Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

The roll of the Senate was thereupon called by the Secretary, John H. Bloomer, Jr., and it appeared that the following Senators were present.

Addison District	Senator Christopher A. Bray Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy
Bennington District	Senator Brian A. Campion Senator Richard W. Sears, Jr.
Caledonia District	Senator Joseph C. Benning Senator M. Jane Kitchel
Chittenden District	Senator Timothy R. Ashe Senator Philip E. Baruth Senator Deborah J. Ingram Senator Virginia V. Lyons Senator Christopher A. Pearson Senator Michael D. Sirotkin
Essex-Orleans District	Senator Robert A. Starr
Franklin District	Senator Randoph D. Brock Senator Corey. J. Parent
Grand Isle District	Senator Richard T. Mazza
Lamoille District	Senator Richard A. Westman
Orange District	Senator Mark A. MacDonald
Rutland District	Senator Brian P. Collamore Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker

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Senator James L. McNeil

Washington District	Senator Ann E. Cummings Senator Andrew J. Perchlik Senator Anthony Pollina
Windham District	Senator Rebecca A. Balint Senator Jeanette K. White
Windsor District	Senator Alison Clarkson Senator Richard J. McCormack Senator Alice W. Nitka

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 54.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By the Committee on Institutions,

J.R.S. 54. Joint resolution relating to the annual State lands transactions.

Whereas, in 1964, in order to provide access, including public access, from Route 155 to the Okemo State Forest in the Town of Mount Holly, the State of Vermont acquired fee ownership of a 50-foot strip of land across three privately owned parcels, and

Whereas, two of the parcels' owners, in order to access their respective parcels, have secured an easement across the State-owned strip, and

Whereas, the third parcel's owner, Yale University, included in its deed to the State a contingency clause, which has never been acted upon, for an access easement across the State's parcel, and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation now seeks to grant an easement to Yale University for access to the University's land, and

Whereas, the deeded description of the 50-foot strip of land that the owners of the Coleman, Barber, and Yale University parcels conveyed to the State of Vermont contains scrivener's errors and omits courses and distances, creating confusion as to the location of the rights-of-way conveyed to the owners of the Coleman and Barber parcels and of the right-of-way to be conveyed to Yale University, which the Department desires to correct through the exchange or conveyance of corrective deeds, and

Whereas, in September of 2018, Michael and Pamela Kingman filed a civil suit against the State of Vermont seeking a declaratory judgement to determine

the boundary line between their land and the northern terminus of Branbury State Park in the Town of Salisbury, and

Whereas, the parties have executed a settlement agreement and release of the civil law suit, involving the exchange of quitclaim deeds, the establishment of a new boundary line, and the relinquishment of any claimed rights of Michael and Pamela Kingman to the south of the line and of the State to the north of the line, and

Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 2606(b) provides that the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may "sell, convey, exchange, or lease lands, or interests in land, or may amend deeds, leases, and easement interests," with the approval of the General Assembly, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to convey a right-of-way easement to Yale University across a fifty-foot strip of land in the Town of Mount Holly that is located beginning at a point on the edge of State Highway 155 and traverses the Coleman parcel to the boundary with the Yale University parcel and that Yale University shall use the right-of-way exclusively to access its land. The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall reserve for itself and its successors, licensees, and assigns, the right to use this easement, in common with Yale University, for any type of forest management activity, including those that involve the use of vehicles and equipment, and for public recreational access to Okemo State Forest, including for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Forest management uses shall be a priority to which all other uses shall be subordinate, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may exchange or convey corrective deeds to the owners or successors of the Coleman, Barber, and Yale University parcels abutting or adjacent to Okemo State Forest to correct scrivener's errors in the description of the 50-foot strip of land and right-of-way, and be it further

Resolved: That the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may exchange quitclaim deeds with Michael and Pamela Kingman for all rights, title, and interests in certain lands in the Town of Salisbury on the northern and southern sides of an agreed-upon boundary line, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

Thereupon, under the rules, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for notice the next legislative day.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 55.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Ashe,

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

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, May 28, 2020, or, Friday, May 29, 2020, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 673.

An act relating to tree wardens.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

H. 954.

An act relating to miscellaneous tax provisions.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 957.

An act relating to extending the deadline to test for lead in the drinking water of school buildings and child care facilities.

To the Committee on Education.

Rules Suspended; Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 951.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

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

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY STATEWIDE EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX BORROWING PROGRAM

(a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a program to assist municipalities required to make a short-term borrowing to manage the cash flow effects of statewide education property tax deferrals or delays in receipt of such taxes by municipalities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program shall be administered in a way that is consistent with section 5001 of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116–136 (the CARES Act) and any guidance or regulations issued pursuant to that section, and that allows the State to recover, to the maximum extent possible, the short-term borrowing costs payable to municipalities from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by section 5001 of the CARES Act, as may be amended, or any other federal funds that may be granted to the State and used to reimburse short-term borrowing costs.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Municipality" means a city, town, incorporated village, the unorganized towns and gores of Essex County, and Buel's Gore.

(2) "Short-term borrowing costs" means interest incurred for short-term borrowing directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, including interest on letters or lines of credit, revenue anticipation notes, tax anticipation notes, and bond anticipation notes. "Short-term borrowing costs" does not mean the principal payments of any borrowing or any interest on borrowing not directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c) Program. The Municipal Emergency Statewide Education Property Tax Borrowing Program is established to authorize the State Treasurer to make payments to municipalities to cover the short-term borrowing costs incurred that are attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(d) Application. A municipality that has duly authorized a short-term borrowing directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply to the State Treasurer for payment under the Program. The application shall be in the manner prescribed by the Treasurer and shall include, at a minimum:

(1) the amount and type of short-term borrowing costs that the municipality seeks to have reimbursed;

(2) the municipality's 2020 tax collection date;

(3) an explanation, with supporting documentation, of the municipality's under-collection or delay in statewide education property tax collection attributable to COVID-19; and

(4) certification by the municipality, and supporting documentation, that such costs meet the definition of short-term borrowing as defined in subdivision (b)(2) of this section and the eligibility criteria as defined in subsection (e) of this section.

(e) Eligibility. Payments under the Program shall be available only to a municipality, as that term is defined in subdivision (b)(1) of this section, subject to the following criteria:

(1) Short-term borrowing costs were not included in the municipality's budget or any amendment to the budget enacted on or prior to March 27, 2020.

(2) Short-term borrowing costs were incurred during the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 30, 2020.

(3) The borrowing was made for the purpose of managing the cash flow effects of statewide education property tax deferrals or delays as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(4) The expenses must be consistent with use of funds authorized in section 5001 of the CARES Act, as may be amended, or the requirements of any other federal funds that may be granted to the State and used to support the Program.

(5) Any borrowing interest must be commercially reasonable based on published municipal indices or prevailing bank rates.

(f) Administration.

(1) The Treasurer shall specify the form of certification to the municipalities not later than seven days after enactment of this act and begin accepting applications not later than ten days after enactment of this act.

(2) The Treasurer may be reimbursed for any expenditure made in the administration of the provisions of this section.

(g) Records. A municipality shall keep records sufficient to demonstrate that the amount of payments to the municipality has been used in accordance with this section.

Sec. 2. MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY STATEWIDE EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX BORROWING; APPROPRIATION

The sum of up to \$2,700,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2020 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Office of the State Treasurer for use in FY 2020 and FY 2021 for the purpose of providing payments under the Municipal Emergency Statewide Education Property Tax Borrowing Program described in Sec. 1 of this act. Any appropriation amount carried forward to FY 2021 under this section shall revert to the Coronavirus Relief Fund after all eligible

short-term borrowing costs incurred through December 30, 2020 have been expended.

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 the municipal emergency statewide education property tax borrowing program.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Rules Suspended; Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 953.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 supplemental budget adjustments.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Kitchel, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.138 is amended to read:

Sec. B.138 Renter rebate

Grants	<u>9,500,000</u>	8,100,000
Total	9,500,000	8,100,000
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>9,500,000</u>	8,100,000
Total	9,500,000	8,100,000

Sec. 2. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.145 is amended to read:

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds		
General fund	93,659,436	92,266,436
Transportation fund	4,019,636	4,019,636
Special funds	14,959,116	14,959,116
Federal funds	1,116,678	1,116,678
Internal service funds	125,854,235	125,854,235

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Interdepartmental transfers	7,215,255	7,215,255
Enterprise funds	23,052	23,052
Pension trust funds	9,704,432	9,704,432
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,125,701</u>	<u>1,125,701</u>
Total	257,677,5 41	256,284,541

Sec. 3. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.219 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 9 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.219 Military - veterans' affairs		
Personal services	833,614	833,614
Operating expenses	173,955	173,955
Grants	<u>43,300</u>	<u>33,300</u>
Total	1,050,869	1,040,869
Source of funds		
General fund	803,651	793,651
Special funds	147,218	147,218
Federal funds	100,000	100,000
Total	1,050,869	1,040,869

Sec. 4. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.240 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 10 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.240 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	164,720,860	164,710,860
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000
Special funds	88,767,278	88,767,278
Tobacco fund	561,843	561,843
Federal funds	54,587,748	54,587,748
ARRA funds	921,260	921,260
Interdepartmental transfers	14,655,414	14,655,414
Enterprise funds	<u>11,472,400</u>	11,472,400
Total	355,936,803	355,926,803

Sec. 5. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.301 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 12 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Operating expenses	3,150,212 3,150,212
Grants	<u>1,630,119,013</u> <u>1,629,912,361</u>
Total	1,633,269,225 1,633,062,573
Source of funds	
General fund	557,208,815 513,632,278
Special funds	34,969,169 44,969,169

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Tobacco fund	21,049,373 21,049,373
State health care resources fund	21,101,110 22,601,110
Federal funds	983,572,979 1,015,442,864
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,367,779</u> <u>25,367,779</u>
Total	1,633,269,225 1,633,062,573

Sec. 6. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.306 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 14 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	140,308,825	140,308,825
Operating expenses	29,905,859	29,905,859
Grants	6,764,723	<u>6,764,723</u>
Total	176,979,407	176,979,407
Source of funds		
General fund	32,242,529	32,228,890
Special funds	6,096,108	6,096,108
Federal funds	124,749,165	124,735,526
Global Commitment fund	9,369,215	9,369,215
Interdepartmental transfers	4,522,390	4,549,668
Total	176,979,407	176,979,407

Sec. 7. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.307 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 15 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - global commitment

Personal services	547,983	547,983
Grants	725,790,989	718,744,003
Total	726,338,972	719,291,986
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	<u>726,338,972</u>	719,291,986
Total	726,338,972	719,291,986

Sec. 8. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.309 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 17 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - state only

Grants	<u>53,864,800</u>	49,128,572
Total	53,864,800	49,128,572
Source of funds		
General fund	42,034,845	39,150,622
Global Commitment fund	11,829,955	9,892,450

Enterprise funds	<u>0</u>	85,500
Total	53,864,800	49,128,572

Sec. 9. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.310 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 18 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	<u>33,297,789</u>	33,076,106
Total	33,297,789	33,076,106
Source of funds		
General fund	12,140,974	11,896,989
Federal funds	<u>21,157,815</u>	<u>21,179,117</u>
Total	33,297,789	33,076,106

Sec. 10. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.313 is amended to read:

Sec. B.313 Health - alcohol and drug abuse programs

Personal services	4,363,807	4,363,807
Operating expenses	255,634	255,634
Grants	<u>51,538,398</u>	50,316,237
Total	56,157,839	54,935,678
Source of funds		
General fund	1,946,686	1,946,686
Special funds	1,170,177	1,170,177
Tobacco fund	949,917	949,917
Federal funds	17,574,970	17,574,970
Global Commitment fund	<u>34,516,089</u>	33,293,928
Total	56,157,839	54,935,678

Sec. 11. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.314 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 19 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	32,137,652	32,342,021
Operating expenses	4,434,083	4,434,083
Grants	237,094,507	237,759,022
Total	273,666,242	274,535,126
Source of funds		
General fund	7,699,658	7,699,658
Special funds	1,684,904	1,480,535
Federal funds	9,132,390	10,205,643
Global Commitment fund	255,076,042	255,076,042

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Interdepartmental transfers	<u>73,248</u>	<u>73,248</u>
Total	273,666,242	274,535,126

Sec. 12. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.318 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 22 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.318 Department for children and families - child development

Personal services	4,618,948	4,618,948
Operating expenses	1,031,325	1,031,325
Grants	<u>79,924,977</u>	84,335,043
Total	85,575,250	89,985,316
Source of funds		
General fund	39,843,744	39,843,744
Special funds	1,820,000	1,820,000
Federal funds	33,144,045	37,554,111
Global Commitment fund	10,744,961	10,744,961
Interdepartmental transfers	22,500	22,500
Total	85,575,250	89,985,316

Sec. 13. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.325 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 26 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity

Personal services Operating expenses	522,340 43,673	522,340 43,673
Grants Total	$\frac{10,137,256}{10,703,269}$	<u>12,471,323</u> 13,037,336
Source of funds	10,703,209	15,057,550
General fund	5,037,111	5,037,111
Special funds	57,990	57,990
Federal funds	4,778,480	7,112,547
Global Commitment fund	829,688	829,688
Total	10,703,269	13,037,336

Sec. 14. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.346 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 34 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.346 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	1,007,088,907	960,370,523
Special funds	123,986,513	123,782,144
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	21,101,110	22,601,110

Federal funds	1,424,376,911 1	,464,072,845
Global Commitment fund	1,593,280,128 1	,583,073,476
Internal service funds	2,035,610	2,035,610
Interdepartmental transfers	36,346,190	46,373,468
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Enterprise funds	0	85,500
Total	4 ,231,328,577 4	,225,507,884

Sec. 15. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.711 is amended to read:

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services Operating expenses Grants Total	21,732,819 6,821,783 <u>32,104,881</u> 60,659,483	21,732,819 6,821,783 <u>31,354,321</u> 59,908,923
Source of funds		
General fund	7,994,351	7,994,351
Special funds	19,641,195	18,890,635
Federal funds	31,935,599	31,935,599
Interdepartmental transfers Total	$\frac{1,088,338}{60,659,483}$	$\frac{1,088,338}{59,908,923}$

Sec. 16. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	29,608,969	29,608,969
Special funds	60,039,636	59,289,076
Fish and wildlife fund	9,236,567	9,236,567
Federal funds	54,971,917	54,971,917
Interdepartmental transfers	10,178,254	10,178,254
Permanent trust funds	60,000	<u>60,000</u>
Total	164,095,343	163,344,783

Sec. 17. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.802 is amended to read:

Sec. B.802 Housing & community development

Personal services	3,723,802	3,723,802
Operating expenses	779,039	779,039
Grants	<u>11,773,050</u>	11,673,050
Total	16,275,891	16,175,891
Source of funds		
General fund	2,753,913	2,753,913
Special funds	5,185,233	5,085,233

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Federal funds	7,883,744	7,883,744
Interdepartmental transfers	453,001	453,001
Total	16,275,891	16,175,891

Sec. 18. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.813 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 38 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development

Source of funds		
General fund	16,529,933	16,529,933
Special funds	18,730,826	18,630,826
Federal funds	30,578,334	30,578,334
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>522,588</u>	<u>522,588</u>
Total	66,361,681	66,261,681

Sec. 19. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.902 is amended to read:

Sec. B.902 Transportation - buildings

Operating expenses	<u>907,746</u>	<u>307,746</u>
Total	907,746	307,746
Source of funds		
Transportation fund	907,746	307,746
Total	907,746	307,746

Sec. 20. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.903 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 39 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.903 Transportation - program development

Personal services	53,367,048	53,367,048
Operating expenses	217,771,750	217,771,750
Grants	27,258,553	27,258,553
Total	298,397,351	298,397,351
Source of funds		
Transportation fund	4 0,775,23 4	41,675,234
TIB fund	12,955,317	12,055,317
Federal funds	244,272,581	244,272,581
Interdepartmental transfers	191,790	191,790
Local match	202,429	202,429
Total	298,397,351	298,397,351

Sec. 21. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.914 is amended to read:

Sec. B.914 Transportation - town highway bridges

Personal services	3,239,423	3,239,423
Operating expenses	10,143,100	9,843,100

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Grants Total	<u>451,328</u> 13,833,851	<u>451,328</u> 13,533,851
Source of funds		
Transportation fund	1,304,648	1,004,648
TIB fund	701,815	701,815
Federal funds	10,887,721	10,887,721
Local match	939,667	939,667
Total	13,833,851	13,533,851

Sec. 22. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.919 is amended to read:

Sec. B.919 Transportation - municipal mitigation assistance program

Operating expenses	204,000	204,000
Grants	<u>2,694,000</u>	<u>2,576,515</u>
Total	2,898,000	2,780,515
Source of funds		
Transportation fund	700,000	700,000
Special funds	770,000	652,515
Federal funds	1,428,000	1,428,000
Total	2,898,000	2,780,515

Sec. 23. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.922 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 42 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.922 Total transportation

Source of funds		
Transportation fund	256,457,422	256,457,422
TIB fund	14,417,132	13,517,132
Special funds	1,410,000	1,292,515
Federal funds	319,145,747	319,145,747
Internal service funds	20,112,038	20,112,038
Interdepartmental transfers	1,789,815	1,789,815
Local match	<u>1,142,096</u>	<u>1,142,096</u>
Total	614,474,250	613,456,765

Sec. 24. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.219 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 53 is further amended to read:

Sec. E.219 Military - veterans' affairs

(a) Of this appropriation, \$1,000 shall be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; \$4,800 shall be used for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans' Advisory Council; and \$5,000 shall be used for the Military, Family, and Community Network; and \$10,000 shall be granted to the American Legion for the Boys' State and Girls' State programs.

Sec. 25. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.905 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 58 is further amended to read:

Sec. E.905 SUPPLEMENTAL MAINTENANCE OR PROJECT SPENDING

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706 and the limits on program, project, or activity spending authority approved in the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program, the Secretary of Transportation, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration and subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, may transfer up to \$3,000,000.00 in Transportation Fund appropriations, other than appropriations for the Town Highway State Aid, Structures, and Class 2 roadway programs as follows:

(1) to the Transportation – Maintenance State System (8100002000) appropriation, for the specific purpose of addressing the overall cost of highway maintenance during fiscal year 2020.

(2) to the Transportation – Program Development (8100001100) appropriation, for the specific purpose of averting delays to project schedules.

(b)(1) If a contemplated transfer of an appropriation would not significantly delay the planned work schedule of a project, the Secretary may execute the transfer and shall give prompt notice thereof to the Joint Fiscal Office and to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session and, when the General Assembly is not in session, to the Joint Fiscal Office and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee.

(2) If a contemplated transfer of an appropriation would, by itself, significantly delay the planned work schedule of a project, the Secretary:

(A) when the General Assembly is in session, may execute the transfer, but shall give the House and Senate Committees on Transportation advance notice of at least 10 business days prior to executing the transfer; or

(B) when the General Assembly is not in session, may execute the transfer, but shall give prompt notice of the transfer to the Joint Fiscal Office and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee.

(c) In July 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall report all appropriations reductions made under the authority of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee. [Repealed.]

Sec. 26. CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC RESPONSE HUMAN SERVICES; FEDERAL FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

(a) The Agency of Human Services estimates \$6,117,944 of expenses will be incurred related to the coronavirus pandemic and COVID-19 emergency response for the provision of emergency food assistance and costs for establishing isolation housing and recovery options for vulnerable populations with potential COVID-19 disease or exposure. These expenses also include rent, staffing, security, supplies, and telemedicine capacity.

(b) In fiscal year 2020, the Agency of Human Services is authorized to expend FEMA funds for 75% Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for these incurred expenditures. State matching funds have been authorized in the May 11, 2020 Joint Fiscal Committee approved plan for the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Sec. 27. APPROPRIATION USE REPORTING REQUIREMENT

(a) The Agency of Human Service shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in August 2020 on the use of the funds appropriated from the Agency of Human Services Central Office earned federal receipts via Interdepartmental transfers appropriated in Sec. 5 of this act by further amending 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.301.

Sec. 27a. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.301 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 55 is further amended to read:

Sec. E.301 Secretary's Office – Global Commitment

* * *

(c) Up to \$15,400,000 \$25,367,779 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 – Secretary's Office – global commitment of this act.

Sec. 28. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. D.101 as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 45 is further amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS, REVERSIONS, AND RESERVES

* * *

(b) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2020:

(1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from the funds indicated:

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020	535
21405 Bond Investment Earnings	2,738,248.00
21923 Historic Property Stab & Rehab	32,917.00
22005 AHS Central Office earned federal receipts	15,874,593.00
50300 Liquor Control Fund18,37	0,000.0023,000,000.00
50400 Vermont Life Magazine Fund	375,000.00
62100 Unclaimed Property Fund 2,88	9,512.00 <u>3,470,512.00</u>
Caledonia Fair	5,000.00
North Country Hospital Loan	24,047.30

(2) The following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of unencumbered fund balances, shall be transferred from the following funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 2020. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

21638 AG-Fees & Reimbursements-Court Order

2,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
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21928	Secretary	of State Services Fund	2,032,817.00 2,432,817.00

(3) In fiscal year 2020, notwithstanding 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E.228, \$33,104,193 \$36,104,193 of the unencumbered balances in the Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (Fund Number 21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (Fund Number 21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (Fund Number 21080) shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(4) The following amounts shall be transferred from the General Fund to the funds indicated:

21370 Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund	1,500,000.00
21555 Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund	1,476,322.00
56100 Workers' Compensation Fund	2,715,144.00
56200 State Liability Insurance Fund	2,323,899.00
56300 Risk Management – all other insurance	128,000.00
58600 Equipment Revolving Fund	581,928.00

(A) Of the amount transferred to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund, \$865,000 is intended to meet additional projected funding

needs for fiscal year 2020, and the remainder is to be applied toward prefunding projected needs for fiscal year 2021.

(B) Of the amount transferred to the Equipment Revolving Fund, \$581,928 shall be for the intended purpose of establishing revolving loans for Information Technology needs and shall be tracked and reported separately from other Equipment Revolving Fund activity.

* * *

(f) The following General Fund amount shall be reserved in fiscal year 2020 for fiscal year 2021 budget expenditures: \$18,365,715. These funds shall be unreserved in fiscal year 2021. In fiscal year 2020, any unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year General Fund surplus remaining after satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308 and notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c shall remain in the General Fund and available for appropriation in fiscal year 2021.

Sec. 29. USE OF GENERAL FUND RESERVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 FINANCIAL CLOSE OUT

(a) To the extent funds are required to close the General Fund in balance for fiscal year 2020, the following amounts are unreserved:

(1) First, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, up to \$31,553,274 is unreserved from the General Fund Balance Reserve (aka Rainy Day Fund).

(2) Second, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A § 308, up to \$79,823,411 is unreserved from the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve.

(3) Finally, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, up to \$98,236,983 is unreserved from Human Services Caseload Reserve.

(b) Should federal fiscal assistance to states become available, including the ability for utilization of interfund borrowing from the Coronavirus Relief Fund that would allow for the use of such federal funding to be directly applied to the General Fund or applied to fiscal year 2020 General Fund expenditures, such funds shall be applied as allowed to reduce or eliminate the need to utilize the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 30. APPLICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DEFERRED TAX PAYMENTS COLLECTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

(a) To the extent that tax payments that were due to the State in fiscal year 2020 but were deferred as a result of state and federal emergency action taken in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic are received into the General Fund through August 15, 2020, funds from such payments shall be transferred or reserved as follows:

(1) First, to the extent any interfund loan was made from the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the provision of Sec. 29(b) of this act, in an amount to repay the balance of the interfund loan.

(2) Second, in the Human Services Caseload Reserve, in an amount to bring this reserve balance up to \$98,236,983.

(3) Third, in the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve, in an amount to bring this reserve balance up to \$81,472,791.

(4) Fourth, in General Fund Balance Reserve (aka Rainy Day Fund), in an amount to bring this reserve balance up to \$31,553,274.

(5) Finally, any additional amounts received from such payments shall remain available in the General Fund for appropriation in fiscal year 2021.

Sec. 31. FISCAL YEAR 2020 CLOSE OUT APPROPRIATION TRANSFER AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, in order to facilitate fiscal year 2020 financial closure of the State, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may, upon approval of the Governor, transfer fiscal year 2020 balances of appropriations up to \$250,000, and, upon approval of the Emergency Board, transfer fiscal year 2020 balances at or over \$250,000 made under any appropriation act for the support of the government from one component of an agency, department, or other unit of the Executive Branch of State government, to any component of the same agency, department, or unit. The Commissioner shall provide a report on all transfers made under the provisions of this subsection to the Joint Fiscal Committee in August 2020.

(b) Notwithstanding any other act or provision of law, the Legislative Branch of State government, in order to facilitate fiscal year 2020 financial closure of the Legislative Branch budgets, may transfer up to \$250,000 between appropriation units within the Legislative Branch.

Sec. 32. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 88, Sec. 49 is amended to read:

Sec. 49. FISCAL YEAR 2020 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2020, the sum of \$370,000 is appropriated to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to provide funding for the fiscal year 2020 change to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System's employer contribution rate.

(b) In fiscal year 2020, the sum of \$25,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the commissioning of the USS Vermont.

(c) In fiscal year 2020, the sum of \$450,000 is appropriated to the Secretary of State for calendar year 2020 general election expenditures.

Sec. 33. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION; INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly in fiscal year 2021 to fund the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation base appropriation at the level of \$19,978,588 for the 2020–2021 academic year.

Sec. 34. MEDICAID NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

(a) In fiscal year 2021, prior to executing a contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review and approval a detailed analysis demonstrating that by executing such a contract:

(1) no State policy, including the coordinated delivery of transportation services in the Elders and Persons with Disability program and the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program, will be compromised;

(2) there will be no degradation of service to eligible individuals; and

(3) the financial stability of the State's public transportation systems will be maintained.

(b) The analysis shall also include the impact of the Agency of Transportation's investments in vehicles, technology, and other capital investments on the coordinated service delivery model.

Sec. 35. CENTRAL GARAGE FUND REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on September 1, 2020 on the status of the Central Garage Fund and the plan to address any negative projected balance in the Fund.

* * * Coronavirus Relief Fund * * *

Sec. 36. ONE-TIME CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The following appropriations are authorized on a one-time basis in fiscal year 2020 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address necessary expenditures with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. These expenditures were not accounted for in the State budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 and were incurred during the period that began on March 1, 2020, in accordance with the Department of Treasury's April 22, 2020 interpretation of limitations on the permissible use of fund payments. These appropriations shall carry forward to fiscal year 2021, as needed.

(1) Joint Fiscal Committee: \$600,000 is appropriated to the Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee for use or transfer to appropriation units within the General Assembly as necessary to reimburse eligible fiscal year 2020 expenditures. The transfers shall be reviewed and approved through traditional transfer approval processes by the Secretary of Administration. The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide a list of the COVID-19 expenditures funded by this appropriation and related documentation and transfers to other legislative departments to the Joint Legislative Management Committee, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Commissioner of Finance and Management on or before July 30, 2020.

(2) Legislature: \$750,000 is appropriated to the Legislature for costs incurred beyond the budgeted 18-week legislative session in fiscal year 2020 due to the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, which includes delays and an extension to legislative work necessitated in the transition to remote or partially remote work for the Legislature.

(3) Agency of Natural Resources: \$2,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources to be transferred to the Agency's departments as needed to support sanitation efforts at public facilities.

(4) The Vermont State Colleges (VSC): \$12,515,500 is granted to the Vermont State Colleges. \$5,117,792 to cover the cost of rooms and meals refunds provided to students due to campus closures during the spring 2020 semester due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The remaining amount is for other expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 for COVID-19 response, including distance learning, equipment and supplies, facilities alterations, and staff or contractual costs related to the response.

(5) The University of Vermont (UVM): \$8,691,500 is granted to the University of Vermont. \$5,016,300 to cover the cost of rooms and parking refunds provided to students due to campus closure during the spring 2020 semester due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The remaining amount is for other expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 for COVID-19 response, including distance learning, equipment and supplies, facilities alterations and staff or contractual costs related to the response.

(6) The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC): \$5,100,000 is granted to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for increased tuition grants to students as a result of reduced household income in the 2020 calendar year as well as increased demand for skills enhancement grants due to the economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.

(7) The Agency of Human Services (AHS) for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services: \$3,000,000 is appropriated to AHS for

Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services costs and financial assistance during the pandemic allocated as follows:

(A) \$900,000 for the necessary training and support of EMTs including volunteers and paramedic education, these funds may be transferred to the department of health for disbursement as necessary.

(B) \$100,000 for AHS in coordination with the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) to engage though sole source contract one or more financial consultants to assist EMS service providers with applications needed for federal provider relief funds related to coronavirus funding; state prospective payments related to coronavirus through the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Vermont Health Access; and other grant funding that may be available in response to the pandemic.

(C) \$2,000,000, of which five percent shall be reserved for extraordinary financial relief to State EMS providers upon demonstrated need and the remainder of which may be used to make EMS provider stabilization grants in a manner determined by AHS that recognizes the need for administrative simplicity and EMS provider organization size.

(8) Department of Corrections: \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Corrections for support of necessary changes in community supervision and community programming resulting from COVID-19 impacts. This may include transfers or grant funding to diversion or community justice programs to maintain these programs to meet increased demand following reduced judicial operations due to the pandemic.

(9) State's Attorneys: \$818,000 is appropriated to the Department of State's Attorneys for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.

(10) Defender General: \$419,000 is appropriated to the Defender General for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.

(11) Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services: \$275,000 is appropriated to Center for Crime Victims Services for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.

(12) Judiciary: \$4,910,500 is appropriated to the Judiciary for costs directly related to impacts from the pandemic. These funds enable Judicial operations to resume in a safe manner, including the support of remote operations, expenditures for hazard pay for public-facing staff, and expenditures to expediently address the backlog of cases resulting from reduced Judicial operations during the pandemic. (A) The establishment of sixteen (16) exempt full-time limited service positions is authorized, as needed. Given the time frame faced in establishing the pandemic response work, use of temporary positions or contracts may be utilized as an alternative to filling new limited service positions.

Sec. 37. FULL COST ACCOUNTING OF CORONAVIRUS PERSONAL SERVICE EXPENSES

(a) The State Treasurer shall make a determination of the impact on State Retirement System actuarial obligations of any personnel expenses, hazard pay, overtime, or other personal services costs that are incurred through December 30, 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Upon approval of the Secretary of Administration said amount shall be appropriated and transferred from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the State Retirement System in fiscal years 2020 or 2021. The State Treasurer shall report the amount transferred under this authority to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) This act shall take effect on passage.

And by renumbering all the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Rules Suspended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 643.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to banking and insurance.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 190.

Senator MacDonald, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the Standard Offer Program.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8009 is amended to read:

§ 8009. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

(a) In <u>As used in</u> this section:

(1) "Baseload renewable power" means a plant that generates electricity from renewable energy; that, during normal operation, is capable of taking all or part of the minimum load on an electric transmission or distribution system; and that produces electricity essentially continuously at a constant rate.

(2) "Baseload renewable power portfolio requirement" means an annual average of 175,000 MWh of baseload renewable power from an in-state woody biomass plant that was commissioned prior to September 30, 2009, has a nominal capacity of 20.5 MW, and was in service as of January 1, 2011.

(3) "Biomass" means organic nonfossil material of biological origin constituting a source of renewable energy within the meaning of subdivision 8002(17)(21) of this title.

(4) [Repealed.]

(b) Notwithstanding subsection 8004(a) and subdivision 8005(d)(c)(1) of this title, commencing November 1, 2012, the electricity supplied by each Vermont retail electricity provider to its customers shall include the provider's pro rata share of the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, which shall be based on the total Vermont retail kWh sales of all such providers for the previous calendar year. The obligation created by this subsection shall cease on November 1, <u>2022</u> <u>2032</u>.

(c) A plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement shall be a qualifying small power production facility under 16 U.S.C. § 796(17)(C) and 18 C.F.R. part 292.

(d) The On or before January 1, 2022, the Commission shall determine, for the period beginning on November 1, 2022, and ending on November 1, 2032, the price to be paid to a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power

portfolio requirement. The Commission shall not be required to make this determination as a contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The price shall be the avoided cost of the Vermont composite electric utility system. In this subsection, the term "avoided cost" means the incremental cost to retail electricity providers of electric energy or capacity, or both, which, but for the purchase from the plant proposed to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, such providers would obtain from a source using the same generation technology as the proposed plant. In this subsection, the term "avoided cost" also includes the Commission's consideration of each of the following:

(1) The relevant cost data of the Vermont composite electric utility system.

(2) The terms of the potential contract, including the duration of the obligation.

(3) The availability, during the system's daily and seasonal peak periods, of capacity or energy from a proposed plant.

(4) The relationship of the availability of energy or capacity from the proposed plant to the ability of the Vermont composite electric utility system or a portion thereof to avoid costs.

(5) The costs or savings resulting from variations in line losses from those that would have existed in the absence of purchases from the proposed plant.

(6) The supply and cost characteristics of the proposed plant, including the costs of operation and maintenance of an existing plant during the term of a proposed contract.

(7) Mechanisms for encouraging dispatch of the proposed plant relative to the ISO New England wholesale energy price and value of regional renewable energy credits, while also respecting the physical operating parameters and fixed costs of the proposed plant.

(8) The fuel supply for the proposed plant is obtained from ecologically sound and sustainable sources. In the case of biomass, this shall include an assessment of whether fuel supplies use ecologically sound harvesting practices and whether they promote a diverse and sustainable forest economy in the region.

(9) The appropriate assignment of risks associated with the ISO New England Forward Capacity Market Pay-for-Performance Project.

(10) Any potential opportunities associated with having the proposed plant withdraw from the ISO New England Forward Capacity Market, while respecting the economic parameters of the proposed plant.

* * *

(i) The State and its instrumentalities shall not be liable to a plant owner or retail electricity provider with respect to any matter related to the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement or a plant used to satisfy such requirement, including costs associated with a contract related to such a plant or any damages arising from the breach of such a contract, the flow of power between a plant and the electric grid, or the interconnection of a plant to that grid. For the purpose of this section, the Commission and the Standard Offer Facilitator constitute instrumentalities of the State.

(j) The Commission shall authorize any agency participating in a proceeding under this section or in an order issued under this section to assess its costs against a proposed plant consistent with section 21 of this title.

(k) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall investigate the feasibility of utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement imposed under this section. Such investigation shall be done in consultation with the plant's owner, the Northeast Vermont Development Association, and other interested parties and shall consider the economic feasibility of utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by a plant and the economic development options available to the State to assist in the utilization of the excess thermal energy. On or before January 15, 2022 the Agency shall report on its investigation and any recommended legislation to the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(1) In considering the assessment of whether fuel supplies use ecologically sound harvesting practices and whether they promote a diverse and sustainable forest economy in the region, the Agency of Natural Resources shall provide input to the Commission regarding any recommended changes to the biomass harvesting practices associated with fuel supply, and the Commission shall incorporate such recommendations in the Order.

Sec. 2. TRANSITION PROVISION

All decisions and orders of the former Public Service Board and the Public Utility Commission in the matter *Investigation into the Establishment of a Standard-Offer Price for Baseload Renewable Power under the Sustainably* <u>Priced Energy Enterprise Development ("SPEED") Program</u>, Docket No. 7782, shall remain in full force and effect through October 31, 2022.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Passed; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged

S. 125.

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

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

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended, and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.