

Journal of the House

Friday, March 1, 2024

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Communication from Rep. Wilson of Lyndon

March 01, 2024

Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk
Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Subject: Resignation from House

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Due to health issues, I find it necessary to resign as a member of the House of Representatives, effective March 02, 2024.

It has been an honor to serve the great State of Vermont. I have enjoyed my time as a member of this esteemed body of hard-working State Representatives and I will miss you all.

Sincerely,

Charles Wilson
State Representative
Caledonia-3

cc: Governor Philip B. Scott
Speaker Jill Krowinski

House Bill Introduced

H. 869

By Rep. Jerome of Brandon,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the merger of Brandon Fire District No. 1 and Brandon Fire District No. 2

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, carrying appropriations, under House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

H. 667

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission

H. 725

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Human Rights Commission

**Report of Committee of Conference; Consideration Interrupted;
Report Adopted; Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith**

H. 839

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H. 839 An act relating to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.209 is amended to read:

Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police

Personal services	67,754,321	69,564,321
Operating expenses	13,861,460	13,861,460
Grants	<u>1,591,501</u>	<u>1,591,501</u>
Total	83,207,282	85,017,282
Source of funds		
General fund	53,896,213	55,706,213
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000

Special funds	3,166,387	3,166,387
Federal funds	4,311,304	4,311,304
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,583,378</u>	<u>1,583,378</u>
Total	<u>83,207,282</u>	85,017,282

Sec. 2. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.216 is amended to read:

Sec. B.216 Military - air service contract

Personal services	9,124,240	9,224,240
Operating expenses	<u>1,396,315</u>	<u>1,396,315</u>
Total	<u>10,520,555</u>	10,620,555
Source of funds		
General fund	665,922	765,922
Federal funds	<u>9,854,633</u>	<u>9,854,633</u>
Total	<u>10,520,555</u>	10,620,555

Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.240 is amended to read:

Sec. B.240 Cannabis Control Board

Personal services	4,829,061	4,917,181
Operating expenses	341,631	<u>764,181</u>
Total	5,170,692	5,681,362
Source of funds		
Special funds	<u>5,170,692</u>	<u>5,681,362</u>
Total	<u>5,170,692</u>	5,681,362

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.241 is amended to read:

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	208,539,656	210,449,656
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000
Special funds	109,230,607	109,741,277
Tobacco fund	635,843	635,843
Federal funds	133,784,669	133,784,669
Interdepartmental transfers	13,729,981	13,729,981
Enterprise funds	<u>13,816,313</u>	<u>13,816,313</u>
Total	499,987,069	502,407,739

Sec. 5. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.300 is amended to read:

Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office

Personal services	14,083,686	15,401,686
Operating expenses	5,402,086	5,402,086
Grants	<u>2,895,202</u>	<u>2,895,202</u>

Total	<u>22,380,974</u>	23,698,974
Source of funds		
General fund	9,767,874	10,226,874
Special funds	135,517	135,517
Federal funds	11,678,441	12,537,441
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>799,142</u>	<u>799,142</u>
Total	<u>22,380,974</u>	23,698,974

Sec. 6. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Grants	<u>1,990,896,293</u>	<u>2,039,037,932</u>
Total	<u>1,990,896,293</u>	<u>2,039,037,932</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	648,528,785	657,710,193
Special funds	32,994,384	32,994,384
Tobacco fund	21,049,373	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	25,265,312	25,438,836
Federal funds	1,259,024,269	1,298,107,936
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,034,170</u>	<u>3,737,210</u>
Total	<u>1,990,896,293</u>	<u>2,039,037,932</u>

Sec. 7. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	136,568,959	127,889,514
Operating expenses	44,391,640	44,391,640
Grants	<u>2,912,301</u>	<u>2,912,301</u>
Total	183,872,900	175,193,455
Source of funds		
General fund	35,605,917	39,109,628
Special funds	4,753,011	4,753,011
Federal funds	134,621,243	122,016,027
Global Commitment fund	4,220,337	4,220,337
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,672,392</u>	<u>5,094,452</u>
Total	183,872,900	175,193,455

Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.307 is amended to read:

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - global commitment

Personal services	547,983	547,983
Grants	<u>932,542,238</u>	<u>936,811,294</u>
Total	<u>933,090,221</u>	<u>937,359,277</u>

Source of funds

Global Commitment fund	<u>933,090,221</u>	<u>937,359,277</u>
Total	<u>933,090,221</u>	<u>937,359,277</u>

Sec. 9. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.309 is amended to read:

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - state only

Grants	<u>53,067,318</u>	<u>55,742,931</u>
Total	<u>53,067,318</u>	<u>55,742,931</u>

Source of funds

General fund	<u>53,062,626</u>	<u>54,861,587</u>
Global Commitment fund	<u>4,692</u>	<u>881,344</u>
Total	<u>53,067,318</u>	<u>55,742,931</u>

Sec. 10. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.310 is amended to read:

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	<u>34,621,472</u>	<u>34,672,534</u>
Total	<u>34,621,472</u>	<u>34,672,534</u>

Source of funds

General fund	<u>12,634,069</u>	<u>12,493,853</u>
Federal funds	<u>21,987,403</u>	<u>22,178,681</u>
Total	<u>34,621,472</u>	<u>34,672,534</u>

Sec. 11. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.312 is amended to read:

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	64,592,946	64,592,946
Operating expenses	13,047,530	13,047,530
Grants	<u>45,946,724</u>	<u>53,342,870</u>
Total	<u>123,587,200</u>	<u>130,983,346</u>

Source of funds

General fund	12,408,429	12,408,429
Special funds	<u>25,017,725</u>	<u>31,148,098</u>
Tobacco fund	<u>1,088,918</u>	<u>1,306,918</u>
Federal funds	66,753,896	66,753,896
Global Commitment fund	<u>16,582,951</u>	<u>17,630,724</u>
Interdepartmental transfers	1,710,281	1,710,281
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	<u>123,587,200</u>	<u>130,983,346</u>

Sec. 12. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.314 is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	47,716,644	50,489,379
Operating expenses	5,272,240	5,272,240
Grants	<u>264,539,814</u>	<u>264,343,558</u>
Total	317,528,698	320,105,177
Source of funds		
General fund	25,282,556	26,278,924
Special funds	1,708,155	1,708,155
Federal funds	10,999,654	10,999,654
Global Commitment fund	279,524,193	281,104,304
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>14,140</u>	<u>14,140</u>
Total	317,528,698	320,105,177

Sec. 13. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.316 is amended to read:

Sec. B.316 Department for children and families - administration & support services

Personal services	44,446,942	46,323,033
Operating expenses	17,162,151	17,162,151
Grants	<u>3,919,106</u>	<u>3,919,106</u>
Total	65,528,199	67,404,290
Source of funds		
General fund	37,090,554	38,841,112
Special funds	2,781,912	2,781,912
Federal funds	23,540,549	23,540,549
Global Commitment fund	1,659,321	1,784,854
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>455,863</u>	<u>455,863</u>
Total	65,528,199	67,404,290

Sec. 14. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.317 is amended to read:

Sec. B.317 Department for children and families - family services

Personal services	43,987,652	43,987,652
Operating expenses	5,180,385	5,180,385
Grants	<u>93,421,639</u>	<u>93,703,581</u>
Total	142,589,676	142,871,618
Source of funds		
General fund	59,707,017	59,046,300
Special funds	729,587	729,587
Federal funds	33,937,204	34,378,330
Global Commitment fund	48,178,131	48,679,664

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>37,737</u>	<u>37,737</u>
Total	142,589,676	142,871,618

Sec. 15. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.318 is amended to read:

Sec. B.318 Department for children and families - child development

Personal services	5,670,999	5,670,999
Operating expenses	810,497	810,497
Grants	<u>95,860,842</u>	<u>99,707,882</u>
Total	102,342,338	106,189,378
Source of funds		
General fund	35,016,309	35,016,309
Special funds	16,745,000	16,745,000
Federal funds	37,419,258	41,266,298
Global Commitment fund	<u>13,161,771</u>	<u>13,161,771</u>
Total	102,342,338	106,189,378

Sec. 16. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.320 is amended to read:

Sec. B.320 Department for children and families - aid to aged, blind and disabled

Personal services	2,252,206	2,252,206
Grants	<u>10,431,118</u>	<u>11,181,118</u>
Total	12,683,324	13,433,324
Source of funds		
General fund	7,533,333	7,533,333
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,149,991</u>	<u>5,899,991</u>
Total	12,683,324	13,433,324

Sec. 17. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.323 is amended to read:

Sec. B.323 Department for children and families - reach up

Operating expenses	30,633	30,633
Grants	<u>35,536,413</u>	<u>36,683,099</u>
Total	35,567,046	36,713,732
Source of funds		
General fund	23,233,869	24,114,082
Special funds	5,970,229	5,970,229
Federal funds	3,531,330	2,806,330
Global Commitment fund	<u>2,831,618</u>	<u>3,823,091</u>
Total	35,567,046	36,713,732

Sec. 18. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants

Grants	<u>22,380,328</u>	<u>22,922,275</u>
Total	<u>22,380,328</u>	<u>22,922,275</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	9,220,695	9,220,695
Federal funds	7,321,114	7,321,114
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,838,519</u>	<u>6,380,466</u>
Total	<u>22,380,328</u>	<u>22,922,275</u>

Sec. 19. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver

Grants	<u>6,638,028</u>	<u>6,938,028</u>
Total	<u>6,638,028</u>	<u>6,938,028</u>
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	<u>6,638,028</u>	<u>6,938,028</u>
Total	<u>6,638,028</u>	<u>6,938,028</u>

Sec. 20. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.334.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - Long Term Care

Grants	<u>268,715,683</u>	<u>289,878,189</u>
Total	<u>268,715,683</u>	<u>289,878,189</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	498,579	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>265,767,104</u>	<u>286,929,610</u>
Total	<u>268,715,683</u>	<u>289,878,189</u>

Sec. 21. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.338 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	<u>139,473,576</u>	<u>152,714,793</u>
Operating expenses	<u>24,600,099</u>	<u>24,600,099</u>
Total	<u>164,073,675</u>	<u>177,314,892</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>159,502,946</u>	<u>167,744,163</u>
Special funds	935,963	935,963
ARPA State Fiscal	0	5,000,000
Federal funds	492,196	492,196

Global Commitment fund	2,746,255	2,746,255
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>396,315</u>	<u>396,315</u>
Total	164,073,675	177,314,892

Sec. 22. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.338.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338.1 Corrections - Justice Reinvestment II

Grants	<u>10,659,519</u>	11,206,413
Total	<u>10,659,519</u>	11,206,413
Source of funds		
General fund	8,081,831	8,081,831
Federal funds	13,147	13,147
Global Commitment fund	<u>2,564,541</u>	<u>3,111,435</u>
Total	10,659,519	11,206,413

Sec. 23. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.342 is amended to read:

Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services

Personal services	18,187,631	24,284,571
Operating expenses	<u>5,978,873</u>	<u>6,813,344</u>
Total	24,166,504	31,097,915
Source of funds		
General fund	4,199,478	9,579,745
Special funds	11,655,797	13,627,301
Federal funds	<u>8,311,229</u>	<u>7,890,869</u>
Total	24,166,504	31,097,915

Sec. 24. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	1,231,153,062	1,262,543,832
Special funds	124,537,345	132,639,222
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,306,208
State health care resources fund	25,265,312	25,438,836
ARPA State Fiscal	0	5,000,000
Federal funds	1,785,709,992	1,816,381,527
Global Commitment fund	1,943,848,077	1,976,541,555
Internal service funds	1,746,397	1,746,397
Interdepartmental transfers	28,591,925	28,717,025
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,163,965,318	5,272,339,602

Sec. 25. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.500 is amended to read:

Sec. B.500 Education - finance and administration

Personal services	17,683,192	16,733,192
Operating expenses	4,387,522	4,407,522
Grants	<u>15,270,700</u>	<u>15,270,700</u>
Total	37,341,414	36,411,414
Source of funds		
General fund	7,415,742	7,465,742
Special funds	16,575,926	16,595,926
Education fund	3,486,447	3,486,447
Federal funds	9,220,942	8,220,942
Global Commitment fund	260,000	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>382,357</u>	<u>382,357</u>
Total	37,341,414	36,411,414

Sec. 26. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.502 is amended to read:

Sec. B.502 Education - special education: formula grants

Grants	<u>226,195,600</u>	<u>229,821,806</u>
Total	226,195,600	229,821,806
Source of funds		
Education fund	<u>226,195,600</u>	<u>229,821,806</u>
Total	226,195,600	229,821,806

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.505 is amended to read:

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

Grants	<u>1,703,317,103</u>	<u>1,711,148,481</u>
Total	1,703,317,103	1,711,148,481
Source of funds		
Education fund	<u>1,703,317,103</u>	<u>1,711,148,481</u>
Total	1,703,317,103	1,711,148,481

Sec. 28. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.509 is amended to read:

Sec. B.509 Education - Afterschool Grant Program

Grants	4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	4,000,000	4,000,000
Source of funds		
Special funds	0	4,000,000
Education fund	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4,000,000	4,000,000

Sec. 29. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.516 is amended to read:

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds

General fund	216,199,064	216,249,064
Special funds	19,495,486	23,515,486
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Education fund	2,070,971,937	2,078,429,521
Federal funds	493,305,099	492,305,099
Global Commitment fund	260,000	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	382,357	382,357
Pension trust funds	<u>3,448,255</u>	<u>3,448,255</u>
Total	2,804,812,586	2,815,340,170

Sec. 30. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.603 is amended to read:

Sec. B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

Grants	<u>1,157,775</u>	1,774,148
Total	1,157,775	1,774,148

Source of funds

General fund	748,314	274,148
Global Commitment fund	<u>409,461</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	1,157,775	1,774,148

Sec. 31. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.608 is amended to read:

Sec. B.608 Total higher education

Source of funds

General fund	128,339,478	127,865,312
Education fund	41,225	41,225
Global Commitment fund	409,461	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	128,790,164	129,406,537

Sec. 32. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.702 is amended to read:

Sec. B.702 Fish and wildlife - support and field services

Personal services	21,567,730	22,223,023
Operating expenses	7,140,027	7,140,027
Grants	<u>936,232</u>	<u>936,232</u>
Total	29,643,989	30,299,282

Source of funds

General fund	7,173,206	7,603,314
Special funds	370,644	385,694
Fish and wildlife fund	10,921,090	10,921,090

Federal funds	9,793,589	10,003,724
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,385,460</u>	<u>1,385,460</u>
Total	29,643,989	30,299,282

Sec. 33. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.710 is amended to read:

Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management

Personal services	26,006,961	29,506,961
Operating expenses	10,026,393	10,026,393
Grants	<u>4,905,988</u>	<u>4,905,988</u>
Total	40,939,342	44,439,342
Source of funds		
General fund	193,565	193,565
Special funds	26,236,633	29,736,633
Federal funds	14,342,090	14,342,090
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>167,054</u>	<u>167,054</u>
Total	40,939,342	44,439,342

Sec. 34. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	37,999,582	38,429,690
Special funds	79,971,986	83,487,036
Fish and wildlife fund	10,921,090	10,921,090
Federal funds	93,077,302	93,287,437
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>13,215,308</u>	<u>13,215,308</u>
Total	235,185,268	239,340,561

Sec. 35. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.800 is amended to read:

Sec. B.800 Commerce and community development - agency of commerce and community development - administration

Personal services	2,610,304	2,510,304
Operating expenses	982,307	982,307
Grants	<u>539,820</u>	<u>539,820</u>
Total	4,132,431	4,032,431
Source of funds		
General fund	3,666,442	3,566,442
Federal funds	351,000	351,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>114,989</u>	<u>114,989</u>
Total	4,132,431	4,032,431

Sec. 36. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.802 is amended to read:

Sec. B.802 Housing and community development

Personal services	6,428,334	6,528,334
Operating expenses	705,584	705,584
Grants	<u>23,739,005</u>	<u>25,967,039</u>
Total	30,872,923	33,200,957
Source of funds		
General fund	5,031,943	5,131,943
Special funds	6,937,054	9,165,088
Federal funds	15,854,615	15,854,615
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>3,049,311</u>	<u>3,049,311</u>
Total	30,872,923	33,200,957

Sec. 37. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.813 is amended to read:

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development

Source of funds		
General fund	21,222,221	21,222,221
Special funds	32,106,330	34,334,364
Federal funds	93,013,297	93,013,297
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>5,062,973</u>	<u>5,062,973</u>
Total	151,404,821	153,632,855

Sec. 38. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1000 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1000 Debt service

Operating expenses	<u>75,705,398</u>	<u>675,000</u>
Total	75,705,398	675,000
Source of funds		
General fund	75,377,993	675,000
Transportation fund	<u>327,405</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	75,705,398	675,000

Sec. 39. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1001 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1001 Total debt service

Source of funds		
General fund	75,377,993	675,000
Transportation fund	<u>327,405</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	75,705,398	675,000

Sec. 40. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(4) \$30,000,000 General Fund to be used as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) matching funds for costs incurred due to the July 2023 flooding event.

(5) \$6,250,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities that were impacted by the July 2023 flooding event in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declaration DR-4720-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the state to address the secondary economic impacts of the July 2023 flooding event. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on FEMA-related projects.

(A) \$3,250,000 of the funds appropriated in this subdivision (a)(5) for local economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

(i) \$1,000,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has at least 450 FEMA-approved Individuals and Households Program registrations for Individual Assistance relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(ii) \$750,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has less than 450 and at least 95 FEMA-approved Individuals and Households Program registrations for Individual Assistance relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(B) \$3,000,000 of the funds appropriated in this subdivision (a)(5) for local economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

(i) \$75,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has at least \$5,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(ii) \$50,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has less than \$5,000,000 and at least \$2,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(iii) \$30,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has less than \$2,000,000 and at least \$1,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(iv) \$20,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has less than \$1,000,000 and at least \$250,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(v) \$10,000 to each municipality that as of February 1, 2024 has less than \$250,000 and at least \$100,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to the July 2023 flooding event.

(C) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision (a)(5) have not been granted by June 30, 2024, they shall revert the General Fund and be transferred to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund.

* * *

(c) Department of Human Resources. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~\$725,000~~ \$600,000 General Fund to fund ~~seven~~ six new permanent full-time positions in the Operations division in fiscal year 2024. These position costs shall be funded through the Department of Human Resources – Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025;

(2) ~~\$75,000~~ \$200,000 General Fund to fund ~~one~~ two new permanent full-time ~~position~~ positions in the VTHR Operations division in fiscal year 2024. These position costs shall be funded through the ~~Department of Human Resources~~ Financial Management – Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025; and

* * *

~~(d) \$200,000 General Fund to the Department of Libraries in.~~ In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund to support the FiberConnect project relating to ~~Internet~~ internet access in public libraries; and

(2) \$11,500 General Fund for contract costs incurred in support of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 1.

* * *

(i) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$110,000 General Fund for electric vehicle charger inspections. Funds shall be used for the purchase of two testing units and related equipment to support the development and implementation of the Commercial Electric Vehicle Fueling Systems regulatory program;

(2) \$1,070,000 General Fund for replacement of the existing Food Safety Inspection Database; and

(3) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Salvation Farms to expand access to locally grown food for all Vermonters; and

(4) \$6,000,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for water quality grants to partners and farmers, in accordance with the Clean Water Board’s fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 budget recommendations and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.700(a)(6)(A).

* * *

(k) Green Mountain Care Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$620,000 General Fund for costs associated with the implementation of the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) database; and

~~(2) \$120,500 General Fund for the implementation of a new financial database solution; and~~

~~(3) \$50,000 General Fund for the development of the statutorily required Health Resources Allocation Plan Tool.~~

(l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(3) \$10,000,000 General Fund to continue to address the emergent and exigent circumstances impacting health care providers following the COVID-19 pandemic. All or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide state match. If funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide state match, the commensurate amount of Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.1; and

(4) \$10,534,603 General Fund and \$13,693,231 Federal Revenue Fund #2205 for use as Global Commitment matching funds for one-time caseload pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations; and

(5) \$671,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for grants to support transitional housing for refugees.

* * *

(n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following

* * *

(7) \$5,000,000 General Fund for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention Program established by legislation enacted in 2023. An amount not to exceed five percent of this appropriation may be used for the administrative costs of the program, including the funding of an existing limited service position at the Department of Health. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose. All or part of this appropriation may be transferred to the Department of Health for this Program if necessary;

* * *

(o) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(3) ~~\$40,000 General Fund the purchase of a driving school vehicle for the Youth Development Program to support foster and former foster youth access to driver's education~~ to fund costs associated with supporting youth in foster care, or formerly in foster care, to learn to drive and to obtain their drivers' licenses and independent transportation;

* * *

(9) \$130,000 General Fund for a grant to the Snelling Center to restart the Early Childhood Education Leadership Program; and

(10) \$300,000 General Fund for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont to provide education regarding the prevention of unsafe infant sleep and to expand programming and support services regarding child abuse often related to parental substance misuse;

(11) \$11,304,802 General Fund for emergency housing needs through the end of fiscal year 2024; and

(12) \$1,329,000 General Fund for standing up shelters.

* * *

(r) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~\$200,000 General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Education~~ for the work of the School Construction Task Force; and

(2) \$1,924,495 Education Fund to hold Local Education Agencies harmless for the Special Education Census Block Grant miscalculation.

* * *

(v) Public Service Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$500,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to upgrade and expand the ePSD case management system;

(2) \$400,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to complete the Telecom Plan Update scheduled for June 2024; and

(3) \$300,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to craft policy proposals to reform and streamline electric sector policy; and

(4) \$20,000,000 General Fund for the appropriation established in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100(a)(28), as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45, to replenish the \$20,000,000 of General Fund spending authority transferred by the Emergency Board on July 31, 2023, per 32 V.S.A. §§ 133(b) and 706(2), as directed by order of the Emergency Board under Item 5(a) – Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

* * *

(x) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1)(A) \$4,680,000 General Fund to the Judiciary for the Judiciary network replacement project.

(1)(B) Judiciary shall update the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee on the status of this project on or before December 1, 2023.

(2) \$300,000 General Fund for the Essex County Courthouse renovation planning.

* * *

Sec. 41. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1101 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1101 WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT –
FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(b) Youth workforce and high school completion.

* * *

(2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$1,380,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education for grants to

Adult Basic Education programs to provide deficit assistance and bridge funding for Adult Basic Education programs while the study and report required by Sec. E.504 of this act is completed. Of the funds appropriated in this section, \$380,000 shall be allocated to Adult Basic Education providers as follows:

- (A) \$300,000 to Vermont Adult Learning;
- (B) \$40,000 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services;
- (C) \$20,000 to Central Vermont Adult Education; and
- (D) \$20,000 to the Tutorial Center.

* * *

(d) Healthcare and social services workforce.

(1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health to be ~~transferred~~ granted as needed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created in 18 V.S.A. § 39.

* * *

(4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Department of Mental Health~~ Agency of Human Services to address workforce needs at the designated and specialized services agencies. These funds shall not be released until a plan to meet training and retention is mutually agreed upon by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the designated and specialized services agencies and approved by the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the legislature General Assembly is not in session. All or a portion of these funds may be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment program to provide State match if any part of the plan is eligible to draw federal funds. It is the intent of the General Assembly to maximize the value of this one-time funding through eligible Global Commitment investment.

(5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,899,724 is appropriated from the Global Commitment Fund to the Department of Mental Health for purposes of leveraging the appropriation in subdivision (4) of this subsection for Global Commitment investment.

* * *

(g) Agriculture Economic Development.

* * *

(3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of ~~\$6,900,000~~ \$7,025,492 General Fund is appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund Agriculture Development Grants for the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance Program. Farms eligible for assistance that timely filed a complete application in calendar year 2023 that have continuously remained eligible since they applied and that are currently operating as of the passage of the fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment act shall be eligible for an award under the Program.

* * *

Sec. 42. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1102 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1102 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT –
FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of ~~\$50,000,000~~ \$52,000,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB):

(1) \$10,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for emergency shelter and permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness. The funds shall be used to expand Vermont's shelter capacity, provide homes for those experiencing homelessness, and decrease reliance on the General Assistance Emergency Housing hotel and motel program. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure new investments in homes and shelters are paired with appropriate support services for residents, including services supported through Medicaid. Funded projects may utilize a range of housing options, including the expansion of shelter capacity, the conversion of hotels to housing, creation of permanent supportive housing, and utilization of manufactured homes on infill sites.

(2) ~~\$40,000,000~~ \$30,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities, permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness, recovery residences, and housing available to farm workers and refugees. The Board is authorized to utilize up to 10 percent of these resources for innovative approaches to helping communities meet their housing needs.

(3) \$10,000,000 to:

(A) Provide support and enhance the capacity, availability, and utilization of manufactured homes in cooperatively owned, nonprofit, and privately owned manufactured home parks with vacant and available lots. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall consult with the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that new investments prioritize individuals and families exiting from hotels and motels in accordance with 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81.

(B) Provide support, expand emergency shelter capacity, and provide permanent homes to households experiencing homelessness, while decreasing reliance on motels and hotels used by beneficiaries of the emergency housing transition benefit established in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81 and participants of the General Assistance emergency housing program. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure that new investments in emergency shelters and permanent homes are paired with appropriate support services for residents.

(4) \$2,000,000 for emergency shelter projects in central Vermont and southeastern Vermont.

Sec. 43. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1103 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1103 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2024
ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(h) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act as codified in 10 V.S.A. chapter 159. Funds shall be used for the assessment and cleanup planning for a ~~maximum~~ of 25 brownfields sites.

* * *

(n) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$165,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation to complete the engineering assessment for the Green River Reservoir Dam. The Department shall share the findings of the assessment with Morrisville Water and Light.

Sec. 44. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1104 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1104 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION;
RETIRED TEACHERS' COST OF LIVING PAYMENT

(a) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the Vermont State

Teachers' Retirement System from the Education Fund for Calendar Year 2023 supplemental payments made in Sec. E.514.2(b) of this act and associated costs and to fund the present value of modifications to the postretirement adjustments allowance.

Sec. 45. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1105(d) is amended to read:

(d) In fiscal year 2024, to the extent funds are available from transfers made in Sec. C.109 of this act, and before the appropriation identified in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 7(a), the projects in this subsection shall receive an appropriation from the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments in the following order:

* * *

Sec. 46. 29 V.S.A. § 161 is amended to read:

§ 161. REQUIREMENTS ON STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

* * *

(b) Each contract awarded under this section for any State project with a construction cost exceeding \$100,000.00, a construction project with a construction cost exceeding \$200,000.00 that is authorized and is at least 50 percent funded by a capital construction act pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 701a, or a construction project with a construction cost exceeding \$200,000.00 that is at least 50 percent funded by the Cash Fund for Capital Infrastructure and ~~Other~~ Essential Investments established in 32 V.S.A. § ~~4004~~ 1001b shall provide that all construction employees working on the project shall be paid not less than the mean prevailing wage published periodically by the Vermont Department of Labor in its occupational employment and wage survey plus an additional fringe benefit of 42 and one-half percent of wage, as calculated by the current Vermont prevailing wage survey. As used in this section, "fringe benefits" means benefits, including paid vacations and holidays, sick leave, employer contributions and reimbursements to health insurance and retirement benefits, and similar benefits that are incidents of employment.

Sec. 47. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108 is amended to read:

Sec. C.108 RESERVES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) MATCH

* * *

(b) To the extent available in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the amount of \$14,500,000 is reserved in the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments,

from the transfer provided in subdivision D.101(a)(1)(D)(ii) of this act, to provide the State match in fiscal years 2025 and 2026 needed for federal funding for water and wastewater related projects under the IJJA. These funds shall only be expended if authorized by the General Assembly.

Sec. 48. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.109 is amended to read:

Sec. C.109 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTINGENT TRANSFERS TO CASH
FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS:

(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, to the extent any fund specified in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101(b)(2) as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 48 has ~~an~~ a remaining unobligated fund balance in fiscal year 2023 after the transfers to the General Fund are made, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transfer to the subaccount created under 32 V.S.A. § 1001b(b)(2) the respective fiscal year 2023 unobligated special fund balances. The Commissioner shall report the amounts transferred pursuant to this provision to the Joint Fiscal Committee in July 2023.

* * *

Sec. 49. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

(1) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the retention of technical experts to assist the Public Safety Communications Task Force with the analysis and planning required by ~~Sec. C.112 of this act~~ 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114 and to fund the administrative expenses incurred by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. If the Task Force determines ~~in calendar year 2023~~ that additional funding is necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to an additional \$1,000,000.

(2) Up to \$4,500,000 shall be available to provide funding for pilot projects pursuant to ~~Sec. C.112(f), of this act~~ 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114(f).

(3) Any remaining amounts not obligated pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection ~~(b) shall be held in reserve~~ remain unobligated and unexpended until approval to expend the funds is authorized by further enactment of the General Assembly.

(4) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Public Safety~~ In order to extract the greatest value from the limited State and federal dollars currently available for public safety communications modernization, it is the intent of the General Assembly that all such funding is expended in an efficient and complementary manner. To that end, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances, to the greatest extent possible, the goals of a statewide public safety communications system developed by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall ~~consult with~~ promptly inform the Public Safety Communications Task Force as ~~the~~ federal parameters for expending the funds become available and as the Commissioner develops a ~~and, if necessary, revises the~~ plan to expend such funds. The Commissioner shall solicit recommendations from the Task Force regarding the plan, including any revisions to the plan, the implementation schedule, and specific expenditures. In addition, the Commissioner shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned expenditures.

* * *

Sec. 50. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114(f) is amended to read:

(f)(1) If the Task Force determines that sufficient minimum technical and operational standards have been developed to warrant the funding of one or more pilot projects, the Task Force may submit for approval a pilot project plan to the Joint Fiscal Committee ~~in calendar year 2023.~~

* * *

Sec. 51. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.120 is amended to read:

Sec. C.120 ~~BALANCE RESERVE UNRESERVED; RESERVED FOR~~
~~VCBB~~

~~(a) In fiscal year 2024, \$20,000,000 is unreserved from the General Fund Balance Reserve established by 32 V.S.A. § 308e.~~

~~(b) In fiscal year 2024, \$20,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for the exclusive benefit of the Vermont Community Broadband Board and for the sole purpose of securing federal funding under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Enabling Middle Mile~~

~~Broadband Infrastructure Program. The State's pending application requires a commitment to provide contingency reserve funding equal to 25 percent of the total award amount if the application is approved and the award is accepted by the State.~~

~~(1) In the fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment act, any funds reserved, but not required, for the purpose described in Sec. C.120(b) of this act shall be unreserved and reserved within the General Fund Balance Reserve established by 32 V.S.A. § 308e. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 52. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.123 is amended to read:

Sec. C.123 HOUSING TRANSITION; RESOURCES FOR
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

* * *

(d) \$9,400,000 of the funds described in subsection (c) of this section shall be transferred to the Department for Children and Families as set forth in this subsection. The Agency of Administration shall structure the program in accordance with the requirements of 31 C.F.R. Part 35 and in a manner designed to achieve rapid deployment and administrative efficiency, and may reallocate funds across governmental units in a net-neutral manner as follows for a total of \$9,400,000:

(1) ~~The Commissioner of Finance and Management is authorized to reallocate General Fund appropriations made to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45 Department of Corrections in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.338. In exchange, the Secretary of Administration shall provide an amount equal to the reallocation amount to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board from the federal funds appropriated through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which was originally approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to Grant Request #3034.~~

~~(2) The Commissioner of Finance and Management is authorized to reallocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds appropriated to the Agency of Human Services in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.300(a)(31), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 68 Department of Corrections from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars appropriated to the Agency of Human Services in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.300(a)(31), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 68.~~

* * *

Sec. 53. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100 APPROPRIATIONS ALLOCATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

(a) This act contains the following amounts ~~appropriated from~~ allocated to special funds that receive revenue from the property transfer tax. ~~Expenditures from these appropriations~~ These allocations shall not exceed available revenues.

(1) The sum of \$560,000 is ~~appropriated~~ allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of \$560,000 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(2) ~~The sum of \$21,462,855 is appropriated from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB).~~ Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of \$21,462,855 from the property transfer tax and surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a that are deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) shall be offset by the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2024 appropriation of \$21,462,855 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board should be restored.

(3) ~~The sum of \$7,545,993 is appropriated from the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund.~~ Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts in excess of \$7,545,993 from the property transfer tax that are deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. The \$7,545,993 shall be allocated for the following:

(A) \$6,211,650 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) \$898,283 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) \$436,060 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. 54. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.100.1 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100.1 LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024
PLANNING FUNDS

(a) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that an~~ An amount not to exceed \$500,000 of the planning funds provided in Sec. D.100 of this act shall be used for municipal bylaw modernization.

Sec. 55. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS, REVERSIONS, AND RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the following amounts shall be transferred from the funds indicated:

(1) From the General Fund to:

* * *

(E) the Fire Prevention/Building Inspection Special Fund (21901): \$1,500,000.00; and

(F) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909): \$3,600,000.00;

(G) the State Liability Insurance Fund (56200): \$9,500,000.00;

(H) the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (21555): \$17,250,000.00;

(I) the Act 250 Permit Fund (21260): \$120,300.00;

(J) the General Government Projects Fund (31100): \$139.24;

(K) the Protection Projects Fund (31200): \$1,180,584.31;

(L) the Natural Resources Projects Fund (31500): \$2,127,949.51;

(M) the Commerce and Community Development Projects Fund (31600): \$545,295.85; and

(N) the General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (35100): \$71,202,993.00.

* * *

(2) From the Education Fund to:

(A) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909): \$1,300,000.00; and

(B) the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund: \$2,836,982.94.

* * *

(4) From the Transportation Fund to:

(A) the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement Fund (21575) established by 24 V.S.A. § 2796 to be used by the Vermont Downtown Development Board for the purposes of the Fund: \$523,966.00; and

(B) the General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (35100): \$327,405.00.

(5) From the Waste Management Assistance Fund (21285) to:

(A) the Environmental Contingency Fund (21275): \$3,500,000.00.

(b) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024:

(1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from the funds indicated:

22005	AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts	\$4,641,960
50300	Liquor Control Fund	\$21,200,000
<u>50250</u>	<u>Sports Wagering Fund</u>	<u>\$1,204,000</u> <u>\$3,200,000</u>
	Caledonia Fair	\$5,000
	North Country Hospital Loan Repayment	\$24,047
	Springfield Hospital Promissory Note Repayment	\$121,416
<u>21970</u>	<u>Registration Fees Fund</u>	<u>\$605,273.01</u>
<u>21065</u>	<u>Financial Institutions Supervision Fund</u>	<u>\$4,024,748</u>

(2) The following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of unencumbered fund balances, shall be transferred to the General Fund. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

21638 AG-Fees and reimbursement		
– Court order	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
621000 Unclaimed Property Fund	\$3,270,225	\$4,806,692

* * *

(3) Notwithstanding 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E.228, ~~\$60,044,000~~ \$57,667,840 of the unencumbered balances in the Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (21080) shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following ~~amounts amount~~ shall revert to the General Fund from the ~~accounts indicated~~ general funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act for the Global Commitment Program:

3400004000 ~~Agency of Human Services –~~
 ~~Secretary’s Office—~~ Global Commitment \$15,103,683

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>1130892201</u>	<u>Lib – Working Group Per Diem</u>	<u>\$11,550.00</u>
<u>1140070000</u>	<u>Use Tax Reimbursement Program</u>	<u>\$120,096.98</u>
<u>1140330000</u>	<u>Renter Rebates</u>	<u>\$943,487.35</u>
<u>1150891901</u>	<u>Electric Vehicle Charge</u>	<u>\$4,412.78</u>
<u>1250010000</u>	<u>Auditor of Accounts</u>	<u>\$21,067.71</u>
<u>1260010000</u>	<u>Office of the Treasurer</u>	<u>\$110,821.00</u>
<u>2110010000</u>	<u>Assigned Counsel</u>	<u>\$3.37</u>
<u>2120892203</u>	<u>JUD – County Courthouse HVAC</u>	<u>\$300,000.00</u>
<u>2130200000</u>	<u>Sheriffs</u>	<u>\$29,880.53</u>
<u>2130400000</u>	<u>SIUS Parent Account</u>	<u>\$167,678.27</u>
<u>2130500000</u>	<u>Crime Victims Advocates</u>	<u>\$18,465.95</u>
<u>2150010000</u>	<u>Military – Administration</u>	<u>\$100,782.00</u>
<u>2160892102</u>	<u>CCVS-BCJC for St Jo’s Orphan</u>	<u>\$88.00</u>
<u>2200010000</u>	<u>Administration Division</u>	<u>\$389,654.70</u>

<u>2230892202</u>	<u>SOS – One-Time FY22 Election</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>\$171,400.78</u>
<u>2320020000</u>	<u>Liquor Enforcement & Licensing</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
<u>3150070000</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>	<u>\$2,772,735.17</u>
<u>3310000000</u>	<u>Commission on Women</u>	<u>\$11,173.77</u>
<u>3330010000</u>	<u>Green Mountain Care Board</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
<u>3400001000</u>	<u>Secretary’s Office Admin Costs</u>	<u>\$475,775.00</u>
<u>3400004000</u>	<u>Global Commitment</u>	<u>\$11,676,230.24</u>
<u>3400010000</u>	<u>Human Services Board</u>	<u>\$110,000.00</u>
<u>3400892109</u>	<u>St Match – Act 155 4(a),5(a)</u>	<u>\$34,350.00</u>
<u>3400892203</u>	<u>AHSCO – COVID-19</u> <u>Emergent/Exigen</u>	<u>\$4,868,985.74</u>
<u>3400892205</u>	<u>AHSCO – Workforce</u> <u>Recruitment</u>	<u>\$4,367,147.39</u>
<u>3400892312</u>	<u>AHSCO – VT Nursing</u> <u>Forgivable Loan</u>	<u>\$13,403.00</u>
<u>3410018000</u>	<u>DVHA – Medicaid-Non-</u> <u>Waiver Program</u>	<u>\$525,610.73</u>
<u>3420060000</u>	<u>Substance Use Programs</u>	<u>\$119,130.89</u>
<u>3440010000</u>	<u>DCFS – Admin & Support</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>\$2,595,167.55</u>
<u>3440020000</u>	<u>DCFS – Family Services</u>	<u>\$2,864,970.25</u>
<u>3440030000</u>	<u>DCFS – Child Development</u>	<u>\$3,131,063.24</u>
<u>3440050000</u>	<u>DCFS – AABD</u>	<u>\$451,263.27</u>
<u>3440060000</u>	<u>DCFS – General Assistance</u>	<u>\$1,414,739.60</u>
<u>3440080000</u>	<u>DCFS – Reach Up</u>	<u>\$979,674.76</u>
<u>3440100000</u>	<u>DCFS – OEO Office of</u> <u>Economic Opp.</u>	<u>\$273,038.00</u>
<u>3440120000</u>	<u>DCFS – Secure Res.</u> <u>Treatment</u>	<u>\$2,752,270.00</u>
<u>3440130000</u>	<u>DCFS – DDS</u>	<u>\$80,299.43</u>
<u>3440891908</u>	<u>Weatherization Assist Bridge</u>	<u>\$1,892.85</u>

<u>3440892214</u>	<u>DCF – Childcare Provider Workforce</u>	<u>\$2,879,549.25</u>
<u>3440892309</u>	<u>DCF – Worker Retention Grant</u>	<u>\$564,500.00</u>
<u>3480007000</u>	<u>Corrections – Justice Reinvest</u>	<u>\$831,964.28</u>
<u>4100500000</u>	<u>VT Department of Labor</u>	<u>\$2,400,000.00</u>
<u>5100010000</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>\$0.03</u>
<u>5100060000</u>	<u>Adult Basic Education</u>	<u>\$136.13</u>
<u>5100892214</u>	<u>AOA – School Food Program Admin</u>	<u>\$50,670.70</u>
<u>5100892301</u>	<u>AOE – Child Nutrition</u>	<u>\$244,648.60</u>
<u>5100892309</u>	<u>AOE – Staffing</u>	<u>\$146,649.08</u>
<u>6100040000</u>	<u>Property Tax Assessment Approp.</u>	<u>\$9,542.14</u>
<u>6130030000</u>	<u>Parks</u>	<u>\$3.85</u>
<u>6130891903</u>	<u>Logger Safety, Value Added</u>	<u>\$108.51</u>
<u>6140040000</u>	<u>Water Programs Appropriation</u>	<u>\$0.20</u>
<u>7110010000</u>	<u>Housing & Community Development</u>	<u>\$1.86</u>
<u>7120010000</u>	<u>Economic Development</u>	<u>\$0.71</u>
<u>7130000000</u>	<u>Dept. of Tourism & Marketing</u>	<u>\$230.47</u>

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Transportation Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>1150400000</u>	<u>BGS – Information Centers</u>	<u>\$183,952.35</u>
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(3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>8100001100</u>	<u>Program Development</u>	<u>\$3,239,445.00</u>
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(4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Education Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>5100010000</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>\$1,280,710.79</u>
<u>5100110000</u>	<u>Small School Grant</u>	<u>\$391,067.00</u>

<u>5100200000</u>	<u>Education – Technical Education</u>	<u>\$1,204,216.38</u>
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<u>5100892310</u>	<u>Education – Universal Meals</u>	<u>\$6,823,849.84</u>
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(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Clean Water Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>1100010000</u>	<u>Secretary of Administration</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
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(6) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>6140892207</u>	<u>Department of Environmental Conservation – Clean Water Board</u>	<u>\$6,000,000.00</u>
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<u>1110892111</u>	<u>University of Vermont – Workforce Upskill</u>	<u>\$131,670.00</u>
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<u>1110892112</u>	<u>VSAC HS Grad Advancement</u>	<u>\$24,539.92</u>
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<u>1110892219</u>	<u>University of Vermont – New Career</u>	<u>\$181,485.00</u>
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<u>2200892308</u>	<u>AAFM – Soil Quality Practices</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
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<u>3400892204</u>	<u>AHSCO – Workforce Retention</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
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<u>3440892205</u>	<u>DCF – OEO – Community Action Agc</u>	<u>\$3,182.48</u>
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<u>4100892203</u>	<u>DOL-COVID-19 Unemployment Syst</u>	<u>\$2,459,122.60</u>
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(7) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, the following amounts shall revert to the Tobacco Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>3400891802</u>	<u>Invest Substance Use Treat</u>	<u>\$1,500,000.00</u>
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<u>3400891803</u>	<u>Finance Substance Use Treat</u>	<u>\$724,241.80</u>
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* * *

(e)(1) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.3 of the Rules for State Matching Funds Under the Federal Public Assistance Program, in fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Administration may provide funding from the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund that was transferred pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(H) of

this section to subgrantees prior to the completion of a project. In fiscal year 2024, up to 70 percent of the State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project for municipalities that were impacted by the July 2023 flooding event in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declaration DR-4720-VT may be advanced at the request of a municipality.

(2) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.1 of the Rules for State Matching Funds Under the Federal Public Assistance Program, the Secretary of Administration shall increase the standard State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project to the highest percentage possible given available funding for municipalities in counties that were impacted by the July 2023 flooding event and are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declaration DR-4720-VT.

* * *

Sec. 56. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of ~~68~~ 75 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

* * *

(R) Department for Children and Families:

(i) five Family Service Workers;

(S) Cannabis Control Board:

(i) one Compliance Agent; and

(ii) one Deputy Director of Compliance and Enforcement.

* * *

(c) The establishment of 9 ~~12~~ new classified limited service positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

* * *

(3) Department of Finance and Management:

(A) one VISION Reporting Analyst III; and

(B) two VISION Financial Analysts II.

* * *

Sec. 57. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.501(a) is amended to read:

(a) \$52,000,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2022 from American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds as follows:

* * *

(4) \$12,800,000 to the Agency of Administration for a Human Capital Management ERP upgrade - replacement of the HR system that tracks employee information, timesheets, and contracts, including a VANTAGE budget system upgrade and interface with the new HR system. Up to \$3,000,000 of these funds may be expended for other Enterprise Resource Planning modernization related projects, including business process transformation.

* * *

Sec. 58. 3 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

§ 3306. TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Technology Modernization Special Fund, to be administered by the Agency of Digital Services. Monies in the Fund shall be used to fund business process transformation and to purchase, implement, and upgrade technology platforms, systems, and cybersecurity services used by State agencies and departments to carry out their statutory functions.

* * *

Sec. 59. AGENCY OF ADMINISTRATION; ENTERPRISE RESOURCE
PLANNING

(a) In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Administration shall report to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee within three business days after any change in status of any contract relating to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Modernization – Business Transformation project changes.

(b) The Agency of Administration shall share the results of its independent review with the Committee within three business days after its completion.

Sec. 60. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.111.2 is amended to read:

Sec. E.111.2 TAX COMPUTER SYSTEM MODERNIZATION FUND
TRANSFER

(a) Any remaining funds on June 30, 2023 in the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund established by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 282, and amended from time to time, shall ~~be deposited into~~ remain in the fund ~~established as codified~~ by 32 V.S.A. § 3209.

Sec. 61. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.131.2 is added to read:

Sec. E.131.2 TREASURER; STATE RESERVES STUDY

(a) On or before December 15, 2024, the Treasurer shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management and the Joint Fiscal Office, submit a written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on the State's fiscal reserve practices and the fiscal reserve practices of other states. The report shall include a review of:

(1) the current fiscal reserve practices of the State, including a review of which funds have statutory reserves and which funds do not;

(2) the fiscal reserve practices of other states and best practices;

(3) how Vermont's fiscal reserve practices compare to those of other states and to best practices; and

(4) the cash reserve policies of the State as it compares to reserve requirements.

(b) The report shall include the Treasurer's findings and any recommendations for changes in the fiscal reserve practices of the State.

Sec. 62. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.131.3 is added to read:

Sec. E.131.3 TREASURER; STRESS-TESTING REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2024, the Treasurer, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management and the Joint Fiscal Office, shall submit a written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on fiscal stress-testing practices and methodologies in other states. The report shall address the extent to which such practices may be useful or beneficial and include any recommendations for the implementation of stress-testing practices in State government.

Sec. 63. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.300.2 is amended to read:

Sec. E.300.2 BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH HUB AND SPOKE
PROGRAM PILOT; FUND SOURCES

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with the Departments of Vermont Health Access and of Health, shall identify alternative fund sources, including sales tax revenue from tobacco, cannabis, and liquor, for ongoing funding of the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke pilot program funded in Sec. B.1100 of this act and shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on its findings on or before November 15, 2023.

Sec. 64. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE – GLOBAL COMMITMENT

* * *

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of ~~\$25,231,644~~ \$25,050,921 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under the Global Commitment as follows:

* * *

(c) Up to ~~\$4,034,170~~ \$3,737,210 is transferred from the AHS Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301, Secretary's Office – Global Commitment, of this act.

Sec. 65. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.312 is amended to read:

Sec. E.312 HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

* * *

(5) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$300,000 in General Funds Fund dollars and \$218,000 Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund dollars to the current syringe exchange programs in Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers for syringe exchange programs. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of Health, the Vermont AIDS service organizations, and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers. The performance period for these grants shall be State fiscal year 2024. Grant reporting shall include outcomes and results.

(A) The \$218,000 Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund dollars appropriated to the Department of Health in Sec. B.312 of this act for grants to the current syringe exchange programs in Vermont shall be distributed as follows:

- (i) \$148,000 to Vermont Cares;
- (ii) \$30,000 to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont;
- (iii) \$15,000 to the HIV/HCV Resource Center; and
- (iv) \$25,000 to the Howard Center Safe Recovery.

* * *

Sec. 66. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.802, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 41, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.802 Housing and community development

Personal services	5,321,306	<u>5,212,164</u>
Operating expenses	673,807	<u>671,358</u>
Grants	77,056,152	<u>27,259,532</u>
Total	83,051,265	<u>33,143,054</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	4,065,708	4,065,708
Special funds	7,204,966	7,747,606
Federal funds	68,364,457	<u>18,456,246</u>
Interdepartmental transfers	2,873,494	2,873,494
Total	83,051,265	<u>33,143,054</u>

Sec. 67. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45 is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2023, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

* * *

(38) \$30,000 to the Department of Health ~~for a grant to enter into an agreement~~ with the American Heart Association for CPR and First Aid Training kits to facilitate training in schools.

* * *

Sec. 68. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 53(a), as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 81 is further amended to read:

(a) Reversion. In fiscal year 2023, of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.300(a)(13) and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 3(b)(1), from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the Economic Recovery Grant Program, ~~\$25,042,000.00~~ \$24,980,874.93 shall revert to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Sec. 69. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION; COMMUNITY NEEDLE AND SYRINGE DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

~~In~~ Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024, \$150,000.00 is ~~authorized~~ appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund ~~in established by~~ 33 V.S.A. § 2004a to the Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs to provide grants and consultations for municipalities, hospitals, community health centers, and other publicly available community needle and syringe disposal programs that participated in a stakeholder meeting pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act.

Sec. 70. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 14 is amended to read:

Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

* * *

(9) All appropriations made in this section shall carry forward into fiscal year 2024 unless reverted as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment act.

Sec. 71. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G.600(b), as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 85, and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62, Sec. 26, is further amended to read:

(b) In fiscal year 2023, \$32,200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund and \$550,000 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electrification incentives and public transportation investments as follows:

* * *

(4) ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$4,000,000 to the Agency of Transportation to grant to the Community Action Agencies to support the MileageSmart Program, established in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34, as amended.

(5) ~~\$2,350,000.00~~ \$1,350,000 to the Agency of Transportation for the Replace Your Ride Program, established in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 27, as amended.

(6) ~~\$2,200,000~~ \$2,350,000 general funds and \$550,000 Transportation funds to the Agency of Transportation for the following:

* * *

(C) \$50,000 Transportation funds and ~~\$100,000~~ \$150,000 general funds to the Agency of Transportation for electric bicycle incentives.

(7) \$500,000 to the Agency of Transportation Electrify Your Fleet Program.

Sec. 72. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

Sec. 8. EMERGENCY HOUSING TRANSITION; FUNDING; FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall ~~hold in reserve~~ revert as much ~~funding spending authority~~ as possible ~~from during~~ the Agency's fiscal year 2023 closeout process ~~as carryforward for potential investment in assisting households with transitioning out of the pandemic-era General Assistance Emergency Housing Program. The reserved funds shall not be used unless pursuant to the Secretary of Administration's discretion under 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 109.~~ If the amounts appropriated pursuant to Sec. 7 of this act are not sufficient to fully implement the phase-out of the pandemic-era General Assistance Emergency Housing Program as set forth in this act, then the General Assembly may provide additional spending authority as needed.

* * *

Sec. 73. 10 V.S.A. § 6083a is amended to read:

§ 6083a. ACT 250 FEES

(a) All applicants for a land use permit under section 6086 of this title shall be directly responsible for the costs involved in the publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the proposed development or subdivision and the costs incurred in recording any permit or permit amendment in the land records. In addition, applicants shall be subject to each of the following fees for each individual permit or permit application for the purpose of compensating the State of Vermont for the direct and indirect costs incurred with respect to the administration of the Act 250 program:

* * *

Sec. 74. 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) To cover the cost of fund auditing, accounting, revenue collection, and of short-term borrowing to meet fund cash flow requirements.

Sec. 75. 18 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

§ 1001. REPORTS TO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

* * *

(b) Public health records developed or acquired by State or local public health agencies that relate to HIV or AIDS and that contain either personally identifying information or information that may indirectly identify a person

shall be confidential and only disclosed following notice to and written authorization from the individual subject of the public health record or the individual's legal representative. Notice otherwise required pursuant to this section shall not be required for disclosures to the federal government; other departments, agencies, or programs of the State; or other states' infectious disease surveillance programs if the disclosure is for the purpose of comparing the details of potentially duplicative case reports, public health surveillance, or epidemiological follow-up, provided the information shall be shared using the least identifying information first so that the individual's name shall be used only as a last resort.

* * *

Sec. 76. 33 V.S.A. § 3511 is amended to read:

§ 3511. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Family child care home" means a child care facility that provides care on a regular basis in the caregiver's own residence ~~for not more than 10 children at any one time. Of this number, up to six children may be provided care on a full-time basis and the remainder on a part-time basis. As used in this subdivision, care of a child on a part-time basis shall mean care of a school-age child for not more than four hours a day. These limits shall not include children who reside in the residence of the caregiver, except:~~

~~(A) These part-time, school-age children may be cared for on a full-day basis during school closing days, snow days, and vacation days that occur during the school year.~~

~~(B) During the school summer vacation, up to 12 children may be cared for provided that at least six of these children are of school age and a second staff person is present and on duty when the number of children in attendance exceeds six. These limits shall not include children who are required by law to attend school (seven years of age and older) and who reside in the residence of the caregiver.~~

* * *

Sec. 77. 29 V.S.A. chapter 61 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 61. MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT LOAN FUND

* * *

§ 1602. APPLICATION; LOANS; CONDITIONS

(a) Upon application of a municipality or two or more municipalities applying jointly, the State Treasurer may loan money from the Fund to that municipality or municipalities for the purchase of equipment. Purchases of equipment eligible for loans from the Fund shall have a useful life of at least five years and a purchase price of at least \$20,000.00 but shall not be eligible for loans in excess of ~~\$110,000.00~~ \$150,000.00 from this Fund.

(b) The Treasurer is authorized to establish terms and conditions, including repayment schedules of up to five years for loans from the Fund to ensure repayment of loans to the Fund. Before a municipality may receive a loan from the Fund, it shall give to the Treasurer security for the repayment of the funds. The security shall be in such form and amount as the Treasurer may determine and may include a lien on the equipment financed by the loan.

(c) The rates of interest shall be as established by this section to assist municipalities in purchasing equipment upon terms more favorable than in the commercial market. Such rates shall be ~~no~~ not more than two percent per annum for a loan to a single municipality, and loans shall bear no interest charge if made to two or more municipalities purchasing equipment jointly.

(d) In any fiscal year, new loans from the Municipal Equipment Fund shall not exceed an aggregate of \$1,500,000.00. The Treasurer shall put forth recommendations to the General Assembly on a maximum loan amount every five years, commencing on January 15, 2028, based on requests received and loans granted pursuant to this chapter.

* * *

Sec. 78. 3 V.S.A. chapter 18 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 18. VT SAVES

* * *

§ 532. VT SAVES PROGRAM; ESTABLISHMENT

* * *

(c) Contributions.

(1) Unless otherwise specified by the covered employee, a covered employee shall automatically initially contribute five percent of the covered employee's ~~salary or~~ wages to the Program. A covered employee may elect to opt out of the Program at any time or contribute at any higher or lower rate, expressed as a percentage of ~~salary or~~ wages, or, as permitted by the Treasurer, expressed as a flat dollar amount, subject in all cases to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code at no additional charge.

(2) The Treasurer shall provide for, on a uniform basis, an annual increase of each active participant's contribution rate, by not less than one percent, but not more than eight percent, of ~~salary or wages~~ each year. Any such increases shall apply to active participants, including participants by default with an option to opt out or participants who are initiated by affirmative participant election, provided that any increase is subject to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code.

* * *

§ 535. PENALTIES

(a) Failure to ~~enroll~~ comply. If a covered employer fails to ~~enroll a covered employee~~ be in compliance with this chapter without reasonable cause, the covered employer is subject to a penalty for each covered employee for each calendar year or portion of a calendar year during which the covered employee was not enrolled in the Program or had not opted out of participation in the Program. The amount of any penalty imposed on a covered employer for the failure to enroll a covered employee without reasonable cause is determined as follows:

* * *

(b) Waivers. The Treasurer is authorized to establish a rule waiving the penalty for a covered employer ~~for any failure to enroll a covered employee that fails to be in compliance with this chapter~~ for which it is established that the covered employer did not know that the failure existed and exercised reasonable diligence to meet the requirements of this chapter, provided that:

* * *

Sec. 79. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. VT SAVES; IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Subject to an appropriation from the General Assembly, the State Treasurer shall implement the VT Saves Program (Program), established in 3 V.S.A. chapter 18, ~~as follows:~~ in stages as determined by the Treasurer, which may include phasing in the Program based on the size of employers or other factors. The Program shall be implemented so that all covered employees will begin participation and make contributions on or before July 1, 2026

(1) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2025, all covered employers with 25 or more covered employees shall offer the Program to all covered employees.~~

(2) ~~Beginning on January 1, 2026, all covered employers with 15 to 24 covered employees shall offer the Program to all covered employees.~~

~~(3) Beginning on July 1, 2026, all covered employers with five to 14 covered employees shall offer the Program to all covered employees.~~

(b) As used in this section, “covered employer” and “covered employee” have the same meanings as in 3 V.S.A. § 531.

Sec. 80. 17 V.S.A. § 2732(a) is amended to read:

(a) The electors shall meet at the State House on the first ~~Monday~~ Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December next following their election to vote for the President and Vice President of the United States, agreeably to the laws of the United States.

Sec. 81. 18 V.S.A. § 9435 is amended to read:

§ 9435. EXCLUSIONS

* * *

(g) With the approval of the Commissioner of Health, excluded from this subchapter is a facility in which the prescription, distribution, or administration of medication for opioid use disorder is a principal activity.

Sec. 82. 18 V.S.A. § 4772 is amended to read:

§ 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Health shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to occur on or before June 30, 2022.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly but not more than ~~six~~ 12 times per calendar year.

(3) The Advisory Committee shall adopt procedures to govern its proceedings and organization, including voting procedures and how the staggered terms shall be apportioned among members.

(4) All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be consistent with Vermont’s Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Advisory Committee serving in the member’s capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than ~~six~~ 12 meetings per year. These payments shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

(2) Other members of the Advisory Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than ~~six~~ 12 meetings per year. These payments shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

Sec. 83. 27 V.S.A. § 1513 is amended to read:

§ 1513. PAYMENT OR DELIVERY OF PROPERTY TO ADMINISTRATOR

* * *

(f) If property reported to the Administrator under section 1491 of this title is virtual currency, the holder shall liquidate the virtual currency and remit the proceeds to the Administrator. The liquidation shall occur anytime within 30 days prior to the remittance. The owner of the property shall not have recourse against the holder or the Administrator to recover any gain in value that occurs after the liquidation of the virtual currency for property properly reported as set forth in this chapter.

(g) The Administrator shall establish procedures for the registration, issuance, method of delivery, transfer, and maintenance of securities delivered to the Administrator by a holder.

~~(g)~~(h) An issuer, holder, and transfer agent or other person acting under this section under instructions of and on behalf of the issuer or holder is not liable to the apparent owner for, and must be indemnified by the State against, a claim arising with respect to property after the property has been delivered to the Administrator.

~~(h)~~(i) A holder is not required to deliver to the Administrator a security identified by the holder as a ~~non-freely~~ nonfreely transferable security. If the Administrator or holder determines that a security is no longer a ~~non-freely~~ nonfreely transferable security, the holder shall deliver the security on the next regular date prescribed for delivery of securities under this chapter. The holder shall make a determination annually whether a security identified in a report filed under section 1491 of this title as a ~~non-freely~~ nonfreely transferable security is no longer a ~~non-freely~~ nonfreely transferable security.

Sec. 84. 20 V.S.A. § 3173 is amended to read:

§ 3173. MONETARY BENEFIT

(a) The survivors of emergency personnel who dies while in the line of duty or from an occupation-related illness may apply for a payment of ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$80,000.00 from the State.

(b) The State Treasurer shall disburse from the Special Fund established in section 3175 of this title the monetary benefit described in subsection (a) of this section and shall adopt necessary procedures for the disbursement of such funds.

Sec. 85. 16 V.S.A. § 1949 is amended to read:

§ 1949. POSTRETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS TO RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES

(a) Postretirement adjustments to retirement allowance. On January 1 of each year, the retirement allowance of each beneficiary of the System who is in receipt of a retirement allowance for at least a one-year period as of December 31 in the previous year, and who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in this section, shall be adjusted by the amount described in subsection (d) of this section. In no event shall a beneficiary receive a negative adjustment to the beneficiary's retirement allowance.

(b) Calculation of net percentage increase. Each year, a determination shall be made of any increase or decrease, to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, in the Consumer Price Index for the month ending on June 30 of that year to the average of the Consumer Price Index for the month ending on June 30 of the previous year.

~~(1) Consumer Price Index; maximum and minimum amounts. Any increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index shall be subject to adjustment so as to remain within the following maximum and minimum amounts:~~

~~(A) For Group A members and Group C members who are eligible for normal retirement or unreduced early retirement, or who are vested deferred, on or before June 30, 2022, the maximum amount of any increase or decrease utilized to determine the net percentage increase shall be five percent.~~

~~(B) For Group C members who are eligible for retirement and leave active service on or after July 1, 2022, the maximum amount of any increase or decrease utilized to determine the net percentage increase shall be four percent.~~

~~(2) Consumer Price Index; decreases. In the event of a decrease of the Consumer Price Index as of June 30 for the preceding year, there shall be no adjustment to the retirement allowance of a beneficiary for the subsequent year beginning on January 1; provided, however, that:~~

~~(A) such decrease shall be applied as an offset against the first subsequent year's increase of the Consumer Price Index up to the full amount of such increase; and~~

(B) to the extent that such decrease is greater than such subsequent year's increase, such decrease shall be offset in the same manner against two or more years of such increases, for up to but not exceeding five subsequent years of such increases, until fully offset.

~~(3)~~(2) Consumer Price Index; increases. ~~Subject to the maximum and minimum amounts set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, in~~ In the event of an ~~4~~increase in the Consumer Price Index, and provided there remains an increase following the application of any offset as in subdivision ~~(2)~~(1) of this subsection, that amount shall be identified as the net percentage increase and used to determine the members' postretirement adjustment as set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

(c) Eligibility for postretirement adjustment. In order for a beneficiary to receive a postretirement adjustment allowance, the beneficiary must meet the following eligibility requirements:

(1) ~~for~~ For any Group A or Group C member eligible for normal retirement, or who is vested deferred, on or before June 30, 2022, the member must be in receipt of a retirement allowance for at least 12 months prior to the January 1 effective date of any postretirement adjustment; ~~and~~.

(2) ~~for~~ For any Group C member who is first eligible for normal retirement and leaves active service on or after July 1, 2022, the member must be in receipt of a retirement allowance for at least 24 months prior to the January 1 effective date of any postretirement adjustment.

(3) Special rule for Group C early retirement. A Group C member in receipt of an early retirement allowance shall not receive a postretirement adjustment to the member's retirement allowance until such time as the member has reached normal retirement age, provided the member meets all eligibility criteria set forth in this subsection.

(d) Amount of postretirement adjustment. The postretirement adjustment for each member who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (c) of this section shall be as follows:

(1) the full amount of the net percentage increase calculated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for all Group A members; ~~and~~, provided that:

(A) the net percentage increase following the application of any offset as provided in this section equals or exceeds one percent; and

(B) the maximum amount of any adjustment under this section shall be five percent; and

(2) one-half of the net percentage increase calculated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for all Group C members;., provided that:

(A) For Group C members eligible for normal retirement or who are vested deferred on or before June 30, 2022, the maximum amount of any adjustment under this section shall be five percent. An adjustment of less than one percent shall be assigned a value of one percent.

(B) For Group C members first eligible for normal retirement and who leave active service on or after July 1, 2022, the maximum amount of any adjustment under this section shall be four percent and the minimum amount shall be zero percent.

(e) As used in this section, “Consumer Price Index” ~~shall mean~~ means the Northeast Region Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, designated as “CPI-U,” in the northeast region, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sec. 86. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 36 is amended to read:

Sec. 36 MIDDLE-INCOME HOMEOWNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

(a) The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall establish a Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program pursuant to this section.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) “Affordable owner-occupied housing” means owner-occupied housing identified in 26 U.S.C. § 143(c)(1) or that qualifies under Vermont Housing Finance Agency criteria governing owner-occupied housing.

(2) “Income-eligible homebuyer” means a Vermont household with annual income that does not exceed 150 percent of area median income.

(c) The Agency shall use the funds appropriated in this section to provide subsidies for new construction or acquisition and substantial rehabilitation of affordable owner-occupied housing for purchase by income-eligible homebuyers.

(d) The total amount of subsidies for a project shall not exceed 35 percent of eligible development costs, as determined by the Agency, which the Agency may allocate consistent with the following:

(1) Developer subsidy. The Agency may provide a direct subsidy to the developer, which shall not exceed the difference between the cost of development and the market value of the home as completed.

(2) Affordability subsidy. Of any remaining amounts available for the project after the developer subsidy, the Agency may provide a subsidy for the benefit of the homebuyer to reduce the cost of purchasing the home, provided that:

(A) the Agency includes conditions in the subsidy, agreement or uses another legal mechanism, to ensure that, to the extent the home value has risen, the amount of the subsidy upon sale of the home, to the extent proceeds are available, the amount of the affordability subsidy either:

(i) remains with the home to offset the cost to future homebuyers;
or

(ii) is recaptured by the Agency upon sale of the home for use in a similar program to support affordable homeownership development; or

(B) the subsidy is subject to a housing subsidy covenant, as defined in 27 V.S.A. § 610, that preserves the affordability of the home for a period of 99 years or longer.

(3) The Agency shall allocate not less than 33 percent of the funds available through the Program to projects that include a housing subsidy covenant consistent with subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection.

(e) The Agency shall adopt a Program plan that establishes application and selection criteria, including:

- (1) project location;
- (2) geographic distribution;
- (3) leveraging of other programs;
- (4) housing market needs;
- (5) project characteristics, including whether the project includes the use of existing housing as part of a community revitalization plan;
- (6) construction standards, including considerations for size;
- (7) priority for plans with deeper affordability and longer duration of affordability requirements;
- (8) sponsor characteristics;
- (9) energy efficiency of the development; and
- (10) the historic nature of the project.

(f)(1) When implementing the Program, the Agency shall consult stakeholders and experts in the field.

(2) The Program shall include:

- (A) a streamlined and appropriately scaled application process;

(B) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to reach and support eligible applicants, especially those from underserved regions or sectors;

(C) an equitable system for distributing investments statewide on the basis of need according to a system of priorities that includes consideration of:

- (i) geographic distribution;
- (ii) community size;
- (iii) community economic need; and

(iv) whether an application has already received an investment or is from an applicant in a community that has already received Program funding.

(3) The Agency shall use its best efforts to ensure:

~~(A) that investments awarded are targeted to the geographic communities or regions with the most pressing economic and employment needs; and~~

~~(B) that the allocation of investments provides equitable access to the benefits to all eligible geographical areas.~~

(g) The Agency may assign its rights under any investment or subsidy made under this section to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or any State agency or nonprofit organization qualifying under 26 U.S.C § 501(c)(3), provided such assignee acknowledges and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section.

(h) The Department shall report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on the status of the Program annually, on or before January 15.

Sec. 87. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 37 is amended to read:

~~Sec. 37. MIDDLE-INCOME HOMEOWNERSHIP; IMPLEMENTATION~~

~~The duty to implement Sec. 36 of this act is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2024 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a subgrant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency for the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 88. UNRESERVED EDUCATION FUNDS; VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TRANSFER

(a) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the amount of \$9,100,000 in Education Fund dollars reserved

in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. D.104(a) is unreserved, and the sum of \$9,340,000 in Education Fund dollars is transferred to the Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund, established in 16 V.S.A. § 1944, to fund the present value of modifications made to the postretirement adjustments allowance set forth in Sec. 85 of this act.

Sec. 89. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOUSING

(a) To the extent emergency housing is available, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall ensure that temporary emergency housing is provided through June 30, 2024 to households eligible for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program, including beneficiaries of the emergency housing transition benefit that is set to conclude on April 1, 2024 and including those individuals who qualify for temporary emergency housing pursuant to both the Department's adverse weather condition policy and either catastrophic or vulnerable population eligibility. Participation pursuant to this subsection shall not be bound by day limit maximums and shall be subject to the following eligibility criteria:

(1) for beneficiaries of the emergency housing transition benefit, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6, and Department for Children and Families, Emergency Housing Transition Benefit (EH-100), adopted under Secretary of State emergency rule filing number 23-E12 or any future identical emergency rule adopted by the Department; and

(2) for all other participants of the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program, including those individuals who qualify for temporary emergency housing pursuant to both the Department's adverse weather condition policy and either catastrophic or vulnerable population eligibility, Department for Children and Families, General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260) as amended by Department for Children and Families under Secretary of State emergency rule filing number 23-E11 or any future identical emergency rule adopted by the Department.

(b) A household that is otherwise eligible for temporary emergency housing pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, but for the inability to qualify for or document receipt of SSI or SSDI, may use the Department's Emergency Housing Disability Variance Request Form as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition.

(c) Temporary emergency housing required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may be provided through approved shelters, new unit generation, open units, licensed hotels or motels, or other appropriate shelter space. The Agency of Human Services shall, when available, prioritize temporary

emergency housing at housing or shelter placements other than licensed hotels or motels.

(d) On or before the last day of each month from April 2024 through June 2024, the Agency of Human Services, or other relevant agency or department, shall continue submitting a substantially similar report to that due pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6(b).

(e) For temporary emergency housing provided beginning on March 1, 2024 and thereafter, the Agency of Human Services shall not pay a licensed hotel or motel establishment more than the lowest advertised room rate and not more than \$80 a day per room to shelter a household experiencing homelessness. The Agency of Human Services may shelter a household in more than one licensed hotel or motel room depending on the household's size and composition.

(f) The Agency of Human Services shall apply the following rules:

(1) Section 2650.1 of the Department for Children and Families, General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260);

(2) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(3) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(g)(1) Prior to June 1, 2024, the Agency of Human Services may work with either a shelter provider or a community housing agency to enter into a full facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider. Any facility conversion under this section shall comply with the Office of Economic Opportunity's shelter standards.

(2) If the Agency determines that a contractual agreement with a licensed hotel or motel operator to secure temporary emergency housing capacity is beneficial to improve the quality, cleanliness, or access to services for those households temporarily housed in the facility, the Agency shall be authorized to enter into such an agreement in accordance with the per-room rate identified in subsection (e) of this section; provided, however, that in no event shall such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused. The Agency may include provisions to address access to services or related needs within the contractual agreement.

Sec. 90. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 1, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 13, 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 189, Sec. 26, and 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 24, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. VERMONT STRONG MOTOR VEHICLE PLATES

(a) ~~Intent. It is the intent of this act to recognize all of those who have suffered losses because of the destruction brought by Tropical Storm Irene and the flooding of 2011, and to commemorate the contributions of the many who are helping to rebuild Vermont and to make it stronger. [Repealed.]~~

(b) Authority; accounting and reporting; bundles.

(1) ~~The department of motor vehicles (“department”)~~ Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized to design, manufacture or procure, and distribute one or more commemorative plates that include the text “Vermont Strong” in accordance with this section. ~~The department and Vermont Life magazine are~~ Department is authorized to sell commemorative plates individually or in conjunction with a bundled promotional item. ~~The department~~ Department may also authorize other persons to sell commemorative plates, provided that such persons are required to pay the ~~department~~ Department ~~\$25.00~~ \$35.00 per plate within 30 days of after receiving the plates from the ~~department~~ Department.

(2) ~~A The Vermont Strong commemorative plate fund (the “fund”)~~ Commemorative Plate Fund is established. ~~The fund~~ Fund shall be under the control of the ~~commissioner of motor vehicles~~ Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee, and shall consist of all receipts from the sales of Vermont Strong commemorative plates and bundled promotional items. ~~The commissioner~~ Commissioner shall account for all proceeds of sales of commemorative plates and bundled promotional items and all receipts into and disbursements from the ~~fund~~ Fund; shall track the number of plates and bundled promotional items distributed and sold; and shall track and collect payments owed for plates distributed. ~~The commissioner~~ Commissioner shall transfer funds from the ~~fund~~ Fund in accordance with subsection (d) of this section ~~no~~ not less often than once per month. ~~The department~~ Department shall report its accounting of ~~fund~~ Fund receipts and disbursements, plate inventory, and uncollected payments for plates distributed to the ~~joint fiscal committee at its November 2012 meeting~~ House and Senate Committees on Transportation and the Joint Fiscal Committee not later than May 1, 2024.

(c) Use. An approved Vermont Strong commemorative plate may be displayed on a motor vehicle registered in Vermont as a pleasure car or on a motor truck registered in Vermont for less than 26,001 pounds (2, but excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan), by covering the

front registration plate with the commemorative plate any time from the effective date of this act. The regular front registration plate shall not be removed. The regular rear registration plate shall be in place and clearly visible at all times.

(d) Price and allocation of revenue.

(1) The retail price of the plate shall be ~~\$25.00~~ \$35.00, except that on or after July 1, ~~2016~~ 2026, plates may be sold by the Commissioner for \$5.00.

(2) Funds received from the sale of plates for \$5.00 shall be allocated to the Department; funds received from the sale of the plates for ~~\$25.00~~ \$35.00 shall be allocated as follows:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) \$5.00 to the Department;

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) ~~\$18.00 to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund~~ \$15.00 to the Vermont Community Foundation; and

~~(3)(C)~~ (C) ~~\$2.00 to the Vermont Foodbank~~ \$15.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

(3) Funds received from the sale of bundled promotional items, less any costs to the Department for the purchase of the bundled promotional items, shall be allocated as follows:

(A) 50 percent to the Vermont Community Foundation; and

(B) 50 percent to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

(e) Funding. ~~The department of motor vehicles~~ Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized to obtain an advance from the Vermont Strong ~~commemorative plate fund~~ Commemorative Plate Fund in an anticipation of receipts. ~~The amount to be determined by the commissioner of motor vehicles in anticipation of receipts from the administration of this section~~ Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not exceed the projected number of plates to be sold multiplied by the amount provided in subdivision (d)(2)(A) of this section.

(f) Tax exemption. Sales of commemorative plates pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the sales and use tax established by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233.

Sec. 91. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 1, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 13, 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 189, Sec. 26, 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 24, and Sec. 90 of this act is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. VERMONT STRONG MOTOR VEHICLE PLATES

(a) [Repealed.]

(b) Authority; accounting and reporting; ~~bundles~~.

(1) The Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized to design, manufacture or procure, and distribute one or more commemorative plates that include the text “Vermont Strong” in accordance with this section. The Department is authorized to sell commemorative plates ~~individually or in conjunction with a bundled promotional item~~. The Department may also authorize other persons to sell commemorative plates, provided that such persons are required to pay the Department \$35.00 per plate within 30 days after receiving the plates from the Department.

(2) The Vermont Strong Commemorative Plate Fund is established. The Fund shall be under the control of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or designee, and shall consist of all receipts from the sales of Vermont Strong commemorative plates and bundled promotional items. The Commissioner shall account for all proceeds of sales of commemorative plates and bundled promotional items and all receipts into and disbursements from the Fund; shall track the number of plates and bundled promotional items distributed and sold; and shall track and collect payments owed for plates distributed. The Commissioner shall ~~transfer~~ disburse funds from the Fund in accordance with subsection (d) of this section not less often than once per month. The Department shall report its accounting of Fund receipts and disbursements, plate inventory, and uncollected payments for plates distributed to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and the Joint Fiscal Committee not later than May 1, 2024.

* * *

(d) Price and allocation of revenue.

(1) The retail price of the plate shall be \$35.00, except that on or after July 1, 2026, plates may be sold by the Commissioner for \$5.00.

(2) Funds received from the sale of plates for \$5.00 shall be allocated to the Department; funds received from the sale of the plates for \$35.00 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) \$5.00 to the Department; and

(B) ~~\$15.00~~ \$30.00 to the Vermont Community Foundation; and

(C) ~~\$15.00~~ to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program General Fund. It is the intent of the General Assembly that an amount equal to these receipts be used for natural disaster relief.

(3) Funds received from the sale of bundled promotional items prior to the effective date of this section, less any costs to the Department for the purchase of the bundled promotional items, shall be allocated as follows:

(A) 50 percent to the Vermont Community Foundation; and

(B) 50 percent to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

* * *

(g) Bundled promotional items. The State shall not be involved with the sale of any bundled promotional items.

Sec. 92. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at each of its scheduled meetings in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 on funding received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and associated emergency relief and assistance funds match for the damages due to the July 2023 flooding event. The report shall include:

(1) a projection of the total funding needs for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and to the extent possible, details about the projected funding by State agency or municipality;

(2) spending authority (appropriated and excess receipts) granted to date for the FEMA Public Assistance Program and the associated emergency relief and assistance funds match;

(3) information on any audit findings that may result in financial impacts to the State; and

(4) actual expenditures to date made from the spending authority granted and to the extent possible, details about the expended funds by State agency or municipality.

(b) Reports shall be posted on the legislative and administration websites after submission.

Sec. 93. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 2, as amended by 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 1, 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 117, Sec. 2, and 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 5, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 2. CERTIFICATE OF NEED WORK GROUP; MORATORIUM

* * *

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no CON shall be granted for the offering of home health services, which includes hospice, or for a new home health agency during the period beginning on the effective date of this act and continuing through January 1, ~~2025~~ 2030, or until the General Assembly lifts the moratorium after considering a progress report on the Green Mountain Care Board's implementation of its health care reform initiatives and health planning function and how they relate to home health agencies, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that the moratorium established pursuant to this subsection shall not apply to a continuing care retirement community that has been issued a certificate of authority or to a licensed home for persons who are terminally ill as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102.

* * *

Sec. 94. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 2, as amended by 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 117, Sec. 3 and 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 5, Sec. 2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 2. PERIODIC HEALTH PLANNING FUNCTION PROGRESS REPORTS

For as long as the moratorium continues for certificates of need for the offering of home health services, as established in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 2 and as amended by 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 1, 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 117, Sec. 2, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 5, Sec. 1, and this act, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare any progress reports the Board generates on its implementation of its health care reform initiatives and health planning function and how they relate to home health agencies.

Sec. 95. 21 V.S.A. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

* * *

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, an employer shall not pay an employee less than one and one-half times the regular wage rate for any

work done by the employee in excess of 40 hours during a workweek. However, this subsection shall not apply to:

* * *

(8) Permanent employees of the Vermont General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. 96. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 64, Sec. 3a. is amended to read:

Sec. 3a. APPROPRIATION; SCHOOL MEALS

The sum of ~~\$29,000,000.00~~ \$24,000,000 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education for fiscal year 2024 to provide reimbursement for school meals under 16 V.S.A. § 4017.

Sec. 97. 16 V.S.A. chapter 1, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Afterschool and Summer Care

§ 51. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be managed by the Agency of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Fund shall be used as follows:

(1) To establish a grant program that supports the expansion of universal afterschool and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the State.

(2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

(A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

(B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

(C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require that a grantee does not discriminate, and prohibits its employees, agents, subcontractors, and other service providers from discriminating, on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

(D) The Agency may use up to \$500,000.00 annually for administrative costs to allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant program.

(b) An advisory committee is created to support the Secretary in administering the funds. The Agency shall provide administrative and technical support to the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall be composed of:

- (1) the State's Chief Prevention Officer;
- (2) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;
- (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;
- (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
- (5) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;
- (6) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;
- (7) the Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or designee; and
- (8) a representative from the Governor's office.

(c) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before November 15, the Agency shall submit to the General Assembly a plan to fund grants pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in the coming year and a report containing outcomes data on the grants made during the previous year. The Agency shall report on the number of programs, slots, weeks, or hours; geographic distribution of programs receiving a grant; and what is known about costs to families participating in programs receiving a grant. The report shall be inclusive of 21st Century programming.

(d) The amount of grant funds awarded shall be in alignment with the actual revenue collected from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 on cannabis or cannabis products in this State. Discrepancies between the amount of grant funds awarded and actual revenue shall be reconciled through the budget adjustment process.

Sec. 98. 32 V.S.A. chapter 207 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 207. CANNABIS EXCISE TAX AND CANNABIS
SALES TAX REVENUE

* * *

§ 7910. CANNABIS SALES TAX REVENUE; UNIVERSAL
AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, revenue from the sales and use tax imposed by chapter 233 of this title on retail sales of cannabis or cannabis products in Vermont shall be deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 51.

Sec. 99. REPEAL; AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING
PROGRAMS

16 V.S.A § 4018 (afterschool and summer learning programs) is repealed.

Sec. 99a. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.323.7 is amended to read:

Sec. E_323.7 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

* * *

(c) The incentive payments provided in subdivision (a)(4) of this section are reimbursements for past or future work expenses incurred by participating families.

Sec. 100. 7 V.S.A. § 843(f) is amended to read:

(f) Executive Director. The Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall ~~be an attorney with~~ have prior experience in legislative or regulatory matters. The Director shall be a full-time State employee, shall be exempt from the State classified system, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Director shall be responsible for:

(1) supervising and administering the operation and implementation of this chapter and chapters 35 and 37 of this title and the rules adopted by the Board as directed by the Board;

(2) assisting the Board in its duties and administering the licensing requirements of this chapter and chapters 35 and 37 of this title;

(3) acting as Secretary to the Board, but as a nonvoting member of the Board;

(4) employing such staff as may be required to carry out the functions of the Board; and

(5) preparing an annual budget for submission to the Board.

Sec. 101. FOSTER CARE; SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION; EXPENDITURE

(a) The Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division shall spend funds appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.317 on a four percent rate increase for foster care and subsidized adoption.

Sec. 102 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. PRACTICAL NURSE; WORKFORCE FUNDING

(a) Due to the increasing challenge of the pandemic on the health professions, the sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to ~~open 40 to 45 seats in the Practical Nurse Program in partnership with skilled nursing facilities across the State to upskill existing staff to achieve certification as a practical nurse~~ purchase nursing simulation equipment to expand nursing student enrollment capacity and address the critical nursing shortage facing Vermont. These funds shall be used as follows:

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

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

(3) All remaining funds shall be allocated for tuition and fees payments for required prerequisite courses at Community College of Vermont and for the Practical Nurse Program at Vermont Technical College after available federal and State financial aid is applied to ensure no cost to the student.

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

Sec. 103. CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, General, Transportation, Transportation Infrastructure Bond, Education Fund, Clean Water Fund (21932), and Agricultural Water Quality Fund (21933) appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2024 in the Executive Branch shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, General Fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2024 in the Legislative and Judicial Branches shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(c) As part the fiscal year 2025 budget adjustment presentation, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with a report on reversions and approved carryforward by appropriation.

Sec. 104. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 74 (16 V.S.A. § 4025(b)(2) amendment) is effective retroactively on July 1, 2023.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 20 (B.334.1 amendment) is effective retroactively on January 1, 2024.

(c) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 90 (Vermont Strong license plates through passage) shall take effect retroactively on August 23, 2023.

(d) All other sections shall take effect on passage.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

*M. JANE KITCHEL
ANDREW J. PERCHLIK
RICHARD A. WESTMAN*

Committee on the part of the Senate

*DIANE LANPHER
ROBIN SCHEU
THERESA WOOD*

Committee on the part of the House

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, **Rep. Sibilis of Dover** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number.

At ten o'clock and seventeen minutes in the forenoon, the hour for the Joint Assembly having arrived, the Speaker called for a recess and pursuant to the provisions of Joint House resolution, entitled

J.R.H. 8. Joint resolution providing for an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of Sergeant at Arms

The Senate appeared in the Hall of the House.

Thereupon, the Joint Assembly having concluded its session, at eleven o'clock and thirty-two minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the report of the Committee of Conference be adopted?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 129. Nays, 9.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford
Anthony of Barre City

Elder of Starksboro
Emmons of Springfield

Morrissey of Bennington
Mrowicki of Putney

Arrison of Weathersfield	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Nicoll of Ludlow
Austin of Colchester	Galfetti of Barre Town	Notte of Rutland City
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Noyes of Wolcott
Bartley of Fairfax	Goldman of Rockingham *	Nugent of South Burlington
Berbeco of Winooski	Goslant of Northfield	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Birong of Vergennes	Graham of Williamstown	Ode of Burlington
Black of Essex	Gregoire of Fairfield	Oliver of Sheldon
Bluemle of Burlington *	Hango of Berkshire	Page of Newport City
Bongartz of Manchester	Harrison of Chittenden	Pajala of Londonderry
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Headrick of Burlington	Parsons of Newbury
Boyden of Cambridge	Higley of Lowell	Patt of Worcester
Branagan of Georgia *	Hooper of Burlington	Peterson of Clarendon
Brennan of Colchester	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pouech of Hinesburg
Brown of Richmond	Hyman of South Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Brownell of Pownal	James of Manchester *	Rachelson of Burlington
Brumsted of Shelburne	Jerome of Brandon	Rice of Dorset
Burditt of West Rutland	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Roberts of Halifax
Burke of Brattleboro	Krasnow of South Burlington *	Sammis of Castleton *
Buss of Woodstock	Labor of Morgan	Satcowitz of Randolph
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	LaBounty of Lyndon	Scheu of Middlebury
Canfield of Fair Haven	Lalley of Shelburne	Shaw of Pittsford
Carpenter of Hyde Park	LaLonde of South Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Casey of Montpelier	LaMont of Morristown	Sims of Craftsbury
Chase of Chester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Small of Winooski
Chase of Colchester	Laroche of Franklin	Smith of Derby
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Squirrell of Underhill
Christie of Hartford	Lipsky of Stowe	Stebbins of Burlington *
Cina of Burlington	Logan of Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Clifford of Rutland City	Long of Newfane	Surprenant of Barnard
Coffey of Guilford	Maguire of Rutland City	Taylor of Milton
Cole of Hartford	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Colchester
Conlon of Cornwall	Masland of Thetford	Templeman of Brownington
Corcoran of Bennington	Mattos of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town
Demar of Enosburgh	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Torre of Moretown
Demrow of Corinth	McCoy of Poultney	Troiano of Stannard
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	McFaun of Barre Town	Walker of Swanton
Dodge of Essex	McGill of Bridport	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolan of Essex Junction	Mihaly of Calais	White of Bethel
Dolan of Waitsfield *	Morgan of Milton	Whitman of Bennington
Donahue of Northfield	Morris of Springfield	Williams of Barre City *
Durfee of Shaftsbury		Williams of Granby
		Wood of Waterbury *

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Hooper of Randolph	Stone of Burlington *
Brady of Williston *	Minier of South Burlington *	Toleno of Brattleboro
Burrows of West Windsor *	Sibilia of Dover *	
Holcombe of Norwich		

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Andriano of Orwell	Cordes of Lincoln	Mulvaney-Stanak of
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Graning of Jericho	Burlington
Carroll of Bennington	Howard of Rutland City	Pearl of Danville
Chapin of East Montpelier	McCann of Montpelier	Wilson of Lyndon

Rep. Bluemle of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I rise in support of what the bill does for so many of our neighbors who are unhoused, suffer addiction, have served our country, or been affected by floods. I do so with particular thanks to the courage and creativity of the Chair of Human Services, her committee, and tireless advocates whose work has extended shelter to some of our most vulnerable Vermonters. And as many have said, we have more work to do.”

Rep. Brady of Williston explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted no today. It’s Public Schools Week and a peek into any classroom on any given day would likely fill us all with tremendous hope about our future. But I think we all understand that our system is also under extraordinary strain at this moment for a lot of complex reasons. I fear that one of the reasons is that at the statewide level, we are sometimes avoiding hard decisions in order to please everyone, rather than coming together for one coherent, forward looking public education system that serves all kids and uses our precious statewide resources in the most sustainable and efficient manner.”

Rep. Branagan of Georgia explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am a person of strong faith. There should be no discrimination in any of our work and to protect the people in my district I watch for it in all our bills. This Committee of Conference Report does not discriminate in any way. Members should read the wording on p. 822 in today’s Calendar, Sec. 92.”

Rep. Burrows of West Windsor explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

It is with significant and deepest regret that I cannot vote in favor of this bill, which provides a step toward making Vermonters whole. But it also surprises me that the end result of the Conference Committee, charged with compromise, is actually a decreased compromise regarding the disposition of after-school funding in Section 97. This Budget Adjustment Act contains SO

MANY courageous and thoughtful measures to stabilize many areas of Vermont life, and that is exactly why it mystifies me that there is *policy* still contained herein – policy that effectively further destabilizes protections for ALL children. Besides the aforementioned and clear erosions of their legal protections, living in a rural community I will be sad to witness the loss of our summer programs and after-school programs, established as partnerships between our LEAs and communities to bridge learning loss, evaporating now because nothing will fill that gap in many small towns, in rural areas. I continue to be baffled that despite a huge protest vote in the Senate this matter was not removed for ample legislative policy consideration. This is NOT a good way to consider policy with implications for the well-being of our State’s biggest asset - our children - but perhaps this outcome in privatizing our after-school and summer programs, during Public Schools Week and amid painful funding turmoil, is just where we are: a thought we wrestle with and then drop because we are wont to avoid the sometimes-difficult work toward protections for all. We can, and we must, do better on behalf of our public schools, our rural communities, our families, and our children.”

Rep. Dolan of Waitsfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes, as this bill provides the much-needed flood recovery funds that our communities so desperately need to get back on their feet. This body must remain vigilant in supporting public education free of the risk of discrimination now and into the future.”

Rep. Goldman of Rockingham explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes today on the BAA because I know this money is needed in our communities, particularly those affected by the recent floods. But I continue to have very serious concerns about potential discrimination in the after school and summer programs as currently designed and I implore leadership to move this conversation forward.”

Rep. James of Manchester explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

One essential role of our State government is to protect the most vulnerable Vermonters. In this budget adjustment, the Legislature has taken the lead on housing those who would otherwise be unhoused and on providing much-needed relief to towns devastated by floods. For those reasons above all, I vote yes.”

Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes for the Budget Adjustment. Among many things, the Budget Adjustment includes \$380,000 for Vermont’s four adult education and literacy providers, which deliver adult basic education services across the State. If you had the chance to meet with the providers and adult learners in the building yesterday, then you know what a valuable service adult basic education is to the State of Vermont. They are relying on this funding to keep the lights on at their learning centers across the State.”

Rep. Minier of South Burlington explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am compelled to speak today for the reasons so eloquently outlined by my colleagues from Dover, Hyde Park, Norwich, Williston, Cornwall, West Windsor, and Rockingham. There is so much to like in this bill, but my concern for public education prevents me from voting for it. Twice in my time here I have chosen pragmatism over either process or principle, and I regret both instances. I speak now not to chide but to exhort - myself as much as anyone. I vote no because of my support for public education and our kids.”

Rep. Sammis of Castleton explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes in support of this budget adjustment. While it may have potential flaws that need to be resolved, it directly addresses the needs of suffering Vermonters, Vermonters who are suffering right now as we sit in this chamber, who have needed our support since last July and December. It is now March. We need to move forward and address this disaster relief that should have been addressed months ago. Any more delays will only further the suffering of displaced Vermonters – let’s not leave them behind.”

Rep Sibilis of Dover explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This bill contains support for many vulnerable and flood impacted communities. But we should not have combined support for flood impacted communities with rolling back discrimination protections for all Vermonters. I must vote no. The continued failure to address Carson now results in a new avenue for publicly funded discrimination.”

Rep. Stebbins of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes today for all of the good in this Budget Adjustment Act. And, I stand in support that we must address the challenge of how we strengthen our public schools to nurture all of our children.”

Rep. Stone of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While I support much of this bill, I voted no because we are at a crossroads in education, particularly in a post-Carson world. We should be intentional about where our public tax dollars go and ensure we are supporting, empowering, and uplifting our public schools as they truly are a bedrock of our democracy, uphold values of inclusion, and serve all of Vermont’s children without exception.”

Rep. Williams of Barre City explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes on this bill to demonstrate to those who lost so much that their government, their elected representatives, will be there for them. This was not the first flood, nor will it be the last. We must be ready.”

Rep. Wood of Waterbury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This Budget Adjustment continues to house some of our State’s very vulnerable citizens. To see the face of homelessness we only need to look in the mirror. This budget supports our very humanity.”

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 47

Joint Senate resolution, entitled

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of two Superior Judges and one Magistrate

Having been placed on the Calendar for Action, was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Message from the Senate No. 27

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 209. An act relating to prohibiting unserialized firearms and unserialized firearms frames and receivers.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 516. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Essex Junction.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 164. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supporting the important work it represents.

H.C.R. 165. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship boys' indoor track and field team.

H.C.R. 166. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning its third consecutive State championship.

H.C.R. 167. House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of U.S. Navy Torpedoman 2nd Class Henry Breault's becoming the first submariner to receive the Medal of Honor.

H.C.R. 168. House concurrent resolution honoring the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington.

H.C.R. 169. House concurrent resolution honoring Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame member Harold Martin, in celebration of Black History Month.

H.C.R. 170. House concurrent resolution honoring Putney Fire Chief Thomas Goddard for his exemplary achievements as a municipal public safety official.

Adjournment

At twelve o'clock and fifteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 33.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 164

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supporting the important work it represents

H.C.R. 165

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship boys' indoor track and field team

H.C.R. 166

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning its third consecutive State championship

H.C.R. 167

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of U.S. Navy Torpedoman 2nd Class Henry Breault's becoming the first submariner to receive the Medal of Honor

H.C.R. 168

House concurrent resolution honoring the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington

H.C.R. 169

House concurrent resolution honoring Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame member Harold Martin, in celebration of Black History Month

H.C.R. 170

House concurrent resolution honoring Putney Fire Chief Thomas Goddard for his exemplary achievements as a municipal public safety official

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2024 Adjourned Session.]