



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Appropriations
From: Daniel Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst
Janet Miller, Sergeant at Arms
Date: December 18, 2019
Subject: One-time Sergeant at Arms Security Appropriation

The General Assembly made a one-time appropriation of \$20,000 to the Sergeant at Arms in the 2012 big bill (Act 162 of 2012 sec. B.1103) for unforeseen security expenses. The funding source was not utilized until State fiscal year 2017, and additional funds were expended in the subsequent two years. These expenditures have been necessitated by the increasing number of events at the Statehouse that require overtime hours by Capitol Police staff and/or other additional security. Total expenditures from the security reserve through FY2019 are shown in the table below.

Sergeant at Arms Security Reserve Activity (FY2013 through FY2019)		
	Funds Available	Funds Expended
FY2013-2016	\$20,000	(\$0)
FY2017	\$20,000	(\$5,113.75)
FY2018	\$14,886.25	(\$5,686.34)
FY2019	\$9,199.91	(\$8,147.70)
FY2020	\$1,052.21	

In budget proposals for the previous two years, I had proposed transferring carry-forward dollars into the reserve to make it whole. However, this was not actually attempted by the Sergeant at Arms until this fiscal year (FY20), and there was difficulty encountered in accomplishing the transfer because the reserve was a one-time appropriation and the language did not indicate whether the reserve could be replenished. I recommend that the General Assembly establish a mechanism by which funds in the reserve can be replenished. One method would be through authorizing language to allow year-end transfer of appropriation (what would otherwise likely be carry-forward) from within the Legislative Branch to this reserve to 'top off' the fund at \$20k. We can provide draft authorizing language for the committee to review.

Cc: Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer
Matthew Romei, Chief of Capitol Police

Sec. B.1102 ONE-TIME UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE INTEREST

(a) The amount of \$1,888,385 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2013 to the department of labor for unemployment insurance interest payments to the federal government.

Sec. B.1103 ONE-TIME SERGEANT AT ARMS SECURITY

APPROPRIATION

(a) The amount of \$20,000 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2013 to the sergeant at arms for use in the event that unforeseen security is needed in the state house. Any unused portion shall carry forward for use in subsequent years until expended.

Sec. B.1104 ONE-TIME LEGAL AID HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE

APPROPRIATION

(a) The amount of \$200,000 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2013 to the department of financial regulation – banking to be used to provide a grant to Vermont Legal Aid to fund legal services for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Sec. B.1105 [DELETED]

Sec. B.1106 ONE-TIME WORKING LANDSCAPE APPROPRIATION

(a) The amount of \$1,175,000 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2013 to the agency of agriculture, food and markets for direct grants and investments in food and forest systems pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 4607, including