BAA current draft bill language:
(25) $350,000 to the Department of Environmental Conservation to evaluate and provide an analysis of the capital and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the Green River Dam. Any unspent funds will be directed to state-owned dams to evaluate the capital and ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Explanation: Any dam in consideration for ownership requires careful consideration, particularly a dam like Green River which is an aging and high hazard dam that is nearing the end of its original design life. Acting on behalf of all Vermonters, the following study is necessary in order to understand any liability and would include: Operations & Maintenance Assessment, Ownership Costs, and a Cost-Benefit Analysis.

Operations & Maintenance Assessment

- Costs to operate and maintain the dam on an annual basis.
- Outlook, range of potential costs, and prospective timing for a rehabilitation project (this is a long-term assessment of 15-50 years out)
- Staffing required to keep up with the O&M. Do we need to visit the dam weekly (or more or less often)? What level of monitoring and minor maintenance is needed? Do we need to post staff there during flood events, etc.?

Ownership Costs:

- Impacts to State insurance costs
- An assessment of costs subject to and funded by the owner:
    i. Periodic inspections every other year
    ii. Comprehensive inspections every 10 years
    iii. Emergency Action Planning updates every other year and testing
    iv. O&M plan
    v. Compliance with inspection requirements.
    vi. There will likely be other requirements with the completion of the decommissioning process

Cost-benefit analysis:

- Value of the benefits the dam provides, this would include annualized recreational value, flood protection value (if any), and a consultant would determine others
- Overall project viability – including comparison of estimated annual costs versus benefits
- Evaluation of environmental impacts as well as social justice impacts (recreation, flood control, wildlife habitat)