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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

From: House Appropriations Committee

Date: April 7, 2021

Subject: Intent Regarding H.315

The House passed H.315 yesterday and, due to the relationship with H.159 (an act relating to community and economic development and workforce revitalization), H.360 (an act relating to accelerated community broadband deployment), and H.439 (the FY 2022 Budget), we would like to share the intent that the House Appropriations Committee members had when we accepted specific provisions of the Senate passed bill.

Sec. 3a. VERMONT MICROBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Senate added \$500,000 ARPA funds to DCF for the Economic Micro Business Recovery Assistance Program (EMBRACE).

The House agreed to add this \$500,000 to the \$2,000,000 that was added for EMBRACE in H.159. The House added some language to allow these funds to be used by new businesses started by individuals who have been impacted by COVID-19 through layoffs, furloughs, reduced hours, or due to being employed in an industry that has been severely affected.

Sec. 9a. RECOVERY CENTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS

The Senate added a new section to provide \$240,000 ARPA funds to the Department of Health to make grants of \$20,000 to each of the 12 Recovery Centers to address the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The House agreed to the Senate Position and agreed that this \$240,000 would be added to the \$300,000 in the budget to the Recovery Centers for a total of \$540,000, or \$45,000 to each center.

Sec. 17. PRACTICAL NURSE; WORKFORCE FUNDING

The Senate added \$1,400,000 ARPA funds for the VSC to open 40 to 45 seats in the Practical Nurse Program in partnership with skilled nursing facilities across the State.

The House appropriated \$2,000,000 in Sec. B.1102(a)(10)(c) of the Budget (H.439) for a similar program. The House agreed to the Senate position and requests that the Senate remove the funds from the budget.

Sec. 18. WORKFORCE UPSKILL OPPORTUNITY

- (a) The Senate added \$3,000,000 ARPA funds to VSC to provide up to two free classes in the summer or fall of 2021 and spring 2022 to any Vermont resident whose employability or employer has been impacted by COVID-19 and is seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance job skills.
- (b) The Senate also added \$1,000,000 ARPA funds to UVM to provide up to two free classes in the summer or fall of 2021 and spring 2022 for any Vermont resident who whose employability or employer has been impacted by COVID-19 and is seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance the residents' job skills.

The House agreed to the Senate position and agreed to add this \$4,000,000 to the amounts appropriated for workforce training in Sec. B.1102(a)(10) of the Budget. In addition, the House agreed that any unused funds for workforce upskill opportunities should carry forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 22. NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

- (a)(1) The Senate appropriated \$3,000,000 ARPA funds for Working Lands of which \$500,000 is allocated for grants related to slaughter, meat processing, and meat processing training proposals.

The House agreed to the Senate Position and agreed to add this \$3,000,000 to the \$2,000,000 that is in Sec. B.1102(a)(1) of the Budget (H.439) for a total of \$5,000,000 one-time ARPA funds for Working Lands.

- (b)(1) The Senate agreed with the House position to appropriate \$14,000,000 General Funds to the Department of Environmental Conservation for brownfield remediation and environmental clean-up.

The House added two positions associated with the brownfield remediation to H.315, as requested by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. These two new positions are also in Sec. E.100(a)(3) of the budget and, therefore, should be removed from the budget.

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

The Senate added \$300,000 for one or more Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to establish and implement capacity to assist local communities with specific project management needs in expending federal recovery funds.

The House agreed to the Senate position and agreed to add the \$300,000 for the RPC's to the \$850,000 ARPA funds appropriated in Sec. B.1102(a)(4) of the Budget.