

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 159 entitled “An act relating to community and economic development
4 and workforce revitalization” respectfully reports that it has considered the
5 same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the Report of
6 the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs be
7 amended as follows:

8 First: By striking out Sec. 15, appropriations, in its entirety and inserting in
9 lieu thereof the following:

10 Sec. 15. APPROPRIATIONS

11 (a) Reversion. In fiscal year 2022, of the amounts appropriated in 2021
12 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G. 300(a)(13), from the American Rescue Plan
13 Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Agency of
14 Commerce and Community Development for the Economic Recovery Grant
15 Program, \$25,500,000.00 shall revert to the American Rescue Plan Act
16 (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

17 (b) Recruitment and marketing. In fiscal year 2023, the following amounts
18 are appropriated from the sources, to the recipients, and for the purposes
19 specified:

20 (1) Worker recruitment. The amount of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated
21 from the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community

1 Development for worker recruitment activities and for the relocated and
2 remote worker program.

3 (2) Tourism and marketing; relocation. In fiscal year 2023, the
4 following amounts are appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
5 of Tourism and Marketing, which the Department shall expend over two years:

6 (A) \$1,200,000.00 to support a regional relocation network; and

7 (B) \$3,000,000.00 for marketing and promotion.

8 (c) COVID economic support. In fiscal year 2022, the amount of
9 \$20,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) –
10 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds as follows:

11 (1) VEDA Short-Term Forgivable Loan Program. \$15,000,000.00 to
12 the Vermont Economic Development Authority for the VEDA Short-Term
13 Forgivable Loan Program.

14 (2) Creative economy grants. \$5,000,000.00 to the Vermont Arts
15 Council to provide grants for monthly operating costs, including rent,
16 mortgage, utilities, and insurance, to creative economy businesses and
17 nonprofits that have sustained substantial losses due to the pandemic.

18 (d) Workforce development. It is the intent of the General Assembly to
19 provide \$26,900,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) –
20 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds and the State General Fund to be
21 allocated for workforce investment initiatives, including to address critical

1 needs in nursing and the skilled trades and to provide training opportunities for
2 young adult Vermonters seeking to acquire skills. The specific programs to be
3 funded shall be included in H.703 or other legislation passed in the 2022
4 legislative session.

5 (e) Downtown development. Of the amounts appropriated to the Agency
6 of Commerce and Community Development in fiscal year 2023 for the Better
7 Places Program, Think Vermont initiative, or other programs that promote
8 downtown development, the Agency may allocate not more than \$485,000.00
9 to provide funding to one or more nonprofit organizations that sponsor a
10 downtown designation to:

11 (1) expand the ability of the downtown organizations to educate, guide,
12 and partner with businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to
13 strengthen downtown models and leverage State funding to incentivize broader
14 participation;

15 (2) support marketing, content development, and increased digital reach
16 for downtown organizations, individually and collectively; and

17 (3) support communication within the coordinated effort of these State-
18 mandated organizations to leverage successes.

19 (f) Community-based economic development. It is the intent of the
20 General Assembly that up to \$11,000,000.00 of funding be provided in fiscal

1 year 2023 in other legislation for the following community-based economic
2 development initiatives:

3 (1) the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Vermont Outdoor
4 Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant Program;
5 and

6 (2) the Department of Economic Development grant program for
7 remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites.

8 Second: By striking out Sec. 18, effective dates, and its reader assistance
9 heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 * * * Downtown Tax Credits * * *

11 Sec. 18. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ee is amended to read:

12 § 5930ee. LIMITATIONS

13 Beginning in fiscal year ~~2010~~ 2023 and thereafter, the State Board may
14 award tax credits to all qualified applicants under this subchapter, provided
15 that:

16 (1) the total amount of tax credits awarded annually, together with sales
17 tax reallocated under section 9819 of this title, does not exceed ~~\$3,000,000.00~~
18 \$4,350,000.00 with up to \$1,000,000.00 awarded to qualified projects in
19 neighborhood development areas;

20 * * *

1 (b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 14e (repeal of prior
2 unemployment insurance supplemental benefit) shall take effect retroactively
3 on October 7, 2021.

4 (c)(1) Sec. 14f (temporary unemployment insurance supplemental benefit)
5 shall take effect on July 1, 2022 and shall apply to benefit weeks beginning
6 after that date.

7 (2) Secs. 14g (special fund), 14h (appropriation for temporary
8 unemployment insurance supplemental benefit), and 14i (sunset of
9 Unemployment Insurance Supplemental Benefit) shall take effect on July 1,
10 2022.

11 (d) Sec. 14j (increase in unemployment insurance weekly benefit amount)
12 shall take effect on July 1, 2024 and shall apply to benefit weeks beginning
13 after that date.

14 (e) Sec. 14l (prospective repeal of unemployment insurance benefit
15 increase) shall take effect upon the payment of a cumulative total of
16 \$92,000,000.00 in additional benefits pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1338(e) when
17 compared to the rate at which benefits would have been paid under the formula
18 set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 1338(e) on June 30, 2024 and shall apply to benefit
19 weeks beginning after that date.

20 (f) Sec. 14k (report on implementation of change to unemployment
21 insurance weekly benefit) shall take effect on passage.

1 (g) Sec. 19 (32 V.S.A. § 5930ee) shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

2 (h) All remaining sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE