

Act No. 178 (H.864). Appropriations and finance; capital appropriations; bonding

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

This act adjusts the second year of the State's biennial capital budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, and authorizes the State to issue \$5,842,992.21 of additional general obligation bonds that were authorized in fiscal year 2014, but were not issued in fiscal year 2014. This act also:

Appropriations

- Appropriates capital funds in the amount of \$89,754,776 in fiscal year 2015 for capital construction projects. Of this amount, \$82,858,304 is funded through general obligation bonds, and \$6,896,472 is from the proceeds of the sale of property and the reallocation of unexpended capital appropriations in previous years
- Appropriates an additional \$2,500,000 to the construction of the capitol district heat plant and directs any remaining funds to the fiscal year 2016 capital construction act
- Appropriates \$300,000 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the development of a site location proposal for the shared Agency of Natural Resources and Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets laboratory
- Appropriates \$50,000 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for a siting and design proposal for a secure residential facility
- Appropriates \$30,000 to the Department of Buildings and General Services to develop a master plan for the former Weeks School property in Vergennes
- Appropriates \$180,000 to the State House elevator for upgrades and repairs
- Appropriates \$250,000 to security enhancements in the State House and Capitol Complex
- Appropriates \$100,000 to State House maintenance, and enhancements, upgrades, and renovations to support the Senate
- Appropriates an additional \$414,000 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
- Appropriates an additional \$300,000 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Waterbury waste treatment facility for phosphorous removal
- Appropriates \$50,000 to the Department of Buildings and General Services to contract with an independent third party to develop an operational governance and planning for the operation, financial integrity, and maintenance of the Robert H. Wood Criminal Justice and Fire Training Service Council in Pittsford
- Appropriates an additional \$435,000 to the Veterans' Home for kitchen renovations and expresses the General Assembly's intent that the funds will be used in conjunction with funds appropriated to the Department of Buildings and

General Services in fiscal year 2011 for the design and upgrade of the kitchen at the Veterans' Home

Waterbury State Office Complex

- Strikes language allowing any unissued bonds in fiscal year 2014 to be issued in fiscal year 2015 and used for additional funding for the Waterbury State Office Complex
- Amends one of the definitions of "material changes" to the planning or funding of the Waterbury State Office Complex from an increase in 10 percent of the total project cost to an increase in five percent of the total original project cost
- Authorizes BGS to approve contingency funding for the Waterbury State Office Complex of up to five percent of the total original project cost estimate
- Expresses the General Assembly's intent to dedicate a conference area or conference room in the Waterbury State Office Complex to Senator Sally Fox

Capital Budget

- Authorizes the Department of Buildings and General Services to develop a long-term plan for space utilization in the Capitol Complex and in State-owned buildings in surrounding areas and to use funds appropriated for its yearly facilities conditions analysis to conduct facilities conditions assessments in the Capitol Complex
- Amends 32 V.S.A. § 701a by requiring each entity for which spending authority has been authorized in a capital bill to present to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions a report on the fund balances for each project authorized in a capital bill on or before January 15 each year
- Requires the Department of Buildings and General Services and the Department of Finance and Management to work in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office to evaluate options for the State's capital planning capabilities
- Directs the Department of Buildings and General Services to develop and implement procedures for defining and allocating responsibility for fit-up costs in future construction of State-owned buildings and leased space
- Amends 29 V.S.A. § 157 by changing the time period in which the Department of Buildings and General Services must conduct facilities conditions analysis of State buildings and facilities under the Commissioner's jurisdiction to ten percent every ten years

Duties of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services

- Directs the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to:

- Work with the Vermont Council on the Arts to evaluate current guidelines, procedures, and program terms for the Art in State Buildings Program
- Use funding for the Battle of Cedar Creek and Winchester Memorial for design and replication of the Memorial rather than relocation, supervise the installation of the roadside marker and the Memorial, and reimburse additional entities that assist with the project
- Consult with the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Corrections when developing the proposal to establish a secure residential facility
- Develop and implement procedures for defining and allocating responsibility for fit-up costs in future construction of State-owned buildings and leased space
- Develop criteria and guidelines to evaluate and incorporate energy efficiency measures, thermal energy, and renewable energy resources in buildings and facilities leased by the State
- Work with the Court Administrator to evaluate the State's responsibility in maintaining county courthouses, including ADA compliance and whether an emergency fund is required for capital projects

Miscellaneous Property Transactions

- Authorizes the Department of Buildings and General Services to redevelop certain buildings in the Waterbury State Office Complex for State use
- Repeals the appropriation of \$200,000 for improvements and upgrades to the municipal water system at the Springfield Correctional Facility
- Repeals the authority of the Department of Buildings and General Services to sell the health laboratory at 195 Colchester Avenue in Burlington and directs the Department of Buildings and General Services to investigate potential uses of the land and building, and enter into agreements and execute documentation to release or extinguish any of the existing deed covenants on the land
- Disclaims any State interest in the former parsonage and land located at 1941 West Shore Road in Salisbury and authorizes the Department of Buildings and General Services to execute a quitclaim deed to transfer any existing interest in the property to the Salisbury Congregational United Church of Christ
- Repeals the authority of the Department of Buildings and General Services to subdivide the land on the former Weeks School property in Vergennes
- Authorizes the Department of Buildings and General Services to sell the West Brattleboro and Rockingham Troop Headquarters and directs the net proceeds to the purchase of land for public safety field station projects

Enhanced 911 Program

- Repeals the appropriation to the Enhanced 911 Board of \$10,000 in fiscal year 2015

- Directs the Enhanced 911 Board, in consultation with the Agency of Education, to conduct a Statewide assessment at each school district on the need for compliance with the Enhanced 911 Program

Security

- Creates a Capitol Complex Security Working Group and authorizes it to retain consultant services to assess and prepare a report on security in the Capitol Complex

Laboratory Proposal

- Directs the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to develop a site location proposal for the shared laboratory and expresses the preference of the General Assembly to locate the laboratory on State-owned property
- Provides a process for the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions to meet off-session to discuss the site location proposal and make a recommendation to the Joint Fiscal Committee for approval at the Joint Fiscal Committee's October 2014 meeting
- Requires the Department of Buildings and General Services to develop a detailed proposal for the site location if the recommendation is approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

- Codifies the Agricultural fairs and field days grant program in Title 24

Development Cabinet

- Amends 3 V.S.A. § 2293 by including the Secretary of Education in the membership of the Governor's Development Cabinet and requiring the Development Cabinet to refer to interagency work groups any economic development proposals that have a significant impact on the inventory or use of State land or buildings

Energy

- Amends 29 V.S.A. § 168 to create a State Energy Management Program by dividing the State Resource Management Revolving Fund into two separate funds: the State Resource Management Revolving Fund and the Energy Revolving Fund
- Creates the Energy Revolving Fund to finance energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources
- Establishes a credit facility maintained by the State Treasurer of \$8 million

Effective Date: June 9, 2014