

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution
H.R. 16

House resolution supporting sufficient appropriations for the Environmental Contingency Fund and the Emergency Medical Services Fund to meet their statutory purposes during fiscal year 2019

Offered by: Representative Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas, contamination of the water supplies in Vermont communities is a significant public health problem, and

Whereas, when privately or publicly owned water supplies are contaminated, alternative and possibly costly measures or equipment may be required to restore safe drinking water, and

Whereas, the Environmental Contingency Fund, codified at 10 V.S.A. § 1283, was established “to investigate or mitigate, or both, the effects of hazardous material releases to the environment,” and

Whereas, more specifically, 10 V.S.A. § 1283(b)(5) provides for the reimbursement of “ private persons or municipalities for expenditures made to provide alternative water supplies or to take other emergency measures deemed necessary by the Secretary [of Natural Resources] in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to protect the public health from hazardous material,” and

Whereas, in recent years, the General Assembly has failed to appropriate sufficient funding for either the operational or capital construction components of the Environmental Contingency Fund, and

Whereas, first responder organizations can be engaged in training exercises or responding to emergency situations that stretch these organizations’ budgetary resources, and

Whereas, first responder organizations should never be confronted with the dilemma of reducing training or refusing a call for assistance due to budgetary constraints, and

Whereas the Emergency Medical Services Response Fund, codified at 18 V.S.A. § 908, was established “to support online and regional training programs, data collection and analysis, and other activities relating to the training of emergency medical personnel and delivery of emergency medical services and ambulance services in Vermont,” and

Whereas, State appropriations for this Fund have been insufficient to meet the financial requirements of first responder organizations that are beyond the capacity of either local municipalities or individual supporters to finance satisfactorily, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, as applicable, to propose to the House sufficient appropriations for the Environmental Contingency Fund and the Emergency Medical Services Fund to meet their statutory purposes during fiscal year 2019.