

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Institutions to which was referred House Bill No. 882
3 entitled “An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget
4 adjustment” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 * * * Legislative Intent * * *

9 Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

11 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$122,767,376.00~~
12 \$130,606,224.00 authorized in this act, not more than \$56,520,325.00 shall be
13 appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be
14 appropriated in the second year.

15 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the
16 biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this
17 act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding
18 Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise
19 indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

1	Appropriation – FY 2025	\$25,275,000.00 <u>\$25,131,999.00</u>
2	Total Appropriation – Section 2	\$48,401,244.00 <u>\$48,258,243.00</u>

3 Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

5 * * *

6 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Department of
7 Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the
8 following projects described in this subsection:

9 (1) Northwest State Correctional Facility, booking expansion, planning,
10 design, and construction: ~~\$2,500,000.00~~ \$2,600,000.00

11 * * *

12 (3) Statewide, correctional facilities, HVAC systems, planning, design,
13 and construction for upgrades and replacements:

14 ~~\$700,000.00~~ \$5,150,000.00

15 (4) Statewide, correctional facilities, accessibility upgrades:

16 \$822,000.00

17 * * *

18 Appropriation – FY 2024 \$1,800,000.00

19 Appropriation – FY 2025 ~~\$16,200,000.00~~ \$21,572,000.00

20 Total Appropriation – Section 3 ~~\$18,000,000.00~~ \$23,372,000.00

1 Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3 * * *

4 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of
5 Commerce and Community Development for the following projects described
6 in this subsection:

7 (1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:

8 ~~\$500,000.00~~ \$700,000.00

9 * * *

10 Appropriation – FY 2024 \$596,000.00

11 Appropriation – FY 2025 ~~\$596,000.00~~ \$796,000.00

12 Total Appropriation – Section 4 ~~\$1,192,000.00~~ \$1,392,000.00

13 Sec. 5. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

15 * * *

16 (f) The following amounts are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of
17 Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the projects
18 described in this subsection:

19 (1) General infrastructure projects, including small-scale maintenance
20 and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and improvements to buildings, including
21 conservation camps:

1 \$1,344,150.00 \$2,114,000.00

2 * * *

3 Appropriation – FY 2024 \$6,997,081.00

4 Appropriation – FY 2025 \$7,497,051.00 \$8,266,901.00

5 Total Appropriation – Section 9 \$14,494,132.00 \$15,263,982.00

6 Sec. 6. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

8 * * *

9 (e) ~~The sum of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of~~
10 ~~Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for~~
11 ~~clean water implementation projects. [Repealed.]~~

12 * * *

13 (g) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of
14 Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

15 (h) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of
16 Natural Resources for the following projects:

17 (1) the Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match
18 for the Water Pollution Control Fund: \$1,600,000.00

19 (2) municipal pollution control grants: \$3,300,000.00

1 (i) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of
2 Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for
3 forestry access roads, recreation access roads, and water quality improvements.

4 (j) In FY 2024 and FY 2025, any agency that receives funding from this
5 section shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure that the projects are
6 capital eligible.

7 Appropriation – FY 2024	\$9,885,000.00
8 Appropriation – FY 2025	\$6,000,000.00
9 Total Appropriation – Section 10	\$15,885,000.00

10 Sec. 7. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15a is added to read:

11 Sec. 15a. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

12 The sum of \$1,540,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Department of
13 Buildings and General Services for the Department of Labor for upgrades of
14 mechanical systems and HVAC, life safety needs, and minor interior
15 renovations at 5 Green Mountain Drive in Montpelier.

16 Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b is added to read:

17 Sec. 15b. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the General Assembly
19 for the replacement of tables and chairs in the State House cafeteria.

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*** Funding ***

Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 16 is amended to read:

Sec. 16. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

(5) of the amount appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26, Sec.

2(b) (various projects): ~~\$65,463.17~~ \$147,206.37

(7) of the amount appropriated in 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 160,

Sec. 1(c)(5) (major maintenance): ~~\$93,549.00~~ \$116,671.15

(10) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84,

Sec. 2(c) (various projects): ~~\$24,363.06~~ \$476,725.66

(13) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42,

Sec. 2(b)(3) (major maintenance): ~~\$32,780.00~~ \$439,889.66

(17) of the amount appropriated in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 40,

Sec. 2(b)(4) (Statewide, major maintenance): \$9,606.45

1 dismantling, and improvements to facilitate future use of the
2 facility): \$378,180.00

3 * * *

4 (h) From prior year bond issuance cost estimates allocated to the entities
5 to which funds were appropriated and for which bonding was required as the
6 source of funds, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 954, \$1,148,251.79 is reallocated to
7 defray expenditures authorized by this act.

8 Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 16

9 \$14,767,376.32 \$17,358,383.85

10 Sec. 9. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 17. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

12 (a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in
13 the amount of \$108,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations
14 made in Secs. 2–15b of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the
15 Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds
16 authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the
17 appropriation to be funded. ~~The State Treasurer shall allocate the estimated~~
18 ~~cost of bond issuance or issuances to the entities to which funds are~~
19 ~~appropriated pursuant to this section and for which bonding is required as the~~
20 ~~source of funds, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 954.~~

1 maintenance facilities at the Gifford Woods State Park and Groton Forest
2 State Park; ~~and~~.

3 (21) ~~the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend~~
4 ~~\$800,000.00 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for infrastructure~~
5 ~~maintenance and improvements of the Department's buildings, including~~
6 ~~conservation camps. [Repealed.]~~

7 (d) ~~FY 2025 capital projects authorizations. To the extent general funds~~
8 ~~are available to appropriate to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in FY~~
9 ~~2025, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the following capital~~
10 ~~projects receive funding from the Fund~~ In FY 2024, spending authority for the
11 following capital projects are authorized as follows:

12 (1) the sum of ~~\$250,000.00~~ \$220,000.00 to the Department of Buildings
13 and General Services for planning, reuse, and contingency;

14 * * *

15 (3) the sum of ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$1,500,000.00 to the Department of
16 Buildings and General Services for the renovation of the interior HVAC steam
17 lines at 120 State Street in Montpelier;

18 (4) the sum of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$850,000.00 to the Department of
19 Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for design, renovations, and
20 land acquisition at the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre;

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* * * Policy * * *

* * * Agency of Natural Resources * * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

§ 2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER

* * *

~~(g) The Commissioner shall consult with and receive approval from the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services concerning proposed construction or renovation of individual projects involving capital improvements which are expected, either in phases or in total, to cost more than \$200,000.00. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall manage all contracts for engineering services for capital improvements made by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ The Department of Environmental Conservation Facilities Engineering Section:

(1) may execute and consult on design for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(2) shall provide professional engineering services for compliance with environmental operating permits; and

(3) shall be the custodian of all plans of record for work executed by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, regardless of the source and designer of record.

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Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

- (1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking capacity.
- (2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to annual appropriations, continue operating through December 31, 2027.
- (3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.
- (4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for maintaining or increasing the State’s current fish stocking capacity following the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:
 - (A) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries;
 - (B) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to other State fish hatcheries;
 - (C) establishing additional egg production at other State fish hatcheries to compensate for any lost egg production; and

1 (D) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches for
2 replacing any lost stocking capacity.

3 (5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting
4 any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish
5 hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism,
6 and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

7 (6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall not close without prior approval of
8 the General Assembly, which shall be provided if:

9 (A) the hatchery is unable to secure the necessary permits to continue
10 operating after December 31, 2027; or

11 (B) the stocking capacity of the hatchery can be replaced in a manner
12 that is more cost-effective than the up-front and operating costs of the capital
13 improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the necessary permits to
14 continue operating after December 31, 2027.

15 Sec. 13. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY; ANNUAL REPORT

16 On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural
17 Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on
18 Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees
19 on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding
20 efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish

1 production and stocking capacity of Vermont’s State-operated fish hatcheries,

2 including:

3 (1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the
4 Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027;

5 (2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury
6 fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally operated fish
7 hatcheries, including estimated costs;

8 (3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish
9 hatchery to one or more State-operated fish hatcheries for the purpose of
10 replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery’s egg production, including estimated
11 costs;

12 (4) the potential to employ innovative or more cost-effective approaches
13 than those identified pursuant to subdivisions (1)–(3) of this section to replace
14 any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery,
15 including estimated costs; and

16 (5) options for limiting negative economic impact of the potential
17 closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027, including
18 impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from
19 the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

1 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION

2 In addition to other monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural
3 Resources in fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$550,000.00 is appropriated from
4 the General Fund for purposes of operating the Salisbury fish hatchery during
5 fiscal year 2025.

6 * * * Buildings and General Services * * *

7 Sec. 15. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 22. SALE OF PROPERTIES

9 * * *

10 (c) 108 Cherry Street. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the
11 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the
12 property located at 108 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington. The
13 Commissioner shall first offer in writing to the City the right to purchase the
14 property.

15 * * *

16 (3) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(d) and 29 V.S.A. § 160, of the
17 proceeds received by the State for the sale of the property located at 108
18 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington, \$6,242,500.00 shall be deposited into
19 the Property Management Revolving Fund (58700) to recover the deficit
20 incurred in the fund as a result of the original purchase of the property and,
21 notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 168(c), \$293,753.63 shall be deposited into the

1 State Energy Revolving Fund (59700) to repay debt outstanding for loans for
2 energy improvement projects on the property.

3 Sec. 16. SALE OF FORMER WILLISTON STATE POLICE BARRACKS;
4 INTENT; REPORT

5 It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Town of Williston shall
6 report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on
7 Corrections and Institutions in January 2025 regarding:

8 (1) whether the town desires to purchase the property; and

9 (2) if so:

10 (A) the feasibility of the Town purchasing the property, including
11 any requested conditions on the sale of the property; and

12 (B) the potential future uses of the property envisioned by the Town.

13 Sec. 17. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 36 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 36. PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD STATION; WILLISTON

15 * * *

16 (b) The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and
17 General Services is authorized to sell the Williston Public Safety Field Station
18 and adjacent land pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The
19 proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction
20 projects.

1 Sec. 18. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 34 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 34. WILLISTON PUBLIC SAFETY BARRACKS; SALE

3 ~~The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General
4 Services is authorized to sell the property known as the Williston Public Safety
5 Barracks (State Office Building) located at 2777 St. George Road in Williston,
6 Vermont pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The proceeds from
7 the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects.

8 Sec. 19. 29 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

9 § 152. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

10 (a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in addition to the
11 duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, shall have the authority to:

12 * * *

13 (3) Prepare or cause to be prepared plans and specifications for
14 construction and repair on all State-owned buildings:

15 * * *

16 (B) For which no specific appropriations have been made by the
17 General Assembly or the Emergency Board. The Commissioner may, with the
18 approval of the Secretary of Administration, acquire an option, ~~for a price not~~
19 ~~to exceed \$75,000.00,~~ on an individual property without prior legislative
20 approval, for a price not to exceed five percent of the listed sale price of the
21 property, provided the option contains a provision stating that purchase of the

1 property shall occur only upon the approval of the General Assembly and the
2 appropriation of funds for this purpose. The State Treasurer is authorized to
3 advance a sum not to exceed ~~\$75,000.00~~ five percent of the listed sale price of
4 the property, upon warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and
5 Management for the purpose of purchasing an option on a property pursuant to
6 this subdivision.

7 * * *

8 (19) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are
9 authorized within the same section of ~~an annual~~ a biennial capital construction
10 act.

11 (20) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are
12 authorized within different capital construction acts, with the approval of the
13 Secretary of Administration, when the unexpended project balance does not
14 exceed ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00, or with the additional approval of the
15 Emergency Board when such balance exceeds ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00.

16 * * *

17 (22) Use the contingency fund appropriation to cover shortfalls for any
18 project approved in any capital construction act; however, transfers from the
19 contingency in excess of ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 shall be done with the
20 approval of the Secretary of Administration.

21 * * *

1 Sec. 20. 29 V.S.A. § 166 is amended to read:

2 § 166. SELLING OR RENTING STATE PROPERTY

3 * * *

4 (b)(1) Upon authorization by the General Assembly, which may be granted
5 by resolution, and with the advice and consent of the Governor, the
6 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may sell real estate owned
7 by the State. ~~Such~~ The property shall be sold to the highest bidder ~~therefor~~ at
8 public auction or upon sealed bids ~~in~~ at the discretion of the Commissioner of
9 Buildings and General Services, who may reject any or all bids, or the
10 Commissioner is authorized to list the sale of property with a real estate agent
11 licensed by the State. In no event shall the property be sold for less than fair
12 market value as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with an
13 independent real estate broker or appraiser, or both, retained by the
14 Commissioner, unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 21. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; POTENTIAL
17 LAND TRANSFER; REPORT

18 (a) The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the
19 Department of Buildings and General Services, shall evaluate the potential
20 transfer of a portion of the former Southeast State Correctional Facility

1 property to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for inclusion in the adjacent
2 wildlife management area. The evaluation shall:

3 (1) delineate the portions of the former Southeast State Correctional
4 Facility property that could be used for future redevelopment of the site, taking
5 into account any necessary setbacks from wetlands, streams, or wildlife
6 habitat;

7 (2) identify any portions of the property that could be transferred into
8 the adjacent wildlife management area and potential impacts on the
9 redevelopment or sale of the property from the transfer of the identified
10 portions; and

11 (3) identify any rights of way or easements that will be necessary for the
12 potential future redevelopment of any retained portion of the property.

13 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife
14 and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall report to the
15 House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee
16 on Institutions regarding the evaluation and any legislative action that may be
17 necessary to facilitate a proposed transfer or redevelopment of the property.

18 Sec. 22. FORENSIC FACILITY; NEEDS; REVIEW; REPORT

19 (a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation
20 with the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Disabilities, Aging, and
21 Independent Living, shall review the programming needs and facility

1 requirements of individuals who will be housed in a proposed forensic facility.
2 The review shall be performed during fiscal year 2025 using funds from the
3 Department of Buildings and General Service’s base appropriation as the
4 Commissioner determines to be appropriate. The Commissioner shall report,
5 on or before February 1, 2025, to the Senate Committees on Appropriations
6 and on Institutions and to the House Committees on Appropriations and on
7 Corrections and Institutions regarding the findings of the review.

8 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital
9 construction and State bonding act shall include funding for the design and
10 development of the proposed forensic facility.

11 Sec. 23. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES YOUTH

12 SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION AND TREATMENT CENTER;

13 LONG-TERM LEASE; AUTHORIZATION

14 Notwithstanding any provisions of 29 V.S.A. § 165(h) or 29 V.S.A.
15 § 166(a) to the contrary, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services
16 is authorized to enter into a long-term ground lease agreement at a below-
17 market rate for an initial term of not more than 20 years with not more than
18 four five-year renewal options for the Department for Children and Families
19 Youth Short Term Stabilization and Treatment Center. At the end of the term
20 and any renewals, the ground lease shall terminate.

1 Sec. 25. STATE HOUSE; IMPROVEMENTS; DESIGN; SPECIAL
2 COMMITTEE

3 (a)(1) To allow the Department of Buildings and General Services to begin
4 the design development phase, it is the intent of the General Assembly to
5 approve a schematic design plan for accessibility, life safety, and mechanical
6 systems improvements to the State House identified in Scenario 1, as approved
7 by the Joint Legislative Management Committee on December 15, 2023 and
8 excluding any improvements that would impact committee rooms.

9 (2) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide
10 the Special Committee established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
11 with a draft schematic design plan for the work identified pursuant to
12 subdivision (1) of this subsection on or before July 15, 2024 and a final
13 schematic design plan on or before September 15, 2024.

14 (b)(1) A Special Committee to be called the Special Committee on State
15 House Improvements consisting of the Joint Legislative Management
16 Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and
17 Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions is established.

18 (2) The Special Committee is authorized to meet to:

19 (A) review and recommend alterations to the draft schematic design
20 to be submitted on or before July 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this

1 section at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee
2 meeting; and

3 (B) review and approve the final schematic design to be submitted on
4 or before September 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this section at a
5 regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

6 (c) In making its decision, the Special Committee shall consider:

7 (1) how the design impacts the ability of the General Assembly to
8 conduct legislative business;

9 (2) whether the design allows for public access to citizens;

10 (3) the financial consequences to the State of approval or disapproval of
11 the proposal; and

12 (4) whether any potential alternatives are available.

13 (d) The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as
14 provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

15 * * * Corrections * * *

16 Sec. 26. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 28 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 28. REPLACEMENT WOMEN’S FACILITIES; SITE LOCATION
18 PROPOSAL; DESIGN INTENT

19 (a) Site location proposal.

20 (1)~~(A) Site location proposal.~~ On or before January 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, the
21 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall submit a site location

1 proposal for replacement women’s facilities for justice-involved women to the
2 House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee
3 on Institutions.

4 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

5 (i) when evaluating site locations, preference shall be given to
6 State-owned property; and

7 (ii) the site location, regardless of whether it is on State-owned
8 land or land proposed to be purchased by the State, shall be:

9 (I) near support services, programming, and work opportunities
10 needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

11 (II) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to
12 facilitate retention and continuity of experienced staff.

13 (C)(i) The proposal shall consider both collocating facilities in a
14 campus-style approach for operational efficiencies and the need for separate
15 facilities at different locations.

16 (ii) The proposal shall consider the proximity of existing and
17 potential future public transit services.

18 * * *

1 Sec. 27. REPLACEMENT WOMEN’S FACILITIES; AUTHORITY TO
2 PURCHASE LAND; INTENT; REPORT

3 (a) Contingent authority to purchase land. In the event that the
4 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the
5 Commissioner of Corrections, is unable to identify appropriate State-owned
6 site locations for the replacement facilities for justice-involved women, the
7 Commissioner is authorized to purchase land in a location that is:

8 (1) near support services, programming, and work opportunities needed
9 to facilitate successful reentry into the community;

10 (2) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to facilitate
11 retention and continuity of experienced staff; and

12 (3) near existing or potential future public transit services.

13 (b) Reports. Beginning in July 2024 and ending in January 2025, the
14 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the
15 Commissioner of Corrections, shall report at least once per calendar quarter to
16 the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
17 Committee on Institutions regarding progress in fulfilling the requirements of
18 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 28 and subsection (a) of this section.

1 Sec. 28. POTENTIAL REUSE OF CHITTENDEN REGIONAL

2 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SITE; FEASIBILITY; REPORT

3 (a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and
4 General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall
5 report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
6 Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary regarding the feasibility of
7 utilizing the site of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for a reentry
8 facility for eligible justice-involved men following the construction of
9 replacement facilities for justice-involved women.

10 (b) The report shall:

11 (1)(A) evaluate the condition and structure of the existing facility to
12 determine if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility in a manner that supports
13 the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based
14 principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices;
15 and

16 (B) if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility, the improvements and
17 other work necessary to support the programmatic goals of the Department of
18 Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for
19 supporting trauma-informed practices and the estimated cost of performing the
20 work;

1 (2)(A) evaluate whether a new reentry facility could be constructed on
2 the site following the demolition of some or all of the existing facility;

3 (B) identify potential designs for a newly constructed reentry facility
4 at the site that supports the programmatic goals of the Department of
5 Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for
6 supporting trauma-informed practices; and

7 (C) identify any site work, improvements, and other work necessary
8 to construct a new reentry facility on the site, including the cost of any such
9 work; and

10 (3) if the existing facility cannot be repurposed as a reentry facility and a
11 new reentry facility cannot be constructed on the site, identify other potential
12 sites for a male reentry facility that are near:

13 (A) support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to
14 facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

15 (B) existing or potential future public transit services.

16 (c) As used in this section, “reentry facility” means a facility at which
17 incarcerated individuals prepare to transition back into the community
18 following release. Reentry facilities provide services, or enable incarcerated
19 individuals to obtain services, that will facilitate the transition back into the
20 community, including career and housing supports, vocational education, job
21 placement, mental health counseling, substance use disorder treatment or

1 recovery services, financial education, assistance with obtaining public
2 benefits, and other similar services.

3 (d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital
4 construction and State bonding act shall include funding for the preparation of
5 the report required pursuant to this section.

6 * * * Judiciary * * *

7 Sec. 29. BARRE; WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE;
8 LAND ACQUISITION; AUTHORIZATION; COMMUNICATION
9 WITH CITY

10 (a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation
11 with the Judiciary, is authorized to use the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts
12 and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) and (d)(4) to purchase land as needed to
13 renovate or replace the Washington County Superior Courthouse.

14 (b) The Commissioner shall:

15 (1) consult with the City of Barre on potential options for renovating or
16 replacing the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre; and

17 (2) provide updates to the City on progress made with respect to
18 renovating or replacing the Courthouse.

1 Sec. 30. WHITE RIVER JUNCTION; WINDSOR COUNTY SUPERIOR
2 COURTHOUSE; TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF EMPLOYEES

3 It is the intent of the General Assembly that following completion of the
4 renovations to the Windsor County Superior Courthouse in White River
5 Junction, the offices of the Windsor County State’s Attorney shall be relocated
6 to the leased office space at 55 Railroad Row that is being used as temporary
7 office space for Courthouse employees during the renovation.

8 * * * Effective Date * * *

9 Sec. 31. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE