

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2019

Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: H.532, An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments

Dear Legislators:

Today, I signed H.532, *An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments*.

First and foremost, Vermonters can be proud that in H.532 we are addressing crucial issues with the sense of urgency the demographic and affordability crisis requires. In particular, it is important to highlight:

- \$22.2 million to pay off the Teachers' OPEB interfund loan and \$3.3 million more than the actuarially required contribution to the teachers' pension, showing we are serious about addressing the debt burden;
- \$2.52 million for lead testing in schools and child care centers;
- \$1.8 million to strengthen the State's ability to protect Vermonters' data and provide higher network reliability by funding new firewalls and replacing obsolete IT equipment; and
- Averting a 20 percent increase in the employer healthcare assessment that would have otherwise taken effect this week.

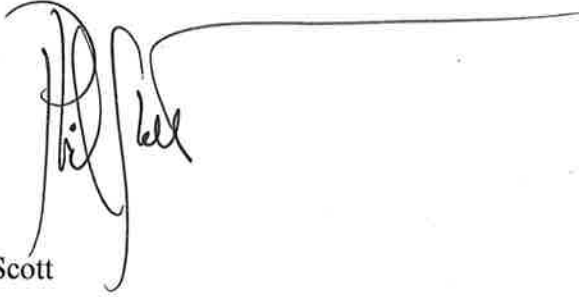
Given the collaboration and progress noted above – and the urgency for statutory changes and spending authority associated with them – I have chosen to sign H.532. I made this decision, however, recognizing that H.532 references legislation that has not yet passed (S.40, *An act relating to testing and remediation of lead in the drinking water of schools and child care facilities*). The bill passed the Senate, but is still under consideration in the House.

Delivery of a bill for consideration containing open-ended references to other bills that have not been passed by the Legislature is problematic, from my point of view. There is no certainty as to what bills may, or may not, contain upon final passage – or if they will even pass at all. As a matter of good government process and precedent going forward, I respectfully ask we work together to avoid this practice in the future.

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I want to thank you again for your focus on Vermont's core challenges, your work on the FY19 Budget Adjustment Act, and the seriousness in which you are approaching lead testing in our schools and childcare facilities. The BAA will allow the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation to start sampling and testing with the funds made available in the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp

c: The Honorable Mitzi Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tim Ashe, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable William MaGill, Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
The Honorable John Bloomer, Secretary of the Vermont Senate