

1 H.961

2 Introduced by Committee on Appropriations

3 Date:

4 Subject: Phase I fiscal year 2021; first quarter appropriations, federal

5 Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) pandemic necessitated

6 appropriations, pay act appropriations, and other fiscal requirements

7 for the first part of the fiscal year

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
9 this bill provides a transitional budget establishing appropriations for the first  
10 quarter of fiscal year 2021. This bill also contains federal Coronavirus Relief  
11 Fund (CRF) appropriations necessitated by the pandemic, pay act  
12 appropriations, and other fiscal requirements for the first part of the fiscal year.

13 An act relating to making first quarter fiscal year 2021 appropriations for  
14 the support of State government, federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)  
15 appropriations, pay act appropriations, and other fiscal requirements for the  
16 first part of the fiscal year

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

18 \* \* \* Transitional Fiscal Year 2021 First Quarter Appropriations \* \* \*

19 Sec. A.1. INTENT

20 (a) Intent. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue into the State's major  
21 funds are forecast to be significantly reduced. At the time of the passage of

1 this act, the full degree of this impact remains undefined. In addition, it is  
2 unclear if there will be changes in guidance concerning the use of current  
3 federal relief funding or if additional federal funding will be made available to  
4 the State. The intent of this transitional budget bill is to provide spending  
5 authority for the State to operate in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021 to meet  
6 statutory requirements while at the same time recognizing the need to address  
7 the longer-term issues raised by the expected substantial reduction in State  
8 revenues in fiscal year 2021 and beyond.

9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to develop the full fiscal year budget in  
10 August and September of 2020, after the establishment of new official State  
11 revenue forecasts for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

12 Sec. A.2. FISCAL CAPACITY

13 (a) Fiscal Capacity. The Secretary of Administration is authorized to  
14 establish fiscal capacity to the greatest extent possible in the first quarter of  
15 fiscal year 2021 through the following mechanisms:

16 (1) A nonessential position hiring freeze. From July 1 through  
17 September 30, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall not authorize  
18 positions to be filled unless a determination is made that filling the position is  
19 critical for State operation or pandemic response. The Secretary shall notify  
20 the Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee of any approved hiring that takes place  
21 during this period. Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 327(b) and 3 V.S.A. § 2222(i),

1 vacant positions shall not be swept to the position pool before September 30,  
2 2020 unless authorized by the Joint Fiscal Committee.

3 (2) Available fund balances. Fund balances at the close of fiscal year  
4 2020 and fund capacity projected to be available in fiscal year 2021 as result of  
5 collection of receipts deferred receipts from fiscal year 2020.

6 (3) Carryforward appropriation balances. Appropriation balances that  
7 are carried forward from fiscal year 2020.

8 (4) Available federal funds. Utilization of Federal Medical Assistance  
9 Percentage rate changes and federal funding streams related to COVID-19  
10 response and relief available for existing programs, including administrative  
11 allowances.

12 (b) The Administration shall not make changes to policies or program  
13 structure prior to the development and approval of the full 2021 budget unless  
14 such changes are submitted to and approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee.  
15 Any such approval shall be after soliciting input from relevant legislative  
16 policy committees.

17 (c) In their presentation of recommendations for the full fiscal year 2021  
18 budget in August and September 2020, agencies and departments shall report  
19 on any portion of the fiscal capacity achieved and authorized by this section.

1 Sec. A.3. PHASE I -DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2021

2 FIRST QUARTER

3 (a) The following appropriations of are made for the first quarter of fiscal  
4 year 2021 as follows:

5 (1) The Vermont Veterans' Home: \$598,000 General Fund.

6 (2) State Teachers' Retirement System: \$119,013,146 General Fund  
7 and \$6,881,055 Education Fund. This fully funds the fiscal year 2021  
8 obligation.

9 (3) Retired Teachers' Health Care and Medical Benefits: \$31,798,734  
10 General Fund. This fully funds the fiscal year 2021 obligation.

11 (4) State Treasurer Unclaimed Property: \$1,134,819 Private Purpose  
12 Trust Funds.

13 (5) Debt Service: \$75,828,995 General Fund, \$540,918 Transportation  
14 Fund, \$504,738 ARRA Fund, and \$2,502,613 TIB Debt Service Fund. This  
15 fully funds the fiscal year 2021 obligation.

16 (6) State Teachers' Retirement System Administration: \$5,929,795 of  
17 Pension Trust Fund.

18 (7) Vermont State Retirement System: \$5,672,641 of Pension Trust  
19 Fund.

20 (8) Municipal Employees' Retirement System: \$2,598,919 of Pension  
21 Trust Fund.

1           (9) Military's divisions will be appropriated General Fund as follows:

2                   (A) Military Administration: \$1,368,238.

3                   (B) Military Air Service Contract: \$210,693.

4                   (C) Military Building Maintenance: \$589,662.

5                   (D) Military Veterans' Affairs: \$217,257.

6           (b) In fiscal year 2021, there is appropriated General Funds to the Vermont  
7           State College System for one-time bridge funding to allow system  
8           restructuring to be implemented for the 2021/2022 academic year: \$5,000,000.

9           Sec. A.4. PHASE I -PRORATED APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR

10                   2021 FIRST QUARTER

11           (a) For all appropriations units that are not listed in Sec. A.3 of this act and  
12           were enacted pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, sections B.100  
13           through B.1001, as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, the following  
14           prorations shall apply to establish the Phase I interim appropriations for the  
15           operations of State government for the period beginning on July 1, 2020 and  
16           ending on September 30, 2020:

17                   (1) All funds in the Agency of Natural Resources except the General  
18           Fund: 50%.

19                   (2) All funds in the Agency of Transportation: 60%:

20                           (A) With the exception of the Clean Water Fund prorated at 50%  
21           pursuant to subdivision (6)(B) of this subsection (a).

1           (3) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation: 50%.

2           (4) Vermont State Colleges: 25%:

3                 (A) These funds are to be distributed in July 2020.

4           (5) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board: 40%.

5           (6) Payments in Lieu of Taxes: 100%.

6           (7) Clean Water Fund and Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund

7 appropriations shall be prorated:

8                 (A) Agency of Natural Resources: 50%.

9                 (B) Agency of Transportation: 50%.

10                (C) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets: 50%.

11                (D) Agency of Commerce and Community Development: 50%.

12                (E) Agency of Administration: 50%.

13           (8) All other appropriations:

14                 (A) 25% of General Fund appropriations.

15                 (B) 100% of all Education Fund appropriations.

16                 (C) 25% of all remaining appropriations by fund.

17       Sec. A.5. EMERGENCY BOARD AUTHORIZATION

18           (a) Between July 1 and September 30, 2020, pursuant to the conditions set

19 forth in 32 V.S.A. § 133(b) and in addition to the authority to transfer

20 appropriations pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 133(b), the Emergency Board is

21 authorized to make expenditures from the General Fund or from any reserve

1 within the General Fund pursuant to its authority under 32 V.S.A. § 133(a) or  
2 from other funds of the State. The appropriations in this section shall not  
3 exceed one percent of the total appropriations authorized in any fund by this  
4 act. This authority is to address any unforeseen spending requirements related  
5 to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 Sec. A.6. RESCISSION AUTHORITY LIMITATION

7 (a) The provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 704 shall not apply between July 1, 2020  
8 and September 30, 2020.

9 \* \* \* Budgetary Specifications and Amendments \* \* \*

10 (Secs. A.7 through A.30 apply to the appropriations established for the first  
11 quarter of fiscal year 2021 in Sec. A.3 and Sec. A.4 of this act that reference  
12 the 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Secs. B.100 through B.1001, as amended  
13 by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88 unless otherwise stated.)

14 \* \* \* General Government \* \* \*

15 Sec. A.7. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.100(d), as amended by  
16 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 4, Sec. 74, by 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172,  
17 Sec. E.100.2, by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. E.100.1, and by 2018  
18 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. E.100.1 is further amended to read:

19 (d) Position Pilot Program. A Position Pilot is hereby created to assist  
20 participating departments in more effectively managing costs of overtime,  
21 compensatory time, temporary employees, and contractual work by removing

1 the position cap with the goal of maximizing resources to the greatest benefit  
2 of Vermont taxpayers.

3 \* \* \*

4 (7) This Pilot shall sunset on ~~July 1~~ September 30, 2020, unless  
5 extended or modified by the General Assembly.

6 Sec. A.8. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 13. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCE  
8 SURCHARGE; REPEAL

9 (a) Surcharge

10 \* \* \*

11 (2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human  
12 Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of  
13 funding the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this  
14 act.

15 (b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~June 30, 2020~~ June 30, 2021.

16 Sec. A.9. [RESERVED]

17 Sec. A.10. Vermont state retirement system

18 (a) Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 473(d), in fiscal year 2021, investment fees  
19 shall be paid from the corpus of the Fund.



1       Sec. A.11. Payments in lieu of taxes

2           (a) This appropriation is for State payments in lieu of property taxes under  
3           32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4, and the payments shall be calculated in  
4           addition to and without regard to the appropriations for PILOT for Montpelier  
5           and for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act. Payments in lieu of taxes  
6           under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A.  
7           § 3709.

8       Sec. A.12. Payments in lieu of taxes – Montpelier

9           (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the  
10          PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

11       Sec. A.13. Payments in lieu of taxes – correctional facilities

12          (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the  
13          PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

14                               \* \* \* Protection to Persons and Property \* \* \*

15       Sec. A.14. Attorney general

16          (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Office of the Attorney  
17          General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to retain,  
18          subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries from  
19          Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State share of  
20          restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional recoveries

1 retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit  
2 activities.

3 Sec. A.15. Public safety – administration

4 (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a  
5 performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to  
6 provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the  
7 Commissioner of Public Safety and the Sheriff.

8 Sec. A.16. Public safety – fire safety

9 (a) Of this General Fund appropriation, \$13,750 shall be granted to the  
10 Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the purpose of designing dry  
11 hydrants.

12 Sec. A.17. Military – Administration

13 (a) The amount of \$1,026,105 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student  
14 Assistance Corporation for the National Guard educational assistance program  
15 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2856 and the National Guard Tuition Benefit  
16 Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

17 Sec. A.18. LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF MILITARY SECURITY

18 GUARD CLASS ACTION

19 (a) Pursuant to Article 16 (3)(f) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement in  
20 effect for fiscal year 2020, the Legislature approves for the Department of the  
21 Military:

1           (1) The spending of federal funds in fiscal year 2020 estimated to be  
2           \$87,453 to fund the reclassification of thirty (30) Security Guard positions  
3           representing a financial impact greater than one percent (1%).

4                                   \* \* \* Human Services \* \* \*

5           Sec. A.19. VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE RULES

6           (a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.  
7           chapter 25 to conform Vermont's rules regarding health care eligibility and  
8           enrollment and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to State  
9           and federal law and guidance. The Agency may use the emergency rules  
10           process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 prior to June 30, 2021, but only in the event  
11           that new State or federal law or guidance requires Vermont to amend or adopt  
12           its rules in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional  
13           rulemaking process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent  
14           circumstances shall be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of  
15           emergency rules required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

16           Sec. A.20. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. C.100 is amended to read:

17           Sec. C.100. FISCAL YEAR 2019 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

18           (a) In fiscal year 2019, funds are appropriated from the General Fund and  
19           shall be carried forward as follows:

20                                   \* \* \*

1 (19) To the Department for Children and Families, Woodside  
2 Rehabilitation Center: \$260,000 for costs associated with ~~transitioning from a~~  
3 ~~treatment facility to a detention facility~~ providing additional clinical support  
4 and training.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. A.21. Corrections - correctional services

7 (a) The special funds appropriation of \$152,000 for the supplemental  
8 facility payments to Newport and Springfield, pursuant to Sec. A.4 of this act,  
9 shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

10 \* \* \* K-12 Education \* \* \*

11 Sec. A.22. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.504.2 is amended to read:

12 Sec. E.504.2 Education – flexible pathways

13 (a) Of this appropriation, ~~\$3,026,500~~ \$3,916,000 from the Education Fund  
14 shall be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of high school  
15 completion services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 943(c). Notwithstanding  
16 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), of this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. A.23. State teachers' retirement system

19 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to  
20 the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) shall be \$132,141,701 of which  
21 \$125,894,201 shall be the State's contribution and \$6,247,500 shall be

1 contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to  
2 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

3 (b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution,  
4 \$7,213,271 is the “normal contribution,” and \$124,928,430 is the “accrued  
5 liability contribution.”

6 Sec. A.24. PREFUNDING OF THE TEACHERS’ HEALTH CARE AND  
7 MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND

8 (a) Of the amount appropriated in Sec. A.3 of this act, \$2,400,000 is  
9 intended to pre-fund Retired Teachers’ Health Care and Medical Benefits at  
10 the earliest possible date.

11 \* \* \* Higher Education \* \* \*

12 Sec. A.25. University of Vermont

13 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
14 pay monthly installments of the appropriation in Sec. A.4 of this act to the  
15 University of Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month during  
16 the first quarter of the year.

17 \* \* \* Natural Resources \* \* \*

18 Sec. A.26. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.711.1 is amended as  
19 follows:

20 Sec. E.711.1 BENNINGTON WATER LINE EXTENSION

21 (a) Waiver of bond vote. The Town of Bennington shall receive a loan for

1 the Operational Unit C / Chapel Road Project in an amount of up to \$1,500,000  
2 \$2,000,000 to receive a loan subsidy in the form of 100 percent principal  
3 forgiveness with no interest or administrative fee from funds authorized in  
4 24 V.S.A § 4753(a)(3). Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A.  
5 § 4755(a)(3), the loan is not required to be evidenced by a municipal bond.

6 \* \* \*

7 \* \* \* Transportation \* \* \*

8 Sec. A.27. Transportation – central garage

9 (a) This appropriation is authorized pursuant to Sec. A.4 of this act,  
10 notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 13(c)(2).

11 Sec. A.28. Transportation – town highway structures

12 (a) This appropriation is authorized pursuant to Sec. A.4 of this act,  
13 notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(e).

14 Sec. A.29. Transportation – town highway class 2 roadway

15 (a) This appropriation is authorized pursuant to Sec. A.4 of this act,  
16 notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(h).

17 Sec. A.30. Transportation – town highway aid program

18 (a) This appropriation is authorized pursuant to Sec. A.4 of this act,  
19 notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(a).

1       (b) The Agency of Transportation shall distribute \$6,776,442.25 to towns  
2       in the apportionments provided under 19 V.S.A. § 306(a)(3) for the first  
3       quarterly payment of town highway aid.

4                                   \* \* \* COVID-19 Expenditures \* \* \*

5       Sec. A.31. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) – GRANT RECIPIENT  
6                                   REQUIREMENTS AND REVERSION AND REALLOCATION  
7                                   SCHEDULE

8       (a) All appropriations of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in this and  
9       other bills passed after March 1, 2020 are made with the knowledge that the  
10      statutory and regulatory context is constantly changing. Additional federal  
11      bills further change the potential and appropriateness for fund usage. Due to  
12      these changes:

13           (1) Fund appropriations are subject to changes in source of funds that  
14      could occur in subsequent bills or through administrative actions where  
15      permissible under law.

16           (2) Specific fund uses may change as statutory changes or guidance  
17      becomes clearer.

18           (3) It is the responsibility of all receiving entities to ensure compliance  
19      with all guidelines as to spending and use and to keep records that justify the  
20      spending choices made.

1           (4) Unless otherwise authorized by the Commissioner of Finance and  
2           Management, any funds appropriated shall revert to the CRF to the extent that  
3           they have not been expended by December 20, 2020 to enable reallocation.

4           Sec. A.32. ONE-TIME CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF)

5                           APPROPRIATIONS

6           (a) The following appropriations are authorized on a one-time basis in  
7           fiscal year 2021 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the  
8           federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to  
9           address necessary expenditures with respect to the COVID-19 public health  
10           emergency. These expenditures were not accounted for in the State budget  
11           most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 and were incurred during the  
12           period that began on March 1, 2020, in accordance with the Department of  
13           Treasury's May 28, 2020 interpretation of limitations on the permissible use of  
14           fund payments.

15           (1) Legislature: \$2,000,000 is appropriated to the Legislature for costs  
16           incurred for an estimated six-week extension of the 2020 session in fiscal year  
17           2021 (August and September 2020) due to the response to the Coronavirus  
18           pandemic. This extension to legislative work may be remote or partially  
19           remote.

20           (2) The Vermont State Colleges (VSC): \$15,258,000 is granted to the  
21           VSC for impacts and business disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



1           (3) The University of Vermont (UVM): \$15,355,000 is granted to UVM  
2           for impacts and business disruption due to the COIVD-19 pandemic.

3           (4) The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC): \$5,000,000  
4           is granted to VSAC for impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5           (5) State's Attorneys: \$1,977,000 is appropriated to the Department of  
6           State's Attorneys for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred in response to  
7           the COIVD-19 pandemic.

8           (6) Defender General: \$753,000 is appropriated to the Defender  
9           General for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred in response to the  
10           COIVD-19 pandemic.

11           (7) Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services: \$502,500 is  
12           appropriated to Center for Crime Victim Services for costs incurred or  
13           anticipated to be incurred in response to the COIVD-19 pandemic.

14           (8) Judiciary: \$2,608,500 is appropriated to the Judiciary for costs  
15           incurred in response to the COIVD-19 pandemic.

16           (9) Agency of Human Services: \$150,000 is appropriated to the Agency  
17           of Human Services to be granted to Vermont Legal Aid for increased costs of  
18           providing access to justice services in response to the COIVD-19 pandemic.

19           (10) Auditor: \$100,000 is appropriated to the State Auditor for the costs  
20           to be incurred in response to COVID-19 funding. The Auditor is authorized to  
21           fill two vacant positions.

1           (11) Secretary of State: \$2,000,000 is appropriated to the Secretary of  
2           State for developing and implementing the Vermont Business Portal to provide  
3           digital access for Vermont-based businesses to at least four State agencies.

4           (12) Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living  
5           (DAIL): \$100,000 is appropriated to DAIL to be granted to the Vermont  
6           Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for a technology training  
7           program (iPad and iPhone training) for older Vermonters who experience  
8           decreased vision and blindness and others who are blind or visually impaired  
9           to address social isolation resulting from social distancing.

10           (13) Working Lands: \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of  
11           Agriculture, Food and Markets for the COVID-19 Working Lands Program for  
12           eligible pandemic response proposals from agriculture food and markets  
13           participants.

14           (14) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation: \$500,000 is  
15           appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to make  
16           payments to refund cancellations of State parks reservations that were paid in  
17           advance.

18           Sec. A.33. H.953 (Supplemental Budget Adjustment) of 2020 is amended by  
19           striking out in Sec. 36, subdivision (a)(7) in its entirety and insert in lieu  
20           thereof a new (a)(7) to read as follows:

1           (7) The Agency of Human Services (AHS) for Emergency  
2           Medical/Ambulance Services: \$3,000,000 is appropriated to AHS for  
3           Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services costs and financial assistance during  
4           the COVID-19 pandemic, which shall be allocated as follows:

5                   (A)(i) \$400,000 for the necessary training and support of emergency  
6                   medical personnel, including volunteers, which shall be transferred to the  
7                   Department of Health for disbursement. In order to address the needs of  
8                   Vermonters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department, in  
9                   consultation with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, shall  
10                  use the monies expeditiously to provide funding for live and online training  
11                  opportunities for emergency medical responders, emergency medical  
12                  technicians, and advanced emergency medical technicians and for other  
13                  emergency medical personnel training-related purposes. The Department and  
14                  the Advisory Committee shall prioritize training opportunities for volunteer  
15                  emergency medical personnel to maximize the response capabilities of all  
16                  areas in the State.

17                   (B) \$500,000 for paramedic training, including paramedic certificate  
18                   programs for prospective paramedics, continuing education opportunities for  
19                   licensed paramedics, and recruitment. These funds shall be transferred to the  
20                   Department of Health for disbursement.

1                   (i) Funding under this subdivision (7)(B) shall be prioritized for  
2                   training through Vermont programs that include clinical and field internship  
3                   work to be completed prior to December 30, 2020.

4                   (ii) The Department may collaborate with the Vermont Student  
5                   Assistance Corporation, or similar entity, to disburse funding to approved  
6                   paramedic training programs, to qualified applicants seeking a paramedic  
7                   certificate, and to licensed paramedics pursuing continuing education  
8                   opportunities.

9                   (iii) The Department may allocate funds for recruitment of  
10                  qualified paramedics to meet the needs of emergency medical service (EMS)  
11                  and ambulance service providers in the State and ensure that emergency patient  
12                  care and transportation services are available to Vermonters in all parts of the  
13                  State. Such costs may include reimbursement for relocation, short-term  
14                  housing stipends pending relocation, reimbursement for costs associated with  
15                  Vermont licensure, and other allowed costs.

16                  (C) \$100,000 for AHS in coordination with the Department of  
17                  Financial Regulation (DFR) to engage through sole source contract one or  
18                  more financial consultants to assist Vermont EMS and ambulance service  
19                  providers with applications needed for federal provider relief funds related to  
20                  COVID-19 funding, State prospective payments related to COVID-19 through

1 the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Vermont Health Access,  
2 and other grant funding that may be available in response to the pandemic.

3 (D) \$2,000,000, of which five percent shall be reserved for  
4 extraordinary financial relief to Vermont EMS and ambulance service  
5 providers upon demonstrated need, and the remainder of which may be used to  
6 make EMS and ambulance service provider stabilization grants in a manner  
7 determined by AHS that recognizes the need for administrative simplicity and  
8 is proportionate to EMS and ambulance service provider organization size.

9 (E) On or before January 15, 2021, AHS and the Department of  
10 Health shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health  
11 Care, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on  
12 Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Government Operations with  
13 an accounting of its use of the funds appropriated to AHS for disbursement by  
14 the Department pursuant to this subsection.

15 \* \* \* Definitions; Other Legal or Budgetary Context \* \* \*

16 Sec. A.34. APPROPRIATIONS DEFAULT AND TIMING LIMITATIONS

17 (a) If in this act there is an error in either addition or subtraction, the totals  
18 shall be adjusted accordingly. Apparent errors in referring to section numbers  
19 of statutory titles within this act may be disregarded by the Commissioner of  
20 Finance and Management.

1        (b) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act  
2        apply only to the first quarter of the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2020.

3        Sec. A.35. DEFINITIONS

4        (a) As used in this act:

5            (1) “Encumbrances” means a portion of an appropriation reserved for  
6            the subsequent payment of existing purchase orders or contracts. The  
7            Commissioner of Finance and Management shall make final decisions on the  
8            appropriateness of encumbrances.

9            (2) “Grants” means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to  
10           community and quasi-public agencies for providing local services, and to  
11           persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash  
12           or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

13           (3) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and  
14           maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities;  
15           office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway  
16           materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and  
17           construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

18           (4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per  
19           diems and contracted third-party services, and similar items.

1       Sec. A.36. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

2           (a) Except as specifically provided, this act shall not be construed in any  
3       way to negate or impair the full force and effect of existing laws.

4       Sec. A.37. OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

5           (a) In the absence of specific provisions to the contrary in this act, when  
6       total appropriations are offset by estimated receipts, the State appropriations  
7       shall control, notwithstanding receipts being greater or less than anticipated.

8       Sec. A.38. FEDERAL FUNDS

9           (a) In the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, the Governor, with the approval  
10       of the Legislature or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the Legislature is not in  
11       session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including  
12       block grants in lieu of or in addition to funds herein designated as federal. The  
13       Governor, with the approval of the Legislature or the Joint Fiscal Committee if  
14       the Legislature is not in session, may allocate all or any portion of such federal  
15       funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the basic  
16       appropriations in this act have been made.

17           (b) If, during the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, federal funds available to  
18       the State of Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the  
19       2020 session of the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants  
20       or are abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under  
21       a new title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal

1 funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds  
2 were appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for  
3 not more than 45 days prior to Legislative or Joint Fiscal Committee approval.  
4 Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the  
5 Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint  
6 Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's  
7 request for approval.

8 Sec. A.39. NEW POSITIONS

9 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of  
10 authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary  
11 positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(11), shall not be increased during the  
12 first quarter of fiscal year 2021. Limited service positions approved pursuant  
13 to 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

14 \* \* \* Effective Dates Secs. A.1 – A.40 \* \* \*

15 Sec. A.40. EFFECTIVE DATES

16 (a) This section and Secs. A.7 (pilot position sunset extension), A.8 (sunset  
17 extension), A.18 (military reclassification), A.20 (repurposing one-time  
18 appropriation), A.22 (education fund appropriation technical correction), and  
19 A.26 (Bennington waterline loan subsidy increase) shall take effect upon  
20 passage.

21 (b) All remaining A sections shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\*\*\* Pay Act \*\*\*

Sec. B.1. FISCAL YEAR 2021 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Executive Branch. The two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, nonmanagement, supervisory, corrections, and State's Attorneys' offices bargaining units for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded. In fiscal year 2021, the following is appropriated to the Secretary of Administration:

(1) General Fund: \$11,731,745.

(2) Transportation Fund: \$4,128,000.

(3) Other funds: The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2021 collective bargaining agreements. The estimated amounts are \$ 14,017,000 from special fund, federal, and other sources.

(4) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2021, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be

1 necessary to carry out the requirements of these agreements to the various  
2 agencies supported by State funds.

3 b) Judicial Branch. The two-year agreements between the State of  
4 Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial  
5 bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 and salary  
6 increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining  
7 agreements shall be funded in fiscal year 2021. In fiscal year 2021 there is  
8 appropriated to the Judiciary from the General Fund: \$872,330.

9 (c) Legislative Branch. For the period of July 1, 2020 through  
10 June 30, 2021, the General Assembly pay changes shall be funded in fiscal  
11 year 2021. In fiscal year 2021 there is appropriated to the Legislature from the  
12 General Fund: \$241,000.

13 \* \* \* Effective Date Secs. B.1 – B.2 \* \* \*

14 Sec. B.2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 (a) This section and Sec. B.1 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.