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H.703

Representative Marcotte of Coventry moves that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. IMMEDIATE STRATEGIES AND FUNDING FOR EXPANDING THE LABOR FORCE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND PARTICIPATION RATES; APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2023, the following amounts are appropriated from the General Fund to the following recipients for the purposes specified:

(1) \$5,000,000.00 to the University of Vermont Office of Engagement, in consultation with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, to administer a statewide forgivable loan program of \$5,000.00 per graduate for recent college graduates across all Vermont higher education institutions who commit to work in Vermont for two years after graduation.

(2) \$387,000.00 to Vermont Technical College to develop a skilled meat cutter training and apprenticeship facility.

(b) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Agency of Human Services to provide grants, which may be administered through a performance-based contract, to refugee- or New

1 American-focused programs working in Vermont to support increased in-
2 migration or retention of recent arrivals.

3 Sec. 2. CTE FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE; FINDINGS

4 (a) Vermont’s career and technical education (CTE) system is critical to
5 ensuring that all Vermonters have access to the high-quality resources they
6 need to explore a wide variety of career pathways, earn a postsecondary
7 credential of value, and establish a productive career.

8 (b) CTE is a vital component of our educational system, supporting and
9 delivering on the goals established by the General Assembly in 2013 Acts and
10 Resolves No. 77 (flexible pathways), 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 189
11 (workforce development), and in achieving our attainment goal, which is that
12 70 percent of working-age Vermonters have a credential of value by 2025
13 (10 V.S.A. § 546).

14 (c) CTE is also an equity lever, providing every student access to critical
15 workforce training, postsecondary coursework, and the real-world skills and
16 networks that prepare our youth to continue to earn and learn during and after
17 high school.

18 (d) As of the fall semester of the 2021–2022 school year, students were
19 enrolling in CTE programs at a higher rate than at the beginning of the
20 pandemic, increasing from 4,160 to 4,565. In the 2020–2021 school year,
21 Vermont’s CTE system awarded Tier II credentials of value to 459 students.

1 (e) Since 2015, through legislative initiatives such as 2015 Acts and
2 Resolves No. 51, 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 69, 2018 Acts and Resolves
3 No. 189, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 80, and most recently 2021 Acts and
4 Resolves No. 74, the General Assembly and other stakeholders in education
5 and in State government have been working to identify, understand, and
6 resolve long-standing concerns related to the functioning of the CTE system.

7 (f) In 2018, the Agency of Education embarked on a collaborative process
8 that included students, legislators, and communities across the State to develop
9 a strategic vision and aspirational goals to help guide the transformation of the
10 CTE system.

11 (g) The State Board of Education adopted the Agency of Education’s
12 vision and goals for CTE that “all Vermont learners attain their postsecondary
13 goals by having access to career and technical education systems that are
14 equitable, efficient, integrated and collaborative.”

15 (h) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 189 committed Vermont to a redesign of
16 its workforce development and training system, including the approval of up to
17 four pilot sites or projects to examine the way our CTE system is funded and
18 governed.

19 (i) In a report dated June 14, 2021, the Agency of Education reported on its
20 progress, which was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report
21 presented possible alternatives to our current funding structure, which is

1 widely seen as a barrier to enrollment. However, these alternatives were based
2 on an examination of only the CTE school district funding model and did not
3 include the study of governance models. The report recommended completing
4 this study of CTE funding and governance models to propose actionable
5 implementation steps for the State.

6 (j) The Agency of Education’s State plan for federal Perkins funds is
7 aligned to the vision and goals created through collaborative processes that
8 included a public comment period. Processes required in the federal
9 legislation like the biennial Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment will
10 strengthen the role of CTE in each region and help to focus the use of limited
11 federal funds to improve the system.

12 Sec. 3. FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF
13 CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN VERMONT

14 (a) There is appropriated to the Joint Fiscal Office for fiscal year 2023 the
15 amount of \$180,000.00 from the General Fund to contract for services to:

16 (1) complete a systematic examination of the existing funding structures
17 of career technical education (CTE) in Vermont and how these structures
18 impede or promote the State’s educational and workforce development goals;

19 (2) examine CTE governance structures in relationship to those funding
20 structures;

1 (3) examine the implications of the existing funding and governance
2 structures for kindergarten through grade 12 schools and adult education;

3 (4) examine the funding and alignment of early college and dual
4 enrollment;

5 (5) consider the CTE funding and governance structures in other states
6 in relation to Vermont’s unique system of funding education; and

7 (6) identify and prioritize potential new models of CTE funding and
8 governance structures to reduce barriers to enrollment and to improve the
9 quality, duration, impact, and access to CTE statewide.

10 (b) In performing its work, the contractor shall consult with the consultant
11 and any other stakeholders involved in completing the report on the design,
12 implementation, and costs of an integrated and coherent adult basic education,
13 adult secondary education, and postsecondary career and technical education
14 system pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. H.3.

15 (c) On or before March 1, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office shall issue a written
16 report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
17 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee
18 on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, the House
19 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance the
20 work performed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

1 (d)(1) The Agency of Education shall consider the work performed and
2 report issued pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and shall develop an
3 implementation plan, including recommended steps to design and implement
4 new funding and governance models.

5 (2) On or before July 1, 2023, the Agency shall issue a written report to
6 the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on
7 Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Economic
8 Development, Housing and General Affairs, the House Committee on Ways
9 and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance that describes the results of
10 its work under this subsection and the implementation plan, and makes
11 recommendations for legislative action.

12 Sec. 4. INVESTMENT IN THE UP-SKILLING OF PRIVATE SECTOR
13 EMPLOYERS TO SUPPORT THE EVOLUTION OF BUSINESS
14 AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS; APPROPRIATIONS

15 In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the
16 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
17 Funds to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for a
18 performance-based contract to provide statewide delivery of business coaching
19 and other forms of training to BIPOC business owners, networking and special
20 convenings, and career fairs, workshops and paid internships, career guidance,
21 and other support for BIPOC workers across the State.

1 Sec. 5. REGIONAL WORKFORCE EXPANSION SYSTEM

2 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds:

3 (1) Vermont is experiencing an acute labor shortage in 2022.

4 (2) According to the Employment and Labor Marketing Information

5 Division of the Vermont Department of Labor:

6 (A) There are approximately 28,000 job openings in Vermont as of
7 December 2021.

8 (B) 9,945 people meet the federal statistical definition of unemployed
9 as of January 2022.

10 (C) 4,500 individuals are receiving unemployment insurance
11 assistance as of March 2022.

12 (D) The workforce has shrunk by 26,000 individuals from 2019 to
13 2022, yet the unemployment rate is just three percent as of January 2022.

14 (E) The workforce participation rate has fallen from 66 percent to
15 60.6 percent.

16 (3) The Department receives approximately 80 percent of its funding
17 from federal sources, which constrains the Department and its employees from
18 adjusting its work to meet immediate needs.

19 (4) The federal funding for field staff in the Workforce Development
20 Division has declined significantly over the past 20 years, supporting 75
21 persons in 2022 as compared to 135 in 2003.

1 (5) Though Vermont has a small population, the unique characteristics
2 of its region’s employers, educational institutions, demographics, and
3 socioeconomic conditions make it best to address efforts to connect individuals
4 with training and job placement on a regional basis.

5 (b) Regional Workforce Expansion System. The amount of \$1,500,000.00
6 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Labor for a pilot
7 program to launch and lead a coordinated regional system to work toward
8 accomplishing the following statewide goals:

9 (1) increase statewide labor participation rate;

10 (2) decrease the number of open positions reported by employers;

11 (3) increase the wages of workers as they transition to new jobs; and

12 (4) increase job preparedness.

13 (c) Duties. In order to meet the goals specified in subsection (b) of this
14 section, the Department shall:

15 (1) create new capacity to address and support State activities related to
16 workforce development, expansion, and alignment;

17 (2) focus on the overarching goal of helping workers find jobs and
18 employers find workers;

19 (3) support employers in communicating and tailoring their work
20 requirements, conditions, and expectations to better access local workers; and

1 (4) collaborate with local education and training providers and regional
2 workforce partners to create and regularly distribute data related to local labor
3 force supply and demand.

4 (d) System infrastructure.

5 (1) The Department shall make investments that improve and expand
6 regional capacity to connect supply (workers) and demand (employment) in
7 real time and shall hire eight full-time limited-service employees with funding
8 allocated to perform the work described in this section who shall report to the
9 Workforce Development Division.

10 (2) Of the eight positions authorized in this subsection, five shall be
11 Workforce Expansion Specialists who shall report to the Workforce
12 Development Division and who shall be assigned, one each, to the Division's
13 five regions.

14 (e) Coordination.

15 (1) The Department shall convene regional meetings of education,
16 training, business, and service provider partners; coordinate local workforce
17 information collection and distribution; and assist in developing localized
18 career resources, such as information for career counseling, local job fairs, and
19 career expos, that will be available to a wide range of stakeholders.

20 (2) Regional workforce specialists shall include community partners
21 who directly serve mature workers, youth, individuals with disabilities,

1 individuals who have been involved with the correction system, BIPOC
2 Vermonters, New Americans, and other historically marginalized populations
3 in efforts to align service delivery, share information, and achieve greater
4 employment outcomes for Vermonters.

5 (3) The Department shall develop labor market information reports by
6 CTE district to support discussion and decision making that will address local
7 labor market challenges and opportunities and support a regional approach to
8 solving local or unique labor supply challenges.

9 (f) Interim report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Department shall
10 provide a narrative update on the progress made in hiring staff, establishing
11 interagency agreements, developing regional information exchange systems,
12 and supporting State-level work to expand the labor force to the House and
13 Senate committees of jurisdiction.

14 (g) Implementation. The Department of Labor shall begin implementing
15 the Regional Workforce Expansion System on or before August 1, 2022.

16 Sec. 6. INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS; WORKFORCE
17 DEVELOPMENT; PILOT PROGRAM

18 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to facilitate the education and
19 vocational training of incarcerated individuals so that they have a greater
20 likelihood of obtaining gainful employment and positively contributing to
21 society upon reintegration into the community.

1 (b) Policy; appropriations.

2 (1)(A) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$420,000.00 is appropriated
3 from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections, in consultation with
4 the Vermont Department of Labor, to address education and vocational
5 enhancement needs. These funds shall not be allocated from any amounts
6 budgeted for Justice Reinvestment II initiatives.

7 (B) The Department shall use the funds allocated for the development
8 of education and vocational training for incarcerated individuals residing in a
9 Vermont correctional facility prior to community reintegration. The
10 Department may allocate the funds over three years, consistent with the
11 following:

12 (i) \$270,000.00 for transition development, including equipment
13 and mobile labs in one or more sites;

14 (ii) \$100,000.00 for training partner support; and

15 (iii) \$50,000.00 for curriculum development.

16 (2) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from
17 the General Fund to the Department of Corrections, which may be allocated
18 over not more than three years, to establish a community-based pilot reentry
19 program at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in consultation with
20 the Vermont Department of Labor. The Department of Corrections shall
21 designate a service provider to administer the pilot program's goals to:

1 (A) provide continuity of services for incarcerated individuals;

2 (B) expand current employment readiness programs within the
3 facility by building pathways for coordinated transition to employment;

4 (C) focus on the first six months after individuals are released from
5 the facility;

6 (D) coordinate with local community resources, parole and probation
7 offices, and other supports to ensure successful transition into the community;

8 (E) assist individuals in successfully transitioning into new jobs; and

9 (F) work with employers to support successful hiring and best
10 practices to support incarcerated individuals.

11 (c) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Corrections
12 shall create and submit a report on workforce and education training programs
13 in correctional facilities to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee;
14 the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Commerce and
15 Economic Development; and the Senate Committees on Economic
16 Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Judiciary. The report shall:

17 (1) identify program design, logistical needs, and policy changes to
18 current Department of Corrections facility-based training and educational
19 programs necessary to successfully enable incarcerated individuals'
20 reintegration into their communities, including changes to programs that

1 enhance individuals’ skill development, knowledge, and other support needed
2 to qualify for and secure a position in a critical occupation in Vermont;

3 (2) identify disparities of outcomes and recommend solutions for
4 incarcerated Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color concerning facility-based
5 training, educational programming, and successful community reintegration;

6 (3) provide an update on the Department of Corrections’ use of
7 education and vocational enhancement funding in fiscal year 2023;

8 (4) provide recommendations on what aspects of the pilot program
9 should be replicated in other correctional facilities in Vermont; and

10 (5) provide recommended legislation for the continuation of the pilot
11 program or any changes.

12 **Sec. __. INTENT**

13 It is the intent of the General Assembly to improve the recruitment and
14 retention of correctional officers to ensure adequate staffing and safe working
15 conditions in facilities operated by the Department of Corrections.

16 **Sec. __. IMPROVEMENT OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**

17 **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION; REPORT**

18 (a) On or before January 15, 2023, the Secretary of Human Services, in
19 consultation with the Commissioners of Corrections and of Human Resources,
20 shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on
21 Corrections and Institutions, and on Government Operations and the Senate

1 Committees on Appropriations, on Government Operations, and on Judiciary
2 identifying conditions that pose an obstacle to the successful recruitment and
3 retention of correctional officers and setting forth a plan to improve the
4 recruitment and retention of correctional officers.

5 (b)(1) The report shall specifically analyze the impact of the following on
6 the recruitment and retention of correctional officers:

7 (A) wages and benefits;

8 (B) terms and conditions of employment;

9 (C) working conditions in Department of Corrections facilities,
10 including health and safety issues and the physical condition of the facilities;

11 and

12 (D) staffing levels and overtime.

13 (2) The report shall, for each of the issues examined pursuant to
14 subdivision (1) of this subsection, analyze how the following states compare to
15 Vermont and shall identify any best practices in those states that could improve
16 recruitment and retention of correctional officers in Vermont:

17 (A) Maine;

18 (B) New Hampshire;

19 (C) New York;

20 (D) Massachusetts;

21 (E) Rhode Island; and

1 (F) Connecticut.

2 (c) The report shall, as part of the plan to improve the recruitment and
3 retention of correctional officers, identify specific administrative and
4 legislative actions that are necessary to successfully improve the recruitment
5 and retention of correctional officers.

6 Sec. 7. REPEALS

7 10 V.S.A. §§ 544 and 545 are repealed.

8 Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 547 is added to read:

9 § 547. WORK-BASED LEARNING AND TRAINING PROGRAM

10 (a) Vermont Work-Based Learning and Training Program. The
11 Department of Labor shall develop the statewide Work-Based Learning and
12 Training Program that serves transitioning secondary and postsecondary
13 students and Vermonters seeking work-based experience as part of a career
14 experience or change and is designed to:

15 (1) support Vermonters who are graduating from postsecondary
16 education or a secondary CTE program or who are pursuing a career change
17 with a paid on-the-job work experience lasting 12 weeks or fewer;

18 (2) establish a statewide platform available to all employers to list their
19 internships, returnships, pre-apprenticeships, and registered apprenticeship
20 opportunities and for jobseekers to view and access information about specific
21 opportunities; and

1 (3) support employers by providing them with assistance in developing
2 and implementing meaningful work-based learning and training opportunities.

3 (b) Definitions. As used in this section:

4 (1) “Internship” means a work-based learning experience with an
5 employer where the participant may, but does not necessarily, receive
6 academic credit.

7 (2) “Returnship” means an on-the-job learning experience for an
8 individual who is returning to the workforce after an extended absence or is
9 seeking a limited-duration on-the-job work experience in a different
10 occupation or occupational setting as part of a career change.

11 (c) Activities. The Department may use funds appropriated to it for the
12 Program to:

13 (1) build and administer the Program;

14 (2) develop an online platform that will connect students and jobseekers
15 with work-based learning and training opportunities within Vermont;

16 (3) support work-based learning and training opportunities with public
17 and private employers available to prospective workers located in or relocating
18 to Vermont;

19 (4) promote work-based learning and training as a valuable component
20 of a talent pipeline; and

1 (5) assist employers in developing meaningful work-based learning and
2 training opportunities.

3 (d) Data. The Department shall collect the following data:

4 (1) the total number of participants served;

5 (2) the number of participants who received wage assistance or other
6 financial assistance as part of this Program and their employment status one
7 year after completion;

8 (3) the average wage of participants in subdivision (2) of this subsection
9 at the start of the Program and the average wage of participants one year after
10 completion;

11 (4) the number of work-based learning or training opportunities listed on
12 the platform; and

13 (5) the number of employers who offered a work-based learning or
14 training opportunity.

15 (e) State participation. The Department shall engage appropriate State
16 agencies and departments to expand Program opportunities with State
17 government and with entities awarded State contracts.

18 (f) Reporting. On or before February 15, 2023, the Department shall report
19 Program data to the relevant committees of jurisdiction.

20 **Sec. X. SECONDARY STUDENT INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED**

21 **CREDENTIAL PILOT**

1 (a) Pilot Project creation. There is created the Secondary Student
2 INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL Pilot Project (Pilot Project) to
3 provide funding for secondary students taking nondegree adult courses at
4 Vermont career technical centers.

5 (b) Eligibility.

6 (1) An eligible student may enroll in one adult career technical center
7 course prior to completion of secondary school for which neither the student
8 nor the student’s parent or guardian shall be required to pay tuition. A student
9 may enroll in a course offered while secondary school is in session and during
10 the summer.

11 (2) A Vermont resident who is attending a Vermont public or approved
12 independent secondary school who has completed grade 11 but has not
13 received a high school diploma is eligible to participate in the Pilot Project.

14 (3) The program funded must be an adult career technical center course
15 is an element included within the student’s personalized learning plan and
16 reasonably related to the student’s career goals.

17 (4) The secondary school and the career and technical center must
18 determine that the student is sufficiently prepared to succeed in the selected
19 adult course and meets the course prerequisites and must have exhausted use of
20 available funding sources before an application is submitted.

1 (c) Adult career technical education. Secondary students may take courses
2 that fall under the definitions of adult career technical education or
3 postsecondary career technical education as they are defined in 16 V.S.A. §
4 1522(11) and (12). The postsecondary or adult course may be taken at any
5 regional career and technical center, as defined in 16 V.S.A. 2 § 1522(4).

6 (d) Administration. The Vermont Department of Labor, in consultation the
7 Vermont Agency of Education, shall administer the pilot.

8 (1) The Agency of Education shall develop an application that shall be
9 completed by the requesting student's secondary school that includes the
10 student's enrollment status, the course detail for which payment is requested, a
11 copy of the student's personalized learning plan that supports funding for the
12 course, attestation that the secondary and adult career technical education
13 programs find the program of study appropriate for the student, description of
14 federal and local funding sources that were explored but insufficient or
15 unavailable for use by the student, and any other information that may be
16 deemed necessary.

17 (2) Applications shall be submitted to the Department of Labor and the
18 Agency of Education. The Agency shall take not more than [10] business days
19 to review applications and forward applications of eligible students who
20 request funding to the Department of Labor.

1 (3) The Department of Labor shall review the application and, if
2 appropriate, meet with the student to determine eligibility for existing federal
3 and state programs, including WIOA Title I Youth (in-school) and the
4 Vermont Youth Employment Program. If the Department is able to meet the
5 student’s need using existing funds, it will disburse funding and support
6 accordingly.

7 (4) The Department will provide funding for tuition for whom no other
8 program or source of funding meets their need.

9 (5) For students who meet low-income qualifications set annually under
10 WIOA, the Department may also use funding to purchase books, supplies,
11 exam fees, and equipment for students.

12 (e) Funding. The Department of Labor shall use \$100,000 of available
13 FY2023, for the purpose of funding the Pilot Project. Funds shall be granted to
14 eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. No
15 Adult CTE Center shall receive more than \$20,000 in a fiscal year.

16 (f) Adult Career and Technical Center Report. The Department of Labor
17 shall require a report from each adult career and technical education center
18 providing information to support the Department’s reporting requirements
19 below.

20 (g) Interim Report. The Department of Labor and Agency of Education
21 shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House

1 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate
2 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on or
3 before the January 15, 2023 regarding the use of funds, including data relating
4 to student circumstances, levels of participation, and how local school districts
5 are able or unable to meet the career preparation and training needs of
6 secondary students using the program.

7 (h) Final Report. The Department of Labor and Agency of Education shall
8 report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
9 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate
10 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and
11 House Committee on Ways and Means, and Senate Committee on Finance
12 within 45 days of the end of the fiscal year or exhaustion of funds, whichever
13 comes first, regarding the use of funds, including data relating to number of
14 participants, student circumstances, levels of participation, what certifications
15 were issued, how local school districts are able or unable to meet the career
16 preparation and training needs of secondary students using the program, and
17 recommendations on how to address gaps in access and funding for secondary
18 students seeking professional certifications not offered through the secondary
19 education system.

20 Sec. 9. INTERNSHIP COST OFFSET INITIATIVE

1 (a) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from
2 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
3 Funds to the Department of Labor for an Internship Cost Offset Initiative.

4 (b) The Department shall design and implement the Initiative to expand the
5 number of postsecondary students participating in an internship with a
6 Vermont employer, consistent with the following:

7 (1) Students with a household income that is at or below 120 percent of
8 area median income and enrolled in an approved postsecondary institution are
9 eligible for not more than \$3,000.00 for tuition and fees directly related to
10 participating in an internship with a Vermont employer for which they are also
11 receiving postsecondary credit toward a degree.

12 (2) The Department shall enter into an agreement with the Vermont
13 Student Assistance Corporation to develop and administer the Initiative, which
14 shall include an amount not to exceed seven percent for costs associated with
15 the administration of the program.

16 (c) Reporting. On or before February 15, 2023, the Department shall report
17 on the number of individuals served through the Initiative and the types of
18 internship opportunities they completed.

19 Sec. 9. THE VERMONT TRADES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

20 (a) The Vermont Trades Scholarship Program is created and shall be
21 administered by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. The Vermont

1 Student Assistance Corporation shall disburse initial licensing fees, exam fees,
2 and tuition payments under the Program on behalf of eligible individuals,
3 subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose.

4 (b) To be eligible for a scholarship under the Program, an individual,
5 whether a resident or nonresident, shall:

6 (1) be enrolled in an industry recognized training and certification
7 program that leads to initial employment or career advancement in a building,
8 mechanical, industrial, or medical trade, or in clean energy, energy efficiency,
9 weatherization, or clean transportation;

10 (2) demonstrate financial need and have a household income that is at or
11 below 120 percent of area median income and;

12 (3) register with the Vermont Department of Labor for the purpose of
13 receiving relevant job referrals, if unemployed; and

14 (4) agree to work in their profession in Vermont for a minimum of one
15 year following licensure or certification completion for each year of
16 scholarship awarded.

17 (c)(1) The Corporation shall give preference to students attending a
18 Vermont-based training program or, if one isn't available for their certification,
19 an offer of employment or promotion from a Vermont employer upon
20 completion.

1 (2) The Corporation shall give priority to applicants who have not
2 received other assistance.

3 (d) There shall be no deadline to apply for a scholarship under this section.
4 Scholarships shall be awarded on a rolling basis if funds are available, and any
5 funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over and shall be available
6 to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in the following fiscal year to
7 award additional scholarships as set forth in this section.

8 (e) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from
9 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
10 Funds to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for scholarships for
11 trades students under the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program.

12 Sec. 10. THE VERMONT TRADES LOAN REIMBURSEMENT
13 PROGRAM

14 (a) The Vermont Trades Loan Repayment Reimbursement Program is
15 created and shall be administered by the Vermont Student Assistance
16 Corporation. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall disburse
17 funds under the Program to eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of
18 funds by the General Assembly for this purpose.

19 (b) To be eligible for loan repayment under the Program, an individual,
20 shall:

21 (1) be a Vermont resident; and

1 (2) be employed in an occupation in the building, mechanical, industrial,
2 or medical trades, or in the clean energy, energy efficiency, weatherization, or
3 clean transportation sectors, for an average of at least 30 hours per week for
4 least one full calendar year before applying.

5 (c) For every year of work in a qualifying occupation, an individual shall
6 be eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in loan repayment reimbursement.

7 Reimbursements shall not exceed the total amount of educational debt owed.

8 (d) There shall be no deadline to apply for loan repayment reimbursement
9 under this section. Loan repayment shall be awarded on a rolling basis if funds
10 are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over
11 and shall be available to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in the
12 following fiscal year to award additional loan repayment as set forth in this
13 section.

14 (e) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the
15 General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for loan
16 repayment for trades professionals under the Program.

17 Sec. 11. CTE CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

18 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM; REVOLVING LOAN

19 FUND

1 (a) Purpose. This section authorizes and provides funding for the CTE
2 Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving
3 Loan Fund, the purposes of which are to:

4 (1) expand the experiential and educational opportunities for high school
5 and adult CTE students to work directly on construction projects;

6 (2) build community partnerships among CTE centers, housing
7 organizations, government, and private businesses;

8 (3) beautify communities and rehabilitate buildings that are
9 underperforming assets;

10 (4) expand housing access to Vermonters in communities throughout the
11 State; and

12 (5) improve property values while teaching high school and adult
13 students trade skills.

14 (b) Appropriation; creation of fund; administration.

15 (1) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated
16 from the Education Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to
17 create and administer the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential
18 Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund pursuant to this section.

19 (2) The Board may use not more than five percent of the Fund for its
20 costs of administration.

21 (c) Proposals; applications; funding.

1 (1) A regional CTE center, working in collaboration with one or more
2 housing and community partners, private businesses, nonprofit organizations,
3 or municipalities, shall identify construction projects that would be relevant
4 and appropriate for CTE students enrolled in construction, electrical,
5 plumbing, design, business management, or other CTE programs, including:

6 (A) rehabilitation of residential properties that are blighted or not
7 code-compliant;

8 (B) new residential construction projects or improvements to land in
9 cases of critical community need; and

10 (C) commercial construction projects that have substantial
11 community benefit.

12 (2) Prior to or during the application process, a CTE center and its
13 partners may consult with the Board to identify and consider potential funding
14 partners to leverage amounts available through the Fund.

15 (3) A CTE center and its partners shall apply to the Board for funding
16 by submitting a project application that includes the information required by
17 the Board and addresses the following:

18 (A) the educational benefits for students and fit with the CTE
19 curriculum;

20 (B) the community benefits for the neighborhood, municipality, or
21 region in which the project is located; and

1 (C) the partners with whom the CTE center is collaborating and the
2 respective responsibility for the aspects of a project, including:

3 (i) educational instruction and academic credit;

4 (ii) project management;

5 (iii) insurance coverage for students and the property;

6 (iv) compensation and benefits, including compliance with labor
7 laws, standards, and practices; and

8 (v) property acquisition, ownership, and transfer.

9 (4) A CTE center may use funding for, and shall specify in its
10 application the allocation of costs associated with:

11 (A) acquisition, design, permitting, construction, marketing, and
12 other building-related expenses; and

13 (B) costs for labor, including for student wages and for instructor
14 compensation during the academic year as well as for amountmer or other
15 work that is not otherwise budgeted during the academic year.

16 (d) Eligibility; review; approval. The Board may approve an application
17 that includes the information required by subsection (c) of this section and
18 provide funding for a project that meets the following eligibility criteria:

19 (1) The project involves the rehabilitation of blighted or otherwise
20 noncode compliant property, or new residential construction projects or

1 improvements to land in cases of critical need, and results in a building with
2 not more than four residential dwelling units.

3 (2) The project includes a weatherization component.

4 (3) Students working on the project receive academic credit, a
5 competitive wage, or both.

6 (e) Affordability; flexibility. If appropriate in the circumstances, the Board
7 may condition funding for a project on the inclusion of one or mechanisms
8 addressing the affordability of the property upon rent or sale.

9 (f) Funding; proceeds; revolving loans.

10 (1) The Board shall provide funding for projects from the amounts
11 available in the Fund in the form of zero-interest loans, in an amount, for a
12 period, and upon terms specified by the Board.

13 (2) The Board shall return to the Fund any proceeds realized to provide
14 funding for future projects.

15 (g) Report. The Board shall address the implementation of this section in
16 its annual report to the General Assembly.

17 Sec. 12. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; FINDINGS

18 The General Assembly finds that:

19 (1) while child care is an essential component of Vermont's economy,
20 research has shown that three out of five of Vermont's youngest children do
21 not have access to the child care needed by their families;

1 (2) according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, early
2 childhood educators are the lowest-paid college graduates of any degree
3 program in the country;

4 (3) the Council for a Strong America found in a national economic
5 impact study that the U.S. economy loses \$57 billion annually due to child care
6 challenges;

7 (4) the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that high-quality
8 child care is a powerful two-generation workforce development strategy that
9 strengthens today’s workforce and puts children on the path to develop well
10 and enter kindergarten ready to thrive in school, work, and life;

11 (5) the Vermont Early Care and Learning Dividend Study found that
12 increased investment in early care and education, as described in the
13 recommendations of Vermont’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-
14 Quality Affordable Child Care, would yield \$3.08 for every additional dollar
15 invested into the system;

16 (6) 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 45 established goals that no Vermont
17 family spend more than 10 percent of its income on child care and that early
18 childhood educators receive compensation commensurate with their peers in
19 similar fields as informed by a systems analysis and financing study;

20 (7) while the State works toward achieving these goals, the COVID-19
21 pandemic has exacerbated already pressing challenges, making it even harder

1 for families to find affordable high-quality child care and more difficult for
2 early childhood education programs to find and retain qualified educators; and
3 (8) according to a recent study by the National Association for the
4 Education of Young Children, 71 percent of center-based child care programs
5 in Vermont reported experiencing a staffing shortage.

6 Sec. 13. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

7 It is the intent of the General Assembly that immediate action is necessary
8 to support Vermont's economy; ensure that all families with young children
9 have access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education; and ensure
10 that Vermont's early childhood educators, the backbone of our economy, are
11 well supported.

12 Sec. 14. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT

13 In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$125,000.00 is appropriated from the
14 General Fund to the Department for Children and Families' Child
15 Development Division for a performance-based contract to develop and
16 implement a comprehensive early childhood educator recruitment campaign.

17 Sec. 15. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

18 (a) The General Assembly values all health care workers, at every level and
19 in each component of the health care system. The General Assembly also
20 acknowledges the many struggles faced by health care workers and that the
21 pandemic has placed further strain on an already taxed system. Many health

1 care workers have not had their pay adjusted over time to address increases in
2 the cost of living, essentially amounting to pay cuts from year to year. Health
3 care workers have experienced burnout, trauma, and moral injuries due to a
4 history of underfunding and the present stress of the pandemic.

5 (b) In order to retain and recruit health care workers in Vermont, it is the
6 intent of the General Assembly to invest in multiple solutions aimed at
7 reinforcing our health care workforce in the present and sustaining our health
8 care workers into the future.

9 Sec. 16. EMERGENCY GRANTS TO SUPPORT NURSE EDUCATORS

10 (a) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from
11 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
12 Funds to the Department of Health and shall carry forward for the purpose of
13 providing emergency interim grants to Vermont’s nursing schools over three
14 years to increase the compensation for their nurse faculty and staff, with
15 \$1,000,000.00 to be distributed in each of fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025 to
16 increase the compensation for each full-time-equivalent (FTE) member of the
17 clinical and didactic nurse faculty and staff. The Department shall distribute
18 the funds among the nursing schools in Vermont equitably based on each
19 school’s proportion of nursing faculty and staff to the total number of FTE
20 nursing faculty and staff across all nursing schools statewide.

1 (b) If the nurse faculty or staff, or both, of a nursing school receiving a
2 grant under this section are subject to a collective bargaining agreement, the
3 use of the grant funds provided to the nursing school for those faculty or staff,
4 or both, shall be subject to impact bargaining between the nursing school and
5 the collective bargaining representative of the nurse faculty or staff, or both, to
6 the extent required by the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

7 Sec. 17. NURSE PRECEPTOR INCENTIVE GRANTS; HOSPITALS;
8 WORKING GROUP; REPORT

9 (a)(1) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$2,400,000.00 is appropriated from
10 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
11 Funds to the Agency of Human Services to provide incentive grants to
12 hospital-employed nurses in Vermont to serve as preceptors for nursing
13 students enrolled in Vermont nursing school programs. The Agency shall
14 distribute the funds to hospitals employing nurses who provide student
15 preceptor supervision based on the number of preceptor hours to be provided,
16 at a rate of \$5.00 per preceptor hour, or a lesser hourly rate if the need exceeds
17 the available funds.

18 (2) If nurse preceptors receiving compensation pursuant to a grant awarded
19 to a hospital under this section are subject to a collective bargaining agreement,
20 the use of the grant funds provided to the hospital for the nurse preceptors shall
21 be subject to impact bargaining between the hospital and the collective

1 bargaining representative of the nurses to the extent required by the collective
2 bargaining agreement.

3 (b)(1) The Director of Health Care Reform or designee in the Agency of
4 Human Services shall convene a working group of stakeholders representing
5 nursing schools, long-term care facilities, designated and specialized service
6 agencies, federally qualified health centers, home health agencies, primary care
7 practices, and other health care facilities to:

8 (A) identify ways to increase clinical placement opportunities across
9 a variety of health care settings for nursing students enrolled in Vermont
10 nursing school programs;

11 (B) establish sustainable funding models for compensating nurses
12 serving as preceptors or for supporting the hiring of additional nurses to
13 alleviate the pressures on nurse preceptors, or both; and

14 (C) develop an action plan for implementing the clinical placement
15 expansion and sustainable funding models identified and established pursuant
16 to subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (1), including addressing the
17 need for student housing opportunities.

18 (2) On or before January 15, 2023, the Director of Health Care Reform
19 shall provide the working group's action plan and any recommendations for
20 legislative action to the House Committees on Health Care, on Commerce and
21 Economic Development, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on

1 Health and Welfare, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,
2 and on Appropriations.

3 Sec. 18. HEALTH CARE EMPLOYER NURSING PIPELINE AND
4 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

5 (a) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from
6 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
7 Funds to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and shall carry forward
8 for the purpose of providing grants to health care employers, including
9 hospitals, long-term care facilities, designated and specialized service agencies,
10 federally qualified health centers, and other health care providers, to establish
11 or expand partnerships with Vermont nursing schools to create nursing
12 pipeline or apprenticeship programs, or both, that will train members of the
13 health care employers’ existing staff, including personal care attendants,
14 licensed nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses, to become higher-
15 level nursing professionals. Through a combination of scholarship awards,
16 grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to this section, and the health
17 care employer’s contributions, the trainees’ tuition and fees shall be covered in
18 full, and trainees shall be provided with assistance in meeting their living costs,
19 such as housing and child care, while attending the program.

20 (b) In awarding grants pursuant to this section, VSAC shall give priority to
21 health care employer proposals based on the following criteria:

1 (1) the extent to which the health care employer proposes to participate
2 financially in the program;

3 (2) the extent of the health care employer’s commitment to sustaining
4 the program financially, including providing financial support for nurse
5 preceptors, to create ongoing opportunities for educational advancement in
6 nursing;

7 (3) the ability of the health care employer’s staff to leverage nursing
8 scholarship opportunities to maximize the reach of the grant funds;

9 (4) the employer’s demonstrated ability to retain nursing students in the
10 Vermont nursing workforce;

11 (5) the employer’s geographic location, in order to ensure access to
12 pipeline and apprenticeship programs for nursing staff across Vermont; and

13 (6) the employer’s commitment to advancing the professional
14 development of individuals from marginalized communities, especially those
15 that have been historically disadvantaged in accessing educational
16 opportunities and career advancement in the health care professions.

17 (c)(1) VSAC shall begin awarding grants under this section expeditiously
18 in order to enable health care employer staff to begin enrolling in nursing
19 school programs that commence in the fall of 2022.

1 (2) On or before September 15, 2022, VSAC shall provide an update to
2 the Health Reform Oversight Committee on the status of program
3 implementation.

4 Sec. 19. 18 V.S.A. § 34 is added to read:

5 § 34. VERMONT NURSING FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE
6 PROGRAM

7 (a) The Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program is created
8 and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration with
9 the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. The Vermont Student
10 Assistance Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program
11 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the
12 General Assembly for this purpose.

13 (b) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,
14 whether a resident or nonresident, shall:

15 (1) be enrolled at an approved postsecondary education institution as
16 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 2822;

17 (2) demonstrate financial need;

18 (3) demonstrate academic capacity by carrying the minimum grade point
19 average in the individual's course of study prior to receiving the fund award;

20 and

1 (4) agree to work as a nurse in Vermont for a minimum of one year
2 following licensure for each year of scholarship awarded.

3 (c)(1) First priority for forgivable loan funds shall be given to students
4 pursuing a practical nursing certificate who will be eligible to sit for the
5 NCLEX-PN examination upon completion of the certificate.

6 (2) Second priority for forgivable loan funds shall be given to students
7 pursuing an associate's degree in nursing who will be eligible to sit for the
8 NCLEX-RN examination upon graduation.

9 (3) Third priority for forgivable loan funds shall be given to students
10 pursuing a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

11 (4) Fourth priority shall be given to students pursuing graduate nursing
12 education.

13 (d) Students attending an approved postsecondary educational institution in
14 Vermont shall receive first preference for scholarships.

15 (e) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under this
16 section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds
17 are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over
18 and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Vermont Student
19 Assistance Corporation in the following fiscal year to award additional
20 forgivable loans as set forth in this section.

21 Sec. 20. REPEAL

1 18 V.S.A. § 31 (educational assistance; incentives; nurses) is repealed.

2 Sec. 21. VERMONT NURSING FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE
3 PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

4 In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$100,000.00 in Global Commitment
5 investment funds is appropriated to the Department of Health for forgivable
6 loans for nursing students under the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan
7 Program established in Sec. 19 of this act.

8 Sec. 22. 18 V.S.A. § 35 is added to read:

9 § 35. VERMONT NURSING AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LOAN
10 REPAYMENT PROGRAM

11 (a) As used in this section:

12 (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
13 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

14 (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility
15 requirements for loan repayment under this section.

16 (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education
17 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

18 (4) “Loan repayment” means the cancellation and repayment of loans
19 under this section.

1 (5) “Loans” means education loans guaranteed, made, financed,
2 serviced, or otherwise administered by the Corporation under this subchapter
3 for attendance at an eligible school.

4 (6) “Program” means the Vermont Nursing and Physician Assistant
5 Loan Repayment Program created under this section.

6 (b) The Vermont Nursing and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment
7 Program is created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in
8 collaboration with the Corporation. The Program provides loan repayment on
9 behalf of individuals who live and work as a nurse or physician assistant in this
10 State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (e) of this
11 section.

12 (c) The loan repayment benefits provided under the Program shall be paid
13 on behalf of the eligible individual by the Corporation, subject to the
14 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly specifically for this purpose.

15 (d) To be eligible for loan repayment under the Program, an individual
16 shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

17 (1) have graduated from an eligible school where the individual has,
18 within the past five years, been awarded a nursing degree or a degree in
19 physician assistant studies;

1 (2) had the minimum grade point average or better or the equivalent as
2 determined by the Corporation if the eligible school does not use grade point
3 averages from the eligible school;

4 (3) work as a nurse or physician assistant in this State; and

5 (4) be a resident of Vermont.

6 (f)(1) An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan
7 cancellation and repayment under this section equal to one year of loans for
8 every for one year of service as a nurse or physician assistant in this State.

9 (2) The Corporation shall award loan repayments in amounts that are
10 sufficient to attract high-quality candidates while also making a meaningful
11 increase in Vermont’s health care professional workforce.

12 (i) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
13 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

14 Sec. 23. VERMONT NURSING AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LOAN
15 REPAYMENT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

16 In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the
17 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
18 Funds to the Department of Health for loan repayment for nurses and physician
19 assistants under the Vermont Nursing and Physician Assistant Loan
20 Repayment Program established in Sec. 22 of this act.

1 Sec. 24. 18 V.S.A. § 36 is added to read:

2 § 36. NURSE EDUCATOR **FORGIVABLE LOAN** AND LOAN
3 REPAYMENT PROGRAM

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

5 (1) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility
6 requirements under this section for a scholarship or loan repayment.

7 (2) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education
8 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

9 (3) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering
10 tuition, room, board, and the cost of required books and supplies for up to full-
11 time attendance at an eligible school.

12 (4) “Gift aid” means grant or scholarship financial aid received from the
13 federal government or from the State.

14 (5) “Loan repayment” means the cancellation and repayment of loans
15 under this section.

16 (6) “Loans” means education loans guaranteed, made, financed,
17 serviced, or otherwise administered by the Corporation under this subchapter
18 for attendance at an eligible school.

19 (7) “Nurse educator” means a nurse with a master’s or doctoral degree
20 that qualifies the individual to teach at a nursing school in this State.

1 (8) “Program” means the Nurse Educator **Forgivable Loan** and Loan
2 Repayment Program created under this section.

3 (b) Program creation. The Nurse Educator **Forgivable Loan** and Loan
4 Repayment Program is created and shall be administered by the Department of
5 Health in collaboration with the Corporation. The Program provides
6 **forgivable loans** to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to
7 working as a nurse educator at a nursing school in this State and who meet the
8 eligibility requirements in subsection (d) of this section. The Program also
9 provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals who work as nurse educators
10 at a nursing school in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in
11 subsection (e) of this section.

12 (c) The **forgivable loan** and loan repayment benefits provided under the
13 Program shall be paid on behalf of the eligible individual by the Corporation,
14 subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly specifically for
15 this purpose.

16 (d) Eligibility for **forgivable loans**. To be eligible for a **forgivable loan**
17 under the Program, an individual, whether a resident or nonresident, shall
18 satisfy all of the following requirements:

19 (1) be enrolled at an eligible school in a program that leads to a graduate
20 degree in nursing;

1 (2) continually demonstrate satisfactory academic progress by
2 maintaining the minimum grade point average or better or the equivalent as
3 determined by the Corporation if the eligible school does not use grade point
4 averages;

5 (3) have used any available gift aid;

6 (4) have executed a contract with the Corporation committing the
7 individual to work as a nurse educator at a nursing school in this State;

8 (5) have executed a promissory note obligating the individual to repay
9 the individual's scholarship benefit, in whole or in part, if the individual fails
10 to complete the period of service required in subsection (f) of this section; and

11 (6) have completed the Program's application form, the free application
12 for federal student aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant application each
13 academic year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule determined by the
14 Corporation.

15 (e) Eligibility for loan repayment. To be eligible for loan repayment under
16 the Program, an individual shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

17 (1) graduated from an eligible school where the individual has, within
18 the past five years, been awarded a graduate degree in nursing;

19 (2) had the minimum grade point average or better or the equivalent as
20 determined by the Corporation if the eligible school does not use grade point
21 averages from the eligible school;

1 (3) work as a nurse educator at a nursing school in this State; and

2 (4) be a resident of Vermont.

3 (f) Service commitment.

4 (1) **Forgivable loans**. For each year of service as a nurse educator at a
5 nursing school in this State, an eligible individual shall be entitled to a full
6 academic year of **forgivable loan benefit** under the Program. If an eligible
7 individual fails to serve as a nurse educator at a nursing school in this State for
8 a period that would entitle the individual to the full **forgivable loan** benefit
9 received by the individual, other than for good cause as determined by the
10 Corporation **in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health**, then the
11 individual shall **receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of**
12 **the loan** pursuant to the terms of the interest-free reimbursement promissory
13 note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

14 (2) Loan repayment. An eligible individual shall be entitled to an
15 amount of loan cancellation and repayment under this section equal to one year
16 of loans for every for one year of service as a nurse educator at a nursing
17 school in this State.

18 (g) Adoption of policies, procedures, and guidelines. The Corporation
19 shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to implement the
20 provisions of this section.

1 Sec. 25. NURSE EDUCATOR FORGIVABLE LOAN AND LOAN
2 REPAYMENT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

3 In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the
4 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
5 Funds to the Department of Health for scholarships and loan repayment for
6 nurse educators under the Nurse Educator Forgivable Loan and Loan
7 Repayment Program established in Sec. 24 of this act.
8

9 Sec. 27. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

10 § 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

11 (a) The Board shall conduct reviews of each hospital’s proposed budget
12 based on the information provided pursuant to this subchapter and in
13 accordance with a schedule established by the Board.

14 (b) In conjunction with budget reviews, the Board shall:

15 * * *

16 (10) require each hospital to provide information on administrative
17 costs, as defined by the Board, including specific information on the amounts
18 spent on marketing and advertising costs; and

19 (11) require each hospital to create or maintain connectivity to the
20 State’s Health Information Exchange Network in accordance with the criteria
21 established by the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc., pursuant to

1 subsection 9352(i) of this title, provided that the Board shall not require a
2 hospital to create a level of connectivity that the State's Exchange is unable to
3 support;

4 (12) review the hospital's investments in workforce development
5 initiatives, including nursing workforce pipeline collaborations with nursing
6 schools and compensation and other support for nurse preceptors; and

7 (13) consider the salaries for the hospital's executive and clinical
8 leadership and the hospital's salary spread, including a comparison of median
9 salaries to the medians of northern New England states.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 28. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; FISCAL YEAR 2023
12 HOSPITAL BUDGET REVIEW; NURSING WORKFORCE
13 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

14 For hospital fiscal year 2023, the Green Mountain Care Board may exclude
15 all or a portion of a hospital's investments in nursing workforce development
16 initiatives from any otherwise applicable financial limitations on the hospital's
17 budget or budget growth. Notwithstanding any provision of GMCB Rule
18 3.202, the Board may modify its hospital budget guidance for hospital fiscal
19 year 2023 as needed to comply with this section.

1 Sec. 29. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; DESIGNATED AND
2 SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKFORCE
3 DEVELOPMENT

4 (a) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated from
5 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
6 Funds to the Agency of Human Services to expand the supply of high-quality
7 mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and developmental disability
8 services professionals by distributing funds to the designated and specialized
9 service agencies equitably based on each agency’s proportion of full-time-
10 equivalent (FTE) mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and
11 developmental disability services staff to the total number of FTE mental
12 health, substance use disorder treatment, and developmental disability services
13 staff across all designated and specialized service agencies statewide. The
14 designated and specialized service agencies shall use these funds for loan
15 repayment and tuition assistance to promote the recruitment and retention of
16 high-quality mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and
17 developmental disability services professionals available to Vermont residents
18 in need of their services, as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

19 (b)(1) Each designated and specialized service agency shall make the funds
20 received pursuant to subsection (a) of this section available to its current and
21 prospective employees as set forth in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this

1 subdivision (1) on a rolling basis in exchange for a one-year service obligation
2 to provide mental health, substance use disorder treatment, or developmental
3 disability services, or a combination of these, at a designated or specialized
4 service agency in this State. The funds may be used for the following
5 purposes:

6 (A) loan repayment for master’s-level clinicians, bachelor’s-level
7 direct service staff, and nurses; and

8 (B) tuition assistance for individuals pursuing degrees to become
9 master’s-level clinicians, bachelor’s-level direct service staff, and nurses.

10 (2) Loan repayment and tuition assistance funds shall be available to the
11 current and prospective employees of designated and specialized service
12 agencies in the form of forgivable loans, with the debt forgiven upon the
13 employee’s completion of the required service obligation.

14 (c) Until the funds have been fully expended, the Agency of Human
15 Services shall report on or before January 15 annually to the House
16 Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and
17 the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare with
18 information on the following:

19 (1) the specific designated and specialized service agencies that have
20 received funds to date and the programs within each of those agencies in which
21 the financial assistance recipients will deliver services;

1 (2) the amount of financial assistance funding provided to each
2 recipient;

3 (3) the specific degrees or certificates toward which the tuition
4 assistance recipients are working and those earned by loan repayment
5 recipients; and

6 (4) the number of new employees attracted to the designated and
7 specialized service agencies as a result of the financial assistance, their fields
8 of study, and the programs in which they deliver services.

9 Sec. 30. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; BARRIERS TO

10 MENTAL HEALTH LICENSURE; REPORT

11 The Office of Professional Regulation shall undertake a systematic review
12 of the licensing processes for mental health and substance use disorder
13 treatment professionals to identify barriers to licensure. On or before
14 January 15, 2023, the Office shall provide its findings and recommendations to
15 address any identified barriers to licensure to the House Committees on Health
16 Care, on Human Services, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on
17 Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare, on
18 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Government
19 Operations.

1 Sec. 31. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; POSITION;

2 APPROPRIATION

3 (a) One classified, three-year limited-service Health Care Workforce
4 Coordinator position is created in the Agency of Human Services, Office of
5 Health Care Reform in fiscal year 2023 to support the health care workforce
6 initiatives set forth in this act and in the Health Care Workforce Development
7 Strategic Plan. The Coordinator shall focus on building educational, clinical,
8 and housing partnerships and support structures to increase and improve health
9 care workforce training, recruitment, and retention.

10 (b) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$170,000.00 is appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the Agency of Human Services, Office of Health Care Reform
12 for the Health Care Workforce Coordinator position, of which \$120,000.00 is
13 for personal services and \$50,000.00 is for operating expenses.

14 **Sec. 32. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DATA HUB;**

15 **HEALTH RESOURCE ALLOCATION PLAN**

16 In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$2,500,000.00 is appropriated from the
17 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
18 Funds to the Agency of Human Services to enable the Agency to serve as the
19 State’s health care workforce data hub. In order enhance the State’s public
20 health data systems, respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and
21 improve the State’s COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, the Agency

1 shall collect health care workforce data and identify and propose solutions to
2 address data gaps, and shall share the data with the Green Mountain Care
3 Board to inform the Board’s work in identifying the State’s health resources
4 available to meet Vermonters’ health care needs and additional resources that
5 may be necessary, as part of the Board’s Health Resource Allocation Plan
6 responsibilities pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9405. The Agency shall use existing
7 statewide information to the extent practicable to avoid imposing
8 administrative burdens on health care providers and to avoid duplication of
9 efforts underway elsewhere in Vermont. The Agency shall expand its data
10 collection practices over two years to include all levels of the health care
11 workforce, beginning with the highest-level licensed health care professionals.

12 Sec. 33. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE
13 BOARD; SUPPLY AND DEMAND MODELING

14 On or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Labor, in collaboration
15 with the Green Mountain Care Board, shall explore and recommend to the
16 House Committees on Health Care, on Human Services, and on Commerce and
17 Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare
18 and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a process,
19 methodology, and necessary funding amounts to establish and maintain the
20 capacity to perform health care supply and demand modeling based on

1 information in the health care workforce data hub, for use by health care
2 employers, health care educators, and policymakers.

3 Sec. 34. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; GREEN
4 MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS;
5 ADMINISTRATIVE COST REDUCTION; REPORT

6 (a) The Department of Financial Regulation shall explore the feasibility of
7 requiring health insurers and their prior authorization vendors to access clinical
8 data from the Vermont Health Information Exchange whenever possible to
9 support prior authorization requests in situations in which a request cannot be
10 automatically approved.

11 (b) The Department of Financial Regulation shall direct health insurers to
12 provide prior authorization information to the Department in a format required
13 by the Department in order to enable the Department to analyze opportunities
14 to align and streamline prior authorization request processes. The Department
15 shall share its findings and recommendations with the Green Mountain Care
16 Board, and the Department and the Board shall collaborate to provide
17 recommendations to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate
18 Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance on or before January 15,
19 2023 regarding the statutory changes necessary to align and streamline prior
20 authorization processes and requirements across health insurers.

1 Sec. 35. 33 V.S.A. § 3543 is amended to read:

2 § 3543. STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

3 (a)(1) There is established a need-based student loan repayment assistance
4 program for the purpose of providing student loan repayment assistance to any
5 individual employed by a regulated, privately operated center-based child care
6 program or family child care home.

7 (2) An eligible individual shall:

8 (A) work in a privately operated center-based child care program or
9 in a family child care home that is regulated by the Division for at least an
10 average of 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year, except that this
11 minimum time requirement does not apply to an employee of Vermont Head
12 Start to the extent it conflicts with any law or contract provision governing the
13 terms of employment.

14 (B) receive an annual salary of not more than \$50,000.00; and

15 (C) have earned an associates or bachelor's degree with a major
16 concentration in early childhood, child and human development, elementary
17 education, special education with a birth to age eight focus, or child and family
18 services within the preceding five years.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 36. PILOT PROGRAM; POSITIONS EMBEDDED WITHIN
2 RECOVERY CENTERS

3 (a)(1) In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$1,290,000.00 is appropriated from
4 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery
5 Funds to the Department for Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living’s
6 Division of Vocation Rehabilitation for the purpose of developing and
7 implementing a two-year pilot program that embeds 15 FTE new positions
8 within 12 recovery centers across the State.

9 (2) The 15 FTE limited-service positions shall be allocated as follows:

10 (A) Of the total appropriation, \$540,000.00 total shall be allocated in
11 equal amounts to fund the following 2.5 FTE at each of two geographically
12 diverse recovery centers:

13 (i) one FTE to serve as an employment counselor within the
14 Division of Vocation Rehabilitation;

15 (ii) one FTE to serve as an employment consultant within the
16 Vermont Association of Business Industry and Rehabilitation; and

17 (iii) 0.5 FTE to serve as Employment Assistance Program staff
18 within the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation.

19 (B) Of the total appropriation, \$75,000.00 shall be allocated in equal
20 amounts to fund one FTE who shall serve as an employment support counselor
21 at each of the 10 remaining recovery centers in the State.

1 (b) On or before January 1, 2024, the Division of Vocational
2 Rehabilitation, in collaboration with the Vermont Association of Business
3 Industry and Rehabilitation, shall submit a report to the House Committees on
4 Commerce and Economic Development and on Human Services and to the
5 Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
6 and on Health and Welfare summarizing the effectiveness of the pilot program,
7 including:

- 8 (1) educational attainment and achievement of program recipients;
9 (2) acquisition of a credential of value pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 546;
10 (3) number of job placements; and
11 (4) job retention rates.

12 Sec. 37. CREDENTIAL OF VALUE GOAL; PUBLIC-PRIVATE
13 PARTNERSHIP; APPROPRIATION

14 (a) Duties. In fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$350,000.00 is appropriated
15 from the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a
16 performance-based contract to perform the following duties, in coordination
17 and alignment with State partners, in support of the State’s goal articulated in
18 10 V.S.A. § 546 that 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential
19 of value by 2025 (Goal):

- 20 (1) increase public awareness of the value of postsecondary education
21 and training to help persons of any age make informed decisions about the

1 value of education and training that would further their advancement in
2 educational pathways and pursuit of career goals, through targeted outreach as
3 outlined in subsection (b) of this section;

4 (2) promote a broad understanding of the public good and value in
5 achieving the State’s Goal and of actions stakeholders can take to increase
6 attainment;

7 (3) assist or coordinate with stakeholders, such as educational, business,
8 governmental, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations, in activities that seek
9 to align the delivery of high-quality education and training opportunities with
10 career advancement and support the policy priorities outlined in 10 V.S.A.
11 § 546;

12 (4) collect and display publicly available, nonconfidential information
13 about postsecondary credentials available to Vermonters;

14 (5) facilitate conversations or provide information about the national
15 best practices in aligning, recognizing, measuring, tracking, and promoting
16 postsecondary credentials of value to the Vermont Department of Labor and
17 Agency of Education when requested;

18 (6) maintain web-based resources that provide information about
19 opportunities to obtain a postsecondary credential of value, in coordination
20 with State partners;

1 (7) support the Vermont Department of Labor and Agency of Education
2 transition or integration of Advance Vermont’s web-based resources and
3 collected information referenced in subdivisions (4) and (6) of this subsection
4 into a State-supported system in a coordinated way; and

5 (8) meet on a quarterly basis with the Vermont Department of Labor and
6 Agency of Education about activities described in this subsection.

7 (b) Outreach. The contractor may use funds awarded by the State to:

8 (1) create and distribute public-facing communications and resources
9 related to the duties described in this section; and

10 (2) offer support to career and education counselors, employment and
11 training counselors, jobseekers and their families, and other stakeholders,
12 consistent with best practice and State policy and programs, to help them better
13 understand the postsecondary education and training landscape.

14 (c) Reports. The contractor shall provide written reports to:

15 (1) the Vermont Department of Labor and Agency of Education about
16 anticipated work and activities using a simplified reporting template jointly
17 developed by the contractor and the State entities on a quarterly basis; and

18 (2) on or before December 15, 2022, the House and Senate committees
19 of jurisdiction regarding the use of funds, activities performed, and outcomes
20 achieved pursuant to this section.

21 Sec. 38. VERMONT SERVE, LEARN, AND EARN PROGRAM;

1 APPROPRIATION

2 In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$3,200,000.00 is appropriated from the
3 General Fund to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to provide
4 funding for capital and operating needs of groups participating in the Vermont
5 Serve, Learn, and Earn Program, which supports workforce development goals
6 through creating meaningful paid service and learning opportunities for young
7 adults.

8 Sec. 39. ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY; FINDINGS

9 The General Assembly finds:

10 (1) Adult education and literacy services are a key piece of the
11 workforce development system and serve as the entryway into career readiness
12 and workforce development for tens of thousands of our most vulnerable
13 Vermonters, those with low literacy, under-education, or those simply in need
14 of increased skills so that they can succeed.

15 (2) 36,000 adults in Vermont do not have a high school credential, and
16 tens of thousands more lack the skills to matriculate into and be successful in
17 college, in career training programs, or both. Adult education and literacy
18 providers are the first stop on the path to the transformative opportunities that
19 Vermont is offering for these individuals.

20 (3) Adult education and literacy services help people build the assets
21 they need to move out of poverty successfully, as well as the confidence to

1 continue to move toward success throughout their lives. Students are supported
2 to identify concrete goals and then break those goals down into steps. Students
3 set goals in the domains of:

4 (A) family and life;

5 (B) academics; and

6 (C) career and college readiness.

7 Sec. 40. FINDINGS; FOREST FUTURE STRATEGIC ROADMAP

8 The General Assembly finds for the purposes of this section and Secs. 38b
9 to 38d of this act:

10 (1) Private and public forestlands:

11 (A) constitute unique and irreplaceable resources, benefits, and
12 values of statewide importance;

13 (B) contribute to the protection and conservation of wildlife habitat,
14 air, water, and soil resources of the State;

15 (C) mitigate the effects of climate change; and

16 (D) benefit the general health and welfare of the persons of the State.

17 (2) The forest products sector, including maple sap collection:

18 (A) is a major contributor to and is valuable to the State's economy
19 by providing nearly 14,000 jobs for Vermonters, generating \$2.1 billion in
20 annual sales, and supporting \$30.8 million in additional economic activity
21 from trail uses and seasonal tourism;

1 (B) is essential to the manufacture of forest products that are used
2 and enjoyed by the persons of the State; and

3 (C) benefits the general welfare of the persons of the State.

4 (3) Private and public forestlands are critical for and contribute
5 significantly to the State’s outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

6 (4) Eighty percent of Vermont’s forestland is held in private ownership,
7 of which 56 percent of private lands are enrolled in the forestland category of
8 Vermont’s Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA). UVA is Vermont’s most
9 important conservation program and contains the largest foundation of supply
10 to support a vibrant forest-based rural economy.

11 (5) Economic realities and demand pressures for urban, commercial, and
12 residential land uses throughout the State continue to challenge forest
13 landowners trying to maintain intact forests. Forest fragmentation can
14 adversely affect the natural environment and viable forest management.
15 Addressing the economic and social needs of the forest products sector is
16 paramount to keeping forests intact, viable, and healthy.

17 (6) The encouragement, development, improvement, and preservation of
18 forestry operations will result in extant, intact, and functioning forests that will
19 provide a general benefit to the health and welfare of the persons of the State
20 and the State’s economy.

1 (7) To strengthen, promote, and protect the Vermont forest products
2 sector, the State should establish the Vermont Forest Future Strategic
3 Roadmap.

4 Sec. 41. 10 V.S.A. chapter 82 is added to read:

5 CHAPTER 82. VERMONT FOREST FUTURE STRATEGIC ROADMAP

6 § 2531. VERMONT FOREST FUTURE STRATEGIC ROADMAP

7 (a) Creation. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall
8 create the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap to strengthen, modernize,
9 promote, and protect the forest products sector in Vermont. The
10 Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may contract with a qualified
11 contractor for the creation of the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap.
12 During the contract proposal process, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
13 Recreation shall seek a proposal to complete the Vermont Forest Future
14 Strategic Roadmap from the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund.

15 (b) Intended outcomes. The intended outcomes of the Vermont Forest
16 Future Strategic Roadmap are to:

17 (1) increase sustainable economic development and jobs in Vermont's
18 forest economy;

19 (2) promote ways to expand the workforce and strengthen forest product
20 enterprises in order to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect the
21 Vermont forest economy into the future;

1 (3) promote the importance of healthy, resilient, and sustainably
2 managed working forests that provide a diverse array of high-quality products
3 now and in the future; and

4 (4) identify actionable strategies designed to strengthen, modernize,
5 promote, and protect the forest products sector in Vermont, including
6 opportunities for new product development, opening new markets for Vermont
7 forest products, adopting modern manufacturing processes, and utilizing new
8 ways to market Vermont forest products.

9 (c) Strategic Roadmap content. In developing the Vermont Forest Future
10 Strategic Roadmap, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or the
11 relevant contractor shall:

12 (1) review all existing data, plans, and industry-level research completed
13 over the past 10 years, including the Working Lands Enterprise Fund’s Forest
14 Sector Systems Analysis, and identify any recommendations in those reports in
15 order to build upon previous efforts;

16 (2) identify infrastructure investment and funding to support and
17 promote Vermont forest products enterprises;

18 (3) identify regulatory barriers and propose policy recommendations to
19 support and strengthen the Vermont forest economy;

20 (4) identify opportunities for all State agencies to engage with and
21 enhance the Vermont forest products sector, including the Department of

1 Buildings and General Services, the Agency of Commerce and Community
2 Development, the Department of Tourism and Marketing, the Agency of
3 Education, the Agency of Transportation, the Department of Public Service,
4 the Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Financial Regulation, and
5 the Department of Labor;

6 (5) develop recommendations to support education and training of the
7 current and future workforce of the Vermont forest products sector;

8 (6) propose alternatives for the modernization of transportation and
9 regulation of Vermont forest products enterprises, including modernization of
10 local and State permits;

11 (7) identify methods or programs that Vermont forest enterprises can
12 utilize to access business assistance services;

13 (8) recommend how to maintain access by Vermont forest products
14 enterprises to forestland and how to maintain the stewardship and conservation
15 of Vermont forests as a whole;

16 (9) propose methods to enhance market development and manufacturing
17 by Vermont forest products enterprises, including value chain coordination and
18 regional partnerships;

19 (10) recommend conamounter education and marketing initiatives; and

20 (11) recommend how to clarify the roles of various public entities and
21 nongovernmental organizations that provide certain services to the forestry

1 sector and to ensure coordination and alignment of those functions in order to
2 advance and maximize the strength of the forest products industry.

3 (d) Process for development of Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap.

4 (1) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or relevant
5 contractor shall develop the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap and all
6 subsequent revisions through the use of a public stakeholder process that
7 includes and invites participation by interested parties representing all users of
8 Vermont’s forests, including representatives of forest products enterprises,
9 State agencies, investors, forestland owners, recreational interests, loggers,
10 foresters, truckers, sawmills, firewood processors, wood products
11 manufacturers, education representatives, and others.

12 (2) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, in collaboration
13 with forest products sector stakeholders, shall review the Strategic Roadmap
14 periodically and shall update the Strategic Roadmap at least every 10 years.

15 (e) Advisory panel; administration.

16 (1) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or relevant
17 contractor shall convene a Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap advisory
18 panel to review and counsel in the development and implementation of the
19 Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap. The advisory panel shall include
20 representatives of forest products enterprises, State agencies, investors,
21 forestland owners, foresters, loggers, truckers, wood products manufacturers,

1 recreational specialists, education representatives, trade organizations, and
2 other partners as deemed appropriate. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
3 Recreation shall select representatives to the advisory panel.

4 (2) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or relevant
5 contractor may seek grants or other means of assistance to support the
6 development and implementation of the Vermont Forest Future Strategic
7 Roadmap.

8 Sec. 42. IMPLEMENTATION

9 (a) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or relevant
10 contractor shall submit to the General Assembly:

11 (1) draft recommendations for the Vermont Forest Future Strategic
12 Roadmap on or before July 1, 2023; and

13 (2) a final report and recommendations for the Vermont Forest Future
14 Strategic Roadmap on or before January 1, 2024.

15 (b) Any recommendation submitted under this section shall include
16 recommended appropriations sufficient to implement the recommendation or
17 the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap as a whole.

18 Sec. 43. APPROPRIATIONS

19 In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Department of Forests,
20 Parks and Recreation, in fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$250,000.00 is
21 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department to enter a two-year

1 contract in fiscal year 2023 for the purpose of contracting for the development
2 of the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap required by 10 V.S.A.
3 § 2531.

4 Sec. 44. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that:

6 (1) Sec. 9(b)–(c) (Internship Cost Offset Initiative) shall take effect on
7 passage.

8 (2) Sec. 27 (18 V.S.A. § 9456) shall take effect on January 1, 2023 and
9 shall apply to hospital fiscal years 2024 and after.