Department and a distinctive name or
17 emblem, or both, for use on the proposed special plate. The name and emblem
18 shall not be objectively obscene or confusing to the general public and shall
19 not promote, advertise, or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for
20 sale. The organization's name and emblem must not infringe on or violate a

1 trademark, trade name, service mark, copyright, or other proprietary or
2 property right, and the organization must have the right to use the name and
3 emblem. After consulting with the principal contact, the Commissioner shall
4 determine the design of the special plate on the basis that the primary purpose
5 of motor vehicle number plates is vehicle identification. An organization may
6 have only one design, regardless of the number of individual organizational
7 units, squads, or departments within the State that may conduct the same or
8 substantially similar activities.

9 (C) After the plate design is finalized and an officer or the principal
10 contact provides the Commissioner a written statement authorizing issuance of
11 the plates, the organization shall deposit ~~\$2,200.00~~ \$2,600.00 with the
12 Commissioner. Of this deposit, \$500.00 shall be retained by the Department to
13 recover costs of developing the organization plate. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A.
14 § 502, the Commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the
15 plates against the fees collected and the balance shall be deposited in the
16 Transportation Fund. Upon application, special plates shall be issued to a
17 registrant of a vehicle registered at the pleasure car rate or of a truck registered
18 for less than 26,001 pounds (but excluding trucks registered under the
19 International Registration Plan) who furnishes the Commissioner satisfactory
20 proof that ~~he or she~~ the registrant is a member of an organization that has

1 satisfied the requirements of this subdivision (b)(2). For each of the first 100
2 applicants to whom sets of plates are issued, the ~~\$17.00~~ \$21.00 special plate
3 fee shall not be collected and shall be subtracted from the balance of the
4 deposit. When the ~~\$1,700.00~~ \$2,100.00 balance of the deposit is depleted,
5 applicants shall be required to pay the ~~\$17.00~~ \$21.00 fee as provided for in
6 subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection. No organization shall charge its
7 members any additional fee or premium charge for the authorization, right, or
8 privilege to display special number plates, but any organization may recover
9 up to ~~\$1,700.00~~ \$2,100.00 from applicants for the special plates.

10 * * *

11 (f) Upon the request of a registrant of a motor vehicle with the previous
12 issue number plates, the Commissioner shall issue current issue number plates
13 bearing the same number as shown on the previous issue plates that are being
14 replaced. The initial one-time fee for the plates shall be ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 in
15 addition to the regular registration fee. Official plates and plates with numbers
16 of 9999 or lower are specifically exempted.

17 * * *

18 Sec. G.104 23 V.S.A. § 304b is amended to read:

19 § 304b. CONSERVATION MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

1 (a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue conservation
2 registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate,
3 on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, and on vehicles registered to
4 State agencies under section 376 of this title, but excluding vehicles registered
5 under the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted
6 on the front and rear of the vehicle. The Commissioners of Motor Vehicles
7 and of Fish and Wildlife shall determine the graphic design of the special
8 plates in a manner that serves to enhance the public awareness of the State's
9 interest in restoring and protecting its wildlife and major watershed areas. The
10 Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Fish and Wildlife may alter the
11 graphic design of these special plates, provided that plates in use at the time of
12 a design alteration shall remain valid subject to the operator's payment of the
13 annual registration fee. Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the
14 Commissioner and shall pay an initial fee of ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00 in addition to the
15 annual fee for registration. In following years, in addition to the annual
16 registration fee, the holder of a conservation plate shall pay a renewal fee of
17 ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00. The Commissioner may adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25
18 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

19 * * *

20 Sec. G.105 23 V.S.A. § 304c is amended to read:

1 § 304c. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES: BUILDING

2 BRIGHT SPACES FOR BRIGHT FUTURES FUND

3 (a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue “Building Bright
4 Spaces for Bright Futures Fund,” referred to as “the Bright Futures Fund,”
5 registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate,
6 on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, on vehicles registered to State
7 agencies under section 376 of this title, and excluding vehicles registered under
8 the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the
9 front and rear of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
10 utilize the graphic design recommended by the Commissioner for Children and
11 Families for the special plates to enhance the public awareness of the State’s
12 interest in supporting children’s services. Applicants shall apply on forms
13 prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall pay an initial fee
14 of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. In following
15 years, in addition to the annual registration fee, the holder of a Bright Futures
16 Fund plate shall pay a renewal fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00. The Commissioner of
17 Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the
18 provisions of this subsection.

19 * * *

20 Sec. G.106 23 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

1 § 307. CARRYING OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE; REPLACEMENT
2 AND CORRECTED CERTIFICATES

3 * * *

4 (b) In case of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of a certificate, the owner
5 of the vehicle described in it shall forthwith notify the Commissioner and remit
6 a fee of ~~\$16.00~~ \$20.00, upon receipt of which the Commissioner shall furnish
7 the owner with a duplicate certificate.

8 (c) A corrected registration certificate shall be furnished by the
9 Commissioner upon request and receipt of a fee of ~~\$16.00~~ \$20.00.

10 (d) An operator cited for violating subsection (a) of this section with
11 respect to a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less
12 than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5.00,
13 which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if
14 ~~he or she~~ the operator is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of
15 the motor vehicle's registration.

16 Sec. G.107 23 V.S.A. § 323 is amended to read:

17 § 323. TRANSFER FEES

1 A person who transfers the ownership of a registered motor vehicle to
2 another, upon the filing of a new application and upon the payment of a fee of
3 ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00, may have registered in ~~his or her~~ the person's name another
4 motor vehicle for the remainder of the registration period without payment of
5 any additional registration fee, provided the proper registration fee of the
6 motor vehicle sought to be registered is the same as the registration fee of the
7 transferred motor vehicle. However, if the proper registration fee of the motor
8 vehicle sought to be registered by such person is greater than the registration
9 fee of the transferred motor vehicle, the applicant shall pay, in addition to such
10 fee of ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00, the difference between the registration fee of the motor
11 vehicle previously registered and the proper fee for the registration of the
12 motor vehicle sought to be registered.

13 * * * Registration; Fees and Exemptions * * *

14 Sec. G.108 23 V.S.A. § 361 is amended to read:

15 § 361. PLEASURE CARS

16 The annual registration fee for ~~registration of any motor vehicle of the a~~
17 ~~pleasure car type~~, as defined in subdivision 4(28) of this title, and all vehicles
18 powered by electricity, shall be ~~\$74.00~~ \$89.00, and the biennial fee shall be
19 ~~\$136.00~~ \$163.00.

20 Sec. G.109 23 V.S.A. § 364 is amended to read:

1 § 364. MOTORCYCLES

2 The annual fee for registration of a motorcycle, with or without sidecar,
3 shall be ~~\$46.00~~ \$56.00.

4 Sec. G.110 23 V.S.A. § 364a is amended to read:

5 § 364a. MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES; REGISTRATION; FINANCIAL
6 RESPONSIBILITY

7 (a) The annual fee for registration of a motor-driven cycle shall be ~~\$28.00~~
8 \$34.00.

9 * * *

10 Sec. G.111 23 V.S.A. § 364b is amended to read:

11 § 364b. ALL-SURFACE VEHICLES; REGISTRATION

12 (a) The annual fee for registration of an all-surface vehicle (ASV) shall be
13 the sum of the fees established by sections 3305 and 3504 of this title, plus
14 ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00.

15 * * *

16 Sec. G.112 23 V.S.A. § 367 is amended to read:

17 § 367. TRUCKS

1 (a)(1) The annual fee for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor
2 trucks except truck cranes, truck shovels, road oilers, bituminous distributors,
3 and farm trucks used as specified in subsection (f) of this section shall be based
4 on the total weight of the truck-tractor or motor truck, including body and cab
5 plus the heaviest load to be carried. In computing the fees for registration of
6 tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks with trailers or semi-trailers attached,
7 except trailers or semi-trailers with a gross weight of less than 6,000 pounds,
8 the fee shall be based upon the weight of the tractor, truck-tractor, or motor
9 truck, the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer, and the weight of the heaviest
10 load to be carried by the combined vehicles. In addition to the fee set out in
11 the following schedule, the fee for vehicles weighing between 10,000 and
12 25,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$35.50~~ \$42.53, the fee for
13 vehicles weighing between 26,000 and 39,999 pounds inclusive shall be an
14 additional ~~\$70.98~~ \$85.03, the fee for vehicles weighing between 40,000 and
15 59,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$248.48~~ \$297.68, and the fee
16 for vehicles 60,000 pounds and over shall be an additional ~~\$390.48~~ \$467.80.
17 The fee shall be computed at the following rates per 1,000 pounds of weight
18 determined pursuant to this subdivision and rounded up to the nearest whole
19 dollar; the minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck
20 to 6,000 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:

1 ~~\$15.20~~ \$18.21 when the weight exceeds 6,000 pounds but does not
2 exceed 8,000 pounds.

3 ~~\$17.39~~ \$20.83 when the weight exceeds 8,000 pounds but does not
4 exceed 12,000 pounds.

5 ~~\$19.17~~ \$22.97 when the weight exceeds 12,000 pounds but does not
6 exceed 16,000 pounds.

7 ~~\$20.50~~ \$24.56 when the weight exceeds 16,000 pounds but does not
8 exceed 20,000 pounds.

9 ~~\$21.46~~ \$25.71 when the weight exceeds 20,000 pounds but does not
10 exceed 30,000 pounds.

11 ~~\$21.92~~ \$26.26 when the weight exceeds 30,000 pounds but does not
12 exceed 40,000 pounds.

13 ~~\$22.45~~ \$26.90 when the weight exceeds 40,000 pounds but does not
14 exceed 50,000 pounds.

15 ~~\$22.65~~ \$27.13 when the weight exceeds 50,000 pounds but does not
16 exceed 60,000 pounds.

17 ~~\$23.42~~ \$28.06 when the weight exceeds 60,000 pounds but does not
18 exceed 70,000 pounds.

1 weight shall be disregarded. The minimum fee for the registration of any
2 motor bus shall be \$43.00.

3 Sec. G.115 23 V.S.A. § 372a is amended to read:

4 § 372a. LOCAL TRANSIT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

5 (a) The annual registration fee for any motor bus used in local transit or
6 public transportation service shall be ~~\$62.00~~ \$75.00, except for those vehicles
7 owned by a municipality for such service that are subject to the provisions of
8 section 376 of this title. In the event a bus registered for local transit or public
9 transportation service is subsequently registered for general use during the
10 same registration year, such fee shall be applied toward the fee for general
11 registration.

12 * * *

13 Sec. G.116 23 V.S.A. § 373 is amended to read:

14 § 373. EXHIBITION VEHICLES; YEAR OF MANUFACTURE PLATES

15 (a) The annual fee for the registration of a motor vehicle that is maintained
16 for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public
17 interest and that is not used for general daily transportation of passengers or
18 property on any highway shall be ~~\$21.00~~ \$26.00, in lieu of fees otherwise
19 provided by law. Permitted use shall include:

1 (f) A replacement registration plate shall be provided by the Commissioner
2 upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$9.00~~ \$11.00.

3 (g)(1) The fee for registration of a motor vehicle obtained from the
4 government as excess government property, or a vehicle purchased with 100
5 percent federal funds and used for federally supported local programs, shall be
6 \$14.00, in lieu of fees otherwise specified in this chapter. The Commissioner
7 shall determine the eligibility as to whether or not the motor vehicle qualifies
8 for this registration and ownership of the vehicle shall be plainly marked on
9 both sides of the body or cab.

10 * * *

11 Sec. G.118 23 V.S.A. § 382 is amended to read:

12 § 382. DIESEL-POWERED PLEASURE CARS

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the annual registration fee for a
14 pleasure car or tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck up to 6,000 pounds
15 powered by fuel as defined in section 3002 of this title shall be ~~\$74.00~~ \$89.00,
16 and the biennial fee shall be ~~\$136.00~~ \$163.00.

17 * * * Registration; Registration of Dealers and Transporters * * *

18 Sec. G.119 23 V.S.A. § 453 is amended to read:

19 § 453. FEES AND NUMBER PLATES

1 per set; such number plates may, however, be displayed only upon a farm
2 tractor or other self-propelled farm implement.

3 (c) Application by a “dealer in motorized highway building equipment and
4 road making appliances,” which shall mean a person actively engaged in the
5 business of selling or exchanging new or used motorized highway building
6 equipment or road making appliances, for such dealer registration shall
7 annually be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$123.00~~ \$148.00. The Commissioner
8 shall furnish free of charge with each such dealer registration certificate two
9 sets of number plates showing the distinguishing number assigned such dealer
10 and in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner’s discretion may furnish further sets of
11 plates at a fee of \$30.00 per set; such number plates may, however, be
12 displayed only upon motorized highway building equipment or road making
13 appliances.

14 (d) If a dealer is engaged only in the business of selling or exchanging
15 motorcycles or motor-driven cycles, the registration fee shall be ~~\$62.00~~
16 \$75.00, which shall include three number plates. The Commissioner may, in
17 ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner’s discretion, furnish further sets of plates at a fee
18 of \$10.00 for each set.

19 (e) If a dealer is engaged only in the business of selling or exchanging
20 trailers, semi-trailers, or trailer coaches, the registration fee shall be ~~\$123.00~~

1 Sec. G.121 23 V.S.A. § 463 is amended to read:

2 § 463. SALE OF VEHICLE TO GO OUT OF STATE

3 A registered motor vehicle dealer is authorized to issue an in-transit
4 registration permit for the purpose of movement over the highways of certain
5 motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when these vehicles are sold
6 in this State to be transported to and registered in another state or province.

7 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon request, provide registered
8 motor vehicle dealers with such numbers of applications and special in-transit
9 number plates for vehicles sold in this State to be transported to and registered
10 in another state or province as shall be necessary. The Commissioner is
11 authorized to charge a fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for the processing of the plate
12 application and the issuance of the plate. The dealer, upon the sale of a motor
13 vehicle to be transported to and registered in another state or province, shall
14 cause the application to be filled out and transmitted to the Commissioner and
15 shall attach to the vehicle the in-transit number plate corresponding to the
16 application. No registered motor vehicle dealer shall sell, exchange, give, or
17 transfer any application or in-transit plate to any person other than the person
18 to whom the dealer sells or exchanges a motor vehicle to be registered in
19 another state or province. The application shall be in a form prescribed and
20 furnished by the Commissioner. The special in-transit number plate to be

1 attached to the vehicle will be issued in the form and design as prescribed by
2 the Commissioner and shall be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of
3 issue.

4 Sec. G.122 23 V.S.A. § 476 is amended to read:

5 § 476. MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTY FEE

6 A motor vehicle warranty fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 is imposed on the registration
7 of each new motor vehicle in this State, not including trailers, tractors,
8 motorized highway building equipment, road-making appliances,
9 snowmobiles, motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, or trucks with a gross vehicle
10 weight over 12,000 pounds.

11 Sec. G.123 23 V.S.A. § 494 is amended to read:

12 § 494. FEES

13 The annual fee for a transporter's registration certificate, number plate, or
14 validation sticker is ~~\$123.00~~ \$148.00.

15 * * * Registration; Display of Number Plates * * *

16 Sec. G.124 23 V.S.A. § 514 is amended to read:

17 § 514. REPLACEMENT NUMBER PLATES

18 (a) In case of the loss of a number plate, the owner of the motor vehicle to
19 which it was assigned shall immediately notify the Commissioner of such loss,

1 and the Commissioner shall furnish such owner with a new plate. The fee
2 charged shall be ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00 for each plate. The owner of a motor vehicle
3 who has lost one number plate may operate ~~his or her~~ the owner's vehicle with
4 only one number plate attached, until a new plate is furnished ~~him or her~~ to the
5 owner, provided ~~he or she~~ the owner notified the Commissioner as required
6 under this section.

7 (b) Any replacement number plate shall be issued at a fee of ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00.
8 However, if the Commissioner, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion,
9 determines that a plate has become illegible as a result of deficiencies in the
10 manufacturing process or by use of faulty materials, the replacement fee shall
11 be waived.

12 Sec. G.125 23 V.S.A. § 516 is amended to read:

13 § 516. SALE OF VEHICLE TO GO OUT OF STATE BY A PERSON

14 OTHER THAN DEALER

15 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is authorized to issue an in-transit
16 registration permit for the purpose of movement over the highways of certain
17 motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when the vehicles are sold
18 in this State by a person, other than a registered motor vehicle dealer, to be
19 transported to and registered in another state or province. The registration may

1 be obtained by submitting an application on a form prescribed and furnished
2 by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner is authorized to
3 charge a fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for the processing of the application and the
4 issuance of the plate. The in-transit registration plate pursuant to this section
5 shall be valid for a period of 30 days from issuance and shall be in the form
6 and design prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Issuance of an
7 in-transit plate for vehicles sold by a registered motor vehicle dealer to a
8 person to be transported to and registered in another state or province shall be
9 governed by the provisions of section 463 of this title.

10 Sec. G.126 23 V.S.A. § 517 is amended to read:

11 § 517. INTRASTATE IN-TRANSIT PERMIT

12 The Commissioner may issue an intrastate in-transit registration permit to
13 authorize the movement within Vermont of a motor vehicle otherwise required
14 to be registered, if the vehicle is sold in this State by a person other than a
15 registered motor vehicle dealer. The permit may be obtained after submission
16 of an application on a form prescribed and furnished by the Commissioner and
17 payment of a ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 fee. The permit shall be valid for a period of 10 days
18 from the date of issuance and shall be in the form and design prescribed by the
19 Commissioner.

1 § 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

2 * * *

3 (b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any
4 licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a
5 learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the
6 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall offer both a motorcycle learner's
7 permit that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only and a
8 motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of any motorcycle.
9 The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 at the time
10 application is made.

11 (2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable
12 motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the Commissioner
13 may issue to the applicant a learner's permit that entitles the applicant, subject
14 to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle only,
15 or to operate any motorcycle, upon the public highways for a period of 120
16 days from the date of issuance. The fee for the examination shall be ~~\$9.00~~
17 \$11.00.

18 (3) A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon
19 payment of a ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 fee. If, during the original permit period and two

1 renewals the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or
2 motorcycle rider training course, ~~he or she~~ the permittee may not obtain
3 another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the
4 expiration of the permit unless:

5 * * *

6 (d) An applicant shall pay ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 to the Commissioner for each
7 learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

8 * * *

9 * * * Operator's License; General Provisions * * *

10 Sec. G.130 23 V.S.A. § 634 is amended to read:

11 § 634. FEE FOR EXAMINATION

12 (a) The fee for an examination for a learner's permit shall be ~~\$32.00~~
13 \$39.00. The fee for an examination to obtain an operator's license when the
14 applicant is required to pass an examination pursuant to section 632 of this title
15 shall be ~~\$19.00~~ \$23.00. The fee for a motorcycle skill test to obtain a
16 motorcycle endorsement shall be ~~\$19.00~~ \$23.00.

17 (b) A scheduling fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 shall be paid by the applicant before
18 ~~he or she~~ the applicant may schedule the road test required under section 632
19 of this title. Unless an applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice

1 of cancellation, if the applicant does not appear as scheduled, the ~~\$24.00~~
2 \$29.00 scheduling fee is forfeited. If the applicant appears for the scheduled
3 road test, the fee shall be applied toward the license examination fee. The
4 Commissioner may waive the scheduling fee until the Department is capable of
5 administering the fee electronically.

6 * * *

7 * * * Operator's License; Suspension and Revocation * * *

8 Sec. G.131 23 V.S.A. § 675 is amended to read:

9 § 675. FEE PRIOR TO TERMINATION OR REINSTATEMENT OF

10 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE

11 (a) Before a suspension or revocation issued by the Commissioner of a
12 person's operator's license or privilege of operating a motor vehicle may be
13 terminated or before a person's operator's license or privilege of operating a
14 motor vehicle may be reinstated, there shall be paid to the Commissioner a fee
15 of ~~\$80.00~~ \$96.00 in addition to any other fee required by statute. This section
16 shall not apply to suspensions issued under the provisions of chapter 11 of this
17 title nor suspensions issued for physical disabilities or failing to pass
18 reexamination. The Commissioner shall not reinstate the license of a driver
19 whose license was suspended pursuant to section 1205 of this title until the

1 Commissioner receives certification from the court that the costs due the State
2 have been paid.

3 * * *

4 * * * Operator's License; Driver Training School Licenses * * *

5 Sec. G.132 23 V.S.A. § 702 is amended to read:

6 § 702. TRAINING SCHOOL AND INSTRUCTOR'S LICENSES

7 A person shall not operate a driver training school or act as an instructor
8 unless the person has secured a license from the Commissioner. Applications
9 for such licenses may be filed with the Commissioner and shall contain the
10 information and shall be on the forms the Commissioner may prescribe. Each
11 application for a driver's training school license shall be accompanied by an
12 application fee of ~~\$150.00~~ \$180.00, which shall not be refunded. If the
13 application is approved by the Commissioner, the applicant upon payment of
14 an additional fee of ~~\$225.00~~ \$270.00 shall be granted a license, which shall
15 become void two years after the first day of the month of issue unless sooner
16 revoked as provided in this subchapter. The renewal fee shall be ~~\$225.00~~
17 \$270.00. Each application for an instructor's license shall be accompanied by
18 an application fee of ~~\$105.00~~ \$126.00, which shall not be refunded. If the
19 application is approved by the Commissioner, the applicant upon payment of
20 an additional fee of ~~\$75.00~~ \$90.00 shall be granted a license, which shall

1 become void two years after the first day of the month of issue unless sooner
2 revoked as provided in this subchapter. The renewal fee shall be ~~\$75.00~~
3 \$90.00.

4 Sec. G.133 23 V.S.A. § 703 is amended to read:

5 § 703. POSSESSION OF LICENSE

6 Each person granted a driver's training school license shall display the same
7 conspicuously on the school premises. Each person granted an instructor's
8 license shall carry the same in ~~his or her~~ the person's possession while engaged
9 in giving driver training. In case of loss, mutilation, or destruction of a license
10 certificate, the Commissioner shall issue a duplicate certificate upon payment
11 of a fee of ~~\$8.00~~ \$10.00.

12 * * * Operation of Vehicles; Equipment * * *

13 Sec. G.134 23 V.S.A. § 1230 is amended to read:

14 § 1230. CHARGE

15 For each inspection certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles,
16 the Commissioner shall be paid ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00, provided that State and municipal
17 inspection stations that inspect only State or municipally owned and registered
18 vehicles shall not be required to pay a fee. All vehicle inspection certificate

1 charge revenue shall be allocated to the Transportation Fund with one-half
2 reserved for bridge maintenance activities.

3 * * * Operation of Vehicles; Weight, Size, Loads * * *

4 Sec. G.135 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

5 § 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

6 Except as provided in section 1400 of this title, a person ~~or corporation~~ shall
7 not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total
8 weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

9

10 * * *

11 (13) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
12 maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a special annual permit,
13 which shall expire with the vehicle's registration, except for vehicles not
14 registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on January 1
15 following date of issue, may be issued to a person operating on designated
16 routes on the State Highway System for a fee of ~~\$382.00~~ \$458.00 for each
17 vehicle registered for a weight of 80,000 pounds. This special permit shall be
18 issued only for a combination of vehicle and semi-trailer or trailer equipped
19 with five or more axles, with a distance between axles that meets the minimum

1 requirements of registering the vehicle to 80,000 pounds as allowed under
2 subdivision (4) of this section. The maximum gross load under this special
3 permit shall be 90,000 pounds. Unless authorized by federal law, this
4 subdivision shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National
5 System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

6 (14) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
7 axle spacing and maximum gross load provisions of subdivision (4) of this
8 section, a special annual permit, which shall expire with the vehicle's
9 registration, except for vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the
10 permit shall become void on January 1 following date of issue, may be issued
11 to a person transporting loads on vehicles on designated routes on the State
12 Highway System for the following fees for each vehicle unit. Unless
13 authorized by federal law, the provisions of this subdivision regarding weight
14 limits or tolerances, or both, shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D.
15 Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This special
16 permit shall be issued for the following vehicles and conditions:

17 (A) 3-axle trucks with a single steering axle and a rear tandem axle
18 that have a maximum gross weight of not more than 60,000 pounds when
19 registered for a minimum gross weight of not more than 55,000 pounds, the
20 permit fee shall be ~~\$156.00~~ \$187.00.

1 copy shall be kept in the office of the Commissioner or in a location approved
2 by the Commissioner. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a
3 copy shall also be available in the towing vehicle and must be available for
4 inspection on demand of a law enforcement officer. Before operating a
5 traction engine, tractor, trailer, motor truck, or other motor vehicle, the person
6 to whom a permit to operate in excess of the weight, width, indivisible
7 overlength, and height limits established by this title is granted shall pay a fee
8 of ~~\$40.00~~ \$48.00 for each single trip permit or ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00 for a blanket
9 permit, except that the fee for a fleet blanket permit shall be ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00
10 for the first unit and ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for each unit thereafter. At the option of a
11 carrier, an annual permit for the entire fleet, to operate over any approved
12 route, may be obtained for ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00 for the first tractor and ~~\$6.00~~
13 \$8.00 for each additional tractor, up to a maximum fee of \$1,000.00. The fee
14 for a fleet permit shall be based on the entire number of tractors owned by the
15 applicant. An applicant for a fleet permit may apply for any number of
16 specific routes, each of which shall be reviewed with regard to the
17 characteristics of the route and the type of equipment operated by the
18 applicant. When the weight or size of the vehicle-load are considered
19 sufficiently excessive for the routing requested, the Agency of Transportation
20 shall, on request of the Commissioner, conduct an engineering inspection of
21 the vehicle-load and route, for which a fee of \$300.00 will be added to the cost

1 of the permit if the load is a manufactured home. For all other loads of any
2 size or with gross weight limits less than 150,000 pounds, the fee shall be
3 \$800.00 for any engineering inspection that requires up to eight hours to
4 conduct. If the inspection requires more than eight hours to conduct, the fee
5 shall be \$800.00 plus \$60.00 per hour for each additional hour required. If the
6 vehicle and load weigh 150,000 pounds or more but not more than 200,000
7 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$2,000.00. If the vehicle and
8 load weigh more than 200,000 pounds but not more than 250,000 pounds, the
9 engineering inspection fee shall be \$5,000.00. If the vehicle and load weigh
10 more than 250,000 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$10,000.00.
11 The study must be completed prior to the permit being issued. Prior to the
12 issuance of a permit, an applicant whose vehicle weighs 150,000 pounds or
13 more, or is 15 or more feet in width or height, shall file with the Commissioner
14 a special certificate of insurance showing minimum coverage of \$250,000.00
15 for death or injury to one person, \$500,000.00 for death or injury to two or
16 more persons, and \$250,000.00 for property damage, all arising out of any one
17 crash.

18 (b) Overlength permits. Except as provided in subsections 1432(c) and (e)
19 of this title, it shall be necessary to obtain an overlength permit as follows:

1 * * * Titling of Vessels, Snowmobiles, and All-terrain Vehicles * * *

2 Sec. G.138. 23 V.S.A. § 3802 is amended to read:

3 § 3802. FEES

4 (a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

5 (1) for filing an application for a first certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

6 (2) for each security interest noted upon a certificate of title, ~~\$11.00~~
7 \$14.00;

8 (3) for a certificate of title after a transfer, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

9 (4) for each assignment of a security interest noted upon a certificate of
10 title, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

11 (5) for a duplicate certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

12 (6) for an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a
13 distinctive certificate, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

14 (7) for filing a notice of security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

15 (8) for a certificate of search of the records of the Department of Motor
16 Vehicles for each vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle searched against,
17 ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

1 (9) for filing an assignment of a security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

2 (10) for a certificate of clear title after the security interest or interests
3 have been released, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

4 (11) for a corrected certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00.

5 * * *

6 * * * Commercial Driver's License Act * * *

7 Sec. G.139 23 V.S.A. § 4108 is amended to read:

8 § 4108. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE, COMMERCIAL

9 LEARNER'S PERMIT QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

10 * * *

11 (f) The fee for a knowledge test and the fee for a skills test shall each be
12 ~~\$32.00~~ \$39.00. The fee for an endorsement test shall be ~~\$14.00~~ \$17.00. In the
13 event that an applicant fails a test three times, ~~he or she~~ the applicant may not
14 take the test again for at least six months. A fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 shall be paid
15 by the applicant before ~~he or she~~ the applicant may schedule a skills test. If an
16 applicant does not appear for the scheduled skills test, the ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00
17 scheduling fee is forfeited, unless the applicant has given the Department of
18 Motor Vehicles at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation of the test. If the
19 applicant appears for the skills test, the ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 scheduling fee for that

1 test will be used as part of the test fee. Use of an interpreter is prohibited
2 during the administration of the knowledge or skills tests.

3 * * *

4 Sec. G.140 23 V.S.A. § 4110 is amended to read:

5 § 4110. APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE OR

6 COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT

7 * * *

8 (8) The proper fee.

9 (A) The four-year fee for a commercial driver's license shall be
10 ~~\$90.00~~ \$108.00. The two-year fee shall be ~~\$60.00~~ \$72.00. In those instances
11 where the applicant surrenders a valid Vermont Class D license, the total fees
12 due shall be reduced by:

13 * * *

14 (B) The fee for a commercial learner's permit is ~~\$15.00~~ \$18.00.

15 * * *

16 (b) When a licensee or permittee changes ~~his or her~~ the licensee's or
17 permittee's name, mailing address, or residence or in the case of the loss,
18 mutilation, or destruction of a license or permit, the licensee or permittee shall

