



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

REP. SARAH COPELAND HANZAS, CHAIR
REP. JOHN GANNON, VICE CHAIR
REP. ROBERT LACLAIR, RANKING MEMBER
REP. HAROLD "HAL" COLSTON, CLERK
REP. PETER ANTHONY
REP. MARK HIGLEY
REP. ROBERT HOOPER
REP. SAMANTHA LEFEBVRE
REP. MICHAEL MCCARTHY
REP. MICHAEL MROWICKI
REP. TANYA VYHOVSKY

February 19, 2021

To: Members, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Members, House Committee on Government Operations

Date: February 19, 2021

Subject: Governor's Recommended FY 2022 Budget Proposals

The House Committee on Government Operations (Committee) thanks the House Committee on Appropriations for the opportunity to comment on the following proposals concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2022 Budget:

1) One-time appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Universal Services Fund to support the operations of the Enhanced 911 Board.

The Committee recommends that the operations of the E-911 Board be fully funded for fiscal year 2022 and further recommends that the distributions from the Universal Services Fund be reviewed to ensure that the Enhanced 911 Special Fund does not experience future funding shortfalls.

2) One-time General Fund appropriation of \$45,822,080 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department's fiscal year 2022 budget.

The Committee recommends the approval of the proposed budget for the Department of Buildings and General Services for fiscal year 2022.

3) Establishment of two new positions within the Office of the Secretary of State recommended for authorization in fiscal year 2022.

The Committee recommends the approval of the following two positions within the Office of the Secretary of State: (1) Elections Assistant Director; and (2) Roving Archivist.

4) Establishment of two new positions within the Office of Racial Equity recommended for authorization in fiscal year 2022.

The Committee supports the two proposed new positions in the Governor's FY22 budget, a Policy and Research Analyst and an Outreach and Education Coordinator, to help the Office of Racial Equity carry out its missions. Both positions would serve to expand the Office's capacity for interfacing with State government and expand the Office's effectiveness.

5) Allocations to the Vermont Department of Labor from one-time COVID relief funds of \$3,500,000 for Unemployment Insurance information technology upgrades.

The Committee supports a one-time appropriation of \$3,500,000 to the Department of Labor from available relief funds to upgrade and support the information technology systems used by the Unemployment Insurance Division. The Committee believes that the UI Division's information technology systems must be upgraded in order to improve services for Vermonters.

6) One-time General Fund appropriation of \$91,915 to the Vermont Department of Labor for the Vermont Occupational Health and Safety Administration budget for fiscal year 2022.

The Committee recommends the approval of the proposed budget for the Vermont Occupational Health and Safety Administration for fiscal year 2022.

7) Establishment of three positions within the Vermont Criminal Justice Council recommended for authorization in fiscal year 2022.

The Committee recommends the approval of three new positions for the Vermont Criminal Justice Council funded at the following amounts: (1) Professional Regulatory Investigator (\$90,000); (2) Staff Attorney – Professional Regulation (\$110,000); and (3) Training Coordinator – Academy (\$100,000).

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact us if you would like additional information.