

**Act No. 26 (H.492). Appropriations and finance; capital appropriations; bonding**

**An act relating to capital construction and State bonding**

This act sets out the State's fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 capital budget and authorizes the State to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$144,000,000.00 and to issue \$11,559,096.05 of additional general obligation bonds that were authorized in fiscal year 2015 but were not issued in fiscal year 2015. It also provides that there will be a budget adjustment process in the second year of the biennium and that fiscal year 2017 appropriations are subject to budget adjustment unless otherwise specified. This act also:

Appropriations

- Appropriates capital funds in the amount of \$157,207,752.00 over two years for capital construction projects. Of this amount, \$155,559,096.00 is funded through general obligation bonds, and \$1,648,656.00 is from the reallocation of unexpended capital appropriations in previous years
- Appropriates \$8,210,287.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$8,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2017 to statewide major maintenance projects
- Appropriates \$2,500,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$14,048,174.00 in fiscal year 2017 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and Agency of Natural Resources' collaborative laboratory
- Appropriates \$19,151,826.00 in fiscal year 2016 to the Waterbury State Office Complex
- Appropriates \$5,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$9,267,470.00 in fiscal year 2017 to the Department of Finance and Management for the ERP expansion project
- Appropriates \$5,463,211.00 in fiscal year 2017 to the Agency of Human Services for the Health and Human Services Enterprise IT system
- Appropriates \$5,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 to the Judiciary for renovations of the Lamoille County Courthouse
- Appropriates \$550,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$4,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2017 to the Judiciary for a judicial case management system
- Appropriates \$1,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$500,000.00 (as part of a challenge grant) in fiscal year 2017 to the Vermont State Colleges for upgrades to the engineering technology laboratories
- Appropriates \$500,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for an electronic medical records system
- Appropriates \$3,750,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and \$1,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2017 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for statewide water quality improvement projects

Waterbury State Office Complex

- Allows any unused funds remaining from the amount appropriated to the Waterbury State Office Complex in fiscal year 2016 to be used for additional funding for the design and fit up of the Weeks and Hanks buildings

Duties of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services

- The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services:
  - May renew leases for State-owned buildings, structures or other real property at fair market value by July 1, 2019
  - May enter into a lease a fair market value for a term not exceeding 35 years, any real property owned by the State for a solar project at the Southeast State Correctional Facility
  - With the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall enter into a ground lease with the Vermont Technical College for the purpose of locating the laboratory

Prevailing Wage

- Amends the prevailing wage requirements for State construction projects with a cost exceeding \$100,000.00 authorized or funded from a capital construction act to provide the State mean prevailing wage plus an additional fringe benefit of 42 and one-half percent of wage
- Amends the prevailing wage requirements for non-State construction projects with a cost exceeding \$200,000.00 authorized and funded at least 50 percent from a capital construction act to provide the State mean prevailing wage plus an additional fringe benefit of 42 and one-half percent of wage, effective July 1, 2017

State Building Names

- Names the new State laboratory in Randolph the “Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory”

Secure Residential Facility

- Directs the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to develop a siting proposal for a permanent secure residential facility by January 15, 2016
- Requires the Secretary of Human Services to conduct an examination of the needs of the Agency of Human Services for the siting and design of a secure residential facility

20 Houghton Street

- Directs the sum of \$2,500,000.00 from the proceeds of the sale of 20 Houghton Street in St. Albans to the Property Management Fund

### Education

- Directs the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions to develop a plan to evaluate strategically the statutory process for awarding State aid for school construction
- Requires the Secretary of Administration and the Executive Director of the Vermont Interactive Technologies, or successor entity, to examine and report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the ownership of VIT property funded in whole or in part by a capital construction act

### Information Technology

- Directs the Judiciary to present a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, and the Joint Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Committee prior to finalizing a vendor for the judicial case management system
- Directs the Executive Branch to transfer one vacant position for use in the Joint Fiscal Office or for the Joint Fiscal Office to hire a consultant to provide support to the General Assembly to conduct independent reviews of State information technology projects and operations

### Judiciary

- Directs the Department of Buildings and General Services and the Lamoille County side judges to enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Lamoille County Courthouse
- Directs the Judiciary and the Lamoille County side judges to enter into an operating agreement regarding the internal functions and use of space within the Lamoille County Courthouse

### Agency of Natural Resources

- Authorizes the Secretary of Natural Resources to provide loan forgiveness for preliminary engineering and final design costs for loans awarded from the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund under certain circumstances
- Extends the term of a municipal loan used to acquire, design, plan, construct, enlarge, repair, or improve a publicly owned sewage system, sewage treatment or disposal plant, pollution control facility, water supply, water system, or solid waste handling and disposal facility, or certain privately owned wastewater systems from 20 to 30 years

### Public Safety

- Creates an eight-member governance committee for the Robert H. Wood Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center in Pittsford

Security

- Authorizes the Capital Complex Security Working Group to retain consultant services to create a security and safety protocol and conduct trainings for the State House and One Baldwin Street

Multiple effective dates, beginning May 18, 2015.