

benefits, as well as grants to support the establishment of community-based alternatives for temporary housing as part of the effort to reduce the number of individuals temporarily housed by the General Assistance program. The purpose of these housing assistance programs and community-based alternatives is to mitigate poverty and serve applicants more effectively than they are currently being served with General Assistance funds. Eligible activities shall include, among other things, the provision of shelter, overflow shelter, case management, transitional housing, deposits, down payments, rental assistance, upstream prevention, and related services that ensure that all Vermonters have access to shelter, housing, and the services they need to become safely housed. The Agency may award grants to homeless and housing service providers for eligible activities. Where such housing assistance programs and grants are provided, and community-based programs are established, the General Assistance rules will not apply. The assistance provided under this section is not an entitlement and may be discontinued when the appropriation has been fully spent.

(b) The housing assistance and community-based programs may operate in up to 12 districts designated by the Secretary of Human Services. The Agency shall establish goals and procedures for evaluating the program overall, including performance measures that demonstrate program results, and for each district in which the Agency operates the program, it shall establish procedures for evaluating the district program and its effects.

(c) The Agency shall continue to engage interested parties, including both statewide organizations and local agencies, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of housing assistance programs and community-based alternatives to General Assistance temporary housing.

EXPLANATION: Continues language included in fiscal year 2019.

Sec. E.324: EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it, if the benefit cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the one crisis fuel grant allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

Explanation: This language is repeated each year in the big bill to ensure that eligible families can receive assistance on an expedited basis so that they do not run out of fuel.

Sec. E.325: Department for children and families – office of economic opportunity

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$1,092,000 shall be granted to community agencies for homeless assistance by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Grant decisions shall be made with assistance from the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness.

Explanation: This language is repeated each year in the big bill to authorize spending on the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP). The amount is level funded from last year.

Sec. E.326: Department for children and families – OEO – weatherization assistance

(a) Of the Special Fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

Explanation: This language is repeated each year in the big bill to authorize spending on the replacement and repair of home heating equipment. The amount is level funded from last year.

Sec. E.335 CORRECTIONS APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER; REPORT

(a) In fiscal year 2020, the Secretary of Administration may, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Human Services, transfer unexpended funds between the respective appropriations for correctional services and for correctional services out-of-state beds. At least three days prior to any such transfer

being made, the Secretary of Administration shall report the intended transfer to the Joint Fiscal Office and shall report any completed transfers to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Explanation: This language provides DOC with flexibility to move general funds between the Correctional Services and Out of State appropriations in fiscal year 2020. Any surplus funding can then be utilized for budget pressures where it is most needed, which has prevented the need for budget adjustment items over the past few years.

Sec. E.338 Corrections - correctional services

(a) The special funds appropriation of \$146,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Explanation: This language provides DOC with specific funding from the PILOT fund for payments to municipalities.

Sec. E.342 20 V.S.A. Sec. 1716 is amended to read:

~~(11) Report annually on or before July 1 to the Secretary of Administration and the Senate Committee on Appropriations on the number of employees who work at the Vermont Veterans' Home for 16 hours or fewer per week. [REPEALED]~~

EXPLANATION: At the request of the Vermont Veteran's Home, this section should be repealed as the Home does not have employees working fewer than 16 hour per week.

* * * LABOR * * *

Sec. E.400 21 V.S.A. Sec. 711(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Workers' Compensation Administration Fund is created pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 to be expended by the Commissioner for the administration of the workers' compensation program and to cover costs of the occupational ~~disease~~ safety and health programs that are not covered by federal OSHA grants and matching state general fund appropriations. The Fund shall consist of contributions from employers made at a rate of 1.4 percent of the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance, one percent of self-insured workers' compensation losses, and one percent of workers' compensation losses of corporations approved under this chapter. Disbursements from the Fund shall be on warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and Management in anticipation of receipts authorized by this section.

EXPLANATION: Broadening the use of the WC Admin. fund will allow Labor to use state funds for IT investments otherwise not covered by federal funds.

* * * K-12 EDUCATION * * *

Sec. E.500 32 V.S.A. Sec. 6075a is repealed in its entirety:

~~There is created a special fund to be called the "Education Financial Systems Fund." The purpose of the Fund is to provide for implementation of a uniform chart of accounts by the Agency of Education as provided in 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Secs. E.500.2 and E.500.3, and Sec. E.500.1 as amended by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. E.500.1. [REPEALED]~~

EXPLANATION: Repealed at the Agency of Education's request.