

1 H.966

2 Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Brumstead of Shelburne,
3 Gregoire of Fairfield, Haas of Rochester, McFaun of Barre Town, Nicoll of
4 Ludlow, Noyes of Wolcott, Pajala of Londonderry, Redmond of Essex,
5 Rosenquist of Georgia, and Wood of Waterbury move that the bill be amended
6 as follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 1, purpose, in its entirety and inserting a new
8 Sec. 1 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

10 The purpose of this act is to appropriate \$111,130,100.00 from the State's
11 Coronavirus Relief Fund for necessary expenses incurred as a result of the
12 COVID-19 public health emergency. This appropriation shall be allocated as
13 follows: \$43,068,500.00 for broadband connectivity and other initiatives and
14 \$68,061,600.00 for housing initiatives.

15 Second: By inserting a Sec. 11a after Sec. 11, COVID-19 response;
16 housing, to read as follows:

17 Sec. 11a. HOUSING, RENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT

18 SERVICES; CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND; APPROPRIATION

19 (a) The sum of \$16,061,600.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
20 Fund to the Department for Children and Families in fiscal year 2021 to fund
21 programs and services that support safe, stable housing opportunities for

1 Vermont households experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19
2 public health emergency and related administrative costs. The programs and
3 services funded by this appropriation may include:

4 (1) expanding the Vermont Rental Subsidy program to provide homeless
5 households with temporary rental assistance through December 30, 2020 as a
6 bridge to public housing vouchers;

7 (2) providing or arranging for housing navigation and case management
8 services, such as identifying housing barriers, needs, and preferences;
9 developing and implementing plans to find and secure housing; conducting
10 outreach to potential landlords; assisting with relocation logistics; developing
11 permanent housing support crisis plans; and identifying other services
12 necessary for households to maintain permanent housing;

13 (3) providing financial assistance to Vermont households who are living
14 in motels to help them rapidly resolve their homelessness and enter into safe
15 housing arrangements;

16 (4) supplementing the General Assistance motel voucher program to
17 address the immediate housing needs of households who are currently living in
18 motels or hotels around the State and whose motel or hotel lodging is related to
19 a disruption to their previous housing situation as a result of the COVID-19
20 public health emergency; and

1 (5) capitalizing a housing risk pool for landlords to encourage rentals to
2 individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, which would
3 help landlords lessen their risk of exposure to financial loss through December
4 20, 2020, while renting to households that have poor or no rental housing
5 history as result of financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health
6 emergency.

7 (b) The General Assembly determines that the expenditure of monies from
8 the Coronavirus Relief Fund as set forth in this section is necessary to secure
9 safe, stable housing opportunities for Vermont households experiencing
10 homelessness, many of whom have been disproportionately impacted by
11 unemployment, business closures, or business interruptions as a result of the
12 COVID-19 public health emergency. The number of households living in
13 State-supported motels or hotels grew from approximately 300 to 1,400 over
14 the course of two months. The COVID-19 pandemic has rendered housing in
15 shelters incompatible with maintaining public health; increased the number of
16 households experiencing homelessness and in need of housing supports to
17 obtain or maintain safe, stable housing; and created a demand for diverse social
18 services to safely house these vulnerable Vermonters.

19 (c) The provision of housing programs and services is not compensable
20 under this section to the extent that the same costs or expenses have been or
21 will be covered by other federal funds.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE