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MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Carolyn Partridge, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture & Forestry

From: Representative Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

Date: February 7, 2017

Subject: Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY 2018 State Budget

The House Appropriations Committee has started work on the Governor's proposed FY 2018 State Budget bill and would like to inform you about proposals related areas of your subject area. A summary of these areas is listed on page 2 followed by the excerpts from the Administration proposed language.

The House Appropriations Committee welcomes and appreciates your input and would like to give you the opportunity to comment on any of the proposals; however, it is not necessary to respond to all of the proposals unless you have concerns or recommendations. If you do not wish to comment on any of the issues sent to your committee, please send a quick e-mail or note to the Committee through Theresa Utton-Jerman at tutton@leg.state.vt.us or the reporter of the subject area. If you would like to respond, it would be helpful if you could do so by the end of the day on March 1st. As a note, the Committee understands that there may be unanticipated policy changes after the deadline that may require additional discussions and recommendations by policy committees and we encourage those. Please keep the Committee apprised of any updates to earlier recommendations, through the reporter or Chair, as they develop.

There are several House Appropriations Committee budget reporters for these subject areas, please click [here](#) to review the list or go to the highlights section of the committee's webpage. If you have not already done so, please notify Theresa who your committee's budget liaison/s is for coordination and communications between the two committees.

Summary of Budget Review Sections

Language proposals:

- transfer from the Clean Water Fund to the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund in Sec. D.101(a)(2);
- three additional positions in the Agency of Agriculture in Sec. E.100; and
- an appropriation of \$805,352 to Working Lands Enterprise Board for investments and expenditures in Sec. E.224.

Budget Review Sections

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

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts are transferred from the funds indicated:

(2) From the Clean Water Fund established by 10 V.S.A. § 1388 to the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund created under 6 V.S.A. §4803: \$1,225,000.

EXPLANATION: Transfer from the Clean Water Fund to the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund. Transfer includes \$850,000 for grants and \$375,000 for staff and operating costs

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITION AUTHORIZATIONS

(a) The establishment of the following new permanent classified positions are authorized in fiscal year 2018:

(1) In the Agency of Agriculture – (1) Paralegal, (1) Program Development & Policy Analyst, and (1) Microbiologist.

(2) In the Department of Tax – two (2) tax examiners.

(b) The positions established in this section shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch, and shall not increase the total number of authorized State positions defined in Sec. A.107 of this act.

EXPLANATION: Additional positions need for the Agency of Agriculture for operations. Department of Tax positions are needed to support the work associated with the transfer of the employer assessment from the Department of Labor. These positions will be allocated to departments from positions in the position pool; no new positions will be established.

Sec. E.224 Agriculture, food and markets – agricultural development

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.224 of this act, the amount of \$805,352 in general funds is appropriated for expenditure by the Working Lands Enterprise Board established in 6 V.S.A. § 4606 for administrative expenses, and investments in food and forest systems and services providers pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 4607 and consistent with the funding priorities in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 142, Sec. 5, as amended by 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.224.1.

EXPLANATION: The appropriation for the Working Lands program is maintained with grant-making focused on the service provider investment area, which provides technical assistance and educational services to agricultural and forestry and forest products enterprises.