

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 760

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 budget adjustments

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: In the First proposal of amendment, by striking out Sec. 34 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 34 to read as follows:

Sec. 34. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.346 is amended to read:

Sec. B.346 Total human services

Source of funds

General fund	997,706,686	1,007,088,907
Special funds	123,880,549	123,986,513
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	16,915,501	21,101,110
Federal funds	1,420,544,308	1,424,376,911
Global Commitment fund	1,590,055,367	1,593,280,128
Internal service funds	2,035,610	2,035,610
Interdepartmental transfers	39,446,402	36,346,190
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Total	4,213,697,631	4,231,328,577

Second: By striking out the Third proposal of amendment in its entirety

Third: By striking out the Sixth proposal of amendment in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sixth proposal of amendment to read as follows:

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 70 in its entirety and inserting three new sections to be numbered Secs. 70, 70a and 71 to read as follows:

Sec. 70. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 5, is amended to read:

Sec. 5. CREATION OF NEW CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS

~~On or before June 30, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall create 30 new Correctional Officer I positions in the Department of Corrections, which shall be funded within existing departmental appropriations.~~

(a) The establishment of the following permanent classified positions is authorized in fiscal year 2020:

(1) In the Department of Corrections – thirty (30) Correctional Officer I.

(b) The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Corrections shall report to the Legislative Joint Justice Oversight and Joint Fiscal Committees at their respective meetings in November 2020 on the status of correctional facility staff recruitment, retention and reduction in the use of overtime, and the status of initial and ongoing training for correctional facility staff. The Department shall also report on the transfer and conversion on any positions within the Department and into or out of the Department.

Sec. 70a. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; GRADUATED
SANCTIONS; REENTRY HOUSING; REPORT

(a) On or before April 1, 2020, the Department of Corrections shall report on how to strengthen existing graduated sanctions and incentives policies to ensure they reflect current research on best practices for responses to violation behavior that most effectively achieve behavior change and uphold public safety. The Department shall also identify reentry housing needs for corrections populations. As a part of this work, the Department shall report on how to:

(1) formalize the use of incentives and sanctions in supervision practices at a 4:1 ratio and require incentives to be entered and tracked in the community supervision case management system;

(2) analyze how supervision staff currently understand, implement, and input data regarding the Department's graduated sanctions policy to identify where practices differ across the State and, where necessary, provide additional staff training on the use and tracking of graduated sanctions;

(3) develop and implement a homeless screening tool for use when a person is booked into or released from Department facilities and track reports of homelessness among corrections populations in the Department's case management system;

(4) identify and quantify high utilizers of corrections, homeless, and behavioral health services; inform statewide permanent supportive housing planning; and establish data match partnerships with appropriate Agency of Human Services departments to match Department of Corrections, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Medicaid information;

(5) establish a collaborative approach for the Department, the Department of Mental Health, and the Vermont Department of Health to contract with housing providers to coordinate responses for shared clients and identify how the State can better leverage local and federal housing vouchers;

(6) leverage federal Medicaid funding or other funding to allow the Department's contractors' clients to stay in supportive housing after they are no longer under the supervision of the Department;

(7) reduce barriers to recovery housing by establishing evidence-based norms and expectations for contracts and certifications for sober and recovery housing providers, including allowing for the use of medications and restricting evictions due to relapse;

(8) redefine housing requirements for incarcerated persons in order to receive approval for furlough release; and

(9) improve data and case management systems.

(b) On or before April 1, 2020, the Department shall report to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on:

(1) the Department's plan to reduce its use of short-term incarceration sanctions for people on furlough, the number of short-term incarceration sanctions imposed, and the number of graduated sanctions imposed;

(2) recommendations for funding in the fiscal year 2021 budget; and

(3) the Department's progress toward completing the remaining work required by this section.

Sec. 71. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This act shall take effect on passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 52 (National Guard tuition benefit program) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2019.