

1 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 * * *

4 (e) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2025, funds are
5 appropriated for the following:

6 * * *

7 (5) \$1,300,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank. It is
8 the intent of the General Assembly that \$1,000,000 of these funds be
9 distributed proportionally to Vermont Foodbank's network partner food
10 shelves.

DRAFT

1 Sec. B.1104 APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDS; FISCAL YEAR

2 2025

3 (a) To the extent that any base funding appropriation that would have
4 otherwise come from the General Fund or a special fund has been replaced in
5 this act with the appropriation of an equivalent amount of American Rescue
6 Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars, it is the intent of
7 the General Assembly that this funding replacement for eligible expenses is a
8 one-time funding option for fiscal year 2025 that shall not recur. Any agency
9 or department impacted by this funding replacement in fiscal year 2025 shall
10 include an equivalent amount of General Fund or relevant special fund in its
11 budget proposal in future fiscal years in order to maintain its base
12 appropriation.

1 Sec. C.118 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.112 is amended to read:

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

4 * * *

5 (b) Agency of Education; PCB remediation and removal reimbursement.
6 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), \$29,500,000 and the unexpended funds
7 identified under subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be appropriated from
8 the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 for the
9 following purposes:

10 (1) Grants to schools in the State that are required to conduct
11 investigation, remediation, or removal of PCB contamination in the school
12 after Agency of Natural Resources testing but have not received a grant from
13 the Agency of Education for the costs of investigation, environmental
14 assessment, planning, management, remediation, or removal. The grants shall
15 be in an amount sufficient to pay for 100 percent of the school's investigation,
16 remediation, environmental assessment, planning, management, or removal
17 costs required by the Agency of Natural Resources Investigation and
18 Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule, including the costs incurred,
19 when necessary, under State or federal law to relocate students to a facility
20 during remediation or removal activities.

21 (2) Grants to schools in the State that conducted investigation,
22 environmental assessment, planning, management, remediation, or removal of
23 PCBs in the school after Agency of Natural Resources testing and received a

1 grant for 80 percent of the costs of investigation, remediation, environmental
2 assessment, planning, management, or removal from the Agency of Education.

3 The grants under this subdivision (2) shall be in an amount that will reimburse
4 the school for any remediation or removal costs not paid by the Agency of
5 Natural Resources.

6 (3) A grant to the Burlington School District to reimburse the school
7 district for the actual cost of associated with the management, demolition, and
8 removal of PCB contamination at Burlington High School, including ancillary
9 costs related to environmental assessments and planning not to exceed
10 \$16,000,000.

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1 Sec. C.119 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.101, as amended by 2024
2 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 55 is further amended to read:

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

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

6 * * *

7 (c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal
8 year 2024, the following amount shall revert to the General Fund
9 from the general funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this
10 act for the Global Commitment Program:

11 * * *

12 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year
13 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Education Fund from the
14 accounts indicated:

15	5100010000	Administration	\$1,280,710.79
16	5100110000	Small School Grant	\$391,067.00
17	5100200000	Education – Technical Education	\$1,204,216.38
18	5100892310	Education – Universal Meals	\$6,823,849.84 <u>\$9,423,849.84</u>

1 Sec. C.120 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2024
2 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 40, is further amended to read:

3 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME
4 APPROPRIATIONS

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

7 * * *

8 (5) \$6,250,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to
9 municipalities that were impacted by the July 2023 flooding event in counties
10 that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public
11 Assistance funds under federal disaster declaration DR-4720-VT. It is the
12 intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be
13 distributed to municipalities throughout the state to address the secondary
14 economic impacts of the July 2023 flooding event . Monies from these grants
15 shall not be expended on FEMA-related projects.

16 * * *

17 (B) \$3,000,000 of the funds appropriated in this subdivision (a)(5) for
18 local economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

19 * * *

20 (vi) \$15,000 to the Town of Hardwick.

1 Sec. E.106 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

2 APPROPRIATIONS; REVERSION AND REALLOCATION

3 (a) The Agency of Administration shall structure any existing Coronavirus
4 State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) program in accordance with the requirements of
5 31 C.F.R. Part 35 and in a manner designed to achieve the intent of the General
6 Assembly and may reallocate unspent funds across governmental units in an
7 overall net-neutral manner.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Finance and Management is authorized to revert
9 all unobligated SFR monies prior to December 31, 2024. The total amount of
10 SFR monies reverted in accordance with this subsection shall be allocated
11 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 to the following purposes in the following order:

12 (1) \$36,000,000 to the Department of Public Safety Division of
13 Emergency Management for FEMA match or municipal support for hazard
14 mitigation. Any unused funds shall be deposited in the Community Resilience
15 and Disaster Mitigation Fund.

16 (2) \$4,000,000 to the Agency of Administration for Administration
17 costs, including for anticipated audit response per 2021 Acts and Resolves No.
18 74, Sec. G.801(a) and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G.801(A).

19 (3) \$30,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
20 (VHCB) to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and
21 preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing homeownership units,
22 including improvements to manufactured homes and communities, permanent
23 homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness, recovery

1 residences, and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals
2 who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based
3 services.

4 (4) \$25,000,000 to the Department of Housing and Community
5 Development for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency for the
6 Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program and the Vermont
7 Rental Revolving Loan Fund.

8 (5) Any remaining funds shall be reallocated, with the express
9 authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee, to existing SFR programs
10 established by the General Assembly.

11 (c) If previously obligated SFR monies become unobligated after
12 December 31, 2024, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may, with
13 the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, revert the unobligated SFR monies
14 and allocate the monies for expenditure pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 to any
15 existing SFR programs in accordance with the requirements of 31 C.F.R. Part
16 35.

1 Sec. E.232 SECRETARY OF STATE; VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK
2 BUDGET

3 (a) As part of its fiscal year 2026 budget presentation, the Office of the
4 Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Vermont Access Network,
5 submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with
6 recommendations for funding the Network's current operations and
7 programming in future fiscal years.

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1 Sec. E.306.4 MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS; INCOME ELIGIBILITY

2 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall make the following changes to the

3 Medicare Savings Programs:

4 (1) increase the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program income

5 threshold to 145 percent of the federal poverty level;

6 (2) eliminate the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program;

7 and

8 (3) increase the Qualifying Individual Program income threshold to 190

9 percent of the federal poverty level.

10

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1 Sec. E.306.5 MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS; MEDICAID STATE
2 PLAN AMENDMENT; VPHARM TRANSITION; REPORT

3 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall request approval from the Centers
4 for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont's Medicaid state plan
5 to expand eligibility for the Medicare Savings Programs as set forth in Sec.
6 E.306.4 of this act.

7 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall
8 provide recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care, on Human
9 Services, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and
10 Welfare and on Appropriations regarding the VPharm program to ensure
11 alignment with the Medicare Savings Program eligibility expansion set forth in
12 Sec. E.306.4 of this act, including:

13 (1) whether the VPharm program should be modified or repealed as a
14 result of the Medicare Savings Program eligibility expansion;

15 (2) whether the benefits provided by the VPharm program should be
16 delivered through an alternative program design;

17 (3) the estimated fiscal impacts of implementing any recommended
18 changes; and

19 (4) when any recommended changes should take effect.

20 (c) The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Vermont Health
21 Access shall seek input from the Office of the Health Care Advocate and other
22 interested stakeholders in developing the recommendations required by this
23 section.

1 Sec. E.338.1 CORRECTIONS; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2 ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMS

3 (a) \$850,000 of the General Fund appropriation made in Sec. B.338.1 of
4 this act shall be for an annual grant to the Vermont Network Against Domestic
5 and Sexual Violence for Domestic Violence Accountability Programs.

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1 Sec. E.339 OUT OF STATE BED SAVINGS; PRETRIAL SUPERVISION
2 PROGRAM

3 (a) To the extent that the need for the General Fund dollars appropriated
4 to the Department of Corrections for out of state beds in Sec. B.339 of this act
5 is reduced, it is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds be
6 reappropriated to the Department of Corrections for the Pretrial Supervision
7 Program.

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1 Sec. E.345.1 GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; REFERENCE-BASED
2 PRICING; DATA ANALYSIS; REPORT

3 (a) The funds appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board in Sec.
4 B.1100(X)(X) of this act shall be for a contract with a qualified entity for a
5 reference-based pricing analysis that will analyze commercial medical claims
6 for all inpatient and outpatient hospital services and supplies incurred by active
7 and retired members and their dependents enrolled in the State Employees'
8 Health Benefit Plan and in the health benefit plans offered by the Vermont
9 Education Health Initiative during calendar years 2018 to the most recent year
10 for which data are available, to determine what savings, if any, could have
11 been realized for that period if a reference-based pricing methodology
12 benchmarked to Medicare rates had been applied.

13 (b) On or before December 15, 2024, the Green Mountain Care Board shall
14 report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Government
15 Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Health and
16 Welfare and on Government Operations with the results of the analysis and
17 any recommendations for legislative action.

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