VT LEG #348471  v.1

An act relating to emergency funding for local government

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

Sec. 1. COVID-19 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(a) In fiscal year 2020, $16,000,000.00 shall be appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Agency of Administration for the purpose of issuing grants to units of local government to reimburse eligible COVID-19 expenses incurred on or before December 30, 2020, including hazard pay, supplies and equipment, sanitation, facility alterations, overtime compensation, redirection of staff for first-response needs, and any other eligible COVID-19 expenses not covered by other funding sources, including funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To be eligible for
reimbursement under this section, COVID-19 expenses shall be consistent with
the uses authorized in section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No.116–136 (the CARES Act), as may be
amended, and any guidance or regulations issued pursuant to that section.

(b) The Secretary of Administration or designee shall develop grant
guidelines for determining eligibility of COVID-19 expenses and requirements
for reimbursement for units of local government.

(c) From the amount appropriated to the Agency of Administration under
this section, the Secretary or designee shall allocate:

   (1) $14,850,000.00 to Vermont cities and towns in grants for
reimbursement of eligible COVID-19 expenses, including those incurred by
incorporated villages, fire districts, consolidated water districts created under
24 V.S.A. chapter 91, and consolidated sewer districts created under 24 V.S.A.
chapter 105 therein. Grants allocated under this subdivision shall not exceed
$25.00 per person as determined from the 2019 town census data published by
the U.S. Census Bureau, provided that any recipient under this subdivision
with expenses that exceed $25.00 per person and $25,000.00 in total shall
receive a minimum payment of $25,000.00.

   (2) $1,000,000.00 to counties, unorganized towns or gores, and any of
the unified towns and gores of Essex County in grants for reimbursement of
eligible COVID-19 expenses. The Secretary or designee may determine any
limitations to the amount of the grants allocated under this subdivision.

(3) An amount not to exceed $150,000.00 may be used to contract with
one or more regional planning commissions for technical assistance to be
provided to units of local government in identifying and documenting eligible
COVID-19 expenses. Notwithstanding any other contrary provision of law,
the contract may be a sole source contract.

(4) In the event that applications for reimbursements exceed the amounts
allocated, grants may be prorated.

(d) On or before September 15, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall
report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on program development and eligible
COVID-19 expenses reimbursed pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall
provide recommendations for any legislative action, including reallocation of
funds for reimbursement of eligible local government COVID-19 expenses.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.