

Journal of the House

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Woodman Page of Newport City.

Message from the Senate No. 42

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 234. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

S. 295. An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 958

By the committee on Government Operations,

An act relating to communications union districts;

Was read and pursuant to House rule 48, bill placed on the Calendar for Notice.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 959

By the committee on Ways and Means,

An act relating to education property tax;

Was read and pursuant to House rule 48, bill placed on the Calendar for Notice.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 99**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to spousal support and maintenance reform

Was read and referred to the committee on Judiciary.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 197**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information

Was read and referred to the committee on Health Care.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 234**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

Was read and referred to the committee on Judiciary.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 295**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products

Was read and referred to the committee on Human Services.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 339**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles

Was read and referred to the committee on Transportation.

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 955**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 942

Rep. McCormack of Burlington spoke for the committee on Transportation.

House bill entitled

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation

Rep. Helm of Fair Haven, for the committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass.

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up, read the second time.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?
Reps. McCormack of Burlington, Murphy of Fairfax, Corcoran of Bennington, Burke of Brattleboro, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, Potter of Clarendon, Quimby of Concord, Savage of Swanton, Sullivan of Burlington, and White of Hartford, moved to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transportation Program Adopted as Amended;

Intent; Reports; Definitions * * *

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; INTENT; REPORTS;
DEFINITIONS

(a) Transportation program adopted. The Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2021 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2021 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

(b) Intent.

(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Agency's top priority should be the transportation program adopted under subsection (a) of this section, including preserving all funding to municipalities.

(2) In response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly acknowledges that continued funding of infrastructure will help boost our local economy and support the health and welfare of Vermonters. Accordingly, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the projects funded in this act, including under Secs. 2 and 3 of this act,

will serve to support and help drive growth in Vermont's economy during this uncertain time.

(3) In light of the long-term and ongoing climate change emergency, it is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to invest in and prioritize measures that will directly contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the State's 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan.

(c) Reports.

(1) The Agency shall, on or before September 1, 2020, file a written report with the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Transportation with the following information:

(A) an update on enacted and anticipated federal COVID-19 legislation;

(B) an update on projects in the transportation program adopted under subsection (a) of this section that are not anticipated to proceed as planned in fiscal year 2021 and the reasons why;

(C) an update on projects not in the transportation program adopted under subsection (a) of this section that will proceed in fiscal year 2021 and the source of funding;

(D) the status of and funding remaining for the electric vehicle incentive programs established pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34;

(E) the balance of funding available for public transit under federal COVID-19 legislation; and

(F) any expected reduction in funding available for municipalities.

(2) The Agency shall, on or before February 15, 2021, file a written report with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Transportation with the following information:

(A) an update on enacted and anticipated federal COVID-19 legislation;

(B) an update on projects in the transportation program adopted under subsection (a) of this section that are not anticipated to proceed as planned in fiscal year 2021 and the reasons why;

(C) an update on projects not in the transportation program adopted under subsection (a) of this section that will proceed in fiscal year 2021 and the source of funding;

(D) the status of and funding remaining for the electric vehicle incentive programs established pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34;

(E) the balance of funding available for public transit under federal COVID-19 legislation; and

(F) any expected reduction in funding available for municipalities.

(d) Definitions. As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) "Agency" means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) "Electric vehicle supply equipment" has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 201 and is abbreviated "EVSE."

(3) "Federal COVID-19 legislation" includes any federal infrastructure bills or other federal legislation that provide the State with additional federal funding for transportation-related projects in fiscal year 2021 or was enacted as a result of COVID-19.

(4) "Plug-in electric vehicle," "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle," and "battery electric vehicle" have the same meanings as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) as amended by this act and are abbreviated "PEV," "PHEV," and "BEV."

(5) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

(6) "TIB funds" means monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

(7) The table heading "As Proposed" means the proposed Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading "As Amended" means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading "Change" means the difference obtained by subtracting the "As Proposed" figure from the "As Amended" figure; and the terms "change" or "changes" in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net "Change" in the applicable table heading.

* * * Federal Funding * * *

Sec. 2. FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL FUNDING

(a) If federal COVID-19 legislation is enacted, the Secretary is authorized to:

(1) exceed federal spending authority in the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program and fiscal year 2021 Transportation Program and to obligate and expend the federal monies, as practicable, on the following federally eligible projects, with a priority placed on projects, such as the

purchase of PEV buses for public transit and the construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and EVSE, that will directly contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the State's 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan and projects that will keep Vermonters employed, promote economic activity, and allow the State and municipalities to catch up on deferred maintenance:

(A) projects in the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program and fiscal year 2021 Transportation Program;

(B) additional town highway projects; and

(C) activities that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria;

(2) notwithstanding any provision of Title 19 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated to the contrary, waive any Title 19 match requirements for projects funded under federal COVID-19 legislation; and

(3) require that municipalities meet nonfederal match requirements for projects not authorized in the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program or fiscal year 2021 Transportation Program funded under federal COVID-19 legislation.

(b) The Agency shall promptly report the obligation or expenditure of monies under the authority of subsection (a) of this section in writing to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and to the Joint Fiscal Office while the General Assembly is in session and to the Joint Fiscal Office, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to obligate or expend State Transportation Funds, General Funds, or TIB funds above amounts authorized in the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program or fiscal year 2021 Transportation Program.

(d) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall continue in effect until February 1, 2021.

* * * Additional Agency Spending; Redirection * * *

Sec. 3. AGENCY SPENDING; AUTHORITY TO REDIRECT; REPORT

(a) Notwithstanding Sec. 1 of this act; 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 1; 19 V.S.A. § 10g(n); and 32 V.S.A. § 706, the Secretary is authorized to utilize State and federal monies for any of the following activities that will keep Vermonters employed, promote economic activity, and allow the State and municipalities to catch up on deferred maintenance in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, provided that the Agency expects to accept and obligate federal

monies pursuant to subsection 2(a) of this act in an amount sufficient to cover the additional expenditures:

- (1) bridge maintenance;
- (2) paving and surface maintenance;
- (3) clearing of trees and brush in rights-of-way;
- (4) ledge and slope remediation;
- (5) culvert repair and replacement; and

(6) any other maintenance activities that are expected to provide an economic stimulus in Vermont communities.

(b) Notwithstanding Sec. 1 of this act; 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 1; 19 V.S.A. § 10g(n); and 32 V.S.A. § 706, the Secretary is authorized to utilize State and federal monies for any of the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, provided that the Agency expects to accept and obligate federal monies pursuant to subsection 2(a) of this act in an amount sufficient to cover the additional expenditures:

(1) funding for a grant program for the installation of EVSE that builds upon the existing VW EVSE Grant Program that the Department of Housing and Community Development has been administering on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation;

- (2) PEV buses for public transit;
- (3) PEVs for the State motor vehicle fleet; and

(4) funding, not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, for the New PEV Incentive Program created pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34 as amended by the act.

(c) If the expenditure of monies pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section will not significantly delay the planned work schedule of a project in the fiscal year 2020 and 2021 Transportation Programs, the Secretary may enter into a contract for the activity or proceed with the expenditure and shall give prompt notice of the contract or expenditure to the Joint Fiscal Office and to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session and to the Joint Fiscal Office and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session.

(d) If the expenditure of monies pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section will significantly delay the planned work schedule of a project, the Secretary may enter into a contract for the activity or proceed with the

expenditure but shall give advance notice of at least 10 business days prior to executing the contract or making the expenditure to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session and to the Joint Fiscal Office, Joint Fiscal Committee, and Joint Transportation Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session.

(e) The Secretary of Administration shall, on or before July 31, 2020, file a written report listing all expenditures made during fiscal year 2020 under the authority of subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Joint Fiscal Office, Joint Fiscal Committee, and Joint Transportation Oversight Committee.

(f) The Secretary of Administration shall, on or before July 31, 2021, file a written report listing all expenditures made during fiscal year 2021 under the authority of subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Joint Fiscal Office, Joint Fiscal Committee, and Joint Transportation Oversight Committee.

(g) The reports required pursuant to subsections (e) and (f) of this section shall be in addition to the report required pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 10g(e).

* * * Amtrak; Burlington Rail Yard Realignment * * *

Sec. 4. ADDITION OF BURLINGTON RAIL YARD REALIGNMENT
FOR AMTRAK PROJECT

The following project is added to the development and evaluation list of Rail within the Agency’s Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program, as adopted pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 1, and the development and evaluation list of Rail within the Agency’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program: Burlington – Railyard Realignment for Amtrak.

* * * Highway Maintenance * * *

Sec. 5. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Maintenance, spending is amended as follows:

<u>FY21</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Personal	45,757,089	45,757,089	0
Services			
Operating Expenses	52,896,134	51,596,134	-1,300,000

Grants	240,200	240,200	0
Total	98,893,423	97,593,423	-1,300,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	96,415,636	95,115,636	-1,300,000
Federal	2,377,787	2,377,787	0
Interdepart.			
Transfer	100,000	100,000	0
Total	98,893,423	97,593,423	-1,300,000

* * * Program Development * * *

* * * Roadway * * *

Sec. 6. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT; ROADWAY

Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Program Development—Roadway, authorized spending for Burlington MEGC M 5000(1) is amended as follows:

<u>FY21</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Construction	8,000,000	6,420,000	-1,580,000
Total	8,000,000	6,420,000	-1,580,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
TIB	240,000	192,600	-47,400
Federal	7,600,000	6,099,000	-1,501,000
Local	160,000	128,400	-31,600
Total	8,000,000	6,420,000	-1,580,000

* * * Safety and Traffic Operations * * *

Sec. 7. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT; SAFETY AND TRAFFIC

OPERATIONS

Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Program Development—Safety and Traffic Operations, authorized spending for Colchester HES NH 5600(14) is amended as follows:

<u>FY21</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Construction	7,000,000	4,900,000	-2,100,000

Total	7,000,000	4,900,000	-2,100,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
Federal	7,000,000	4,900,000	-2,100,000
Total	7,000,000	4,900,000	-2,100,000

* * * Public Transit * * *

Sec. 8. PUBLIC TRANSIT; FARE-FREE

It is the intent of the General Assembly that public transit operated by transit agencies that are eligible to receive grant funds pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5307 or 5311, or both, in the State shall be operated on a fare-free basis with monies for public transit from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (CARES Act) as practicable.

Sec. 9. PUBLIC TRANSIT; ADDITION OF INCREASED PUBLIC TRANSIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

(a) The following project is added to the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Public Transit: Increased Public Transit for Fiscal Year 2021.

(b) Spending authority for Increased Public Transit for Fiscal Year 2021 is authorized as follows:

<u>FY21</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	0	500,000	500,000
Total	0	500,000	500,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	0	500,000	500,000
Total	0	500,000	500,000

(c) To the extent that the Agency is able to secure additional unobligated federal funds for Increased Public Transit for Fiscal Year 2021, the spending authority for Increased Public Transit for Fiscal Year 2021 is increased by that same amount in federal funds.

(d) The Agency shall increase public transit initiatives in fiscal year 2021 in conformance with the implementation plan in the Agency of Transportation’s 2019 Public Transit Policy Plan (PTPP) and findings of the Report on Methods to Increase the Use of Public Transit in Vermont prepared pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 20. Additional initiatives may include:

(1) adding new local and regional service connections to improve rural ridership;

(2) providing support for technology improvements for transit;

(3) expanding access to available seats in transit vehicles; and

(4) marketing and engaging with the public to increase awareness of public transit options.

* * * Lamoille Valley Rail Trail * * *

Sec. 10. LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Program Development—Bike & Pedestrian Facilities, authorized spending for Swanton-St. Johnsbury LVRT () is amended as follows:

	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>FY21</u>			
Other	2,500,000	7,000,000	4,500,000
Total	2,500,000	7,000,000	4,500,000
<u>FY22</u>			
Other	3,500,000	7,000,000	3,500,000
Total	3,500,000	7,000,000	3,500,000
<u>FY23</u>			
Other	4,500,000	0	-4,500,000
Total	4,500,000	0	-4,500,000
<u>FY24</u>			
Other	3,500,000	0	-3,500,000
Total	3,500,000	0	-3,500,000
<u>Sources of funds FY21</u>			
State	0	700,000	700,000
Other	500,000	700,000	200,000
Federal	2,000,000	5,600,000	3,600,000
Total	2,500,000	7,000,000	4,500,000

Sources of funds FY22

State	0	0	0
Other	0	1,400,000	1,400,000
Federal	0	5,600,000	5,600,000
Total	0	7,000,000	7,000,000

(b) In the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Program for Program Development—Bike & Pedestrian Facilities, “Other funds of \$500,000 are General Obligation Bond proceeds appropriated in the capital bill for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail” is struck, and “Other funds of \$2,100,000 are General Obligation Bond proceeds appropriated in the capital construction act for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, but if matching federal funds are not available or if federal funds do not require a state match, the funds shall be used for projects in a future capital construction act” is inserted in lieu thereof.

* * * Central Garage * * *

Sec. 11. TRANSFER TO CENTRAL GARAGE FUND

Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c)(1), in fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$1,605,358.00 is transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Central Garage Fund created in 19 V.S.A. § 13.

Sec. 12. CENTRAL GARAGE EQUIPMENT

In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$8,668,094.00 is authorized for replacement equipment pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 13(b) and, of this amount, a minimum of \$250,000.00 shall be dedicated for the replacement of Department of Motor Vehicles enforcement fleet vehicles.

* * * Plug-In Electric Vehicle Definitions * * *

Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) is amended to read:

(85) “Plug-in electric vehicle” means a motor vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system, such as from storage batteries or other portable electrical energy storage devices provided that the vehicle can draw recharge energy from a source off the vehicle such as electric vehicle supply equipment. A “plug-in electric vehicle” includes both a “battery electric vehicle” and a “plug-in hybrid electric vehicle” where:

(A) “battery electric vehicle” means a motor vehicle that can only be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system; and

(B) “plug-in hybrid electric vehicle” means a motor vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system but also has an onboard combustion engine.

* * * Programs and Incentives to Foster PEV Adoption * * *

Sec. 14. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34 is amended to read:

Sec. 34. VEHICLE INCENTIVE AND EMISSIONS REPAIR
PROGRAMS

(a) Vehicle incentive and emissions repair programs administration.

(1) ~~The Agency of Transportation (Agency), in consultation with the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Environmental Conservation and of Public Service, Vermont electric distribution utilities that are offering incentives for PEVs, and the State’s network of community action agencies, shall establish and administer the programs described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.~~

(2) The Agency is authorized to spend \$2,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2020 budget and any additional monies as appropriated in the fiscal year 2021 budget or Transportation Fund monies authorized to be expended by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act, or both, on the two programs described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, appropriations for the two programs described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section remaining unexpended on June 30, 2021 shall be carried forward and designated for expenditure on these programs in the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) Subject to State procurement requirements, the Agency may, in fiscal year 2020, retain a contractor or contractors to assist with marketing, program development, and administration of the two programs and up to \$150,000.00 of program funding may be set aside for this purpose. In fiscal year 2021, the Agency is authorized to spend up to \$200,000.00 in program funding to continue and expand the Agency’s public-private partnership with Drive Electric Vermont to support the expansion of the PEV market in the State through technical and consumer assistance; auto dealer education; outreach and incentive program management, including marketing, consumer support, record keeping and reporting, program development and modification, and general program administration for the program described in subsection (b) of this section; and PEV promotional efforts. The Agency shall develop, in consultation with the Departments of Environmental Conservation and of Public Service, a scope of work for funding the Agency’s grants to Drive Electric Vermont pursuant to this section.

(4) The Agency shall administer the program described in subsection (b) of this section through no-cost contracts with the State's electric distribution utilities.

(5) The Agency shall annually evaluate the two programs to gauge effectiveness and submit a written report on the effectiveness of the programs to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before the 31st day of ~~December~~ January in each year following a year that an incentive or repair voucher ~~is~~ was provided through one of the programs. Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the annual report required under this section shall continue to be required if an incentive or repair voucher is provided through one of the programs unless the General Assembly takes specific action to repeal the report requirement.

(b) Electric vehicle incentive program. A new PEV purchase and lease incentive program for Vermont residents shall structure PEV purchase and lease incentive payments by income to help all Vermonters benefit from electric driving, including Vermont's most vulnerable. The program shall be known as the New PEV Incentive Program. Specifically, the ~~program~~ New PEV Incentive Program shall:

(1) apply to both purchases and leases of new PEVs with an emphasis on creating and matching incentives for ~~exclusively electric powered vehicles that do not contain an onboard combustion engine~~ BEVs;

(2) provide ~~incentives not more than one incentive of \$1,500.00 for a PHEV or \$2,500.00 for a BEV to Vermont households with low and moderate income at or below 160 percent of the State's prior five-year average Median Household Income (MHI) level~~;

(A) an individual domiciled in the State whose federal income tax filing status is single or head of household with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States greater than \$50,000.00 and at or below \$100,000.00;

(B) an individual domiciled in the State whose federal income tax filing status is surviving spouse with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States greater than \$50,000.00 and at or below \$125,000.00;

(C) a married couple with at least one spouse domiciled in the State whose federal income tax filing status is married filing jointly with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States greater than \$50,000.00 and at or below \$125,000.00; or

(D) a married couple with at least one spouse domiciled in the State and at least one spouse whose federal income tax filing status is married filing

separately with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States greater than \$50,000.00 and at or below \$100,000.00;

(3) provide not more than one incentive of \$3,000.00 for a PHEV or \$4,000.00 for a BEV to:

(A) an individual domiciled in the State whose federal income tax filing status is single, head of household, or surviving spouse with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States at or below \$50,000.00;

(B) a married couple with at least one spouse domiciled in the State whose federal income tax filing status is married filing jointly with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States at or below \$50,000.00; or

(C) a married couple with at least one spouse domiciled in the State and at least one spouse whose federal income tax filing status is married filing separately with an adjusted gross income under the laws of the United States at or below \$50,000.00;

(4) apply to manufactured PEVs with a Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$40,000.00 or less; and

(4)(5) provide ~~no~~ not less than \$1,100,000.00, of the initial \$2,000,000.00 authorization, and up to an additional \$2,050,000.00 in fiscal year 2021 in PEV purchase and lease incentives.

* * *

* * * Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program * * *

Sec. 15. 19 V.S.A. § 306(h) is amended to read:

(h) Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program. There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of paved or unpaved class 2 town highways. However, municipalities that have no State highways or class 1 town highways within their borders may use the grants for such activities with respect to both class 2 and class 3 town highways. Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of \$7,648,750.00 at a minimum as new grants. The Agency's proposed appropriation for the Program shall take into account the estimated amount of qualifying invoices submitted to the Agency with respect to project grants approved in prior years but not yet completed as well as with respect to new project grants to be approved in the fiscal year. In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those

projects. Funds received as grants for State aid under the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

* * * Telecommuting Report * * *

Sec. 16. TELECOMMUTING REPORT

The Agency of Transportation shall, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, submit a written report on or before September 30, 2021 to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Transportation and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Transportation that addresses, at a minimum, the following:

(1) how telecommuting practices changed in the State in response to COVID-19;

(2) how telecommuting practices changed in the State during fiscal year 2021;

(3) best practices for telecommuting;

(4) an estimate of the expenses and savings to Vermont employers and their employees generated by telecommuting during fiscal year 2021;

(5) an estimate of the annual expenses and savings to Vermont employers in an industry conducive to telecommuting with more than 50 employees that could be generated by greater utilization of telecommuting;

(6) an estimate of the annual expenses and savings to employees of employers identified in subdivision (5) of this section that could be generated by greater utilization of telecommuting;

(7) an estimate of the statewide reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), trips, or both and greenhouse gas emissions associated with telecommuting in fiscal year 2021;

(8) an estimate of the statewide reduction in VMT, trips, or both and greenhouse gas emissions that could be generated by greater utilization of telecommuting; and

(9) recommendations on ways to increase the use of telecommuting in the State.

* * * All-Terrain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. §§ 3501 and 3502 are amended to read:

§ 3501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) ~~“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles unless otherwise stated.~~

(2) ~~“Department” means Department of Motor Vehicles unless otherwise stated.~~

(3) ~~“Operate” includes an attempt to operate and shall be construed to cover all matters and things connected with the presence and use of all-terrain vehicles whether they be at motion or rest.~~

(4) ~~“Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.~~

(5) “All-terrain vehicle” or “ATV” means any nonhighway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having ~~no~~ not less than two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less), not wider than 64 inches with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels, and having a dry weight of less than 1,700 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (AAA); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A) and (B) and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV shall not include an electric personal assistive mobility device.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Motor Vehicles unless otherwise stated.

(3) “Direct supervision” means that the supervisor shall be sufficiently close and able to control, by communicating visually or orally, the operation of an ATV by an operator under 16 years of age, taking into account the noise created by an ATV and protective headgear worn by the operator.

(4) “Farm” means a parcel or parcels of land owned, leased, or managed by a person and devoted primarily to farming.

(5) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

(6) “State lands” means land owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the State.

(6)(7) “Club or association” means an all-terrain vehicle club or “VASA” means the Vermont ATV Sportsman’s Association, a statewide association of ATV clubs.

§ 3502. REGISTRATION AND TRAIL ACCESS DECAL (TAD)

REQUIRED; EXCEPTIONS

(a)(1) ~~An all-terrain vehicle may not be operated~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual shall not operate an ATV on the VASA Trail System, on State land designated by the Secretary pursuant to subdivision 3506(b)(4) of this title, or along any highway that is not adjacent to the property of the operator unless the ATV:

(A) ~~is registered pursuant to this chapter or any other section of this title by the State of Vermont and unless the all-terrain vehicle~~ or in accordance with subsection (e) of this section; and

(B) ~~displays a valid Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) VASA Trail Access Decal (TAD) when operating on a VASA trail, except when operated;~~

(1)(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, neither registration nor display of a TAD is required to operate an ATV:

(A) ~~On~~ on the property of the owner of the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV;

(B)(2) ~~Off the highway, In in a ski area while being used, off the highway,~~ for the purpose of grooming snow, maintenance, or in rescue operations.;

(3)(C) ~~For~~ for official use by a federal, State, or municipal agency ~~and only if the all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV is identified with the name or seal of the agency in a manner approved by the Commissioner; or

(D)(4) ~~Solely~~ on privately owned land when the operator is specifically invited to do so by the owner of ~~that the~~ the property and ~~has on his or her person~~ carries the written consent of the owner.

(3)(5) ~~By a person who~~ Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, an operator may operate an ATV without a TAD displayed if the operator possesses a completed TAD form processed electronically and within the prior 10 days that is either printed out or displayed on a portable electronic device. The printed or electronic TAD form shall be valid for 10 days after the electronic transaction. Use of a portable electronic device to display a completed TAD form does not in itself constitute consent for an enforcement officer to access other contents of the device.

* * *

(c) The possession of a valid TAD or registration of an all-terrain vehicle ~~ATV~~ does not constitute a license to ~~cross or~~ operate an all-terrain vehicle ~~ATV~~

on public or private lands, even if temporarily while crossing the public or private lands.

(d) An ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV that does not comply with the provisions of this chapter ~~may~~ shall not be registered by the Commissioner.

(e) An ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV owned by a person who is a resident of any other state or province shall be deemed to be properly registered for the purposes of this chapter if it is registered in accordance with the laws of the state or province in which its owner resides. An operator who is a resident of any other state or province shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter while operating an ATV within this State, including possessing a valid TAD in the same circumstances that a resident of this State is required to possess a valid TAD.

Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. § 3506 is amended to read:

§ 3506. OPERATION; PROHIBITED ACTS; FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; HEADGEAR

(a) A person shall only operate an ATV, or permit an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV owned by him or her or under his or her control to be operated, in accordance with this chapter.

(b) An ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV shall not be operated:

(1) Along a public highway except if one or more of the following applies:

(A) ~~the highway is not being maintained during the snow season;~~

(~~B~~) the highway has been opened to ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV travel by the ~~selectboard or trustees or local governing body~~ legislative body of the municipality where the town highway is located or, for State highways, the Secretary of Transportation and is so posted by the municipality;

(~~C~~)(B) the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV is being used for agricultural purposes and is operated not closer than three feet from the traveled portion of any highway for the purpose of traveling within the confines of the farm; or

(~~D~~)(C) the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV is being used by an employee or agent of an electric transmission or distribution company subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission under 30 V.S.A. § 203 for utility purposes, including safely accessing utility corridors, provided that the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV shall be operated along the edge of the roadway and shall yield to other vehicles.

(2) Across a public highway unless except if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing; ~~and~~

(B) the operator brings the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV to a complete stop before entering the ~~travelled~~ traveled portion of the highway; ~~and~~

(C) the operator yields the ~~right-of-way~~ right of way to motor vehicles and pedestrians using the highway; ~~and~~

(D) the operator is 12 years of age or older; ~~and that~~

(E) in the case of an operator under 16 years of age, must be the operator is under the direct supervision of a person an individual 18 years of age or older who does not have a suspended operator's license or privilege to operate.

(3) On any privately owned land or privately owned body of ~~private~~ water unless either:

(A) the operator is the owner, or member of the immediate family of the owner of the land; ~~or~~

(B) the operator ~~has, on his or her person,~~ carries the written consent of the owner or lessee of the land or the land surrounding the privately owned body of water to operate an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV in the specific area and during specific hours ~~and/or~~ or days, or both in which the operator is operating; ~~or;~~

(C) the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV displays a valid ~~TAD decal~~ VASA Trail Access Decal (TAD) as required by subsection 3502(a) of this title that serves as proof that the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV and its operator, by virtue of the TAD, are members of a ~~VASA-affiliated club to which such VASA and~~ consent has been given orally or in writing to operate an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV in the area ~~in which~~ where the operator is operating; ~~or~~

~~(C)~~(D) the owner of the land ~~has~~ or the land surrounding the privately owned body of water designated the area for use by ~~all-terrain vehicles~~ ATVs by posting the area in a manner approved by the Secretary to give reasonable notice that use is permitted.

(4) On any ~~public land~~ municipal lands unless opened to ATV travel by the legislative body of the municipality where the land is located or on any State lands, body of public water, or natural area established under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 2607 unless ~~the Secretary has designated the area by~~

~~the Secretary for use by all-terrain vehicles pursuant to~~ ATVs in rules promulgated adopted under provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(5) ~~By a person~~ an individual under 12 years of age unless he or she is wearing on his or her head protective headgear of a type approved by the Commissioner while operating the ATV or riding as a passenger on the ATV and either:

(A) he or she is on land owned by his or her parents, family, or guardian;

(B) he or she has written permission of the landowner or lessee; or

(C) he or she is under the direct supervision of a person at least an individual 18 years of age or older who does not have a suspended operator's license or privilege to operate.

(6) ~~In any manner intended or that could~~ reasonably to be expected to harm, harass, drive, or pursue any wildlife.

(7) If the registration certificate or consent form is and proof of insurance are not available for inspection, and the registration number, or plate of a size and type approved by the Commissioner, is not displayed on the all-terrain vehicle ATV in a manner approved by the Commissioner.

(8) While the operator is under the influence of drugs or alcohol as defined by this title.

(9) ~~In a careless or negligent manner or in a manner that is inconsistent with the duty of ordinary care, so as to endanger a person~~ an individual or property.

(10) Within a cemetery, public or private, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 5302.

(11) On limited access highways, ~~rights-of-way~~ rights-of-way, or approaches unless permitted by the Traffic Committee under section 1004 of this title. In no cases shall the use of ~~all-terrain vehicles~~ ATVs be permitted on any portion of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways unless the Traffic Committee permits operation on these highways.

(12) On a sidewalk unless permitted by the ~~selectboard or trustees of the local governing~~ legislative body of the municipality where the sidewalk is located.

(13) Without liability insurance as described in this subdivision. The owner or operator of an ATV shall not operate or permit the operation of an ATV at locations where the ATV must be registered in order to be lawfully

operated under section 3502 of this title without having in effect a bond or a liability policy in the amounts of at least \$25,000.00 for one individual and \$50,000.00 for two or more individuals killed or injured and \$10,000.00 for damages to property in any one accident. In lieu of a bond or liability policy, evidence of self-insurance in the amount of \$115,000.00 must be filed with the Commissioner. Financial responsibility shall be maintained and evidenced in a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and persons who self-insure shall be subject to the provisions of subsection 801(c) of this title.

(14) While the operator's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle is suspended, unless operated at a location described in subdivision 3502(a)(2)(A) or (D) of this title.

(15) Outside the boundaries of trails established by the VASA Trail System unless such operation is specifically authorized pursuant to another provision of this chapter.

(16) Unless the operator and all passengers wear properly secured protective headgear, of a type approved by the Commissioner and as intended by the manufacturer, if the ATV is operated at locations where the ATV must be registered in order to be lawfully operated under section 3502 of this title.

(c) No public or private landowner shall be liable for any property damage or personal injury sustained by any ~~person~~ individual operating or riding as a passenger on an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV or upon a vehicle or other device drawn by an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV upon the public or private landowner's property, whether or not the public or private landowner has given permission to use the land, unless the public or private landowner charges a cash fee to the operator or owner of the ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV for the use of the property or unless damage or injury is intentionally inflicted by the landowner.

(d) In addition to all other requirements, an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV may not be operated:

(1) if equipped with an exhaust system with a cut out, bypass, or similar device; or

(2) with the spark arrester removed or modified, except for use in closed course competition events.

(e) In addition to all other requirements, an ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV may not be operated by an operator who is less than 18 years of age unless one of the following criteria is met:

(1) the operator is operating on property owned or leased by the operator or his or her parents or guardian; or

(2) the operator is taking a prescribed safety education training course and operating under the direct supervision of a certified ~~all-terrain vehicle~~ ATV safety instructor; or

(3) the operator holds an appropriate safety education certificate issued by this State or issued under the authority of another state or province of Canada.

(f) ~~A person~~ An individual who is required to hold an appropriate safety education certificate under the provisions of subsection (e) of this section shall exhibit the safety education certificate upon demand of a law enforcement officer having authority to enforce the provisions of this section.

(g) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule to the contrary, the Commissioner may authorize the temporary operation of all-terrain vehicles not registered in this State on Route 253 in Beecher Falls for an annual special event, provided the all-terrain vehicle is registered in another state or province.~~ [Repealed.]

* * * U.S. Postal Service; Vehicle Inspection; Sunset Repeal * * *

Sec. 19. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 31(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) ~~23 V.S.A. § 1222(e), added in Sec. 27 (inspections; mail carrier vehicles), shall be repealed on July 1, 2020.~~ [Repealed.]

* * * Permit Fees; Waiver * * *

Sec. 20. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT FEES

(a) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 1112(b), the Secretary is authorized to waive fees associated with permits or permit amendments issued pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 1111 for any reason associated with the response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall continue in effect until six months after the conclusion of a state of emergency declared under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19.

* * * Use of Pozzolans as an Alternative to Portland Cement * * *

Sec. 21. USE OF POZZOLANS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PORTLAND CEMENT

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Pozzolans, such as pulverized fuel ash (commonly known as “fly ash”), ground granulated blast-furnace slag, and silica fume, can be used to partially replace a portion of the Portland Cement used in the production of concrete.

(2) Using pozzolans in the production of concrete for transportation infrastructure projects can typically reduce the use of Portland Cement by 40 to 50 percent.

(3) Using pozzolans in a concrete mix design can:

(A) reduce the carbon dioxide emissions associated with transportation infrastructure projects, such as bridges and sidewalks;

(B) increase the compressive strength and durability of concrete; and

(C) decrease construction costs.

(4) Pozzolans cannot be used as a complete substitute for Portland Cement in a concrete mix design because they enhance and do not replace the cementitious properties of Portland Cement as it hydrates as part of the overall chemical reaction that binds and strengthens the concrete.

(b) Use of Portland Cement. The Agency is encouraged to continue researching, testing, and wherever practicable, using pozzolans and alternatives to Portland Cement as part of the concrete mix designs for all transportation infrastructure projects.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 22. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 2 (federal funding), 3 (spending redirection), 4 (Amtrak), 19 (U.S. Postal Service vehicle inspection exemption sunset repeal; 23 V.S.A. § 1222(e)), and 20 (section 1111 permit fee waiver) shall take effect on passage.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the third reading was ordered.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 947

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal tax rate provisions in response to COVID-19

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1 (municipal tax rate; temporary authority), immediately following the words “the legislative body of a”, by striking out the word “municipality” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: city, town, or incorporated village

Second: In Sec. 1 (municipal tax rate; temporary authority), immediately following the words “provided that the”, by striking out the word “municipality” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: city, town, or incorporated village

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Rules Suspended; Second Reading;
Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended;
Third Reading; Bill Passed**

H. 958

On Motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to communications union districts

Pending entry on the Calendar for Notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Rep. Gannon of Wilmington, spoke for the committee on Government Operations,

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time and third reading was ordered.

Thereupon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 345

Rep. Colston of Winooski, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

By striking Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

Sec. 2. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX; HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES;

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

(a) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 312 and any other provision of law to the contrary, during a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, the legislative body of a municipality is authorized to:

(1) borrow monies appropriated from property taxes for the highway expenditures of the municipality as part of the budget approved by the legal voters of the municipality to expend on general government expenditures; and

(2) borrow monies appropriated from property taxes for the general government expenditures of the municipality as part of the budget approved by the legal voters of the municipality to expend on highway expenditures.

(b) The acts permitted by subsection (a) of this section may be adopted by majority vote of the legislative body of a municipality and shall expire on January 1, 2021.

(c) This section shall apply only to property taxes collected by a municipality from the taxpayers. This section shall not apply to any State aid for town highways distributed pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306.

(d) This section shall not alleviate the municipality of any Title 19 match requirements.

(e) A municipality that borrows and expends monies under this section shall, not later than December 31, 2021, transfer to any such fund from which such borrowing has been made an amount equal to such borrowed amount together with interest on the borrowed amount at such rate as the legislative body of the municipality shall determine.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to temporary municipal provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak”

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Government Operations agreed to and third reading ordered.

Recess

At twelve o'clock and twenty-six minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until two o'clock in the afternoon.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

S. 345

On Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged to Senate Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the following bills were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith:

H. 955

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

H. 947

House bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal tax rate provisions in response to COVID-19

H. 958

House bill, entitled

An act relating to communications union districts

S. 345

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 956

Rep. Birong of Vergennes, spoke for the committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

On House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws

Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven, for the committee on Ways and Means reported in favor of its passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Third Reading Ordered**

S. 283

Rep. Anthony of Barre City, for the committee on Ways and Means, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Town of Hartford's tax increment financing district

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 43

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 55. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 125. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Message from the Senate No. 44

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 190. An act relating to the Standard Offer Program.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 643. An act relating to banking and insurance.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 951. An act relating to the municipal emergency statewide education property tax borrowing program.

H. 953. An act relating to fiscal year 2020 supplemental budget adjustments.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At two o'clock and forty-eight minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Friday, May 29, 2020, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.