



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. Johnson, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
From: Rep. Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Date: March 12, 2015  
Subject: Review of Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY 2016 Budget

The House Ways and Means had reviewed the provisions in the budget and these are the Committee recommendations.

**Appropriations to implement new revenue sources (Payroll Tax Proposal)**

**Sec. E.111.1**

The Ways and Means Committee has not made decisions about revenue options for the 2016 fiscal year so it is premature to include these particular appropriations which relate specifically to implementation of the payroll tax. The committee will consider the state budget impact of any potential revenue proposals and will work with the Appropriations Committee to make sure that implementation costs are estimated and accounted for in the FY16 budget.

**Agency of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Conservation laboratory analytical services merged into a single laboratory functional group.**

**Sec. E.225.2** 6 V.S.A. Sec. 121

**Sec. E.225.3** 6 V.S.A. Sec. 122

**Sec. E.225.4** REPEAL

The Ways and Means Committee approves of the proposed fee changes needed to achieve the merged laboratory. In the future, we recommends that these fees be included in the agency's periodic fee proposals and be considered as part of the fee bill.

### **Appropriation and transfer to the Education Fund**

#### **Sec. E.513** Appropriation and transfer to education fund

The Ways and Means Committee strongly supports a full General Fund transfer amount to the Education Fund to maintain our commitment to education and prevent further pressure on property taxes.

Although our committee does not have jurisdiction over the appropriation to Community High School of Vermont, individual members expressed support for the program and concern about the negative impacts of proposed reductions. Community High School of Vermont is funded through the Education Fund and we believe there is sufficient money in the fund to continue to support it. The committee also recognized that costs may be high and we support efforts to explore ways to reduce the costs per pupil without compromising the services offered.

### **Tourism and Marketing Dedication of revenues above a threshold**

#### **Sec. E.806** TOURISM AND MARKETING INITIATIVE

The Ways and Means Committee does not support this provision in the FY 2016 budget recommendations. The committee opposes dedicating general fund revenue sources for particular programs and we are concerned about the precedent this would set. As a matter of policy, we believe that general fund revenue sources should be allocated through the budget process and not circumvented by the allocation of revenues for individual programs.