

1 Introduced by Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

2 Date:

3 Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide
5 additional CARES Act relief to Vermont businesses that have suffered
6 economic harm due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

7 An act relating to providing additional COVID-19 relief

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 6. COVID-19; ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

11 AND INDIVIDUALS

12 (a) Appropriations; grants. The following amounts are appropriated from
13 the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the named recipients to provide grants to
14 businesses that have suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 public
15 health emergency and economic crisis.

16 (1) ~~\$82,000,000.00 for additional emergency economic recovery grants~~
17 ~~pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 (S.350), Secs. 2-3~~

18 \$175,000,000.00 for grants to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria in

19 subsection (c) of this section as follows:

1 (A) ~~\$56,000,000.00~~ \$144,000,000.00 to the Agency of Commerce
2 and Community Development.

3 (B) \$26,000,000.00 to the Department of Taxes.

4 * * *

5 (5) \$5,000,000.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community
6 Development to grant to the Vermont Arts Council for grants to nonprofit arts
7 and cultural organizations. ~~For purposes of calculating reduction in revenue~~
8 ~~under this subdivision, “revenue” does not include tax deductible charitable~~
9 ~~contributions.~~

10 * * *

11 (c) Eligibility; grant amount; terms; guidelines.

12 (1) To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this section, a
13 business must meet the following eligibility criteria and comply with the
14 guidelines adopted pursuant to ~~2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 (S.350) unless~~
15 ~~otherwise provided in this section, except that a business must demonstrate that~~
16 ~~it suffered a 50 percent or greater reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19~~
17 ~~public health emergency and economic crisis in a monthly or quarterly period~~
18 ~~from March 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020 as compared to the same period in~~
19 ~~2019~~ subdivision (4) of this subsection:

20 (A) The business is a private, for-profit or nonprofit organization that
21 is domiciled or has its primary place of business in Vermont.

1 (1) A business may not receive a grant of Coronavirus Relief Fund
2 monies from more than one source, ~~except that a business in the dairy sector~~
3 ~~may apply for a grant under subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section, provided that~~
4 ~~the award is not~~ for the same purpose covered under other assistance from the
5 Fund.

6 * * *

7 (g) Emergency economic recovery grant funds; transfer. If any funds
8 appropriated to Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the
9 Department of Taxes in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 (S.350) remain both
10 unencumbered and unspent as of August 1, 2020, the Agency and Department
11 shall combine and administer those funds with the amounts made available to
12 them in this section, subject to the standards and criteria established in this
13 section.

14 Sec. 2. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 1(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) The purpose of this act is to appropriate ~~\$213,200,000.00~~ monies from
16 the Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover necessary broadband connectivity,
17 information technology, housing, and economic relief expenses incurred due
18 to, or as a result of, the COVID-19 public health emergency.

19 Sec. 3. RECREATION SAFETY GRANTS; APPROPRIATION

20 The amount of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
21 Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for grants to

1 Vermont ski area businesses to make necessary physical improvements to their
2 facilities in order to mitigate public health and safety risks to the public due to
3 the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4 **Sec. 4. RESTART VERMONT MARKETING PROGRAM**

5 The amount of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
6 Fund to the Department of Tourism and Marketing for the Restart Vermont
7 Marketing Program to publicize the resumption of activities and steps taken to
8 ensure a safe experience.

9 **Sec. 5. WORKFORCE TRAINING**

10 (a) Appropriation. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated
11 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, to be divided equally between the
12 Community College of Vermont and the Vermont Technical Center,
13 to serve approximately 1,000 Vermonters who have been impacted by
14 the COVID-19 pandemic, either through layoffs, furloughs, reduced
15 hours or due to being employed in an industry that has been severely
16 affected.

17 (b) CCV and Vermont Tech shall use the funds awarded pursuant
18 to this section to:

19 (1) offer courses and workshops to upskill affected Vermonters
20 in their current industry or reskill Vermonters who desire a change in

1 their career path for more economic stability, which may include
2 training for Vermonters to transition to the childcare sector and
3 business technical assistance for small businesses; and
4 (2) to provide for necessary school supplies, wrap-around
5 services, marketing of the program, and support staff.

6 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on passage.