

1 S.349

2 Representative Donahue of Northfield moves that the House propose to the
3 Senate that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on
4 Government Operations and be further amended in Sec. 1, COVID-19 expense
5 reimbursement; local government, by striking out subdivision (c)(1) in its
6 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

7 (1) \$4,850,000.00 in grants for reimbursement of eligible COVID-19
8 expenses:

9 (A) to Vermont counties in amounts that shall not exceed
10 \$200,000.00 per recipient and \$1.00 per person as determined from the 2019
11 town census data published by the U.S. Census Bureau;

12 (B) to Vermont cities, towns, unorganized towns or gores, and any of
13 the unified towns and gores of Essex County, including those incurred by
14 incorporated villages, fire districts, consolidated water districts created under
15 24 V.S.A. chapter 91, and consolidated sewer districts created under 24 V.S.A.
16 chapter 105 therein. Grants allocated under this subdivision (1)(B) shall not
17 exceed \$200,000.00 per recipient and \$20.00 per person as determined from
18 the 2019 town census data published by the U.S. Census Bureau; and

19 (C)(i) notwithstanding subdivisions (1)(A) and (1)(B) of this
20 subsection (c), priority shall be given in allocating grants under this
21 subdivision (1) to Vermont cities, towns, unorganized towns or gores, and any

1 of the unified towns and gores of Essex County, including those incurred by
2 incorporated villages and fire districts for hazard pay to eligible employees as
3 set forth in subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (1)(C). This subdivision (1)(C)
4 shall supersede the proration allowed pursuant to subdivision (4) of this
5 subsection (c).

6 (ii) For purposes of being entitled to the priority granted pursuant
7 to this subdivision (1)(C)(ii), each eligible employee shall have received or
8 shall be paid hazard pay in an amount equal to or greater than:

9 (I) \$1,400.00 for each eligible employee who worked at least
10 216 hours during the eligible period; and

11 (II) \$800.00 for each eligible employee who worked at least 68
12 hours and less than 216 hours during the eligible period.

13 (iii) As used in this subdivision (C),

14 (I) “Elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19” means the
15 performance of a job that:

16 (aa) has high potential for exposure to known or suspected
17 sources of COVID-19, including through providing in-person services or care
18 to members of the public, or cleaning or sanitizing the premises of the grantee
19 in a location that is used by members of the public or individuals who are
20 known or suspected to have COVID-19;

1 (bb) requires frequent physical contact or close contact, or
2 both, with people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, but who are not
3 known or suspected COVID-19 patients; or

4 (cc) is located in an area with ongoing community
5 transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and requires regular, close contact with
6 members of the public.

7 (II) “Eligible employee” means an individual who:

8 (aa) is employed by the grantee;

9 (bb) performed a job that had an elevated risk of exposure to
10 COVID-19 during the eligible period;

11 (cc) was unable to perform his or her job remotely or to
12 telework, including by providing healthcare or other services by telephone,
13 videoconference, or telehealth;

14 (dd) earns a base wage of \$25.00 per hour or less;

15 (ee) worked at least 68 hours for the grantee during the
16 eligible period; and

17 (ff) is not eligible to receive monetary benefits for the
18 performance of his or her job under any program authorized or implemented
19 by the federal government.

20 (III) “Eligible period” means the period from March 13, 2020
21 through May 15, 2020, inclusive.