

**No. XX. An act relating to fiscal year 2021 budget adjustments.**

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154 Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS, REVERSIONS AND RESERVES

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(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2021:

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(4) The following amount shall be transferred from the General Fund to the account

indicated:

<u>21270</u>	<u>Forest Parks Revolving Fund</u>	<u>1,200,000.00</u>
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**EXPLANATION:** The Agency of Natural Resources has requested this transfer to prevent the fund from going into deficit while fulfilling existing spending authority in FY21. The amount of the transfer approximates the amount of refunds the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation issued for prepaid reservations that required cancellation due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The lost revenue was not eligible for reimbursement by the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

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(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2021:

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(1) The following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

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<u>3420010000</u>	<u>Department of Health – Administration</u>	<u>252,948.23</u>
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**EXPLANATION:** Technical correction; this reversion was included in the proposed FY2021 Restatement language but was not included in final Act 154 As Passed.

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(4) The following amounts shall revert to the Clean Water Fund from the accounts

indicated:

**EXPLANATION:** This program has been moved entirely to the Agency of Transportation. This reversion from the Department of Environmental Conservation makes these funds available for AOT’s grant program in FY21.

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. E.126.2 is amended to read:

~~(a)The General Assembly currently finds that it may be necessary for the Legislative Branch to use space in addition to the State House in Montpelier during the 2021–22 biennium to meet social distancing requirements and mitigate the public health impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic.~~

~~(b)The purpose of Sec. E.126.3 of this act is to provide alternative locations during the 2021–22 biennium of the General Assembly for the Legislative Branch to use in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during the COVID–19 pandemic while also maintaining the ability of the Legislative Branch to perform its constitutional legislative duties.~~

“[Repealed]”

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. E.126.3 is amended to read:

~~(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 29 V.S.A. §165 and any other provision of law to the contrary, in order to perform its constitutional duties, the Legislative Branch shall have exclusive use of alternative locations during the 2021–22 legislative biennium, including the following:~~

~~(1) 133 State Street:~~

~~(A)Basement: stock room and rooms 012, 016, 015, 021, and 022.~~

~~(B)First Floor: rooms 121, 122, and 126.~~

~~(C)Fourth Floor: board room.~~

~~(D)Fifth Floor: entire floor.~~

~~(2) 109 State Street:~~

~~(A)Basement: rooms B07 and B015 and surrounding space;~~

~~(B)Second floor: rooms 264, 267, 268, and 270.~~

~~(C)Fourth floor: conference room.~~

~~(3) 111 State Street: library stacks room on the second floor.~~

~~(b) The Sergeant at Arms and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall consider ways to address any disruption to the functionality of the Executive and Legislative Branches in shared State building space.~~

~~(c) The authority of the Sergeant at Arms set forth in 2 V.S.A. chapter 62 shall apply in any rooms or spaces occupied by the Legislative Branch.~~

“[Repealed]”

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

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(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in this section, a total estimated sum of ~~\$24,283,719~~ \$24,147,353 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under the Global Commitment as follows:

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(2) ~~\$2,816,169~~ \$2,679,803 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

**EXPLANATION:** Amounts updated to reflect better estimates.

**Sec. XX.** FISCAL YEAR 2021 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

- (a) In fiscal year 2021, the sum of \$6,150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to establish a program to assist businesses and organizations which have ongoing, unmet needs due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but are ineligible for, or have otherwise been closed out of, the Paycheck Protection Program or other SBA grant programs as established in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021.
- (b) Of additional FY21 General Fund revenue that may potentially be recognized in the January 19, 2021 E-Board consensus revenue forecast, the first \$3,850,000 will be

appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to supplement this program with additional funding.

**Sec. XX. FISCAL YEAR 2021 CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

- (a) In fiscal year 2021, the sum of \$3,600,000 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to Vermont State Colleges to assist with expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- (b) As additional funds may be reverted to the Coronavirus Relief Fund and become available and unallocated, the first \$1,400,000 will be appropriated to Vermont State Colleges to provide additional funding for this purpose.

**Sec. XX. FISCAL YEAR 2021 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – “EVERYONE EATS” PROGRAM**

It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to fund the Restaurants and Farmers Feeding the Hungry Program, known as Everyone Eats, through June 2021, as long as sufficient FEMA funds are made available to meet program requirements. The Commissioner of Finance and Management will use existing authority under 32 V.S.A. § 511 to make interdepartmental transfers from the federal (FEMA) account to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for this purpose.

**EXPLANATION:** This program, which was originally funded through December 2020 with Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation, was found to be eligible for FEMA 75% federal match funding. These FEMA matching funds will be used to continue the program.

**Sec. XX. GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND**

Reversions to the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), in excess of what is required to meet the appropriation **in section xx** of CRF to Vermont State Colleges, are allocated to an Emergency

Response Fund (ERF) in the Agency of Administration for distribution to departments subject to Excess Receipts Requests approved by the Secretary of Administration. The ERF shall be used for expenditures furthering the goal of the active emergency response to the needs of the ongoing pandemic when health and safety, critical timing, and the emergency nature of the needs are issues through June 30, 2021. The Joint Fiscal Committee will be informed through regular reporting of the use and expenditures from this fund.

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.49(a)(9) is amended to read:

(a) The following appropriations are authorized on a one-time basis in fiscal year 2021 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address necessary expenditures with respect to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These expenditures were not accounted for in the State budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 and were incurred during the period that began on March 1, 2020, in accordance with the Department of Treasury's May 28, 2020 interpretation of limitations on the permissible use of fund payments.

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(9) Agency of Human Services: ~~\$300,000~~ \$375,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services to be granted to Vermont Legal Aid for increased costs of providing access to justice services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to 50% of this amount shall be used to cover the cost of per use electronic judicial filing fees ~~through December 30, 2020~~ to ensure all court users have timely access to justice as the judicial system resumes operations relying on

greater digital remote online processes to ensure public health and safety after closure due to COVID-19.

**EXPLANATION:** Addition of \$75,000 CRF to Vermont Legal Aid for electronic judicial filing fees.

**Sec. XX.** 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 4 as amended by Sec. G.103 of 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. G. 103, is further amended to read:

Sec. 4 ADDITION OF BURLINGTON RAIL YARD REALIGNMENT FOR AMTRAK  
PROJECT; RAIL PROGRAM

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(b) Within the Agency of Transportation's ~~Proposed~~ Fiscal Year 2021

Transportation Program for Rail, authorized spending for Statewide – Amtrak

Contract is reduced by ~~\$750,000.00~~ \$4,100,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies and is reduced by \$3,200,000.00 in Federal funds.