

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 315 entitled “An act relating to COVID-19 relief” respectfully reports that it  
4 has considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House  
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and  
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Federal Funding, Administration \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. FEDERAL FUNDS; ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS

9 (a) To the extent that appropriations in this act are made from federal funds  
10 provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), including state  
11 holding funds that are established as a result of the ARPA, the Commissioner  
12 of Finance and Management is authorized, to make expenditures in  
13 anticipation of receipts as necessary. The Commissioner shall immediately  
14 notify the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, or the Joint Fiscal  
15 Committee through the Joint Fiscal Office when the General Assembly is not  
16 in session, if any such expenditure is later deemed impermissible by  
17 subsequent federal guidance.

18 (b) The appropriations in this act from funds provided by ARPA of 2021  
19 shall carry forward from fiscal year 2021 until expended.

20 Sec. 2. REMAINING CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS;

1 CARRYFORWARD, REVERSION, AND APPLICATION

2 (a) To the extent that Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) spending authority  
3 made through appropriation or approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee remains  
4 available as of June 30, 2021, any amounts necessary to pay for expenditures  
5 that have been obligated but not paid out as of June 30, 2021 shall carry  
6 forward to fiscal year 2022.

7 (b) Prior to the close of fiscal year 2021, the Commissioner of Finance and  
8 Management is authorized to revert all unobligated CRF appropriations to the  
9 State CRF. In fiscal year 2021, the total amount of CRF reverted under this  
10 subsection shall be appropriated to the Department of Corrections for eligible  
11 costs and the same amount of general funds appropriated to the Department of  
12 Corrections shall be reverted.

13 (c) The Commissioner shall report to the House and Senate Committees on  
14 Appropriations on or before June 1, 2021 with estimates of each of the  
15 following: CRF carryforward need, CRF reversions, and total CRF  
16 appropriation to the Department of Corrections and the General Fund reversion  
17 from Department of Corrections anticipated on or before June 30, 2021 as  
18 authorized under this section. The report shall also include a brief description  
19 of the degree to which FEMA funding applications and awards are impacting

1 these estimates. The Commissioner shall provide a final report on these  
2 amounts to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its meeting in July 2021.

3 \* \* \* Commerce and Community Development; Targeted Business Grants \* \* \*

4 Sec. 3. GAP ECONOMIC RECOVERY GRANTS; FISCAL YEAR 2021

5 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION

6 (a) Appropriation.

7 (1)(A) In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated  
8 from the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community  
9 Development to provide gap economic recovery grants to eligible businesses  
10 pursuant to this act.

11 (B) Of this amount, the Agency shall work with community partners  
12 to allocate \$1,000,000.00 for eligible businesses owned by Vermonters who  
13 are members of underrepresented communities that have historically  
14 experienced unequal access to State economic benefits and services or suffered  
15 discrimination due to race, gender, socioeconomic status, citizenship status,  
16 disability status, or other similar factors.

17 (2) The Agency may use not more than five percent of the appropriated  
18 funds for the costs of administration, including technical assistance and  
19 guidance concerning potential eligibility for federal programs.

1        (b) Eligibility. To be eligible for a grant, a business shall meet the  
2        following criteria:

3            (1) The business is domiciled or has its primary place of business in  
4        Vermont.

5            (2) The business is organized and operated:

6            (A) on a for-profit basis, including a sole proprietor, partnership,  
7        limited liability company, business corporation, cooperative, or mutual benefit  
8        enterprise; or

9            (B) on a nonprofit or low-profit basis, including a mutual benefit  
10       corporation, public benefit corporation, and a low-profit limited liability  
11       company.

12           (3) The business submits a written plan that demonstrates that the  
13       business will use grant funds for business-related operations and economic  
14       recovery and that:

15           (A) the business is open at the time of application; or

16           (B) the business is closed due to the COVID-19 public health  
17       emergency but has a good-faith plan to reopen within 60 days of receiving the  
18       grant award and will use grant funds for reopening.

19           (4) The business suffered an economic loss due to the COVID-19 public  
20       health emergency and has filed a 2020 tax return that demonstrates a tax loss.

1           (5) At the time the business submits its application to the Agency, the  
2           business demonstrates that it has not received prior COVID-19-related State  
3           assistance and:

4           (A) the business has applied for the forgivable loans and grants made  
5           available through the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury  
6           Disaster Relief Advance program, or other COVID-19-related business  
7           financial assistance programs created by, or as modified by, the Consolidated  
8           Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, but was denied assistance because  
9           the business does not meet the eligibility criteria for any program; or

10           (B) the business has not applied for any such assistance based on a  
11           determination by a financial institution or other participating lender, an  
12           attorney, an accountant, or another qualified financial professional that the  
13           business is not eligible for such assistance because the business does not meet  
14           the eligibility criteria for any program.

15           (6) The business is in compliance with current State health and safety  
16           protocols established by Executive Order.

17           (c) Amount of grant. A grant shall not exceed the lesser of:

18           (1) the loss demonstrated on the business's 2020 tax return;

1           (2) three times the eligible business’s fixed monthly expenses for  
2           commercial mortgage or rent, insurance, electricity, heat, water, sewer service,  
3           telecommunications service, and Internet service; or

4           (3) \$150,000.00.

5           (d) Grant administration; use of funds; future grant awards. Any amounts  
6           that remain unspent through the program shall revert to the Agency of  
7           Commerce and Community Development for purposes of supplementing any  
8           future economic recovery grant program established prior to January 1, 2022,  
9           and if no program is established, then to the General Fund.

10          (e) Guidelines. Not later than 10 days after the effective date of this act,  
11          the Agency shall publish guidelines governing the implementation of the  
12          program, which at minimum shall:

13           (1) establish application award procedures, and a timeline for accepting  
14           applications and awarding grants;

15           (2) establish standards to determine whether an eligible business has its  
16           primary place of business in Vermont;

17           (3) establish standards for the use of grant funds for the purpose of  
18           business-related economic recovery;

1           (4) establish procedures to ensure that grant awards comply with the  
2           requirements of this section and that the State maintains adequate records to  
3           demonstrate compliance with this section;

4           (5) establish procedures to prevent, detect, and mitigate fraud, waste,  
5           error, and abuse; and

6           (6) establish procedures to ensure that grant applicants comply with  
7           State and federal employment and labor laws.

8           (f) Reporting. The Agency shall submit two reports to the House  
9           Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development  
10           and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development,  
11           Housing and General Affairs detailing the implementation of this section,  
12           including specific information concerning the amount, identity, and  
13           demographic information of grant recipients, which shall be publicly available:

14           (1) an initial report following the 30-day approval period specified in  
15           subdivision (d)(1) of this section; and

16           (2) a final report not later than 30 days after program funds are  
17           exhausted.

18           (g) Auditing; compliance. The Agency shall include in all grant awards  
19           standard audit provisions, substantially similar to the audit provisions included  
20           pursuant to administrative bulletins 3.5 and 5.0, that provide that records

1 pertaining to grant awards shall be retained and remain subject to audit and  
2 inspection by the Agency and the State Auditor of Accounts for a period of  
3 time specified by the Agency.

4 (h) Recapture. The Agency shall include in all grant awards standard  
5 recapture provisions, which shall include that a grant award may be subject to  
6 recapture if a recipient is found to be ineligible for the award or to have used  
7 an award for an ineligible purpose, consistent with the guidelines the Agency  
8 adopts pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

9 Sec. 3a. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021;

10 FUTURE BUSINESS GRANT AWARDS

11 The Agency of Commerce and Community Development and other relevant  
12 Executive Branch agencies and departments shall consult and coordinate in a  
13 timely manner with legislative policy committees of jurisdiction through the  
14 Office of Legislative Counsel and the Joint Fiscal Office in the development of  
15 proposals for future distributions of funds for business recovery through the  
16 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

17 Sec. 3b. VERMONT MICROBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

18 The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act  
19 of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in fiscal year 2021 to  
20 Department for Children and Families, Office of Economic Opportunity, to be



1 granted to the Community Action Agencies for the Statewide Community Action  
2 Network’s Economic Micro Business Recovery Assistance for the COVID-19  
3 Epidemic (EMBRACE) to assist the Vermont microbusiness owners impacted by  
4 COVID-19.

5 \* \* \* Housing and Homeowner Assistance \* \* \*

6 Sec. 4. VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD,  
7 HOUSING AND FACILITIES

8 The sum of \$10,000,000.00 of General Fund is appropriated to the Vermont  
9 Housing and Conservation Board in fiscal year 2021, which the Board shall  
10 use, in part through grants to nonprofit housing partners and service  
11 organizations, for housing and facilities necessary to provide safe shelter to  
12 lower-income and at-risk populations. These funds are intended to be  
13 expended as expeditiously as possible on projects ready to proceed in 2021 and  
14 designed to meet immediate housing needs.

15 Sec. 5. HOMEOWNER; MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE FORECLOSURE  
16 PREVENTION

17 The sum of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
18 Act of 2021 - Homeowner Assistance Fund in fiscal year 2021 to the  
19 Department of Housing and Community Development for a grant to the  
20 Vermont Housing Finance Agency to provide financial and technical  
21 assistance to stabilize low- and moderate-income homeowners and prevent

1 home foreclosures for Vermont families. To the extent permitted by federal  
2 law and guidance, these funds may be used to provide mortgage assistance  
3 retroactively to January 1, 2021.

4 \* \* \* Human Services, Mental Health and Health Care \* \* \*

5 Sec. 6. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; EMERGENCY

6 OUTREACH SERVICES GRANTS

7 The sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
8 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department of  
9 Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 for grants to peer-led and impacted member-  
10 led organizations for emergency outreach services to address COVID-19-  
11 related needs. Of these funds, the Department shall allocate \$150,000.00 to a  
12 mental health peer-support organization and \$150,000.00 to an organization  
13 supporting the needs of LGBTQ youths.

14 Sec. 7. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; HOUSING

15 The sum of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
16 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department of  
17 Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 to make existing housing and community-  
18 based service facilities providing mental health services more accessible, safe,  
19 and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act or to expand capacity  
20 in community settings. The Department shall select the projects in

1 consultation with the Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office, the  
2 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, and  
3 representatives of the designated agencies, specialized service agencies, and  
4 peer organizations. The grants shall be awarded to organizations that  
5 demonstrate the greatest ability to respond immediately to the need for housing  
6 and shall be for projects that will not require additional State funds for  
7 operating costs in future years. At least one grant shall be awarded to a peer-  
8 run or peer-directed housing organization. The Department of Mental Health  
9 shall partner with the Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office and the  
10 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to include as  
11 potential grant candidates all designated and specialized service agencies that  
12 provide developmental and mental health services.

13 **Sec. 8.** DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; CASE MANAGEMENT  
14 SERVICES

15 The sum of \$850,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
16 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department of  
17 Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 to provide funds to the mental health  
18 designated agencies to enable them each to hire an additional case manager to  
19 provide case management services to Vermont residents who may not  
20 previously have been part of an agency's caseload but whose lives have been

1 significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who are now urgently  
2 in need of these agencies' supports. Agencies have the flexibility to identify  
3 where the targeted need exists within their agency, across all programs. The  
4 purpose funded in this section is limited to addressing the impacts related to  
5 the COVID-19 pandemic and not intended to create an ongoing funding  
6 commitment.

7 Sec. 9. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; WORKFORCE

8 TRAINING AND WELLNESS SUPPORTS

9 The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
10 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department of  
11 Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 for training and wellness supports for  
12 frontline health care workers to help them meet Vermont residents' current  
13 mental health needs, such as training for emergency department personnel  
14 responding to an increased demand for crisis services as a result of the  
15 COVID-19 pandemic and training on trauma-informed and trauma-specific  
16 care for mental health professionals responding to the surge in mental health  
17 treatment needs. These workers would also benefit from wellness supports as  
18 they continue to care for people in crisis while experiencing their own stress,  
19 anxiety, and trauma as a result of the pandemic.

20 Sec. 10. SUPPORTS FOR NEW AMERICANS, REFUGEES, AND

1 IMMIGRANTS

2 (a) The sum of \$700,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
3 Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Agency of  
4 Human Services in fiscal year 2021 for distribution in equal amounts to the  
5 Association of Africans Living in Vermont and the U.S. Committee for  
6 Refugees and Immigrants' Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program for various  
7 purposes related to COVID-19, including:

8 (1) interpretation and translation services related to COVID-19, including  
9 accessing testing and vaccines;

10 (2) purchasing laptops and providing digital literacy for households to  
11 ensure that children can attend school remotely, that families can access  
12 telehealth services, and that adult family members can find employment;

13 (3) providing case management services related to an increased need  
14 related to housing assistance, workforce development, and employment  
15 coaching; and

16 (4) providing navigation of Reach Up, 3SquaresVT, and other public  
17 assistance programs following job losses.

18 Sec. 11. GRANTS TO REACH UP PARTICIPANTS

19 The sum of \$1,300,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
20 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department for

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1 Children and Families in fiscal year 2021 for the purposes of distributing  
2 monies to families participating in the Reach Up program. These funds shall  
3 be distributed in a manner similar to the distribution funds made to the  
4 population under 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 136, Sec. 15.

5 Sec. 12. VERMONT FOOD BANK

6 (a) The sum of \$1,376,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
7 Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in fiscal year 2021  
8 to the Agency of Human Services' Central Office to be granted to the Vermont  
9 Food Bank to pay the costs of the Vermont Farmers to Families Food Box  
10 Program for the months of January and February 2021.

11 (b) The sum of \$82,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan  
12 Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in fiscal year 2021 to  
13 the Agency of Human Services' Central Office to be granted to the Vermont  
14 Food Bank for statewide provision of diapers to families in need.

15 Sec. 13. GRANT TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND

16 VISUALLY IMPAIRED

17 (a) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
18 Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department  
19 of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living in fiscal year 2021 to be  
20 granted to the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for a

1 technology training program for older Vermonters who experience decreased  
2 vision and blindness and others who are blind or visually impaired to address  
3 social isolation resulting from social distancing.

4 Sec. 14. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; DEPARTMENT OF  
5 HEALTH; HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES; DATA COLLECTION  
6 AND ANALYSIS

7 (a) The sum of \$66,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
8 Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2021 to provide the State share  
9 pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h) for updates to the Vermont Healthcare Claims  
10 Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) to improve data  
11 collection related to health equity.

12 (b) The sum of \$134,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
13 Department of Health in fiscal year 2021 for collection and analysis of  
14 demographic data, including race and ethnicity data, regarding Vermont  
15 residents who experience health disparities.

16 \* \* \* Education \* \* \*

17 Sec. 15. SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

18 (a) Appropriation. In fiscal year 2021, \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated  
19 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal  
20 Recovery Fund for the Pre-K–12 Education Pandemic - School Indoor Air

1 Quality Grant Program established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec.  
2 A.51. This appropriation may be adjusted if the Commissioner of Finance and  
3 Management determines that federal FEMA funds will be awarded for this  
4 purpose. The funds authorized by this section shall be either granted by the  
5 Agency of Education or paid to Efficiency Vermont to carry out the duties  
6 listed in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.51(e). Efficiency Vermont is  
7 authorized to use up to \$250,000.00 of the \$15,000,000.00 appropriated under  
8 this section for direct labor costs.

9 (b) Authorization. Efficiency Vermont shall require that any school that  
10 receives a grant through the School Indoor Air Quality Grant Program  
11 established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.51 authorize Efficiency  
12 Vermont to release the school name and grant amount in any report requested  
13 by the General Assembly.

14 (c) Reporting. Upon expenditure of the funds, the Agency of Education  
15 shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the  
16 specific uses of the funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section on or  
17 before March 15, 2022.

18 Sec. 16. EDUCATION SERVICES; FEDERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

19 In fiscal year 2021 and to be carried forward, appropriations are made to the  
20 Agency of Education from federal funds for Elementary and Secondary School



1 Relief (ESSR) funds provided in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

2 Section 2001(f) as follows:

3 (1) Literacy Training. \$3,000,000.00 for the Agency of Education to  
4 provide grants to supervisory districts and supervisory unions, on behalf of  
5 their member school districts, to provide professional development for teachers  
6 in methods of teaching literacy.

7 (A) The Agency shall administer the grant program and determine  
8 which supervisory districts and supervisory unions are eligible and the amount  
9 to be granted to each applicant based on its assessment of the relative need for  
10 this funding, taking into account the following factors across applicants:

11 (i) literacy assessments of students;

12 (ii) the number of literacy instructors per enrolled students;

13 (iii) the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-priced  
14 meals;

15 (iv) the percentage of students who are English language learners;

16 (v) discrepancies in outcome data on literacy for students from  
17 historically underserved populations, including, to the extent that data is  
18 available in compliance with privacy laws, students who are Black,  
19 Indigenous, and Persons of Color and students on individualized education  
20 programs; and

1                   (vi) the extent to which teacher professional development is  
2 integrated with a multitiered system of supports.

3                   (B) There is established one limited service position, Education  
4 Programs Manager, within the Agency of Education for the literacy training  
5 program established by this section. The Agency of Education may utilize  
6 funds appropriated in this subdivision (1) for this position.

7                   (2) Student Mental Health. \$500,000.00 to fund collaboration with the  
8 Department of Mental Health and Health programs in schools to educate  
9 parents and school faculty on the signs of depression and suicide and to  
10 provide information and resources for assistance.

11                   (3) Truancy. \$1,000,000.00 to provide services to school districts and  
12 supervisory unions to address the needs of students who have been truant  
13 during the pandemic and integrate them into a supportive school culture.

14                   (4) Afterschool and Summer Programs. \$4,000,000.00 that shall be  
15 transferred to the Department for Children and Families – Child Development  
16 Division to be distributed to the Afterschool for All program. These funds  
17 shall be used for grants to afterschool and summer programs that fulfill  
18 requirements specified in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 pursuant to  
19 Section 2001(f)(2) and (3).

1           (5) Summer Meals: In fiscal year 2021 and to be carried forward,  
2           \$5,500,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 -  
3           Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Agency of Education to ensure  
4           that children and families have access to nutritious foods throughout the  
5           summer. This appropriation may be adjusted if the Commissioner of Finance  
6           and Management determines that federal FEMA funds will be awarded for this  
7           purpose.

8           Sec. 17. PRACTICAL NURSE; WORKFORCE FUNDING

9           (a) The sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont State  
10           Colleges from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State  
11           Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to open 40 to 45 seats in  
12           the Practical Nurse Program in partnership with skilled nursing facilities across  
13           the State to upskill existing staff to achieve certification as a Practical Nurse.

14           These funds may be used as follows:

15           (1) Up to \$500,000.00 for administrative and start-up costs for Vermont  
16           Technical College.

17           (2) Up to \$260,000.00 in incentive payments in the amount of \$6,000.00  
18           per student to offset lost income during enrollment in the Program.

1           (3) All remaining funds are allocated for tuition payments for required  
2           prerequisite courses at Community College of Vermont and for the Practical  
3           Nurse Program at Vermont Technical College.

4           (b) To be eligible to participate in the program, a skilled nursing facility  
5           shall provide an incentive match in the amount of \$4,000.00 per student during  
6           enrollment in the Program.

7           Sec. 18. WORKFORCE UPSKILL OPPORTUNITY

8           (a) The sum of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
9           Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont  
10           State Colleges to provide up to two free classes in the summer or fall of 2021  
11           at any of the Vermont State Colleges for any Vermont resident who is seeking  
12           to transition to a new career or to enhance the resident's job skills.

13           (b) The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
14           Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the University  
15           of Vermont to provide up to two free classes in summer or fall of 2021 for any  
16           Vermont resident who is seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance the  
17           resident's job skills.

18           Sec. 19. RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES; ADVANCEMENT

19           OPPURTUNITY

1       (a) The sum of \$2,800,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
2       Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont  
3       Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to provide up to two free class in the  
4       summer or fall of 2021 and spring 2022 at any of the Vermont State Colleges  
5       for any Vermont 2020 or 2021 high school graduate to enhance the graduate's  
6       work or academic skills. VSAC may provide a stipend of \$200 per student per  
7       class for transportation, books, or other class or attendance-related costs, and  
8       may allocate up to \$100,000.00 for the cost of administering this program.

9                   \* \* \* Reserve for Retirement Related Obligations \* \* \*

10       Sec. 20. PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

11                   OBLIGATIONS; LONG-TERM PLAN

12       (a) In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$20,000,000.00 in General Fund  
13       monies is hereby reserved to be part of pension funding initiatives and  
14       prefunding of other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

15       (b) On or before May 30, 2021, the General Assembly and the  
16       Administration, in collaboration with the Treasurer and interested parties, shall  
17       develop a long-term plan to address pension and OPEB liabilities. The funds  
18       reserved in subsection (a) of this section are available for an appropriation as  
19       part of this long-term funding initiative.

20                   \* \* \* Public Service; Broadband \* \* \*

1       Sec. 21. BROADBAND ALLOCATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS

2           (a) Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Authorization and  
3           Allocation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the  
4           Department of Public Service is authorized to use \$3,200,000.00 of the  
5           unobligated balance remaining from the CRF appropriated to the Department  
6           for broadband programs in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137 as follows:

7                   (1) \$1,600,000.00 shall be allocated for additional assistance under the  
8                   COVID-Response Line Extension Customer Assistance Program established in  
9                   2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 13. The customer costs eligible for  
10                  financial assistance under this Program shall include costs for associated  
11                  equipment such as routers and modems; and

12                   (2) \$1,600,000.00 shall be allocated to extend the COVID-Response  
13                  Temporary Broadband Lifeline Program established in 2020 Acts and Resolves  
14                  No. 137, Sec. 13(d) for the covered period beginning on March 1, 2021 and  
15                  extending until such funds are depleted. The subsidy under this Program may  
16                  be used for the provision of broadband service and connected devices.

17           (b) The sum of \$1,800,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
18           Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Department  
19           of Public Service as follows:



1           (2) \$10,000,000.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the  
2           following:

3                   (A) \$5,000,000.00 to the Department of Forests, Parks and  
4           Recreation for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative  
5           (VOREC); and

6                   (B) \$5,000,000.00 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’  
7           Central Office for investments to improve recreational infrastructure and  
8           access on State lands and to fund repairs and improvements to Vermont’s trail  
9           network on both private and public land.

10           (b) In fiscal year 2021, funds are appropriated from the General Fund as  
11           follows:

12                   (1) \$14,000,000.00 to the Department of Environmental Conservation  
13           for brownfield remediation and environmental clean-up and related  
14           administrative costs; and

15                   (2) \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Agriculture for continuation of work  
16           in soil conservation practice and payment for ecosystem services including the  
17           costs of the task force established by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 83.

18                   \* \* \* Taxation; Annual Link to Federal Statutes \* \* \*

19           Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 5824 is amended to read:

20           § 5824. ADOPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS





1           (1) to address learning loss by supporting the implementation of  
2           evidence-based interventions;

3           (2) to address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the  
4           student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary  
5           and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), students  
6           experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care;

7           (3) to aid LEAs with planning and implementation to effectively use  
8           these federal funds for other areas of need consistent with state and federal law  
9           and regulations; including but not limited to facilities improvements and  
10          technological needs.

11          (4) to aid LEAs in prioritizing activities that will effectively use these  
12          federal funds without creating an ongoing funding demand.

13          (5) to assist in fund reporting and to provide other guidance to ensure  
14          that the funds are used in accordance with federal law and regulations within  
15          the time period allowed by law.

16          (c) The Agency may go through a bidding process or is authorized to  
17          award a sole source contract consistent with 3 V.S.A. § 3026 to the University  
18          of Vermont.

19          Sec. 26. PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO  
20                  LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

1           (a) The sum of \$950,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue  
2           Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Agency of  
3           Commerce and Community Development to be granted as follows:

4                   (1) \$650,000.00 to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT),  
5           to be used through State fiscal year 2024, to establish a support program for the  
6           use of federal funds received under 42 U.S.C. 801 Sec. 603, the Coronavirus  
7           Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The VLCT shall use these resources to work  
8           with local governments to facilitate the local communities' efforts to:

9                           (A) respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID–  
10           19 and its negative economic impacts;

11                           (B) assist with fund reporting, accountability, transparency, and  
12           usage technical assistance where necessary;

13                           (C) provide for other guidance to ensure that 42 U.S.C. 801 Sec. 603  
14           funds are used in accordance with federal law and regulations; and

15                           (D) provide guidance; model templates and policies; and training on  
16           ARP compliant finance and program management.

17                   (2) \$300,000 to one or more regional planning commissions, to be  
18           used through state fiscal year 2024, to establish and implement a capacity to  
19           assist local communities with specific project management needs in expending  
20           federal funds received under 42 U.S.C. 801 Sec. 603. The Regional Planning

1 Entities shall use these resources to work with local governments to facilitate  
2 the local communities' efforts to:

3 (A) identify needs and top priorities for designing and building  
4 projects that are consistent with state and federal law; implement existing  
5 State, regional and local plans; and do not duplicate investments made by other  
6 federal recovery funds;

7 (B) respond to inquiries on eligibility and to facilitate local discussions  
8 among stakeholders on specific projects; and

9 (C) provide other assistance as needed from local communities in  
10 coordination with the VLCT.

11 \* \* \* Other Miscellaneous Amendments \* \* \*

12 Sec. 27. VERMONT CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

13 The amount of \$27,500.00 is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal  
14 year 2021 to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for a grant to the  
15 Burlington Community Justice Center for the St. Joseph's Orphanage  
16 Restorative Inquiry.

17 Sec. 28. AUDIT OF SHERIFFS' USE OF STATE PAID DEPUTIES

18 The amount of \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal  
19 year 2021 to the Vermont State Auditor to contract for up to five audits of the

1 use State paid deputies by county sheriffs during the state of emergency in  
2 calendar year 2020.

3 Sec. 29. HEALTHCARE WAIVERS: LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY

4 The Joint Fiscal Office is authorized to use available legislative  
5 appropriations including carryforward funds to engage a consultant to assist  
6 the legislative health care and fiscal committees on the policy and fiscal  
7 implications and opportunities related to the Global Commitment waiver and  
8 All Payer agreement renewals with Center for Medicaid and Medicare  
9 Services.

10 Sec. 30. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. B.1123.1 is amended to read:

11 Sec. B.1123.1 FISCAL YEAR 2021 YEAR-END CLOSEOUT TRANSFERS

12 (a) At the close of fiscal year 2021, after the application of the provisions  
13 of 32 V.S.A. § 308(b), and before the application of 32 V.S.A. § ~~308(e)~~ 308c  
14 up to \$5,000,000 of any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal  
15 year 2021 General Fund surplus shall be allocated as follows:

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. 31. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. B.330 as amended by 2021

18 Acts and Resolves No. 3 (Budget Adjustment Act) Sec. 25 is further amended  
19 to read:

1	Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and		
2	independent living grants		
3	Grants	<u>19,375,620</u>	<u>19,375,620</u>
4	Total	19,375,620	19,375,620
5	Source of funds		
6	General fund	7,454,782	7,454,782
7	Federal funds	<del>7,748,373</del>	7,148,466
8	Global Commitment fund	<u>4,172,465</u>	<u>4,772,372</u>
9	Total	19,375,620	19,375,620
10			
11	Sec. 32. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. B.346, as amended by 2021		
12	Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 30, is further amended to read:		
13	Sec. B.346 Total human services		
14	Source of funds		
15	General fund	977,495,760	977,495,760
16	Special funds	116,403,523	116,403,523
17	Tobacco fund	25,088,208	25,088,208
18	State health care resources fund	17,078,501	17,078,501
19	Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund	17,774,276	17,774,276
20	Federal funds	<del>1,471,852,944</del>	1,471,253,037

1	Global Commitment fund	<del>1,592,184,231</del>	1,592,784,138
2	Internal service funds	1,930,685	1,930,685
3	Interdepartmental transfers	46,869,842	46,869,842
4	Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
5	Total	4,266,702,970	4,266,702,970

6

7

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

8

Sec. 33. EFFECTIVE DATES

9

This act shall take passage, except that, notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214:

10

(1) Sec. 5 (mortgage assistance foreclosure assistance) shall take effect

11

retroactively on January 1, 2021; and

12

(2) Secs. 23 and 24 (annual link to federal statutes) shall take effect

13

retroactively on January 1, 2021 and apply to taxable years beginning on and

14

after January 1, 2020.

15

16

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

17

\_\_\_\_\_

18

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

19

FOR THE COMMITTEE

20