

H.961

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

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

By amending Sec. A.10(a) to read:

(a) Creation. There is created the Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont (Committee) to assist the State of Vermont in addressing the urgent needs of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and develop an integrated vision and plan for a high-quality, affordable, and workforce-connected future for public higher education in the State.

In Sec. A.49, by striking subdivision (15) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (15) to read as follows:

(15) Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL): \$2,450,000 is appropriated to DAIL to provide financial stability grant funding to the 12 adult day providers statewide to continue to support the facilities, service infrastructure, and necessary operating costs for July 2020 through September 2020 as these programs remained closed due the COVID-19 crisis and prepare to reopen safely for the vulnerable populations they serve at the end of their closure period. Funds shall be distributed on or before July 20, 2020 to each program. The first distribution of funds shall be for costs

submitted by the providers, and any remaining funds shall be distributed equitably among the 12 adult day programs to assist with other COVID-19 pandemic related financial losses. Medicaid retainer payments, less any State recoupment received by an adult day program for the month of July 2020, shall be deducted from that program's grant pursuant this section.

By adding Secs. B.1 through B.5 and their accompanying reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Pay Act * * *

Sec. B.1. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 COMPENSATION

INCREASES; CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2022

COMPENSATION INCREASES AT A LATER DATE

(a) Funding of fiscal year 2021 collective bargaining agreement provisions.

(1) This act funds in fiscal year 2021 the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units; for the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit; and for the Judicial bargaining unit, and between the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association, that apply during the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

(2) These collective bargaining agreements provide during that fiscal year 2021 period an average 1.9 percent step increase and a \$1,400.00 one-time payment to individuals employed as of July 1, 2020.

(b) Other permitted fiscal year 2021 increases. In fiscal year 2021, the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2021 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

(c) Fiscal year 2022. The General Assembly will consider any compensation increases for fiscal year 2022 at a later date.

Sec. B.2. FISCAL YEAR 2021 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Executive Branch. In fiscal year 2021, the fiscal year 2021 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers' Association, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; and salary increases for employees in the

Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:

(1) General Fund. The amount of \$11,553,795.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2021 compensation increases permitted by this act.

(2) Transportation Fund. The amount of \$3,911,750.00 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety to fund the fiscal year 2021 compensation increases permitted by this act.

(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 compensation increases permitted by this act. The estimated amounts are \$12,809,440.00 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

necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

(b) Judicial Branch. In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$872,330.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2021 provisions of the collective bargaining agreement between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreement.

(c) Legislative Branch. In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$241,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Sec. B.3. 32 V.S.A. § 1051 is amended to read:

§ 1051. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
OF THE SENATE; COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENT

(a) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be entitled to receive annual compensation of \$10,080.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, to be paid in biweekly payments, provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the annual compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living adjustment negotiated for State

employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement, except that, beginning on July 1, 2021 and annually thereafter on January 1, the annual compensation shall be adjusted consistent with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers. In addition to the annual compensation, the Speaker and President Pro Tempore shall be entitled to receive:

(1) \$652.00 a week for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, to be paid in biweekly payments during the regular and adjourned sessions of the General Assembly; provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement, except that, beginning on July 1, 2021 and annually thereafter on January 1, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted consistent with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers;

(2) an amount equal to one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the nearest dollar, per day during a special session of the General Assembly; and

(3) mileage, meals, and lodging expenses as provided to members of the General Assembly under subsection 1052(b) of this title during the biennial, adjourned, and special sessions of the General Assembly and in addition such

other actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in duties imposed by law.

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Sec. B.4. 32 V.S.A. § 1052 is amended to read:

§ 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION
AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

(a)(1) Each member of the General Assembly, other than the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, is entitled to a weekly salary of \$589.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter; provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement, except that, beginning on July 1, 2021 and annually thereafter on January 1, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted consistent with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers. The salary of members shall be paid in biweekly installments.

(2) During a special session, a member is entitled to an amount equal to one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the nearest dollar, for each day of a special session on which the House of which he or she is a member shall sit.

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Sec. B.5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. B.1 and B.2 (authorized increases and appropriations) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(b) Secs. B.3 and B.4 (legislators; compensation adjusted consistent with other constitutional officers) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.