

Sec. 34. ONE-TIME CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF)
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The following appropriations are authorized on a one-time basis in fiscal year 2020 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address necessary expenditures with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. These expenditures were not accounted for in the State budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 and were incurred during the period that began on March 1, 2020, in accordance with Department of Treasury's April 22, 2020 interpretation of limitations on the permissible use of fund payments. These appropriations shall carry forward to fiscal year 2021 as needed.

(1) Joint Fiscal Committee: ~~\$500,000~~ \$600,000 is appropriated to the Joint Fiscal Committee for transfer to appropriation units within the General Assembly as necessary to reimburse necessary fiscal 2020 expenditures. The Joint Fiscal Office shall send a list of approved expenditures and related documentation to the Joint Legislative Management Committee, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Commissioner of Finance and Management on or before July 30, 2020.

(2) Legislature: \$750,000 is appropriated to the Legislature for costs incurred beyond the budgeted 18-week legislative session in fiscal year 2020 due to the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, which includes delays and extension to legislative work necessitated in the transition to remote or partially remote work for the Legislature. Any unexpended funds shall carry forward and be applied to similar legislative expenses incurred in fiscal year 2021.

(3) Judiciary: \$4,910,500 is appropriated to the Judiciary for costs directly related to impacts from the pandemic. These funds enable Judicial operations to resume in a safe manner, including the support of remote operations, expenditures for hazard pay for public-facing staff, and expenditures to expediently address the backlog of cases resulting from reduced Judicial operations during the pandemic.

(A) The establishment of sixteen (16) exempt limited service positions is authorized, as needed. Given the time frame faced in establishing the pandemic response work, use of temporary positions or contracts may be utilized as an alternative to filling new limited service positions.

(4) The Vermont State Colleges (VSC): \$12,515,500 is appropriated to the Vermont State Colleges. \$5,117,792 to cover the cost of rooms and meals refunds provided to students due to campus closures during the spring 2020 semester due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The remaining amount is for other expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 for Covid19 response including distance learning, equipment and supplies, facilities alterations and staff or contractual costs related to the response.

(5) The University of Vermont (UVM): \$8,691,500 is appropriated to the University of Vermont. \$5,016,300 to cover the cost of rooms and parking refunds provided to students due to campus closure during the spring 2020 semester due to the

Coronavirus pandemic. \$5,016,300. The remaining amount is for other expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 for Covid19 response including distance learning, equipment and supplies, facilities alterations and staff or contractual costs related to the response.

(6) The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC): \$5,100,000 is appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for increased tuition grants to students as a result of reduced household income in the 2020 calendar year, as well as increased demand for skills enhancement grants due to the economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.

(7) The Agency of Human Services (AHS) for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services: \$3,000,000 is appropriated to AHS for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services costs and financial assistance during the pandemic allocated:

(1) \$900,000 for the necessary training and support of EMTs including volunteers and paramedic education, these funds may be transferred to the department of health for disbursement as necessary.

(2) \$100,000 for AHS in coordination with the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) to engage through sole source contract one or more financial consultants to assist EMS service providers with applications needed for federal provider relief funds related to coronavirus funding; state prospective payments related to coronavirus through the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Vermont Health Access; and other grant funding that may be available in response to the pandemic.

(3) \$2,000,000, of which five percent shall be reserved for extraordinary financial relief to state EMS providers upon demonstrated need. The remainder of which may be used to make EMS provider stabilization grants in a manner determined by AHS that recognizes the need for administrative simplicity and EMS provider organization size.

(8) Department of Corrections: \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Corrections for support of necessary changes in community supervision and community programming resulting from Covid19 impacts, this may include transfers or grant funding to diversion or community justice programs to maintain these programs to meet increased demand following Judiciary Coronavirus closure.

(9) State's Attorney: \$818,000 is appropriated to the Department of States Attorney for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.

(10) Defender General: \$419,000 is appropriated to the Defender General for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.

(11) Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services: \$275,000 is appropriated to Center for Crime Victims Services for costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by June 30, 2020 in response to the pandemic.