

No. 85  
2017

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**No. 85. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.**

(H.542)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

(a) This bill may be referred to as the BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2018

Appropriations Act.

\* \* \*

Sec. E.204.1 Vermont Rule of Criminal Procedure 43(a) is amended to read:

(a) Presence Required.

(1) The defendant shall be present at the arraignment, at any subsequent time at which a plea is offered, at every stage of the trial including the impaneling of the jury and the return of the verdict, and at the imposition of sentence, except as otherwise provided by this rule.

(2) Arraignments shall be in person and shall be on the record and shall not be performed by video conferencing or other electronic means unless the defendant consents. Notwithstanding this subdivision, video conferencing may be used to effect the appearance of the defendant at status conferences, calendar calls, and other proceedings where the presence of the defendant is not required by this rule.

\* \* \*

Date Governor signed bill: June 28, 2017