

Senate proposal of amendment

H. 882.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$122,767,376.00~~ \$130,606,224.00 authorized in this act, not more than \$56,520,325.00 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

* * * Capital Appropriations * * *

Sec. 2. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

* * *

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025:

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: ~~\$8,500,000.00~~ \$8,501,999.00

* * *

(3) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency:

~~\$425,000.00~~ \$455,000.00

(4) Middlesex, Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence, master plan, design, and decommissioning: ~~\$400,000.00~~ \$50,000.00

(5) ~~Montpelier, State House, replacement of historic finishes:~~

~~\$50,000.00~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(11) Statewide, R22 refrigerant phase out:

~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$750,000.00

(12) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: \$75,000.00

(13) St. Albans, Northwest State Correctional Facility, roof replacement:

\$400,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024 \$23,126,244.00

Appropriation – FY 2025 \$25,275,000.00 \$25,131,999.00

Total Appropriation – Section 2 \$48,401,244.00 \$48,258,243.00

Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects described in this subsection:

(1) Northwest State Correctional Facility, booking expansion, planning, design, and construction: \$2,500,000.00 \$2,600,000.00

* * *

(3) Statewide, correctional facilities, HVAC systems, planning, design, and construction for upgrades and replacements:

\$700,000.00 \$5,150,000.00

(4) Statewide, correctional facilities, accessibility upgrades:

\$822,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024 \$1,800,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2025 \$16,200,000.00 \$21,572,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 3 \$18,000,000.00 \$23,372,000.00

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects described in this subsection:

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites: \$500,000.00 \$700,000.00

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Appropriation – FY 2024	\$596,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2025	\$596,000.00 <u>\$796,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 4	\$1,192,000.00 <u>\$1,392,000.00</u>

Sec. 5. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

* * *

(f) The following amounts are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the projects described in this subsection:

(1) General infrastructure projects, including small-scale maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and improvements to buildings, including conservation camps:

\$1,344,150.00 \$2,114,000.00

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Appropriation – FY 2024	\$6,997,081.00
Appropriation – FY 2025	\$7,497,051.00 <u>\$8,266,901.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 9	\$14,494,132.00 <u>\$15,263,982.00</u>

Sec. 6. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

* * *

~~(e) The sum of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for clean water implementation projects. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(g) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(h) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the following projects:

(1) the Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match for the Water Pollution Control Fund: \$1,600,000.00

(2) municipal pollution control grants: \$3,300,000.00

* * *

(13) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42,
Sec. 2(b)(3) (major maintenance): \$32,780.00 \$439,889.66

* * *

(17) of the amount appropriated in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 40,
Sec. 2(b)(4) (Statewide, major maintenance): \$9,606.45

(18) of the amount appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec.
2(b)(4) (Statewide, major maintenance): \$7,207.90

(19) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec.
2(b)(5) (Montpelier, State House, Dome, Drum, and Ceres, design, permitting,
construction, restoration, renovation, and lighting):

\$38,525.00

(20) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84,
Sec. 11(b)(4) (municipal pollution control grants, pollution control projects
and planning advances for feasibility studies, new projects):

\$4,498.17

(21) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84,
Sec. 11(f)(2) (EcoSystem restoration and protection):

\$4,298.22

(22) of the amount appropriated in 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190,
Sec. 8(m) (Downtown Transportation Fund pilot project):

\$9,150.00

(23) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42,
Sec. 2(b)(9) (Newport, Northeast State Correctional Facility, direct digital
HVAC control system replacement):

\$26,951.52

(24) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50,
Sec. 2(b)(20), as added by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2 (Windsor,
former Southeast State Correctional Facility, necessary demolition, salvage,
dismantling, and improvements to facilitate future use of the facility):

\$378,180.00

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(h) From prior year bond issuance cost estimates allocated to the entities
to which funds were appropriated and for which bonding was required as
the source of funds, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 954, \$1,148,251.79 is
reallocated to defray expenditures authorized by this act.

Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 16

\$14,767,376.32 \$17,358,383.85

Sec. 9. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

* * *

(16) the Vermont State Colleges is authorized to spend ~~\$7,500,000.00~~ \$6,500,000.00 for construction, renovation, and major maintenance at any facility owned or operated in the State by the Vermont State Colleges; infrastructure transformation planning; and the planning, design, and construction of Green Hall and Vail Hall;

* * *

(19) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$4,000,000.00 for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Municipal Pollution Control Grants for pollution control projects and planning advances for feasibility studies; and

(20) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$3,000,000.00 for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the maintenance facilities at the Gifford Woods State Park and Groton Forest State Park; and.

~~(21) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$800,000.00 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for infrastructure maintenance and improvements of the Department's buildings, including conservation camps. [Repealed.]~~

(d) ~~FY 2025 capital projects authorizations. To the extent general funds are available to appropriate to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in FY 2025, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the following capital projects receive funding from the Fund~~ In FY 2024, spending authority for the following capital projects are authorized as follows:

(1) the sum of ~~\$250,000.00~~ \$220,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for planning, reuse, and contingency;

* * *

(3) the sum of ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$1,500,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the renovation of the interior HVAC steam lines at 120 State Street in Montpelier;

(4) the sum of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for design, renovations, and land acquisition at the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre;

(5) the sum of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and design of the Special Teams Facility and Storage;

(6) the sum of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and design of the Rutland Field Station;

* * *

~~(8) the sum of \$500,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Newport courthouse replacement, planning, and design; [Repealed.]~~

(9) the sum of \$250,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for planning for the 133-109 State Street tunnel waterproofing and Aiken Avenue reconstruction; and

(10) the sum of \$200,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the renovation of the stack area, HVAC upgrades, and the elevator replacement at 111 State Street;

(11) the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for roof replacement and brick façade repairs at the McFarland State Office Building in Barre; and

(12) the sum of \$30,000.00 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lake Champlain International fishing derby.

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* * * Policy * * *

* * * Agency of Natural Resources * * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

§ 2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER

* * *

~~(g) The Commissioner shall consult with and receive approval from the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services concerning proposed construction or renovation of individual projects involving capital improvements which are expected, either in phases or in total, to cost more than \$200,000.00. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall manage all contracts for engineering services for capital improvements made by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Department of Environmental Conservation Facilities Engineering Section:~~

(1) may execute and consult on design for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(2) shall provide professional engineering services for compliance with environmental operating permits; and

(3) shall be the custodian of all plans of record for work executed by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, regardless of the source and designer of record.

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Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking capacity.

(2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to annual appropriations, continue operating through December 31, 2027.

(3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.

(4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for maintaining or increasing the State's current fish stocking capacity following the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:

(A) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries;

(B) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to other State fish hatcheries;

(C) establishing additional egg production at other State fish hatcheries to compensate for any lost egg production; and

(D) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches for replacing any lost stocking capacity.

(5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

(6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall not close without prior approval of the General Assembly, which shall be provided if:

(A) the hatchery is unable to secure the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027; or

(B) the stocking capacity of the hatchery can be replaced in a manner that is more cost-effective than the up-front and operating costs of the capital improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027.

Sec. 13. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY; ANNUAL REPORT

On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish production and stocking capacity of Vermont's State-operated fish hatcheries, including:

(1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027;

(2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries, including estimated costs;

(3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish hatchery to one or more State-operated fish hatcheries for the purpose of replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery's egg production, including estimated costs;

(4) the potential to employ innovative or more cost-effective approaches than those identified pursuant to subdivisions (1)–(3) of this section to replace any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including estimated costs; and

(5) options for limiting negative economic impact of the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 15. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22 is amended to read:

Sec. 22. SALE OF PROPERTIES

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(c) 108 Cherry Street. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the property located at 108 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington. The Commissioner shall first offer in writing to the City the right to purchase the property.

* * *

(3) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(d) and 29 V.S.A. § 160, of the proceeds received by the State for the sale of the property located at 108 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington, \$6,242,500.00 shall be deposited into the Property Management Revolving Fund (58700) to recover the deficit incurred in the fund as a result of the original purchase of the property and, notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 168(c), \$293,753.63 shall be deposited into the State Energy Revolving Fund (59700) to repay debt outstanding for loans for energy improvement projects on the property.

Sec. 16. SALE OF FORMER WILLISTON STATE POLICE BARRACKS;
INTENT; REPORT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Town of Williston shall report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions in January 2025 regarding:

(1) whether the town desires to purchase the property; and

(2) if so:

(A) the feasibility of the Town purchasing the property, including any requested conditions on the sale of the property; and

(B) the potential future uses of the property envisioned by the Town.

Sec. 17. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 36 is amended to read:

Sec. 36. PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD STATION; WILLISTON

* * *

(b) The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the Williston Public Safety Field Station and adjacent land pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects.

Sec. 18. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 34 is amended to read:

Sec. 34. WILLISTON PUBLIC SAFETY BARRACKS; SALE

The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the property known as the Williston Public Safety Barracks (State Office Building) located at 2777 St. George Road in Williston, Vermont pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects.

Sec. 19. 29 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

§ 152. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in addition to the duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, shall have the authority to:

* * *

(3) Prepare or cause to be prepared plans and specifications for construction and repair on all State-owned buildings:

* * *

(B) For which no specific appropriations have been made by the General Assembly or the Emergency Board. The Commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, acquire an option, ~~for a price not to exceed \$75,000.00,~~ on an individual property without prior legislative approval, for a price not to exceed five percent of the listed sale price of the property, provided the option contains a provision stating that purchase of the property shall occur only upon the approval of the General Assembly and the appropriation of funds for this purpose. The State Treasurer is authorized to advance a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00 five percent of the listed sale price of the property, upon warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and Management for the purpose of purchasing an option on a property pursuant to this subdivision.

* * *

(19) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are authorized within the same section of ~~an annual~~ a biennial capital construction act.

(20) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are authorized within different capital construction acts, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, when the unexpended project balance does not exceed ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00, or with the additional approval of the Emergency Board when such balance exceeds ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00.

* * *

(22) Use the contingency fund appropriation to cover shortfalls for any project approved in any capital construction act; however, transfers from the contingency in excess of ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 shall be done with the approval of the Secretary of Administration.

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Sec. 20. 29 V.S.A. § 166 is amended to read:

§ 166. SELLING OR RENTING STATE PROPERTY

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(b)(1) Upon authorization by the General Assembly, which may be granted by resolution, and with the advice and consent of the Governor, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may sell real estate owned by the State. ~~Such~~ The property shall be sold to the highest bidder therefor at public auction or upon sealed bids in at the discretion of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, who may reject any or all bids, or the Commissioner is authorized to list the sale of property with a real estate agent licensed by the State. In no event shall the property be sold for less than fair market value as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with an independent real estate broker or appraiser, or both, retained by the Commissioner, unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. 21. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; POTENTIAL LAND TRANSFER; REPORT

(a) The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall evaluate the potential transfer of a portion of the former Southeast State Correctional Facility property to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for inclusion in the adjacent wildlife management area. The evaluation shall:

(1) delineate the portions of the former Southeast State Correctional Facility property that could be used for future redevelopment of the site, taking into account any necessary setbacks from wetlands, streams, or wildlife habitat;

(2) identify any portions of the property that could be transferred into the adjacent wildlife management area and potential impacts on the redevelopment or sale of the property from the transfer of the identified portions; and

(3) identify any rights of way or easements that will be necessary for the potential future redevelopment of any retained portion of the property.

(b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding the evaluation and any legislative action that may be necessary to facilitate a proposed transfer or redevelopment of the property.

Sec. 21a. SOUTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; TRANSFER OF PARCEL

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer to the Town of Springfield a portion of the Southern State

Correctional Facility Property consisting of approximately 10 acres to be used as the location of a new Town garage.

(b) The transfer shall be contingent on:

(1) the State obtaining State and local zoning and subdivision approvals that are necessary for the transfer; and

(2) the negotiation of an agreement between the State and the Town of Springfield regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the access road and the water and sewer service lines for the Correctional Facility and the transferred parcel.

(c) The transferred parcel shall not include any brownfields on the Southern State Correctional Facility Property.

(d) In the event the Town does not utilize the transferred parcel for a new Town garage, the Town shall consult with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services regarding any proposed alternative uses of the parcel.

(e) The transfer authority provided pursuant to this section shall expire on July 1, 2027.

Sec. 22. FORENSIC FACILITY; NEEDS; REVIEW; REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, shall review the programming needs and facility requirements of individuals who will be housed in a proposed forensic facility. The review shall be performed during fiscal year 2025 using funds from the Department of Buildings and General Service's base appropriation as the Commissioner determines to be appropriate. The Commissioner shall report, on or before February 1, 2025, to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions and to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions regarding the findings of the review.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital construction and State bonding act shall include funding for the design and development of the proposed forensic facility.

Sec. 22a. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; POTENTIAL REUSE BY STATE; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the parcel on which the former Southeast State Correctional Facility was located shall not be sold unless the State has determined that the site is not needed for use as the location for a State facility or other State purpose.

Sec. 23. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES YOUTH
SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION AND TREATMENT CENTER;
LONG-TERM LEASE; AUTHORIZATION

Notwithstanding any provisions of 29 V.S.A. § 165(h) or 29 V.S.A. § 166(a) to the contrary, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to enter into a long-term ground lease agreement at a below-market rate for an initial term of not more than 20 years with not more than four five-year renewal options for the Department for Children and Families Youth Short Term Stabilization and Treatment Center. At the end of the term and any renewals, the ground lease shall terminate.

Sec. 24. CAPITOL COMPLEX FLOOD RECOVERY; SPECIAL
COMMITTEE

(a) The Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery is established. The Special Committee shall comprise the Joint Fiscal Committee and the chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(b)(1) The Special Committee shall meet at the call of the chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee, in consultation with the chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(2)(A) The Special Committee shall meet to review and recommend alterations to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(B) The Special Committee may, as necessary, grant approval to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide quarterly updates to the Special Committee on the planning process for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(d) The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

Sec. 25. STATE HOUSE; IMPROVEMENTS; DESIGN; SPECIAL
COMMITTEE

(a)(1) To allow the Department of Buildings and General Services to begin the design development phase, it is the intent of the General Assembly to approve a schematic design plan for accessibility, life safety, and mechanical systems improvements to the State House identified in Scenario 1, as approved by the Joint Legislative Management Committee on December 15, 2023 and excluding any improvements that would impact committee rooms.

(2) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide the Special Committee established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section with a draft schematic design plan for the work identified pursuant to

subdivision (1) of this subsection on or before July 15, 2024 and a final schematic design plan on or before September 15, 2024.

(b)(1) A Special Committee to be called the Special Committee on State House Improvements consisting of the Joint Legislative Management Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions is established.

(2) The Special Committee is authorized to meet to:

(A) review and recommend alterations to the draft schematic design to be submitted on or before July 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this section at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting; and

(B) review and approve the final schematic design to be submitted on or before September 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this section at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

(c) In making its decision, the Special Committee shall consider:

(1) how the design impacts the ability of the General Assembly to conduct legislative business;

(2) whether the design allows for public access to citizens;

(3) the financial consequences to the State of approval or disapproval of the proposal; and

(4) whether any potential alternatives are available.

(d) The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

* * * Corrections * * *

Sec. 26. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 28 is amended to read:

Sec. 28. REPLACEMENT WOMEN'S FACILITIES; SITE LOCATION PROPOSAL; DESIGN INTENT

(a) Site location proposal.

~~(1)(A) Site location proposal.~~ On or before January 15, 2024 ~~2025~~, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall submit a site location proposal for replacement women's facilities for justice-involved women to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(i) when evaluating site locations, preference shall be given to State-owned property; and

(ii) the site location, regardless of whether it is on State-owned land or land proposed to be purchased by the State, shall be:

(I) near support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

(II) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to facilitate retention and continuity of experienced staff.

(C)(i) The proposal shall consider both collocating facilities in a campus-style approach for operational efficiencies and the need for separate facilities at different locations.

(ii) The proposal shall consider the proximity of existing and potential future public transit services.

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Sec. 27. REPLACEMENT WOMEN'S FACILITIES; AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE LAND; INTENT; REPORT

(a) Contingent authority to purchase land. In the event that the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, is unable to identify appropriate State-owned site locations for the replacement facilities for justice-involved women, the Commissioner is authorized to purchase land in a location that is:

(1) near support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community;

(2) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to facilitate retention and continuity of experienced staff; and

(3) near existing or potential future public transit services.

(b) Reports. Beginning in July 2024 and ending in January 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall report at least once per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding progress in fulfilling the requirements of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 28 and subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 28. POTENTIAL REUSE OF CHITTENDEN REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SITE; FEASIBILITY; REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary regarding the feasibility of utilizing the site of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for a reentry

facility for eligible justice-involved men following the construction of replacement facilities for justice-involved women.

(b) The report shall:

(1)(A) evaluate the condition and structure of the existing facility to determine if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility in a manner that supports the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices; and

(B) if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility, the improvements and other work necessary to support the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices and the estimated cost of performing the work;

(2)(A) evaluate whether a new reentry facility could be constructed on the site following the demolition of some or all of the existing facility;

(B) identify potential designs for a newly constructed reentry facility at the site that supports the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices; and

(C) identify any site work, improvements, and other work necessary to construct a new reentry facility on the site, including the cost of any such work; and

(3) if the existing facility cannot be repurposed as a reentry facility and a new reentry facility cannot be constructed on the site, identify other potential sites for a male reentry facility that are near:

(A) support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

(B) existing or potential future public transit services.

(c) As used in this section, “reentry facility” means a facility at which incarcerated individuals prepare to transition back into the community following release. Reentry facilities provide services, or enable incarcerated individuals to obtain services, that will facilitate the transition back into the community, including career and housing supports, vocational education, job placement, mental health counseling, substance use disorder treatment or recovery services, financial education, assistance with obtaining public benefits, and other similar services.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital construction and State bonding act shall include funding for the preparation of the report required pursuant to this section.

* * * Judiciary * * *

Sec. 29. BARRE; WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE;
LAND ACQUISITION; AUTHORIZATION; COMMUNICATION
WITH CITY

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Judiciary, is authorized to use the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) and (d)(4) to purchase land as needed to renovate or replace the Washington County Superior Courthouse.

(b) The Commissioner shall:

(1) consult with the City of Barre on potential options for renovating or replacing the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre; and

(2) provide updates to the City on progress made with respect to renovating or replacing the Courthouse.

Sec. 30. WHITE RIVER JUNCTION; WINDSOR COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURTHOUSE; TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF EMPLOYEES

It is the intent of the General Assembly that following completion of the renovations to the Windsor County Superior Courthouse in White River Junction, the offices of the Windsor County State's Attorney shall be relocated to the leased office space at 55 Railroad Row that is being used as temporary office space for Courthouse employees during the renovation.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 31. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.