

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Institutions to which was referred House Bill No. 923
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 Sec. 1. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

10 * * *

11 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2018:

12 * * *

13 (13) Burlington, 108 Cherry Street, ~~parking garage, repairs design,~~
14 engineering, and architectural costs for the repair of the parking garage and
15 related eligible project costs: \$5,000,000.00 \$3,674,323.00

16 (c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019:

17 (1) Statewide, planning, use, and contingency:

18 \$500,000.00 \$600,000.00

19 (2) Statewide, major maintenance: \$5,707,408.00 \$6,900,000.00

20 * * *

1 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services determines it is in the best
2 interests of the State to sell the John J. Zampieri State Office Building at 108
3 Cherry Street in Burlington, he or she may notify the Chairs of the House
4 Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on
5 Institutions and request the approval to sell. The Chairs shall recommend to
6 approve or deny the request to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal
7 Committee may approve or deny the recommendation of the Chairs of the
8 House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee
9 on Institutions; provided, however, that an approval to sell shall also require
10 that the proceeds from the sale be appropriated to future capital construction
11 projects and expended within two years after the date of sale.

12 (f) For the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(13) of this section, the
13 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall evaluate all proposals
14 for a generator, including the use of a generator or battery backup. After
15 evaluation of the proposals, the Commissioner of Buildings and General
16 Services shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and
17 Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of the decision prior to
18 the purchase of a generator or battery backup. If required by 29 V.S.A.
19 chapter 6, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall ensure
20 that the Capitol Complex Commission is provided with the proposal.

1 Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions that an agreement has
2 been executed between the Brattleboro Retreat and the State of Vermont.

3 (B) The agreement described in subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection
4 (d) shall include the following provisions:

5 (i) the Brattleboro Retreat shall provide a minimum of 12 beds,
6 including level-1 beds, to the State for a period determined by the Secretary to
7 be in the best interests to the State; and

8 (ii) terms and conditions that ensure the protection of State
9 investment of capital appropriations.

10 (C) The State Treasurer shall approve the agreement described in
11 subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (d) prior to execution to ensure
12 compliance with applicable tax-exempt bond requirements.

13 (D) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and
14 Secretary of Human Services may also propose draft legislation to the House
15 Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on
16 Institutions that may be necessary to fulfill the agreement.

17 (3)(A) On or before October 15, 2018, the Secretary of Human Services
18 shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
19 and the Senate Committee on Institutions if an agreement between the
20 Brattleboro Retreat and the State of Vermont cannot be reached and shall
21 submit to them an alternative proposal for the 12 beds. The Secretary of

1 Human Services shall also send the alternative proposal to the Joint Fiscal
2 Committee.

3 (B) With approval of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro
4 Tempore of the Senate, as appropriate, the House Committee on Corrections
5 and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions may meet up to two
6 times when the General Assembly is not in session to evaluate, approve, or
7 recommend alterations to the proposal. The House Committee on Corrections
8 and Institutions' and the Senate Committee on Institutions' members shall be
9 entitled to receive a per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406.

10	<u>Appropriation – FY 2018</u>	<u>\$300,000.00</u>
11	<u>Appropriation – FY 2019</u>	<u>\$300,000.00</u> <u>\$5,900,000.00</u>
12	<u>Total Appropriation – Section 3</u>	<u>\$600,000.00</u> <u>\$6,200,000.00</u>

13 Sec. 3. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 4. JUDICIARY

15 * * *

16 (c) The sum of \$1,496,398.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the Judiciary
17 for the case management IT system.

18	<u>Appropriation – FY 2018</u>	<u>\$3,050,000.00</u>
19	<u>Appropriation – FY 2019</u>	<u>\$1,496,398.00</u>
20	<u>Total Appropriation – Section 4</u>	<u>\$3,050,000.00</u> <u>\$4,546,398.00</u>

1 Sec. 4. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 5. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3 * * *

4 (c) The sum of ~~\$200,000.00~~ \$300,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the
5 Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Commerce
6 and Community Development for major maintenance at historic sites
7 statewide.

8 (d) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019 to the Agency of
9 Commerce and Community Development for the following projects described
10 in this subsection:

11 (1) Underwater preserves: \$30,000.00

12 (2) Placement and replacement of roadside historic markers:
13 ~~\$15,000.00~~ \$29,000.00

14 (3) VT Center for Geographic Information, digital orthophotographic
15 quadrangle mapping: \$125,000.00

16 (4) Schooner Lois McClure, repairs and upgrades: \$25,000.00

17 (5) Civil War Heritage Trail, signs: \$30,000.00

18 * * *

19 Appropriation – FY 2018 \$450,000.00

20 Appropriation – FY 2019 ~~\$370,000.00~~ \$539,000.00

21 Total Appropriation – Section 5 ~~\$820,000.00~~ \$989,000.00

1 Sec. 5. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 6. GRANT PROGRAMS

3 * * *

4 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019 for Building
5 Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

6 * * *

7 (9) To the Enhanced 911 Board for the Enhanced 911 Compliance

8 Grants Program for school safety: \$400,000.00

9 Appropriation – FY 2018 \$1,475,000.00

10 Appropriation – FY 2019 \$1,400,000.00 \$1,800,000.00

11 Total Appropriation – Section 6 \$2,875,000.00 \$3,275,000.00

12 Sec. 6. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

13 Sec. 9. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

14 * * *

15 (b) The sum of ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to
16 the Vermont State Colleges for the projects described in subsection (a) of this
17 section.

18 Appropriation – FY 2018 \$2,000,000.00

19 Appropriation – FY 2019 ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00

1 **Total Appropriation – Section 9** **\$4,000,000.00**

2 **\$5,000,000.00**

3 Sec. 7. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 10. NATURAL RESOURCES

5 * * *

6 (e) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019 to the Agency of
7 Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the
8 projects described in this subsection:

9 * * *

10 (3) State’s share of the Federal Superfund and State Lead Hazardous
11 Waste Program (Elizabeth Mine and Ely Mine): ~~\$2,755,000.00~~ \$177,259.00

12 * * *

13 Appropriation – FY 2018 \$10,914,000.00

14 Appropriation – FY 2019 ~~\$8,205,000.00~~ \$5,627,259.00

15 Total Appropriation – Section 10 ~~\$19,119,000.00~~ \$16,541,259.00

16 Sec. 8. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 11. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

18 * * *

19 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2018 to the Agency of
20 Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation projects
21 described in this subsection:

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(4) Municipal Pollution Control Grants, pollution control projects and planning advances for feasibility studies, new projects (Ryegate, Springfield, ~~St. Johnsbury~~, and St. Albans): \$2,704,232.00

* * *

(d)(1) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2018 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the following projects:

~~(1)(A)~~ Statewide water quality improvement projects or other conservation projects: \$2,800,000.00

~~(2)(B)~~ Water quality farm improvement grants or fee purchase projects that enhance water quality impacts by leveraging additional funds: \$1,000,000.00

(2) A grant issued under subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection:

(A) shall not be considered a State grant under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 3 for purposes of calculating the maximum amount of a State water quality assistance award under 6 V.S.A. § 4824 or 4826; and

(B) may be used to satisfy a grant recipient's cost share requirements.

(e)(1) The ~~following sum of \$2,000,000.00 is~~ sums are appropriated in FY 2019 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for projects described in this subsection:

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(l) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019 to the Municipal

Mitigation Assistance Program in the Agency of Transportation:

(1) Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program:

\$1,000,000.00

(2) Better Roads Program:

\$1,400,000.00

(m) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the Agency of
Commerce and Community Development for the Downtown Transportation
Fund pilot project.

Appropriation – FY 2018 \$21,936,616.00

Appropriation – FY 2019 \$23,470,212.00 \$25,855,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 11 \$45,406,828.00 \$47,791,616.00

Sec. 9. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 12 is amended to read:

Sec. 12. MILITARY

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2019 to the Department of
Military for the projects described in this subsection:

(1) Maintenance, renovations, roof replacements, ADA renovations, and
energy upgrades at State armories. To the extent feasible, these funds shall be
used to match federal funds: \$700,000.00 \$780,000.00

(2) Bennington Armory, site acquisition: \$60,000.00

1	Appropriation – FY 2018	\$750,000.00
2	Appropriation – FY 2019	\$760,000.00 <u>\$840,000.00</u>
3	Total Appropriation – Section 12	\$1,510,000.00 <u>\$1,590,000.00</u>

4 Sec. 10. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

6 * * *

7 (b) ~~The sum of \$5,573,000.00 is~~ following sums are appropriated in
8 FY 2019 to the Department of Buildings and General Services ~~for:~~

9 (1) construction of the Williston Public Safety Field Station:

10 \$5,573,000.00

11 (2) East Cottage, Robert H. Wood Criminal Justice and Fire Training

12 Center, renovation and fit-up, and historic windows: \$1,850,000.00

13 (3) Berlin, scoping and preliminary design for the Berlin Public Safety

14 Field Station. \$35,000.00

15 (c) The sum of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the
16 Department of Public Safety for the School Safety and Security Grant
17 Program.

18	Appropriation – FY 2018	\$1,927,000.00
19	Appropriation – FY 2019	\$5,573,000.00 <u>\$11,458,000.00</u>
20	Total Appropriation – Section 13	\$7,500,000.00 <u>\$13,385,000.00</u>

1 Sec. 11. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 16 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 16. VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

3 * * *

4 (c) ~~The sum of \$50,000.00 is~~ following sums are appropriated in FY 2019
5 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for:

6 (1) resident care furnishings: \$50,000.00

7 (2) security, access system, and safety upgrades: \$100,000.00

8 (d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amounts appropriated
9 in ~~subsections~~ subsection (a) and subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be
10 used to match federal funds to purchase resident care furnishings for the
11 Veterans' Home.

12 (e) The Veterans' Home shall only use the funds appropriated in 2015 Acts
13 and Resolves No. 26, Sec. 16 for an electronic medical records system. These
14 funds shall be used to match federal funds and shall only become available
15 after the Veterans' Home notifies the Chairs of the House Committee on
16 Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions and the
17 Commissioner of Finance and Management that the electronic medical records
18 system is in compliance with the criteria for creating and maintaining
19 connectivity established by the Vermont Information Technology Leaders
20 pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9352(i).

1	Appropriation – FY 2018	\$390,000.00
2	Appropriation – FY 2019	\$50,000.00 <u>\$150,000.00</u>
3	<u>Total Appropriation – Section 16</u>	\$440,000.00 <u>\$540,000.00</u>

4 Sec. 12. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 16a is added to read:

5 Sec. 16a. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

6 The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the Department of
7 Labor to fund the Adult Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant
8 Pilot Program to provide equipment to support adult tech programs.

9 Sec. 13. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 16b is added to read:

10 Sec. 16b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

11 (a) The sum of \$15,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2019 to the Sergeant at
12 Arms to contract with a third party to conduct an assessment of the sound
13 system in the State House and 1 Baldwin Street pursuant to 2 V.S.A.
14 § 62(a)(8). The Sergeant at Arms shall submit a copy of the assessment to the
15 Committee on Joint Rules.

16 (b) On or before November 15, 2018, the Sergeant at Arms shall develop a
17 proposal for a sound system for the State House and 1 Baldwin Street based on
18 the assessment described in subsection (a) of this section. As part of the
19 proposal development process, the Sergeant at Arms may consult with the
20 Commissioner of Buildings and General Services.

1 Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of
2 this act:

3 * * *

4 (4) of the amount appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51,
5 Sec. 11(a)(1) (water pollution control): \$8,221.85

6 (5) of the amount appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26,
7 Sec. 11(a)(8) (municipal pollution control grants, Waterbury): \$136,824.00

8 (e) The following unexpended funds appropriated to the Agency of
9 Commerce and Community Development for capital construction projects are
10 reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 5(d) of this act, placement
11 and replacement of historic site markers:

12 (1) of the amount appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51,
13 Sec. 6(a)(2) (Bennington monument, structural repairs and ADA compliance)
14 \$1,224.51

15 (2) of the amount appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26,
16 Sec. 6(b) (Bennington monument, elevator, roof repairs): \$1,997.73

17 (3) of the amount appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26,
18 Sec. 6(c) (Bennington monument, elevator, roof repairs): \$6,469.60

19 (f) Of the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 3
20 (cellular and broadband infrastructure) to the Vermont Telecommunications
21 Authority for capital construction projects, the amount of \$1,972,322.98 in

1 unexpended funds is reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General
2 Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

3 Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 18

4 ~~\$14,822,286.78~~ \$17,939,541.85

5 Sec. 16. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 19 is amended to read:

6 Sec. 19. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

7 (a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in
8 the amount of \$132,460,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations
9 of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall
10 determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this
11 section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded.
12 The State Treasurer shall allocate the estimated cost of bond issuance or
13 issuances to the entities to which funds are appropriated pursuant to this
14 section and for which bonding is required as the source of funds, pursuant to
15 32 V.S.A. § 954.

16 (b) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue additional general obligation
17 bonds in the amount of \$10,936,961.00 that were previously authorized but
18 unissued under this act for the purpose of funding the appropriations of
19 this act.

20 Total Revenues – Section 19 ~~\$132,460,000.00~~ \$143,396,961.00

1 Sec. 17. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 20 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 20. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS; MISCELLANEOUS

3 * * *

4 ~~(b) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to~~
5 ~~sell the Rutland Multi-Modal Transit Center (parking garage) located at~~
6 ~~102 West Street in Rutland pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166.~~
7 ~~The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction~~
8 ~~projects. [Repealed.]~~

9 (c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to
10 sell or transfer the buildings and adjacent land located at 1987 Rockingham
11 Road in Rockingham (Troop Headquarters and Garage) pursuant to the
12 requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166; provided, however, that if a transfer occurs,
13 the buildings and adjacent land may only be transferred to another State
14 agency for a State use. If the buildings and adjacent land are sold, the proceeds
15 from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects and
16 expended within two years after the date of sale.

17 (d) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to
18 sell the Rutland Multi-Modal Transit Center (parking garage) located at
19 102 West Street in Rutland pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166.
20 The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction
21 projects and expended within two years after the date of sale.

1 (e)(1) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Department of Buildings
2 and General Services is authorized to sell or transfer to the City of Newport a
3 portion of the remaining lands of the State of Vermont and boardwalk located
4 north of the Emory A. Hebard State Office Building. The land and boardwalk
5 to be sold or transferred is described as being the land north of the bike path up
6 to the approximate shoreline of Lake Memphremagog, bounded on the west by
7 lands owned by the City of Newport and the Northern VT Railroad Co., Inc,
8 bounded on the east by lands owned by the City of Newport, and bounded on
9 the south by the right-of-way retained by Newport & Richford R.R.

10 (2) On or before October 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Buildings and
11 General Services shall have a survey prepared to more particularly describe
12 and delineate the land and boardwalk to be sold or transferred that is described
13 in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

14 Sec. 18. 2012 Acts and Resolves, No. 104, Sec. 14, amending 2011 Acts and
15 Resolves, No. 40, Sec. 26, is further amended to read:

16 Sec. 16. Sec. 26 of No. 40 of the Acts of 2011 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 26. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS; MISCELLANEOUS

18 ~~(a) The commissioner of buildings and general services may sell the Asa~~
19 ~~Bloomer State Office Building and the Rutland Multi-Modal Transit Center in~~
20 ~~accordance with the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166(d) and following~~
21 ~~negotiations with the City of Rutland. If negotiations with the city result in the~~

1 ~~city's management of the Transit Center, the commissioner may use \$81,000 in~~
2 ~~unexpended capital funds previously appropriated to the department for other~~
3 ~~purposes to purchase a flexible parking machine for the Transit Center. It is~~
4 ~~the intent of the general assembly that state offices remain downtown.~~

5 [Repealed.]

6 * * *

7 Sec. 19. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 1, Sec. 100(c), as amended by 2014 Acts
8 and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.113.1, 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58,
9 Sec. E.113.1, and 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 29, is further amended
10 to read:

11 (c) Sec. 97 (general obligation debt financing) shall take effect on ~~July 1,~~
12 ~~2018~~ July 1, 2019.

13 * * * Human Services * * *

14 Sec. 20. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; FACILITIES PLAN; UPDATE

15 On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Human Services, in
16 consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall
17 update the facilities plan and recommendations required by 2017 Acts and
18 Resolves No. 84, Sec. 31, taking into consideration changes proposed in the
19 2017 legislative session. The Agency's update shall include a review of the
20 populations and bed capacity needs described in 2017 Acts and Resolves No.
21 84, Sec. 31.

1 (5) sets forth how equipment will be maintained, insured, shared, and
2 transported, if applicable; and

3 (6) is endorsed by the Adult Career and Technical Education
4 Association.

5 (c) Grants awarded under this program shall be used to purchase capital-
6 eligible equipment. Grants shall not be used to support curriculum
7 development, instruction, or program administration.

8 (d) On or before July 15, 2018, the Department shall develop and publish a
9 simplified grant application that meets the criteria described in subsection (b)
10 of this section. The Department shall consult with the Agency of Education
11 and the State Workforce Development Board in reviewing applications and
12 selecting grantees.

13 (e) Grantees shall have ownership over any share of equipment purchased
14 with the use of these funds. Any equipment purchased from this program may
15 also be used by secondary career technical education programs.

16 (f) On or before February 15, 2019, the Department of Labor shall submit a
17 report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
18 Committee on Institutions that includes the following:

19 (1) how the funds were used, expected outcomes, recommended
20 performance metrics to ensure success of the program, and any other relevant
21 information that would inform future decisions about the use of this program;

1 with this section in a reasonable amount of time, and will do so in accordance
2 with standards and procedures adopted by the Board by rule.

3 Sec. 25. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Secs. 36a and 37a are added to read:

4 Sec. 36a. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

5 (a) Creation. There is created the School Safety and Security Grant
6 Program to be administered by the Department of Public Safety to enhance
7 safety and security in Vermont schools, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 3447.

8 (b) Use of funds. Grants authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall
9 be used for the planning, delivery, and installation of equipment for upgrades
10 to existing school security equipment and new school security equipment
11 identified through threat assessment planning and surveys designed to enhance
12 building security.

13 (c) Guidelines. The following guidelines shall apply to capital grants for
14 school safety measures:

15 (1) Grants shall be awarded competitively to schools for capital-eligible
16 expenses to implement safety and security measures identified in a security
17 assessment. Capital-eligible expenses may include video monitoring and
18 surveillance equipment, intercom systems, window coverings, exterior and
19 interior doors, locks, and perimeter security measures.

20 (2) Grants shall only be awarded after a security assessment has been
21 completed by the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety.

1 (3) The Program is authorized to award grants of up to \$25,000.00 per
2 school.

3 (d) Administration. The Department of Public Safety, in coordination with
4 the Agency of Education, shall administer and coordinate grants made pursuant
5 to this section. Grant funds shall not be used to administer the Program.

6 (e) Reporting. The Department of Public Safety shall provide notice of any
7 grants awarded under this section to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on
8 Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

9 * * * Sunset of School Security Grant Program * * *

10 Sec. 36b. REPEAL OF SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

11 The School Safety and Security Grant Program established in Sec. 17 of this
12 act shall be repealed on July 1, 2019.

13 * * * School Planning Grants * * *

14 Sec. 26. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING GRANTS FOR CAPITAL

15 CONSTRUCTION; UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

16 SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

17 (a) Applications for planning grants. The Secretary of Education shall
18 accept applications for planning grants for capital construction that would
19 result in the consolidation of student populations and the closure of at least one
20 building pursuant to the provisions of this section.

1 (b) Districts eligible to apply. A district is eligible to apply for a planning
2 grant under this section (eligible district) if it:

3 (1) is a unified union school district created by the affirmative votes of
4 the electorate between June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2018;

5 (2) is either its own supervisory district or is a member district within a
6 supervisory union;

7 (3) is fully operational or will be fully operational before July 2,
8 2019; and

9 (4) provides or has intended to provide education for students in the
10 same grade, after becoming fully operational, by operating more than one
11 school building offering that grade.

12 (c) Eligible projects.

13 (1) An eligible district can apply for a grant to reimburse the cost of
14 architects, engineers, or other professional planning costs under this section if
15 the proposed project will:

16 (A) consolidate the provision of education for all resident students in
17 at least four grade levels into one existing building that will house those grades
18 either by renovating or adding additional square-footage to that building or
19 both; and

20 (B) result in the closure of at least one existing building that houses
21 those grades in the year prior to the proposed consolidation of students.

1 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1)(A) of this
2 subsection, if an eligible district operates more than two schools providing
3 education in the pertinent grades, then a project is eligible under this section if
4 the project will result in the closure of at least one school building and the
5 consolidation of students into one or more remaining buildings.

6 (d) Process.

7 (1) An eligible district shall submit a written application to the Secretary
8 of Education on or before October 1, 2018. The application shall specify the
9 purpose of and need for the proposed eligible project, shall include educational
10 specifications based upon a facility analysis and enrollment projections, and
11 shall concisely provide details addressing the ways in which the proposed
12 project:

13 (A) will cause the eligible district to provide education in a manner
14 that is more educationally appropriate;

15 (B) will cause the eligible district to provide education in a manner
16 that provides greater educational opportunities in a more equitable manner;

17 (C) will result in or lead to sustained financial savings for the eligible
18 district;

19 (D) will result in or lead to more efficient use of statewide education
20 funds;

1 (E) will result in improvements that comply with standards for school
2 construction adopted by the Division of Fire Safety, the Agency of Natural
3 Resources, the Division for Historic Preservation, the Department of Health,
4 the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation,
5 and any standards of other State or federal agencies and local or regional
6 planning authorities; and

7 (F) will incorporate recommendations received after consultation
8 with the School Energy Management Program and Efficiency Vermont, as
9 appropriate.

10 (2) The Secretary, in consultation with other public and private entities
11 at the Secretary's discretion, shall evaluate and rank all eligible projects based
12 upon the proposed project's ability:

13 (A) to promote the goals outlined in subdivision (1) of this
14 subsection (d);

15 (B) to support increased connectivity, energy efficiency, and use of
16 renewable resources; and

17 (C) to cease using buildings that are inappropriate for direct
18 instruction due to, for example, conditions that threaten the health or safety of
19 students or employees, difficulty in complying with the requirements of the
20 Americans with Disabilities Act or other State or federal laws or regulations, or
21 excessive energy use.

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2

3

Senator _____

4

FOR THE COMMITTEE