

1 Report of Committee of Conference

2 H.494

3 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

6 H.494. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of  
7 government.

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

12 \* \* \* Purpose, Definitions, Legend \* \* \*

13 Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

14 (a) This bill may be referred to as the BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2024  
15 Appropriations Act.

16 Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

17 (a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of  
18 State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds  
19 during fiscal year 2024. It is the express intent of the General Assembly that  
20 activities of the various agencies, departments, divisions, boards, and  
21 commissions be limited to those which can be supported by funds appropriated

1 in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2023. Agency and department  
2 heads are directed to implement staffing and service levels at the beginning of  
3 fiscal year 2024 to meet this condition unless otherwise directed by specific  
4 language in this act or other acts of the General Assembly.

5 Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

6 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serve as the primary  
7 source and reference for appropriations for the operation of State government  
8 for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds during fiscal year  
9 2024.

10 (b) The sums stated in this act are appropriated for the purposes specified  
11 in the following sections of this act. When no time is expressly stated during  
12 which any of the appropriations are to continue, the appropriations are single-  
13 year appropriations, only for the purpose indicated and shall be paid from  
14 funds shown as the source of funds. If in this act there is an error in either  
15 addition or subtraction, the totals shall be adjusted accordingly. Apparent  
16 errors in referring to section numbers of statutory titles within this act may be  
17 disregarded by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

18 (c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act  
19 apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024.

20 Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

21 (a) As used in this act:

1           (1) “Encumbrances” means a portion of an appropriation reserved for  
2 the subsequent payment of existing purchase orders or contracts. The  
3 Commissioner of Finance and Management shall make final decisions on the  
4 appropriateness of encumbrances.

5           (2) “Grants” means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to  
6 community and quasi-public agencies for providing local services, and to  
7 persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash  
8 or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

9           (3) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and  
10 maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities;  
11 office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway  
12 materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and  
13 construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

14           (4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries; fringe benefits; per  
15 diems; contracted third-party services; and similar items.

16           (5) “Capital appropriation” means an appropriation for tangible capital  
17 investments or expenses that are eligible to be funded from general obligation  
18 debt financing and are allowed under federal laws governing the use of State  
19 bond proceeds as described in 32 V.S.A. § 309.

20   Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

1       (a) Except as specifically provided, this act shall not be construed in any  
2       way to negate or impair the full force and effect of existing laws.

3       Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

4       (a) In the absence of specific provisions to the contrary in this act, when  
5       total appropriations are offset by estimated receipts, the State appropriations  
6       shall control, notwithstanding receipts being greater or less than anticipated.

7       Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

8       (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Governor, with the approval of the General  
9       Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in  
10       session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including  
11       block grants in lieu of or in addition to funds designated as federal in this act.  
12       The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal  
13       Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any  
14       portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for  
15       which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

16       (b) If, during fiscal year 2024, federal funds available to the State of  
17       Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2023 session of  
18       the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants or are  
19       abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new  
20       title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for  
21       any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were

1 appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for no  
2 more than 45 days prior to legislative or Joint Fiscal Committee approval.  
3 Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the  
4 Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint  
5 Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's  
6 request for approval.

7 Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

8 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the total number  
9 of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary  
10 positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during  
11 fiscal year 2024 except for new positions authorized by the 2023 session.  
12 Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 5 shall not  
13 be subject to this restriction.

14 Sec. A.108 LEGEND

15 (a) This act is organized by functions of government. The sections  
16 between B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming  
17 budget year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that  
18 relates to specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The  
19 function areas by section numbers are as follows:

20 <u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>	<u>General Government</u>
21 <u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>	<u>Protection to Persons and</u>

1		<u>Property</u>
2	<u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>	<u>Human Services</u>
3	<u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>	<u>Labor</u>
4	<u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>	<u>General Education</u>
5	<u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
6	<u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
7	<u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>	<u>Commerce and Community</u>
8		<u>Development</u>
9	<u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
10	<u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
11	<u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u>	<u>One-time and other</u>
12		<u>appropriation actions</u>

13       **(b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year, the D**  
14 **sections contain fund transfers, reversions, and reserve allocations for the**  
15 **upcoming budget year, the F sections contain workforce and economic**  
16 **development policies, the G sections contain changes to [Department of Motor](#)**  
17 **[Vehicles fees, and the H section contains effective dates.](#)**

18

19

\*\*\* Fiscal Year 2024 Base Appropriations \*\*\*

20

\*\*\* Fiscal Year 2024 One-time Appropriations \*\*\*

21

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

1                    APPROPRIATIONS

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

4            (1) \$2,300,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a  
5 comprehensive statewide language access plan;

6            (2) \$15,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied  
7 claims for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement.

8            (3) \$500,000 General Fund for community grants made by the Office of  
9 Health Equity. These funds shall not be released until the recommendation and  
10 report required by Sec. E.100.1 of this act, regarding the permanent  
11 administrative location for the Office of Health Equity, is provided to the  
12 committees of jurisdiction listed in Sec. E.100.1 of this act and the positions in  
13 the Office of Health Equity created by this act are filled.

14           (b) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for  
15 the following:

16            (1) \$3,820,000 General Fund and \$5,180,000 American Rescue Plan  
17 Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds for bridge funding to  
18 support ongoing system transformation; and

19            (2) \$4,000,000 General Fund for the Community College of Vermont  
20 to reduce the tuition fee for certificates, degrees, and courses that have a direct  
21 nexus to Vermont business and industry needs.

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

3           (1) \$725,000 General Fund to fund seven new permanent full-time  
4       positions in the Operations division in fiscal year 2024. These position costs  
5       shall be funded through the Department of Human Resources – Internal  
6       Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025;

7           (2) \$75,000 General Fund to fund one new permanent full-time position  
8       in the VTHR Operations division in fiscal year 2024. This position cost shall  
9       be funded through the Department of Human Resources – Internal Service  
10       Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025; and

11           (3) \$1,900,000 General Fund for the implementation of a Paid Family  
12       and Medical Leave Insurance program available to all State employees in fiscal  
13       year 2024. This program cost shall be funded through the Department of  
14       Human Resources – Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025.

15       (d) \$200,000 General Fund to the Department of Libraries in fiscal year  
16       2024 to support the FiberConnect project relating to Internet access in public  
17       libraries.

18       (e) Department of Public Safety. In fiscal year 2024, funds are  
19       appropriated for the following:

20           (1) \$190,000 General Fund for external carriers (vests) that improve the  
21       ergonomics of ballistic personal protective equipment; and



1       (2) \$500,000 General Fund for hiring incentives, including hiring  
2 bonuses, to be paid to all new sworn members and emergency communication  
3 dispatchers; recruitment awards to current members for successful recruitment  
4 of a new member (criteria dependent); and student loan debt repayment of up  
5 to \$10,000 per new hire toward the repayment of preexisting student loan debt.

6       (f) Military Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the  
7 following:

8           (1) \$10,000 General Fund for a grant to the USS Vermont Support  
9 Group, a nonprofit organization supporting military members serving on the  
10 USS Vermont (SSN 792) and their families; and

11           (2) \$10,000 General Fund for a grant to North Country Honor Flight, an  
12 organization that sponsors escorted trips for veterans to visit the war memorials  
13 on the National Mall, to cover the expenses of 10 Vermont resident attendees.

14       (g) Criminal Justice Council. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
15 for the following:

16           (1) \$1,200,000 General Fund for a three-phase accreditation process to  
17 include job task analysis, curriculum development and piloting;

18           (2) \$20,000 General Fund for a records management system to ensure  
19 efficient and compliant recordkeeping, including case management tracking,  
20 reporting, and compliance monitoring for remote learning; and

1           (3) \$200,000 General Fund for a request for proposals and contracts  
2 related to procedure development; off-site course development; records  
3 management system transition; developing pathways to certification; and  
4 medical personnel.

5           (h) \$210,000 General Fund to the Office of the Defender General in fiscal  
6 year 2024, for the case management system.

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

9           (1) \$110,000 General Fund for electric vehicle charger inspections.  
10 Funds shall be used for the purchase of two testing units and related equipment  
11 to support the development and implementation of the Commercial Electric  
12 Vehicle Fueling Systems regulatory program;

13           (2) \$1,070,000 General Fund for replacement of the existing Food  
14 Safety Inspection Database; and

15           (3) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Salvation Farms to expand  
16 access to locally grown food for all Vermonters.

17           (j) \$105,000 General Fund to the Department of Mental Health in fiscal  
18 year 2024 for expediting competency and sanity evaluations.

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

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

4       (2) \$120,500 General Fund for the implementation of a new financial  
5 database solution; and

6       (3) \$50,000 General Fund for the development of the statutorily required  
7 Health Resources Allocation Plan Tool.

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

10       (1) \$1,000,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for the  
11 Employment Assistance Grants program created in 2022 Acts and Resolves  
12 No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45.  
13 Funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the General  
14 Fund;

15       (2) \$8,834,000 General Fund and \$11,483,302 Federal Revenue Fund  
16 #22005 for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke  
17 program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the  
18 program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic  
19 investments with community partners;

1           (3) \$10,000,000 General Fund to continue to address the emergent and  
2 exigent circumstances impacting health care providers following the COVID-  
3 19 pandemic; and

4           (4) \$10,534,603 General Fund and \$13,693,231 Federal Revenue Fund  
5 #22005 for use as Global Commitment matching funds for one-time caseload  
6 pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

7           (m) \$366,066 General Fund and \$372,048 Federal Revenue Fund #22005  
8 to the Department of Vermont Health Access for a two-year pilot to expand the  
9 Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program and \$15,583,352 Global  
10 Commitment Fund #20405 to the Department of Health Access Medicaid  
11 program for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke  
12 program.

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

15           (1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of  
16 Substance Use Programs for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for  
17 Health Hub and Spoke program;

18           (2) \$30,000 General Fund for a housing voucher program administered  
19 by the Vermont Association of Recovery Residences and Jenna's Promise to  
20 pay for a recovery home residents' first month of rent;

1           (3) \$1,590,000 General Fund for the Division of Substance Use  
2 Programs, in conjunction with \$1,410,000 appropriated from the General Fund  
3 in Sec. B.313 of this act representing 30 percent of the fiscal year 2023  
4 forecast for cannabis excise tax and used in a manner consistent with the  
5 Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition funding intent as stated in 2022 Acts  
6 and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100(a)(12)(A)(i);

7           (4) \$500,000 Tobacco Settlement Fund for Division of Substance Use  
8 Programs for tobacco and substance use disorder prevention and cessation  
9 activities. The Division shall require that information on the use of the funds  
10 appropriated in accordance with this section be provided to the Division by  
11 grantees in an agreed-upon time frame, including the specific activities  
12 supported by the funds, a description of the number of individuals served, and  
13 information on the outcomes achieved by this investment. On or before,  
14 January 10, 2024, the Division shall report on these metrics to the House and  
15 Senate Committees on Appropriations, to the House Committee on Human  
16 Services, and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare;

17           (5) \$100,000 General Fund to the Department of Health to support the  
18 Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordination study, which may include  
19 hiring a consultant or others with technical expertise or both for the purpose of  
20 assisting the Department in conducting its study and writing a report on its  
21 findings and recommendations;

1           (6) \$100,000 General Fund to the Division of Substance Use Programs  
2 for a grant to Jenna's Promise;

3           (7) \$5,000,000 General Fund for the purpose of supporting the  
4 Community Violence Prevention Program established by legislation enacted in  
5 2023. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent  
6 fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose. All or part of this  
7 appropriation may be transferred to the Department of Health for this program  
8 if necessary;

9           (8) \$375,000 General Fund to be granted to the Vermont Foundation for  
10 Recovery for one-time program support; and

11           (9) \$350,000 General Fund to be granted to the Bridges to Health and  
12 University of Vermont Extension Community Health Worker Outreach  
13 program to support outreach, enrollment, education, transition, referral and  
14 care coordination to migrant workers and farm families through June 30, 2024.

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

17           (1) \$2,000,000 General Fund to implement the two-year Reach Ahead  
18 Pilot Program. Funds shall be used to increase monthly food assistance  
19 benefits to Reach Ahead participants, expand the eligibility window for those  
20 leaving Reach Up, and provide incentive payments;

1           (2) \$650,000 General Fund for the 2-1-1 service line. The Department,  
2 in consultation with the Agency of Human Service Central Office, shall report  
3 on the status of the service and its funding to the Joint Fiscal Committee on or  
4 before the Committee's November 2023 meeting;

5           (3) \$40,000 General Fund to fund the purchase of a driving school  
6 vehicle for the Youth Development Program to support foster and former  
7 foster youth access to driver's education;

8           (4) \$18,884,610 General Fund to address the estimated need for the  
9 Adverse Weather Conditions policy and General Assistance Emergency  
10 Housing hotel and motel expenditures in fiscal year 2024;

11           (5) \$5,000,000 General Fund to the Housing Opportunity Grant Program  
12 to expand and provide wraparound supports and services for homeless  
13 households;

14           (6) \$3,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Food Bank to  
15 support increased capacity of services to meet persistent food insecurity;

16           (7) \$100,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Food Bank in  
17 consultation with the Junior League of Vermont for the statewide distribution  
18 of diapers to families in need;

19           (8) \$50,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Donor Milk Center  
20 for statewide activities;

1           (9) \$130,000 General Fund for a grant to the Snelling Center to restart  
2 the Early Childhood Education Leadership Program; and

3           (10) \$300,000 General Fund for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse  
4 Vermont to provide education regarding the prevention of unsafe infant sleep  
5 and to expand programming and support services regarding child abuse often  
6 related to parental substance misuse.

7           (p) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for  
8 the following:

9           (1) \$200,000 General Fund to be granted to the State Workforce  
10 Development Board for the New American Labor Force Program; and

11           (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund to provide services under the Work-Based  
12 Learning and Training Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 547.

13           (q) Natural Resources Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
14 for the following:

15           (1) \$1,000,000 General Fund for the digitization of Natural Resources  
16 Board documents. Funds shall be used for the continued digitization of  
17 permanent, paper-based Act 250 land use permit records currently located at  
18 the Natural Resources Board's five district offices; and

19           (2) \$200,000 General Fund for an Act 250 study contract. Funds shall  
20 be used to contract with a consultant to assist with the preparation of a report



1 on updates necessary to the Act 250 program, per 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
2 182, Sec. 41(a).

3 (r) \$200,000 General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Education  
4 for the work of the School Construction Task Force.

5 (s) \$35,000 General Fund to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to support  
6 the celebration of the Symphony's 90th season.

7 (t) \$1,200,000 General Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
8 Board to administer and support the activities of the Land Access and  
9 Opportunity Board.

10 (u) \$1,750,000 Tax – Current Use Administration Fund #21594 to the  
11 Department of Taxes for the digitization of the Current Use program.

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

14 (1) \$500,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to upgrade and  
15 expand the ePSD case management system;

16 (2) \$400,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to complete  
17 the Telecom Plan Update scheduled for June 2024; and

18 (3) \$300,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to craft policy  
19 proposals to reform and streamline electric sector policy.

20 (w) Agency of Digital Services. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
21 for the following:

1           (1) \$10,000,000 Technology Modernization Fund #21951 for Network  
2           and Security Infrastructure Modernization including planning and design and  
3           the replacement of legacy infrastructure, hardware and software, platforms  
4           underlying the network and security architecture.

5           (A) The Agency of Digital Services shall select a vendor through a  
6           competitive bid process. The Agency of Digital Services shall consider bids  
7           with options to buy or lease equipment. Per 3 V.S.A. § 3303, any project with  
8           a total cost of \$1,000,000 or greater shall be subject to an expert independent  
9           review. The review shall include an analysis of all options, although the  
10           Agency of Digital Services is limited to the bids that it receives. The Agency  
11           of Digital Services may also purchase or lease equipment through a separate  
12           competitive bid process.

13           (B) Once a vendor has been selected and an expert independent  
14           review completed, the Agency of Digital Services shall issue a verbal or  
15           written report to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee.

16           (x) \$4,680,000 General Fund to the Judiciary for the Judiciary network  
17           replacement project.

18           (A) Judiciary shall update the Joint Information Technology  
19           Oversight Committee on the status of this project on or before December 1,  
20           2023.

1       (y) \$117,000 General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community  
2       Development for a grant to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission for  
3       the 250th celebration.

4       (z) Vermont Center for Crime Victims' Services. In fiscal year 2024, funds  
5       are appropriated for the following:

6           (1) \$25,000 General Fund for a grant for a monument to the survivors  
7       of St Joseph's Orphanage; and

8           (2) \$10,000 General Fund to continue the work of the Intercollegiate  
9       Sexual Harm Prevention Council.

10       (aa) \$450,000 General Fund to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and  
11       Independent Living to continue the SASH pilot for another year.

12       (bb) \$100,000 General Fund to the Vermont Pension Investment  
13       Commission for a study on the assets of the State's pension systems.

14       (cc) \$750,000 General Fund to the State Treasurer for the initial costs of  
15       the Vermont Saves program.

16       (dd) Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the  
17       following:

18           (1) \$1,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Access  
19       Network to offset declining cable revenues.

20           (2) \$100,000 General Fund for grants to municipalities for ranked  
21       choice voting.

1       (ee) Joint Fiscal Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the  
2 following:

3           (1) \$250,000 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses  
4 for members of the Task Force on Economic Development Incentives and for  
5 consulting services approved by the Task Force.

6           (2) \$75,000 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses  
7 for members of the Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy  
8 Standard Reform and for consulting services related to this Group's work.

9                                   \* \* \* Workforce Development \* \* \*

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

12       (a) Education workforce.

13           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the  
14 General Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of funding the  
15 Emerging Pathways Grant Program to encourage and support the development  
16 and retention of qualified and effective Vermont educators with the goal of  
17 increased program completion rates and increased rates of licensure of  
18 underrepresented demographics. These grants are to expand support,  
19 mentoring, and professional development to prospective educators seeking  
20 licensure through the Agency of Education's emerging pathways, including  
21 peer review and apprentice pathways.

1           (A) Program administration. The Agency shall adopt policies,  
2 procedures, and guidelines necessary for implementation of the grant program.  
3 The Agency shall report to General Assembly on the status of the program on  
4 or before January 15, 2024.

5           (B) Eligibility criteria. The Agency shall issue grants to  
6 organizations, school districts, or a group of school districts for the  
7 development and administration of programs designed to provide prospective  
8 educators in emerging pathways with the support necessary for successful  
9 entry into the educator workforce. Recruitment, support, and retention of  
10 prospective educator candidates shall focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.  
11 Support provided through the program may include:

12                   (i) support through the Praxis exam process;

13                   (ii) local, educator-led seminars designed around the Vermont  
14 licensure portfolio themes;

15                   (iii) local educator mentors;

16                   (iv) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing  
17 process; and

18                   (v) continued professional development support within the first  
19 year of licensure.

20           (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated from  
21 the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the

1 Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program to provide forgivable  
2 loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who meet the eligibility  
3 requirements in subsection (A) of this subdivision. The goal of the program is  
4 to encourage students to enter into teaching professions, with an emphasis on  
5 encouraging Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, New Americans, and  
6 other historically underrepresented communities.

7 (A) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the program an  
8 individual, whether a resident or nonresident of Vermont, shall satisfy all of  
9 the following requirements:

10 (i) be enrolled in a teaching program at an eligible school;

11 (ii) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the  
12 individual is enrolled;

13 (iii) agree to work as a teacher in a Vermont public school for a  
14 minimum of one year following licensure for each year of forgivable loan  
15 awarded;

16 (iv) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will  
17 reduce the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to  
18 subdivision (B) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of  
19 service required in this subdivision;

20 (v) have completed the program's application form, the Free  
21 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and, for Vermont residents, the

1 Vermont grant application each academic year of enrollment in accordance  
2 with a schedule determined by the Corporation; and

3 (vi) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation  
4 may require.

5 (B) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a teacher in a Vermont  
6 public school for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable  
7 loan benefit received by the individual, other than for good cause as  
8 determined by the Corporation, then the individual shall receive only partial  
9 loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant to the terms of the  
10 interest-free credit agreement or promissory note signed by the individual at  
11 the time of entering the program.

12 (C) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under  
13 this section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis provided  
14 funds are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall  
15 roll over and shall be available to the Corporation in the following fiscal year  
16 to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this section.

17 (D) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
18 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum  
19 forgivable loan amounts. The Corporation shall not use more than seven  
20 percent of the funds appropriated for the program for its costs of administration

1 and may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in  
2 repayment.

3 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the sum of \$30,000 is appropriated from the  
4 General Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of funding the  
5 Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant Program to  
6 provide grants for the support of existing and development of new educator  
7 affinity groups for historically underrepresented groups. The Agency of  
8 Education shall administer the program.

9 (A) The Agency shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
10 necessary for the implementation of the program established pursuant to this  
11 subdivision.

12 (b) Youth workforce and high school completion.

13 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,300,000 is appropriated from  
14 the General Fund to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to fund  
15 the Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn Program, which supports workforce  
16 development goals through creating meaningful paid service and learning  
17 opportunities for young adults, through the Serve, Learn, and Earn Partnership  
18 made up of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Vermont Audubon,  
19 Vermont Works for Women, and Resource VT. The Department shall enter  
20 into a grant agreement with the Partnership that specifies the required services  
21 and outcomes for the Program.



1           (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from  
2 the General Fund to the Agency of Education for grants to Adult Basic  
3 Education programs to provide bridge funding for Adult Basic Education  
4 programs while the study and report required by Sec. E.504 of this act is  
5 completed.

6           (c) Higher education.

7           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the  
8 General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish a Bachelor of Science  
9 program in restorative justice at Vermont State University.

10           (2) In fiscal year 2024 the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from  
11 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish the Certificate in  
12 3-D Technology program.

13           (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,800,000 is appropriated from  
14 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to provide Critical  
15 Occupations Scholarships for eligible students with a household income of  
16 \$75,000 or less enrolled in education programs that lead to a career in [the](#)  
17 [following](#): early childhood occupations, clinical mental health counseling,  
18 criminal justice occupations, dental hygienists, and all levels of nursing.

19           (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from  
20 the General Fund to the University of Vermont to provide additional free

1 classes through the Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program for Vermont  
2 residents seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance job skills.

3 (5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from  
4 the General Fund to the University of Vermont Office of Engagement, in  
5 consultation with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, for additional  
6 forgivable loans of \$5,000 per graduate for recent college graduates across all  
7 Vermont higher education institutions who commit to work in Vermont for  
8 two years after graduation.

9 (6) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$350,000 is appropriated from the  
10 General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a subgrant to  
11 Advance Vermont to continue work pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
12 183, Sec. 39 in support of the State's goal articulated in 10 V.S.A. § 546 that  
13 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025. On  
14 or before December 15, 2023, Advance Vermont shall report to the General  
15 Assembly regarding outcomes achieved, the use of these State funds, and the  
16 other fund sources Advance Vermont has secured for this project.

17 (d) Healthcare and social services workforce.

18 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from  
19 the General Fund to the Department of Health to be transferred as needed to  
20 the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the Vermont Psychiatric

1 Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created  
2 in 18 V.S.A. § 39.

3 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from  
4 the General Fund to the Department of Health to provide training for  
5 emergency medical services personnel.

6 (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$170,000 is appropriated from the  
7 General Fund to the Agency of Human Services to provide one additional year  
8 of funding for the classified, three-year limited-service Health Care Workforce  
9 Coordinator position created in the Agency of Human Services, Office of  
10 Health Care Reform, pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 34(a).

11 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from  
12 the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health to address workforce  
13 needs at the designated and specialized service agencies. These funds shall not  
14 be released until a plan to meet training and retention is mutually agreed upon  
15 by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the  
16 designated and specialized service agencies and approved by the Joint Fiscal  
17 Committee if the legislature is not in session or the General Assembly in the  
18 subsequent legislation. All or a portion of these funds may be used as  
19 matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment  
20 program to provide State match if any part of the plan is eligible to draw

1 federal funds. It is the intent of the General Assembly to maximize the value  
2 of this one-time funding through eligible Global Commitment investment.

3 (e) Corrections workforce.

4 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$200,000 is appropriated from the  
5 General Fund to the Department of Corrections for the purpose of contracting  
6 or expanding an existing contract with a vendor to provide supervisory and  
7 management professional development services to the Department's  
8 employees in accordance with the Department's efforts to address an employee  
9 workforce crisis and strengthen workplace satisfaction, pursuant to Sec. F.17  
10 of this act.

11 (f) Economic development.

12 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from  
13 the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
14 for the Vermont Training Program to fulfill Vermont's obligation to procure  
15 incentives in accordance with the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce  
16 Semiconductors for America (CHIPS) Act.

17 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,250,000 is appropriated from  
18 the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
19 for a grant to the regional development corporations to provide small- and mid-  
20 sized businesses with professional and technical assistance.

1           (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$72,000 is appropriated from the  
2 General Fund to the Vermont Council on the Arts to provide a State match for  
3 National Endowment for the Arts funding to enable the Council to continue its  
4 work boosting the creative economy in Vermont.

5           (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$8,000,000 General Fund is  
6 appropriated to the Department of Economic Development for Brownfields  
7 redevelopment consistent with Sec. F.5 of this act.

8           (5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is  
9 appropriated to the Department for Children and Families to augment service  
10 support funding in the Reach Up program.

11           (6) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$90,000 is appropriated from the  
12 General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for a  
13 subgrant to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to expand its Business  
14 Coaching program to work with a group of existing energy services businesses  
15 interested in adopting a climate centered mission and working with trades  
16 persons looking to start their own climate-centered business.

17           (g) Agriculture Economic Development

18           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is  
19 appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Working  
20 Lands Enterprise grant program.

1           (2) In fiscal year 2024, \$2,300,000 General Fund is appropriated to the  
2           Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund Agriculture Development  
3           Grants for meat, produce, and maple processing. The Secretary of Agriculture,  
4           Food and Markets shall determine that there are significant interests in  
5           establishing certain parameters in the grant program before making an award.  
6           Grants should be awarded to farmers, processors, and businesses, which shall  
7           not include hydroponic operations. Furthermore, the Secretary shall not  
8           allocate more than 25 percent of grant funds toward the maple industry. Of the  
9           funds appropriated under this subdivision, an amount not to exceed \$125,000  
10           may be used by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to support the  
11           cost of temporary employees to administer the grants.

12           (3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,900,000 General Fund is  
13           appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund  
14           Agriculture Development Grants for the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance  
15           Program.

16           (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$300,000 General Fund is  
17           appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a grant to the  
18           Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund as follows:

19                   (A) \$100,000 to the Independent Retail Grocers Project; and

20                   (B) \$200,000 to the Beef on Dairy Project.

1           (5) In fiscal year 2024, \$150,000 General Fund is appropriated to the  
2 Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the establishment by the Farm  
3 Viability Program of a pilot program to award a grant for the use of virtual  
4 fences, solar powered collars, and solar powered transmitters to control  
5 livestock. As used in this section, “livestock” means cattle, horses, sheep,  
6 swine, and goats.

7           (6) In fiscal year 2024, \$415,000 General Fund is appropriated to the  
8 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fully fund the Dairy Risk  
9 Management Assistance Program for farmers who enroll in calendar year  
10 2023. These funds are in addition to the unexpended funds appropriated under  
11 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 68 to implement the Dairy Risk  
12 Management Assistance Program.

13           (7) In fiscal year 2024, \$150,000 General Fund is appropriated to the  
14 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Small Farmer Diversification  
15 and Transition Program. The Agency staff who support the Working Lands  
16 Enterprise Board shall administer the Program and provide small farmers in  
17 Vermont with State financial assistance in the form of grants.

18           (A) Program applicants shall:

19                   (i) be a small farmer and not permitted as a medium farm or large  
20 farm at the time of application.

1                   (ii) have a proposed plan for diversification or transition that  
2 includes possible markets for the proposed product and probable income; and

3                   (iii) demonstrate to the Agency that there is potential from the  
4 proposed diversification or transition to create additional income for the  
5 applicant.

6                   (B) Small Farmer Diversification and Transition Program grants shall  
7 be used for costs of:

8                   (i) diversifying the farm products produced by the applicant;

9                   (ii) transitioning the applicant from one form of farming to  
10 another;

11                   (iii) processing of farm products on the farm owned or controlled  
12 by the applicant; and

13                   (iv) development of an accessory on-farm business by the  
14 applicant.

15                   (C) The Working Lands Enterprise Board shall not require applicants  
16 for a Small Farmer Diversification and Transition Program grant to provide a  
17 match or to pay a minimum percentage of eligible project cost for which the  
18 grant is proposed for use.

19                   (D) The Secretary and the Working Lands Enterprise Board shall  
20 provide public notice of the availability of grants from Small Farmer  
21 Diversification and Transition Program as separate from the Working Lands



1 Enterprise Board’s traditional grants. The Secretary shall publicize the Small  
2 Farmer Diversification and Transition Program grants in newsletters, press  
3 releases, e-mail, and other communications from the Agency of Agriculture,  
4 Food and Markets.

5 (E) As used in this subdivision B.1101(f)(7), “small farmer” means  
6 any person who:

7 (i) is engaged in “farming” as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A.  
8 § 6001(22), regardless of the size of the parcel, and whose gross income from  
9 the sale of the farm products equals at least one-half of the farmer’s annual  
10 gross income; or

11 (ii) a small farm subject to the Required Agricultural Practices.

12 Sec. B.1101.1 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

13 (a) In fiscal year 2024, \$240,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Truth  
14 and Reconciliation Commission. These funds, in combination with  
15 carryforward funds shall provide fiscal year 2024 funding for the  
16 Commission’s activities.

17 \* \* \* Affordable Housing \* \* \*

18 Sec. B.1102 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – FISCAL YEAR  
19 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

20 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$10,000,000 General Fund is  
21 appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for

1 the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program established in 10 V.S.A. §  
2 699.

3 (b) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$300,000 General Fund is  
4 appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a  
5 grant to the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies for  
6 the purpose of hiring Housing Navigators.

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

9 (1) \$10,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for emergency  
10 shelter and permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness. The funds  
11 shall be used to expand Vermont's shelter capacity, provide homes for those  
12 experiencing homelessness, and decrease reliance on the General Assistance  
13 Emergency Housing hotel and motel program. The Vermont Housing and  
14 Conservation Board shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to  
15 ensure new investments in homes and shelters are paired with appropriate  
16 support services for residents, including services supported through Medicaid.  
17 Funded projects may utilize a range of housing options, including the  
18 expansion of shelter capacity, the conversion of hotels to housing, creation of  
19 permanent supportive housing, and utilization of manufactured homes on infill  
20 sites.

1           (2) \$40,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for the  
2           production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and  
3           homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and  
4           communities, permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness, recovery  
5           residences, and housing available to farm workers and refugees. The Board is  
6           authorized to utilize up to 10 percent of these resources for innovative  
7           approaches to helping communities meet their housing needs.

8                           \* \* \* Climate and Environment \* \* \*

9           Sec. B.1103 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2024

10                           ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

11           (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$700,000 General Fund is  
12           appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for  
13           refrigerant management. Funds shall be used for incentives to improve or  
14           replace commercial and industrial refrigeration systems with the goal of  
15           reducing the use of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants.

16           (b) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$900,000 General Fund is  
17           appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Climate Action Office for  
18           technical analyses, tools, and training. Funds shall be used for investments in  
19           ongoing evaluation, implementation support and tracking of the impact of  
20           programs, and policy approaches needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

1 and improve landscape-level resilience consistent with the Global Warming  
2 Solutions Act.

3 (c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,000,000 General Fund is  
4 appropriated to the Department of Public Service for the School Heating  
5 Assistance with Renewables and Efficiency Program (SHARE) to assist Title I  
6 eligible schools in repairing or renovating their existing wood chip or pellet  
7 heating systems or to install new wood chip or pellet heating systems.

8 (d) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$150,000 General Fund is  
9 appropriated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wildlife Crop Damage  
10 Payments. Funds shall be used for payments to farmers under the provisions  
11 of 10 V.S.A. §§ 4829.

12 (e) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 General Fund is  
13 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for Parks  
14 personnel housing. Funds shall be used to renovate, remediate, and expand on-  
15 site housing opportunities, including installation of full hook-ups for RVs;  
16 splitting existing staff housing into multiple units; and making critical (health  
17 and safety) repairs to the existing housing stock for Vermont State Parks staff  
18 in critical locations statewide.

19 (f) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is  
20 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for Small  
21 Communities Outdoor Recreation Grant matching funds. Funds shall be used

1 to support Vermont communities by providing State match funds for federal  
2 recreation grants.

3 (g) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 General Fund is  
4 appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for emerald  
5 ash borer mitigation and low income heating assistance. Funds shall be used to  
6 remove high-risk ash trees on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
7 lands and provide free firewood to households with low income.

8 (h) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 General Fund is  
9 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the  
10 Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act as codified in  
11 10 V.S.A. [chapter 159](#). Funds shall be used for the assessment and cleanup  
12 planning for a maximum of 25 brownfields sites.

13 (i) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$600,000 General Fund is  
14 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the  
15 Emissions Repair Program. Funds shall be used for the Emissions Repair  
16 Program established by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 25 for fiscal  
17 years 2024 through 2026.

18 (j) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,100,000 American Rescue Plan  
19 Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds is appropriated to the  
20 Department of Environmental Conservation for the Healthy Homes Initiative.  
21 Funds shall be used to make repairs or improvements to drinking water,

1 wastewater, or stormwater systems for Vermonters who have low to moderate  
2 income or who live in manufactured housing communities, or both.

3 (k) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is  
4 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for  
5 Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) technical assistance. Funds shall be used  
6 to support statewide groundwater Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)  
7 remediation efforts.

8 (l) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 Environmental  
9 Contingency Fund #21275 is appropriated to the Department of Environmental  
10 Conservation for statewide Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) groundwater  
11 remediation.

12 (m) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$850,000 Transportation Fund is  
13 appropriated to the Agency of Transportation for a grant to Green Mountain  
14 Transit to operate routes on a zero-fare basis and prepare for the transition to  
15 tiered-fare service.

16 \* \* \* Pension Funding \* \* \*

17 Sec. B.1104 FISCAL YEAR 2024 VERMONT STATE LIVING PAYMENT;

18 FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION

19 (a) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025  
20 to the contrary, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the Vermont State  
21 Teachers' Retirement System from the Education Fund for Calendar Year

1 2023 supplemental payments made in Sec. E.514.2(b) of this act and  
2 associated costs.

3 \* \* \* Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments\* \* \*

4 Sec. B.1105 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL

5 INVESTMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME

6 APPROPRIATIONS

7 (a) In fiscal year 2024, \$17,685,000.00 is appropriated from the Capital  
8 Infrastructure sub account in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential  
9 Investments for the following projects:

10 (1) \$400,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
11 General Services for planning, reuse, and contingency;

12 (2) \$1,700,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
13 General Services for roof replacement and brick façade repairs at the  
14 McFarland State Office Building in Barre;

15 (3) \$135,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
16 General Services for 32 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs;

17 (4) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
18 General Services for roof replacement at the Central Services complex in  
19 Middlesex;

1       (5) \$150,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
2 General Services for design documents for the State House expansion in  
3 Montpelier;

4       (6) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
5 General Services for the renovation of the interior HVAC steam lines at 120  
6 State Street;

7       (7) \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
8 General Services for planning for the boiler replacement at the Northern State  
9 Correctional Facility in Newport;

10       (8) \$750,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
11 General Services for planning for renovations to the administration building,  
12 West Cottage, at the Criminal Justice Training Council in Pittsford;

13       (9) \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
14 General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the planning and  
15 design of the booking expansion at the Northwest State Correctional Facility;

16       (10) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
17 General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the planning and  
18 design of the Department for Children and Families' short-term stabilization  
19 facility;



1        (11) \$750,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
2 General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Washington County  
3 Superior Courthouse in Barre;

4        (12) \$250,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
5 General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and  
6 design of the Special Teams Facility and Storage;

7        (13) \$250,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
8 General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and  
9 design of the Rutland Field Station;

10       (14) \$300,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
11 General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the  
12 planning and design of the Vermont Agriculture and Environmental  
13 Laboratory Heat Plant;

14       (15) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
15 General Services for electric vehicle charging stations at State buildings;

16       (16) \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
17 the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Municipal Pollution  
18 Control Grants for pollution control projects and planning advances for  
19 feasibility studies;

1       (17) \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
2 the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the maintenance facilities  
3 at the Gifford Woods State Park and Groton Forest State Park; and

4       (18) \$800,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
5 the Department of Fish and Wildlife for infrastructure maintenance and  
6 improvements of the Department's buildings, including conservation camps.

7       (b) In fiscal year 2024, \$31,025,000 is appropriated from the Other  
8 Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount in the Cash  
9 Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the following projects. This  
10 funding is provided by the General Fund transfer in Sec. D.101 of this act.

11       (1) \$9,800,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
12 the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match to the  
13 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Drinking Water State Revolving  
14 Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund;

15       (2) \$4,500,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
16 the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Waterbury Dam  
17 rehabilitation;

18       (3) \$7,500,000 is appropriated to the Vermont State Colleges for  
19 construction, renovation, and major maintenance at any facility owned or  
20 operated in the State by the Vermont State Colleges; infrastructure

1 transformation planning; and the planning, design, and construction of Green  
2 Hall and Vail Hall; and

3 (4) \$9,225,000 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health for  
4 construction of psychiatric youth inpatient beds in the State.

5 (c) In fiscal year 2024, \$3,000,000 as appropriated in Sec. B.903 –  
6 Transportation – program development of this act from the Cash Fund for  
7 Capital and Essential Investments is for projects as specified in the State  
8 transportation plan.

9 (d) In fiscal year 2024, after satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308  
10 but prior to satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c, to the extent funds  
11 are partially or fully available to cover the appropriation, the projects in this  
12 subsection (d) shall receive an appropriation from the Other Infrastructure,  
13 Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital  
14 and Essential Investments in the following order:

15 (1) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health for a  
16 grant to Pathways Vermont for the purchase and renovation of a building to  
17 serve as a permanent home for the Soteria House program.

18 (A) Prior to issuing the grant, the Commissioner of Mental Health,  
19 with the assistance of the Secretary of Human Services and Commissioner of  
20 Buildings and General Services, shall review the accuracy and

1 comprehensiveness of the financial analysis of the Pathways Vermont proposal  
2 to purchase specified property and operate the Soteria House program.

3 (B) An accounting of the respective State and Pathways Vermont  
4 shares of investment in this property shall be maintained in order to refund to  
5 the State an appropriate share of any net proceeds resulting from future  
6 divestiture of the property.

7 (2) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and  
8 Community Development for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency  
9 for its first generation homebuyer program.

10 (3) \$10,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and  
11 Community Development for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency  
12 to provide capitalization of revolving loan fund for the development of  
13 'missing middle' rental housing.

14 (4) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Transportation for rail  
15 trail grants.

16 (5) \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Economic  
17 Development for the Rural Industrial Development Grant Program as  
18 established in this act.

19 (6) \$3,500,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Transportation for the  
20 Saint Albans garage replacement project.

1       (e) If a project described in this section has received an appropriation prior  
2       to the effective date of this act and is not in compliance with the requirements  
3       of 29 V.S.A. § 161, then the project shall not be subject to the requirements of  
4       29 V.S.A. § 161 if any of the following apply as of the effective date of this  
5       act:

6               (1) the project has been invited or advertised for bid;

7               (2) the project is under contract; or

8               (3) the funds are obligated.

9       \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2023 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments \* \* \*

10       Sec. C.100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 GENERAL FUND UNALLOCATED

11                                   CARRYFORWARD

12       (a) After satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308, and after other  
13       reserve requirements have been met, but prior to satisfying the requirements of  
14       32 V.S.A. § 308c, the first \$337,449,200 of remaining unreserved and  
15       undesignated funds at the close of fiscal year 2023 shall remain in the General  
16       Fund and be carried forward to fiscal year 2024.

17       Sec. C.100.1 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101 as amended by

18       2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 48 is further amended to read:

19       Sec. 48. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

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

21   \* \* \*

1 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
2 2023:

3 \* \* \*

4 (2) Notwithstanding any other laws related to these special fund  
5 balances, the following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of  
6 unencumbered fund balances, shall may be transferred from the following  
7 funds to the General Fund upon determination of the Commissioner of Finance  
8 and Management that such transfers are integral for the financial closure of the  
9 fiscal year. The Commissioner shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its  
10 July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such  
11 transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each  
12 fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

13	21638 AG-Fees & reimbursement – Court order	\$2,000,000
14	21928 Secretary of State Services Funds	\$1,200,000
15	62100 Unclaimed Property Fund	<u>\$4,442,485</u> <u>\$6,691,685</u>
16	Combined estimate for 21075 Insurance Regulatory and Supervision	
17	Fund, 21805 Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund,	
18	21080 Regulatory and Supervision Fund	\$58,564,476

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. C.101 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3 Sec. 106(b) is amended to read:

21 Sec. 106. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022 OUT



1       Sec. E.335 CORRECTIONS APPROPRIATIONS; UNEXPENDED  
2                               FUNDS TRANSFER; JUSTICE REINVESTMENT; REPORT

3   \* \* \*

4       (c) ~~Any funds expended on community-based service programs pursuant to~~  
5 ~~subsection (b) of this section shall be included in the subsequent year~~  
6 ~~Department of Corrections budget for the same purpose at the same amount.~~

7       ~~[Repealed.]~~

8       Sec. C.104 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
9                               ARPA-SFR PROJECT FUNDS REVERSION

10       (a) \$1,100,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus  
11 State Fiscal Recovery Funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental  
12 Conservation in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.501(a)(2) shall revert  
13 to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery  
14 Funds for reallocation in fiscal year 2024.

15       Sec. C.105 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

16       § 1001b. CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CASH FUND AND  
17                               ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

18       (a) Creation. There is hereby created the ~~Capital Expenditure Cash Fund~~  
19 for Capital and Essential Investments to be administered by the Commissioner  
20 of Finance and Management, in consultation with the State Treasurer, ~~for the~~



1 ~~purpose of using general funds.~~ The Fund shall have the following two  
2 subaccounts:

3 (1) the Capital Infrastructure subaccount, to defray the costs of future  
4 capital expenditures that would otherwise be authorized in the capital  
5 construction act and paid for using the State's general obligation bonding  
6 authority and debt service obligations or paid for as a direct associated cost of  
7 a capital project; and

8 (2) the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves  
9 subaccount, to fund essential investments and infrastructure needs, create  
10 reserves for these expenditures, ~~including transportation related projects,~~ and  
11 make contingent appropriations for other infrastructure investments, ~~including~~  
12 capitalizing revolving loan funds, as authorized by the General Assembly.

13 (b) Fund Accounts. ~~The Fund may consist of:~~

14 (1) Capital Infrastructure subaccount. The Capital Infrastructure  
15 subaccount may consist of:

16 (A) transfers made by the General Assembly of four percent or less  
17 of the last completed fiscal year's General Fund appropriations, less the  
18 amount necessary to fund the State's general obligation debt service in the year  
19 for which the transfer is being made, as determined by the State Treasurer and  
20 the Commissioner of Finance and Management; and

21 (B) any interest earned by the subaccount.

1           (2) Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves  
2           subaccount. The Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves  
3           subaccount may consist of any appropriations or transfers made by the General  
4           Assembly; from the General Fund or any other State fund and

5           ~~(2) any interest earned by the Fund.~~ any contingent transfers made by  
6           the General Assembly from the General Fund after satisfying the requirements  
7           of 32 V.S.A. § 308 but prior to satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c  
8           in any fiscal year and any contingent transfers made by the General Assembly  
9           from other State funds.

10           (c) Use of funds. ~~Expenditure shall only be made from the Fund by~~  
11           ~~appropriations by the General Assembly. Plans for use shall be submitted as~~  
12           ~~part of the operating budget adjustment or operating budget process. Monies~~  
13           in the Fund Accounts shall only be used ~~for~~ as follows:

14           ~~(1) costs associated with a proposed capital project that occur prior to~~  
15           ~~the construction phase of that project, including feasibility, planning, design,~~  
16           ~~and engineering and architectural costs; Expenditures shall only be made by~~  
17           the General Assembly from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount for:

18           (A) tangible capital investments, as described in section 309 of this  
19           title, with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years or more; and

20           (B) engineering and architectural costs directly associated with a  
21           proposed capital project.

1           ~~(2) projects with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years; Expenditures shall~~  
2           ~~only be made by the General Assembly from the Other Infrastructure, Essential~~  
3           ~~Investments, and Reserves subaccount for:~~

4                   ~~(A) any expenditure eligible under subdivision (1) of this subsection~~  
5           ~~(c); and~~

6                   ~~(B) any other essential investments and infrastructure needs,~~  
7           ~~including transportation-related projects and capitalization of revolving loan~~  
8           ~~funds.~~

9           ~~(3) costs associated with the early redemption of general obligation~~  
10          ~~bonds; and~~

11          ~~(4) other eligible capital projects receiving an appropriation from the~~  
12          ~~General Assembly~~

13          (d) Fund balance. All balances in the Fund accounts at the end of any  
14          fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of the Fund accounts.

15          Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 511, the Commissioner of Finance and  
16          Management shall not anticipate receipts for the Fund accounts and issue  
17          warrants thereon.

18          (e) ~~Early redemption transfer. If any expenditures are made from the Fund~~  
19          ~~or the General Assembly appropriates general funds to pay for the early~~  
20          ~~redemption of general obligation bonds pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) of this~~  
21          ~~section, then an amount equal to the reduction in debt service required in any~~

1 ~~fiscal year resulting from that redemption shall be transferred to the Fund~~  
2 Spending authority. Any entity authorized to make expenditures from the  
3 Capital Infrastructure subaccount shall have not more than two years from the  
4 legislative session in which the act authorizing the expenditure was enacted to  
5 encumber the funds. Any remaining unencumbered funds shall remain part of  
6 the Fund account.

7 Sec. C.106 29 V.S.A. § 161 is amended to read:

8 § 161. REQUIREMENTS ON STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) Each contract awarded under this section for any State project with a  
11 construction cost exceeding \$100,000.00, ~~or~~ a construction project with a  
12 construction cost exceeding \$200,000.00 ~~which~~ that is authorized and is at  
13 least 50 percent funded by a capital construction act pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §  
14 701a, or a construction project with a construction cost exceeding \$200,000  
15 that is at least 50 percent funded by the Cash Fund for Capital Infrastructure  
16 and Other Essential Investments established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001 shall provide  
17 that all construction employees working on the project shall be paid no less  
18 than the mean prevailing wage published periodically by the Vermont  
19 Department of Labor in its occupational employment and wage survey plus an  
20 additional fringe benefit of 42 and one-half percent of wage, as calculated by

1 the current Vermont prevailing wage survey. As used in this section, “fringe  
2 benefits” means benefits, including paid vacations and holidays, sick leave,  
3 employer contributions and reimbursements to health insurance and retirement  
4 benefits, and similar benefits that are incidents of employment.

5 (c) In the construction of any State project, local capable labor shall be  
6 utilized whenever practicable, but this section shall not be construed to compel  
7 any person to discharge or lay off any regular employee.

8 (d) Subsections (a) through (c) of this section shall not apply to  
9 maintenance or construction projects carried out by the Agency of  
10 Transportation and by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. C.107 32 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

13 § 1001. CAPITAL DEBT AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14 \* \* \*

15 (c) Committee estimate of a prudent amount of net State tax-supported  
16 debt; affordability considerations. On or before September 30 of each year, the  
17 Committee shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly the  
18 Committee’s estimate of net State tax-supported debt that prudently may be  
19 authorized for the next fiscal year, together with a report explaining the basis  
20 for the estimate. The Committee’s estimate shall not take into consideration  
21 the balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the subaccounts of the

1 Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments, established pursuant to  
2 section 1001b of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of  
3 required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.  
4 In developing its annual estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the  
5 Committee shall consider:

6 \* \* \*

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

9 (a) In fiscal year 2023, the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments  
10 initial balance amount of \$25,000,000 is reserved in the Other Infrastructure,  
11 Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount to provide the State match in  
12 fiscal years 2025 and 2026 needed for federal funding for transportation related  
13 projects under the IIJA. These funds shall only be expended if authorized by  
14 the General Assembly.

15 (b) To the extent available in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the amount of  
16 \$14,500,000 is reserved in the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and  
17 Reserves subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to  
18 provide the State match in fiscal years 2025 and 2026 needed for federal  
19 funding for water and wastewater related projects under the IIJA. These funds  
20 shall only be expended if authorized by the General Assembly.

1 Sec. C.109 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTINGENT TRANSFERS TO CASH

2 FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

3 (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, to the extent any fund  
4 specified in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101(b)(2) as amended by  
5 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 48 has an unobligated fund balance in  
6 fiscal year 2023, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transfer  
7 to the subaccount created under 32 V.S.A. 1001b(b)(2) the respective fiscal  
8 year 2023 unobligated special fund balances. The Commissioner shall report  
9 the amounts transferred pursuant to this provision to the Joint Fiscal  
10 Committee in July 2023.

11 (b) To the extent available in fiscal year 2023, \$22,500,000 shall be  
12 transferred from the General Fund to the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential  
13 Investments pursuant to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 1001b(b)(2).

14 Sec. C.110 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 51a is amended to read:

15 Sec. 51a. COVID-19-RELATED PAID LEAVE GRANT PROGRAM

16 (a) Establishment and appropriation.

17 (1) There is established in the Department of Financial Regulation the  
18 COVID-19-Related Paid Leave Grant Program to administer and award grants  
19 to employers to reimburse the cost of providing COVID-19-related paid leave  
20 to employees as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

1 (2) The sum of ~~\$15,180,000~~ \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the  
2 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery  
3 Funds to the Department of Financial Regulation for fiscal years 2023 and  
4 2024 for the provision of grants to reimburse employers for the cost of  
5 providing COVID-19-related paid leave. ~~Not more than seven percent of the~~  
6 ~~amount appropriated pursuant to this subdivision may be used for expenses~~  
7 ~~related to Program administration and outreach.~~

8 \* \* \*

9 (c) Grant program.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3)(A) Employers may submit applications for grants during the period  
12 beginning on October 1, 2022 and ending on September 30, 2023 and may  
13 submit an application not more than once each calendar quarter during that  
14 period. Grant applications shall be submitted for paid leave provided during  
15 the preceding calendar quarter and, subject to subdivision (B) of this  
16 subdivision (3), for calendar quarters in the program period prior to the  
17 preceding calendar quarter.

18 (B) An employer shall be permitted to request grant funds for costs  
19 related to COVID-19-related paid leave described in subsection (e) of this  
20 section in a calendar quarter prior to the preceding calendar quarter if:







1           (2) the unexpended or unobligated amount of the \$2,500,000 transferred  
2 by the Emergency Board to the Agency of Education for PCB remediation  
3 shall revert to the Education Fund for further allocation.

4           (b) Agency of Education; PCB remediation and removal reimbursement.

5           (1) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025~~(d)~~ to the  
6 contrary, \$29,500,000 and the unexpended funds identified under subdivision  
7 (a)(2) of this section shall be appropriated from the Education Fund to the  
8 Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 for the following purposes:

9           (A)(i) Grants to schools in the State that are required to conduct  
10 remediation or removal of PCB contamination in the school after Agency of  
11 Natural Resources testing but have not received a grant from the Agency of  
12 Natural Resources for the costs of remediation or removal. The grants shall be  
13 in an amount sufficient to pay for 100 percent of the school's remediation or  
14 removal costs, including the costs incurred when necessary under State or  
15 federal law to relocate students to a facility during remediation or removal  
16 activities.

17           (B) Grants to schools in the State that conducted remediation or  
18 removal of PCBs in the school after Agency of Natural Resources testing and  
19 received a grant for 80 percent of the costs of remediation or removal from the  
20 Agency of Natural Resources. The grants under this subdivision (b)(1)(B)

1 shall be in an amount that will reimburse the school for any remediation or  
2 removal costs not paid by the Agency of Natural Resources.

3 (C) A grant to the Burlington School District to reimburse the school  
4 district for the actual cost of demolition and removal of PCB contamination at  
5 Burlington High School, not to exceed \$16,000,000.

6 (c) Grant criteria. The Secretary of Education, after consultation with the  
7 Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents  
8 Association, the Vermont School Custodian and Maintenance Association, and  
9 other stakeholders, shall develop criteria for priority use of funds and criteria  
10 for the costs of remediation and removal of PCB contamination that will be  
11 eligible for a grant under subdivisions (b)(1)(A) and (B) of this section.

12 Sec. C.112 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

13 Sec. 8. MUNICIPAL ENERGY REVOLVING FUND; ~~FY 2023~~

14 APPROPRIATION TRANSFER; REPORT

15 (a) ~~In FY 2023,~~ Upon receipt of the following federal funds and to the  
16 extent permitted by federal law, the following amounts shall be transferred to  
17 the Department of Buildings and General Services from the Department of  
18 Public Service for the Municipal Energy Revolving Fund, as established in 29  
19 V.S.A. § 168b:

20 \* \* \*

21 Sec. C.113 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

1                   DISPATCH; INVENTORY; DESIGN

2           (a) The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and welfare is  
3 an essential function of State government and it is in the public interest to  
4 establish a statewide reliable, secure, and interoperable public safety  
5 communications system, comprising integrated 911 call-taking and regional  
6 dispatch systems, and to ensure that the system is equitably and sustainably  
7 financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State.

8           (b) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to establish a public safety  
9 communications system that disrupts or in any way jeopardizes the exceptional  
10 dispatch services currently in place or the existing 911 system, but rather to  
11 support, enhance, strengthen, and build upon those efforts and initiatives.

12           (c) The transition to a public safety communications system as specified in  
13 subsection (a) of this section shall be overseen and managed by the temporary  
14 Public Safety Communications Task Force established in subsection (d) of this  
15 section.

16           (d)(1) There is established a Public Safety Communications Task Force to  
17 oversee and manage all phases of the development, design, and  
18 implementation of a statewide public safety communications system as  
19 required by this section.

20           (2) The Task Force shall consist of seven members as follows:

1           (A) the Executive Director of the Enhanced 911 Board, who shall  
2 serve as Co-Chair;

3           (B) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee, who shall serve  
4 as Co-Chair;

5           (C) one municipal official appointed by the Executive Director of the  
6 Vermont League of Cities and Towns;

7           (D) one representative from a public safety answering point overseen  
8 by a municipal police department appointed by the Vermont Association of  
9 Chiefs of Police;

10           (E) one emergency medical technician or paramedic appointed by the  
11 Vermont State Ambulance Association;

12           (F) one firefighter appointed by the Vermont State Firefighters'  
13 Association; and

14           (G) the Chair of the Regional Dispatch Working Group established  
15 by the General Assembly in Act 185 of 2022.

16           (3) At its initial organizational meeting the Task Force shall elect from  
17 among its members a vice chair. Meetings may be held at the call of a Co-  
18 Chair or at the request of two members. A majority of sitting members shall  
19 constitute a quorum, and action taken by the Task Force may be authorized by  
20 a majority of the members present and voting. Except for those members  
21 regularly employed by the State, members are entitled to a per diem in the

1 amount of \$150 for each day spent in the performance of their duties. All  
2 members, including members otherwise regularly employed by the State, shall  
3 receive their actual and necessary expenses when away from home or office  
4 upon their official duties pursuant to this section. A vacancy shall be filled by  
5 the respective appointing authority. If the Chair of the Regional Dispatch  
6 Working Group declines to participate as a member of the Task Force, the  
7 Task Force shall appoint one member who shall have expertise relevant to the  
8 purposes of this section.

9 (4) The Task Force is authorized to retain a project manager and one or  
10 more additional consultants with relevant expertise in public safety  
11 communications technology, design, and financing to assist with the  
12 requirements of this section.

13 (5) The Department of Public Safety shall provide the Task Force with  
14 administrative services and support.

15 (6)(A) The Task Force, in consultation with the Secretary of  
16 Administration, shall develop procedures and best practices for State agency  
17 cooperation and coordination on matters of overlapping jurisdiction. The  
18 primary purpose of this subdivision is to ensure the Task Force has access to  
19 expertise and data related to its mission, including expertise within and data  
20 maintained by the Department of Public Service, the Agency of Digital  
21 Services, the Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Injury within

1 the Department of Health, the Department of Taxes, the Agency of  
2 Transportation, the Enhanced 911 Board, and the Department of Public Safety.

3 (B) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to waive any  
4 privilege or protection otherwise afforded information by law due solely to the  
5 fact that the information is shared with the Task Force pursuant to this  
6 subdivision.

7 (7) All meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public and  
8 conducted in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. All records of  
9 the Task Force are subject to the Vermont Public Records Act.

10 (8) The Task Force shall cease to exist when a State entity authorized by  
11 legislative enactment to permanently oversee and manage the public safety  
12 communications system becomes operational.

13 (e) The establishment of a statewide public safety communications system  
14 shall occur in essentially three phases, which include data collection and  
15 analysis, design, and implementation. Certain aspects of each phase may occur  
16 simultaneously as deemed appropriate by the Task Force.

17 (1) Data collection and analysis. On or before September 15, 2024, the  
18 Task Force shall conduct a complete inventory and assessment of all aspects of  
19 dispatch service currently provided in Vermont and, to the extent possible,  
20 dispatch service currently provided outside Vermont for response agencies  
21 located in Vermont, which shall include:



1           (A) an inventory of all existing dispatch infrastructure and  
2 equipment, including facilities, hardware, software, applications, and land  
3 mobile radio systems, referring to and incorporating any existing relevant data  
4 collected by a State or municipal entity;

5           (B) the number of full-time and part-time personnel currently  
6 performing dispatch service, taking into account personnel who have other  
7 responsibilities in addition to providing dispatch service;

8           (C) the current total spending on dispatch service in Vermont that  
9 includes and itemizes for each municipality and dispatch center all federal,  
10 State, and municipal appropriations and fees, every contract for dispatch or  
11 first responder service, and projected budgets;

12           (D) identification of the communications dead zones in the State,  
13 meaning those areas that lack the infrastructure to support public safety land-  
14 mobile-radio communications or cellular voice and data service, or both, and  
15 taking into consideration all cell towers, including those that are part of the  
16 FirstNet statewide public safety radio access network; cellular mapping efforts  
17 conducted by the Department of Public Service; and any existing, relevant  
18 mapping data collected by a dispatch center or other entity;

19           (E) with the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a  
20 needs assessment to determine where and to what extent there are gaps in  
21 dispatch service or significant challenges to the delivery of dispatch service

1 and to identify those municipalities that are likely to be most affected by either  
2 the curtailment of dispatch service from the two State-run public safety  
3 answering points or from a new financing mechanism for the continuation of  
4 such service;

5 (F) an assessment of the service provided by each dispatch center and  
6 identification of particular challenges or vulnerabilities, if any, including with  
7 regard to workforce, failover procedures, communications technology, costs,  
8 and governance; and

9 (G) collection and assessment of any other information the Task  
10 Force deems relevant.

11 (2) Design. On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall  
12 develop findings and recommendations related to draft elements of a  
13 preliminary design for a public safety communications system, including  
14 identification of a proposed implementation timeline and any additional data  
15 and resources needed to develop a final design on or before December 15,  
16 2024. The final design shall include:

17 (A) technical and operational standards and protocols that ensure an  
18 interoperable and resilient system that incorporates computer-aided dispatch  
19 systems and land mobile radios;

20 (B) technology life-cycle standards to ensure system and database  
21 upgrades are timely, sufficiently financed, and properly managed;

1           (C) system and database security and cybersecurity standards;

2           (D) continuity of operations standards and best practices that  
3 encompass failover procedures and other system redundancies to ensure the  
4 continuous performance of mission-critical operations;

5           (E) workforce training standards and other staffing best practices that  
6 support the retention and well-being of dispatch personnel;

7           (F) a resource allocation plan that ensures dispatch service is  
8 available in all regions of the State, including the establishment of new  
9 dispatch centers or expanded capacity and capability of existing dispatch  
10 centers, if deemed appropriate by the Task Force;

11           (G) a process for annually reviewing the budgets of dispatch centers;

12           (H) a recommended governance model to ensure effective State and  
13 regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system,  
14 including identification of staffing or operational needs to support such  
15 oversight and management of the system;

16           (I) cost estimates for implementing the system in Vermont, including  
17 operational and capital costs;

18           (J) options for sustainably and equitably structuring the financing of  
19 the public safety communications system, taking into consideration:

20           (i) existing budgets for regional and local dispatch;

1                   (ii) the population, grand list, and call volume of each  
2 municipality;

3                   (iii) existing and potential State funding streams;

4                   (iv) available federal funding opportunities for public safety  
5 agencies and emergency communications systems, including equipment,  
6 network infrastructure, and services;

7                   (v) financing models adopted in other jurisdictions for public  
8 safety communications systems; and

9                   (vi) any other standards or procedures deemed necessary or  
10 appropriate by the Task Force.

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

15           (2) Pilot projects eligible for funding under this subsection may include  
16 new regional dispatch centers or expanded capacity at existing regional  
17 dispatch centers, provided the Task Force determines the pilot demonstrates  
18 project readiness and is otherwise consistent with the standards and purposes  
19 of this section.

1           (3) In evaluating proposed pilot projects, the Task Force shall give a  
2 high priority to projects in geographical areas of the State that presently face  
3 significant challenges with respect to reliably providing dispatch service.

4           (4) The pilot project plan shall include a description of each proposed  
5 project, the resources needed, and an explanation of how the project will align  
6 with, inform, and further the development of a statewide public safety  
7 communications system and ensure transparency and accountability  
8 particularly with respect to the expenditure of State funds pursuant to this  
9 subsection.

10           (5) The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to  
11 \$4,500,000.00 in total for pilot projects authorized by this subsection.

12           (g) On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a progress  
13 report on the data collection and analysis required by subdivision (e)(1) of this  
14 section, the findings and recommendations required by subdivision (e)(2) of  
15 this section, and a description and status report of any pilot projects funded  
16 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section in a written report to the Senate  
17 Committees on Government Operations and on Finance and the House  
18 Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs, on Ways and  
19 Means, and on Environment and Energy. On or before December 15, 2024,  
20 the Task Force shall submit to the same legislative committees a written report  
21 containing its final design plan as required by subdivision (e)(2) of this section.

1 Sec. C.114 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

3 APPROPRIATIONS

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the

6 Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are

7 subject to the following conditions:

8 (1) ~~\$4,500,000 shall be held in reserve until the report required by~~  
9 ~~Sec. E.209.1 of this act is submitted and further approval to expend the funds is~~  
10 granted by the General Assembly Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the  
11 retention of technical experts to assist the Task Force with the analysis and  
12 planning required by Sec. C.112 of this act and to fund the administrative  
13 expenses incurred by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. If the  
14 Task Force determines in calendar year 2023 that additional funding is  
15 necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal  
16 Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to an  
17 additional \$1,000,000.

18 (2) ~~\$6,500,000 to provide grants to regional dispatch facilities upon~~  
19 ~~approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee subsequent to review of a Regional~~  
20 ~~Dispatch Facility grant plan submitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety.~~  
21 ~~The plan shall include the extent to which federal funding sources may be~~

1 ~~available for regional dispatch~~ Up to \$4,500,000 shall be available to provide  
2 funding for pilot projects pursuant to Sec. C.112, subsection (f), of this act.

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

6 (4) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of  
7 Public Safety seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally  
8 Directed Spending to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional  
9 communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances the  
10 goals of a statewide public safety communications system. The Commissioner  
11 of Public Safety shall consult with the Public Safety Communications Task  
12 Force as the federal parameters for expending the funds become available and  
13 as the Commissioner develops a plan to expend such funds. In addition, the  
14 Commissioner shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned  
15 expenditures.

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. C.115 VERMONT UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND; JOINT FISCAL  
18 OFFICE STUDY

19 On or before January 15, 2024, the Joint Fiscal Office shall analyze options  
20 for changing the financing mechanism for the Vermont Universal Service Fund  
21 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programs funded through the

1 Vermont Universal Service Fund, including the Enhanced 911 system. The  
2 Joint Fiscal Office may consider and further refine the analysis and  
3 recommendations included in the Secretary of Administration's report related  
4 to the funding of Enhanced 911 operations, dated January 15, 2022, and  
5 required by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.235.

6 Sec. C.116 ORGANIC DAIRY FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

7 (a) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish an organic  
8 dairy farm assistance program consistent with the requirements of this section.

9 (b) An organic dairy farm is eligible for assistance under this section if:

10 (1) the farm is currently operating as a dairy farm producing milk, either  
11 organic or conventional;

12 (2) the farm shipped organic milk or processed its own organic milk  
13 under the requirements of 6 V.S.A. chapter 151 during calendar year 2022 and  
14 provides documentation to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets of the  
15 amount of organic milk shipped or processed during calendar year 2022 per  
16 hundredweight;

17 (3) the farm is in good standing with the Agency of Agriculture, Food  
18 and Markets; and

19 (4) the farm submits an application for assistance to the Agency of  
20 Agriculture, Food and Markets by a date specified by the Secretary of  
21 Agriculture, Food and Markets.





1           (2) \$35,000,000 to the Department of Public Service ~~to grant~~ to contract  
2 with Efficiency Vermont for the purpose of weatherization incentives to  
3 Vermonters with a moderate income. These funds shall be deposited in the  
4 Electric Efficiency Fund established under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3) and shall be  
5 available for ~~use by Efficiency Vermont~~ this purpose through December 31,  
6 2026. Households approved for assistance in this section will also be offered  
7 services outlined in subdivision (4) of this subsection.

8

\* \* \*

9           Sec. C.118 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, as amended by 2023 Acts  
10 and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 75 is further amended to read:

11           Sec. 3. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND  
12                                      REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

13           Of the amounts available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)  
14 recovery funds, ~~the following amounts are~~ \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the  
15 Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes  
16 specified:

17           (1) ~~\$2,500,000.00 for m-~~ Manufactured home community small-scale  
18 capital grants, through which the Department may award not more than  
19 \$20,000.00 for owners of manufactured housing communities to complete  
20 small-scale capital needs to help infill vacant lots with homes, which may  
21 include projects such as disposal of abandoned homes, lot grading/preparation,

1 site electrical box issues/upgrades, E911 safety issues, legal fees, transporting  
2 homes out of flood zones, individual septic system, and marketing to help  
3 make it easier for home-seekers to find vacant lots around the State.

4 (2) ~~\$750,000.00 for m~~ Manufactured home repair grants, through which  
5 the Department may award funding for minor rehab or accessibility projects,  
6 coordinated as possible with existing programs, for between 250 and 400  
7 existing homes where the home is otherwise in good condition or in situations  
8 where the owner is unable to replace the home and the repair will keep them  
9 housed.

10 (3) ~~\$750,000.00 for n~~ New manufactured home foundation grants,  
11 through which the Department may award not more than \$15,000.00 per grant  
12 for a homeowner to pay for a foundation or HUD-approved slab, site  
13 preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and utility connections on vacant lots within  
14 manufactured home communities.

15 \* \* \*

16 **Sec. C.119 BALANCE RESERVE UNRESERVED; RESERVED FOR**  
17 **VCBB**

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

20 (b) In fiscal year 2024, \$20,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for the  
21 exclusive benefit of the Vermont Community Broadband Board and for the

1 sole purpose of securing federal funding under the National  
2 Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Enabling Middle Mile  
3 Broadband Infrastructure Program. The State’s pending application requires a  
4 commitment to provide contingency reserve funding equal to 25% of the total  
5 award amount if the application is approved and the award is accepted by the  
6 State.

7 (1) In the fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment act, any funds reserved,  
8 but not required, for the purpose described in Sec. C.119(b) shall be unreserved  
9 and reserved within the General Fund Balance Reserve established by 32  
10 V.S.A. § 308c.

11 Sec. C.120 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 as amended by 2023  
12 Acts and Resolves No. 3 Sec. 45 is further amended to read:

13 Sec. 45. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

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

18 \* \* \*

19 (37) \$1,200,000 to the Department for Children and Families to be  
20 awarded for a grant to the Lund Center for an unrestricted contribution to its  
21 Residential Treatment program when it is are operating at full 26 bed capacity.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

Sec. C.121 FISCAL YEAR 2023 CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY FOR  
HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE PROGRAM

(a) In fiscal year 2023, the Department of Health shall carry forward unspent appropriations made for the following programs:  
(1) the nursing forgivable loan program created in 18 V.S.A. § 34;  
(2) the medical student incentive scholarship created in 8 V.S.A. § 33;  
and  
(3) the health professional loan repayment programs created in 18 V.S.A. § 32 and 18 V.S.A § 35.

(b) The Department shall true up and adjust the balances for any of the programs listed above if past carryforward amounts were inconsistent with legislative intent.

(c) The report required by Sec. E.125.1 of this act shall specifically address carryforward requirements and any clarify statutory amendments.

Sec. C.122 HOUSING TRANSITION; RESOURCES FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

(a) The additional funding provided in this section is to be used for a coordinated and collaborated effort between State agencies and community partners to address community impacts as individuals transition from hotel and motel settings. The Secretaries of Administration, of Human Services, and of

1 Commerce and Community Development, and their respective designees, shall  
2 collaborate with local community partners, including the community action  
3 agencies; designated and specialized service agencies; homeless shelters;  
4 health care providers such as free clinics, hospitals, health networks, and  
5 community health teams; youth service agencies; and willing civic and  
6 religious community organizations to support individuals and households who  
7 are transitioning from hotels and motels to alternate housing or shelter  
8 arrangements or who may be homeless.

9 (b) The Agency of Human Services shall transition the Coordinated Care  
10 Housing Resource Teams into existing regional teams that shall take the  
11 lessons learned from the statewide response and systematize cross-agency,  
12 team-based complex care. The Agency's field directors shall lead this  
13 transition, working in collaboration with leaders from the Blueprint for Health  
14 and the regional partner organizations described in subsection (a) of this  
15 section.

16 (c) The sum of \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Department for  
17 Children and Families in fiscal year 2023 as set forth in subsections (d) and (e)  
18 of this section, and may be carried forward into fiscal year 2024, to provide  
19 assistance to individuals and households experiencing homelessness. Funds  
20 may be distributed through payments to beneficiaries, through grants, or  
21 through contracts, at the Department's discretion. The amounts to be

1 distributed to community partners shall be awarded as flexible grants through  
2 the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity  
3 Housing Opportunity Program that enable the grantees working with these  
4 individuals and households to respond to their short-term needs, which may  
5 include rental deposits; campsite fees and camping equipment; furniture and  
6 appliances; car repairs, if funds for repairs are not available from other  
7 programs; and transportation costs, including relocation expenses.

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

15 (1) The Commissioner of Finance and Management is authorized to  
16 reallocate General Fund appropriations made to the Vermont Housing and  
17 Conservation Board in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45. In exchange,  
18 the Secretary of Administration shall provide an amount equal to the  
19 reallocation amount to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board from the  
20 federal funds appropriated through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program,

1 which was originally approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to  
2 Grant Request #3034; and

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

8 (e) The remaining \$600,000 of the funds described in subsection (c) of this  
9 section are appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) –  
10 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Department for Children and  
11 Families for the purposes set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

12 (f) The funding provided in subsection (c) of this section is in addition to  
13 other funding for housing stability services allocated in this act or through  
14 other recent legislative action, including:

15 (1) \$15,200,00 in ARPA – Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds  
16 for three years of housing stability wraparound services through community  
17 partners;

18 (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, the  
19 fiscal year 2023 budget adjustment act, to provide coordinated care teams for  
20 wraparound support services;





1 town road right-of-way. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to exempt  
2 projects under this subsection from other required permits or the conditions on  
3 lands subject to existing permits required by this section.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. C.124 EXEMPTION REPEAL

6 10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) is repealed on January 1, 2026.

7 Sec. C.125 ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITY PROJECT REPORT

8 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, and annually until 2026, any  
9 distribution utility that takes an action exempt under 10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) shall  
10 report to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate  
11 Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy on the projects  
12 completed pursuant to that exemption in the preceding year. The report shall  
13 address: the location of the projects, including whether it is located in a “1-acre  
14 town” or a “10-acre town”; how many customers are affected by the project;  
15 whether the project involved lines being hardened in place, buried  
16 underground, or relocated to the right-of-way; how many poles were removed  
17 and how many poles were set; and what permits the projects were required to  
18 receive.

19 \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2024 Fund Transfers and Reserve Allocations \* \* \*

20 Sec. D.100 APPROPRIATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

1       (a) This act contains the following amounts appropriated from special  
2 funds that receive revenue from the property transfer tax. Expenditures from  
3 these appropriations shall not exceed available revenues.

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

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

16           (A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property  
17 transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the  
18 affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) shall be offset by the reduction of  
19 \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
20 Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a.  
21 The fiscal year 2024 appropriation of \$21,462,855 to the Vermont Housing and

1 Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing  
2 bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed  
3 after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, it is the  
4 intent of the General Assembly that the \$1,500,000 reduction in the  
5 appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board should be  
6 restored.

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

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

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

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

18 Sec. D.100.1 LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

19 PLANNING FUNDS

1       (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that an amount not to exceed  
2       \$500,000 of the planning funds provided in Sec. D.100 of this act be used for  
3       municipal bylaw modernization.

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

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

7             (1) From the General Fund to:

8                     (A) the Environmental Contingency Fund (21275): \$5,000,000;

9                     (B) the Enhanced 911 Board Fund (21711): \$2,115,000;

10                    (i) Of the funds transferred to the Enhanced 911 Board Fund in  
11       this subdivision, \$815,000 shall be used to support necessary 911 system  
12       upgrades beginning in fiscal year 2024;

13                    (C) the Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951):  
14       \$10,000,000;

15                    (D) the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (21952):

16                    (i) \$17,685,000 for the Capital Infrastructure subaccount for use  
17       on capital projects as authorized in the capital bill and appropriated in this act;

18       and

19                    (ii) \$49,540,000 for the Other Infrastructure, Essential  
20       Investments, and Reserves subaccount for other expenditures and reserves as  
21       authorized by the General Assembly.

1           (E) the Fire Prevention/Building Inspection Special Fund (21901):

2           \$1,500,000; and

3           (F) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909):

4           \$3,600,000.

5           (2) From the Education Fund to:

6           (A) the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (21909):

7           \$1,300,000.

8           (3) From the Clean Water Fund (21932) established by 10 V.S.A.

9           § 1388 to:

10           (A) the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (21933) created

11           under 6 V.S.A. §4803: \$6,684,880; and

12           (B) the Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (21938)

13           created under 10 V.S.A. § 1315: \$120,000.

14           (4) From the Transportation Fund to:

15           (A) the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement

16           Fund (21575) established by 24 V.S.A. § 2796 to be used by the Vermont

17           Downtown Development Board for the purposes of the Fund: \$523,966.

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

19           2024:

20           (1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from

21           the funds indicated:

1	<u>22005</u>	<u>AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts</u>	<u>\$4,641,960</u>
2	<u>50300</u>	<u>Liquor Control Fund</u>	<u>\$21,200,000</u>
3		<u>Sports Wagering Fund</u>	<u>\$1,204,000</u>
4		<u>Caledonia Fair</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
5		<u>North Country Hospital Loan Repayment</u>	<u>\$24,047</u>
6		<u>Springfield Hospital Promissory Note Repayment</u>	<u>\$121,416</u>

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

13	<u>21638</u>	<u>AG-Fees and reimbursement – Court order</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
14	<u>621000</u>	<u>Unclaimed Property Fund</u>	<u>\$3,270,225</u>

15           (3) Notwithstanding 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E. 228,  
16 \$60,044,000 of the unencumbered balances in the Insurance Regulatory and  
17 Supervision Fund (21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision  
18 Fund (21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (21080)  
19 shall be transferred to the General Fund.

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

4 3400004000 Agency of Human Services –  
5 Secretary’s Office – Global Commitment \$15,103,683

6 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
7 2024 the following estimated General Fund reserves shall be made:

8 (1) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 308, an estimated amount of \$1,669,311  
9 shall be unreserved from the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve.

10 Sec. D.102 27/53 RESERVE

11 (a) \$5,350,000 General Fund shall be reserved in the 27/53 reserve in fiscal  
12 year 2023. This action is the fiscal year 2024 contribution to the reserve for  
13 the 53rd week of Medicaid as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e and the 27th  
14 payroll reserve as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e.

15 Sec. D.103 UNRESERVED; INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

16 (a) In fiscal year 2024, \$700,000 in general funds reserved per 2022 Act  
17 and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.107.2(b) are unreserved and available for  
18 appropriation.

19 Sec. D.104 EDUCATION FUND RESERVE; FUTURE SUPPLEMENTAL

20 COST OF LIVING PAYMENTS





- 1           (A) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets:
- 2                 (i) one Consumer Protection Specialist I; and
- 3                 (ii) two Food Safety Specialist Is;
- 4           (B) Criminal Justice Council: two FIP Instructors;
- 5           (C) Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living:
- 6                 (i) five Quality and Program Participant Specialists;
- 7                 (ii) one Dementia Coordinator; and
- 8                 (iii) three Public Guardians;
- 9           (D) Department of Financial Regulation: two Insurance Examiners;
- 10           (E) Department of Human Resources:
- 11                 (i) one Compensation Analyst;
- 12                 (ii) one Configuration Analyst II;
- 13                 (iii) one Employee Support Specialist;
- 14                 (iv) one FMLI Manager;
- 15                 (v) one HR Administrator III;
- 16                 (vi) one HR Administrator IV;
- 17                 (vii) one HR Manager; and
- 18                 (viii) one Talent Coordinator;
- 19           (F) Department of Liquor and Lottery:
- 20                 (i) one Financial Analyst; and
- 21                 (ii) one Sports Betting Director;

1           (G) Department of Mental Health:

2                   (i) one Crisis Program Director;

3                   (ii) one Mental Health Analyst I;

4                   (iii) one Operations Manager; and

5                   (iv) one Training and Curriculum Development Supervisor; and

6                   (v) one Quality and Program Specialist;

7           (H) Department of Taxes – State Appraisal and Litigation Assistance

8    Program:

9                   (i) one Property Valuation and Review Program Manager;

10           (I) Office of the State Treasurer:

11                   (i) one Program Technician;

12                   (ii) one Administrative Services Coordinator;

13                   (iii) one Financial Specialist III;

14                   (iv) one Financial Manager I;

15                   (v) one Financial Manager II; and

16                   (vi) one Program Technician II;

17           (J) Enhanced 911 Board:

18                   (i) one Program Technician I;

19           (K) Department of Motor Vehicles:

20                   (i) three Motor Vehicle Inspectors;

21           (L) Office of the Defender General:

1           (i) one Financial Director;

2           (M) Agency of Natural Resources:

3           (i) one Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Specialist;

4           (N) Agency of Transportation – Highway Division:

5           (i) one Transportation Operations Technician III; and

6           (ii) one Transportation Technician IV;

7           (O) Agency of Human Services – Central Office:

8           (i) three Quality and Program Specialists;

9           (P) Vermont Pension Investment Commission:

10          (i) one Investment Accountant;

11          (Q) Agency of Education:

12          (i) one Afterschool and Summer Care Data Analyst; and

13          (ii) one Afterschool and Summer Care Grant Program

14          Administrator.

15          (2) Permanent exempt positions:

16          (A) Department of Taxes – State Appraisal and Litigation Assistance  
17          Program: one Staff Attorney;

18          (B) Agency of Commerce and Community Development – Division  
19          for Historic Preservation – Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs:  
20          one Executive Director;

21          (C) Human Rights Commission – one Litigator;

1           (D) Office of the Attorney General – one Private Secretary;

2           (E) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

3                 (i) five Deputy State’s Attorneys;

4                 (ii) one Victim Advocate; and

5                 (iii) two Legal Assistants;

6           (F) Office of the State Treasurer:

7                 (i) one Director – VT Saves; and

8                 (ii) one Communications and Outreach Manager – VT Saves

9           (G) Agency of Administration – Office of Health Equity

10                 (i) one Director of Health Equity; and

11                 (ii) one Private Secretary.

12           (b) The conversion of 49 limited service positions to classified permanent  
13 status is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

14                 (1) Department of Public Safety, State Police:

15                         (A) one Victim Services Specialist;

16                 (2) Department of Vermont Health Access, Blueprint for Health Unit:

17                         (A) one HCR Integration Manager;

18                 (3) Department of Vermont Health Access, Health Care Reform Unit:

19                         (A) one Administrative Services Manager I;

20                         (B) five DVHA Program Consultants;

21                         (C) one DVHA Quality Control Manager;

1           (D) one Health Reform Enterprise Director I;

2           (E) two Medicaid Operations Administrators;

3           (F) one Project and Operations Director;

4           (G) one Project and Operations Specialist; and

5           (H) one Project Director;

6           (4) Department of Vermont Health Access, Medicaid Policy Fiscal and

7   Support Unit:

8           (A) two Audit Liaison – Internal Control positions;

9           (B) three DVHA Healthcare QC Auditors;

10          (C) one DVHA Healthcare QC CAP Auditor;

11          (D) two DVHA Program and Operations Auditors;

12          (E) one DVHA Program Consultant;

13          (F) one Health Reform Enterprise Director I; and

14          (G) one Nurse Auditor;

15          (5) Department of Vermont Health Access, Payment Reform Unit:

16          (A) one Admin HC Payment Reform Analytics position;

17          (B) three Change Management Practitioners;

18          (C) one Deputy Director of Payment Reform;

19          (D) one Director of Operations for ACO Programs;

20          (E) one Grant Programs Manager;

21          (F) one Health Care Project Director;

1           (G) one Payment Reform Special Project Lead; and

2           (H) one Senior Policy Advisor;

3           (6) Agency of Transportation – Aviation Program:

4           (A) nine Airport Maintenance Workers; and

5           (B) one Airport Operations Specialist; and

6           (7) Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office:

7           (A) one Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Director; and

8           (B) two Environmental Justice Coordinators.

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

11           (1) Department for Children and Families for the Reach Ahead pilot  
12 program:

13           (A) one Benefits Program Assistant Administrator; and

14           (B) two Reach Up Case Manager IIs;

15           (2) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

16           (A) one Communications and Outreach Coordinator;

17           (B) one Climate Forester;

18           (C) three Forester IIs; and

19           (D) one Land Acquisition Coordinator.

20           (d) The establishment of 23 new exempt limited service positions is  
21 authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

1           (1) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

2                   (A) six Deputy State’s Attorneys;

3                   (B) six State’s Attorney Legal Assistants;

4                   (C) six State’s Attorney Victim Advocates; and

5                   (D) four State’s Attorney Secretaries.

6           (2) Agency of Administration – Health Equity Advisory Commission:

7                   (A) one Private Secretary.

8           Sec. E.100.1 HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMISSION; OFFICE OF

9                           HEALTH EQUITY; ATTACHMENT FOR

10                           ADMINISTRATION; REPORT

11           (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Health Equity Advisory

12           Commission shall submit a written report to the House Committees on

13           Appropriations, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on

14           Health Care and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Government

15           Operations, and on Health and Welfare regarding the appropriate State entity

16           for the Office of Health Equity to be attached to for administrative purposes.

17           The report shall identify various State entities to which the Office could be

18           attached for administrative purposes in order to best position the Office to

19           align with, coordinate with, and complement the State’s health equity efforts,

20           and shall examine the potential benefits and drawbacks of the Office being

21           attached to each of the entities identified.



1       (b) The Agency of Administration is authorized to expend funds  
2       appropriated to the Agency of Administration for the Health Equity Advisory  
3       Commission to fund administrative positions to complete the work required by  
4       this section or other legislation.

5       Sec. E.100.2 OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY POSITIONS

6  
7       (a) \$250,000 of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.100 of this act are to fund  
8       two positions in the Office of Health Equity. These funds may only be  
9       expended, and the positions may only be filled, once the recommendation  
10       required by Sec. E.100.1 of this act regarding the permanent administrative  
11       location for the Office of Health Equity is provided.

12       Sec. E.104.1 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT;

13                       PENSION PLUS APPROPRIATION DIRECTIVE

14       (a) In fiscal year 2024, funds appropriated to the Department of Finance  
15       and Management and the Agency of Administration in Sec. B.104.1 of this act  
16       to fund additional payments to the Vermont State Retirement System made  
17       pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473(c)(8) shall be directly deposited in the Vermont  
18       State Retirement System.

19       (b) Beginning in fiscal year 2025, and in each applicable year thereafter,  
20       additional contributions pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473 (c)(8) shall be made  
21       through the percentage of payroll rate process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473 (d).

22       Sec. E.107 3 V.S.A. § 473 is amended to read:

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

(c)(8) Annually, the Board shall certify an amount to pay the annual actuarially determined employer contribution, as calculated in this subsection, and additional amounts as follows:

(A) in fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$9,000,000.00;

(B) in fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$12,000,000.00;

(C) in fiscal year 2026 and in any year thereafter when the Fund is calculated to have a funded ratio of less than 90 percent, the amount of \$15,000,000.00.

(d) Contributions of State. As provided by law, the Retirement Board shall certify to the Governor or Governor-Elect a statement of the percentage of the payroll of all members sufficient to pay for all operating expenses of the Vermont State Retirement System and all contributions of the State that will become due and payable during the next biennium. The contributions of the State to pay the annual actuarially determined employer contribution and any additional amounts pursuant to section (c)(8) of this section shall be charged to the departmental appropriation from which members' salaries are paid and shall be included in each departmental budgetary request. Annually, on or before January 15, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall provide to the General Assembly a breakdown of the components of the payroll charge applied to each department's budget in the current fiscal year

1 and anticipated to apply in the upcoming fiscal year. This report shall itemize  
2 the percentages of payroll assessments to fund:

3 (1) the actuarially determined employer contribution to the Vermont  
4 State Retirement System;

5 (2) any additional payments made pursuant to section (c)(8) to the  
6 Vermont State Retirement System; and

7 (3) the employer contribution to the State Employees' Postemployment  
8 Benefits Trust Fund made pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 479a (e)(3).

9 Sec. E.108 3 V.S.A. § 479 is amended to read:

10 § 479. GROUP INSURANCE

11 (a)(1) As provided under section 631 of this title, a member who is insured  
12 by the respective group insurance plans immediately preceding the member's  
13 effective date of retirement shall be entitled to continuation of group insurance  
14 as follows:

15 ~~(A)~~(i) coverage in the group medical benefit plan provided by the  
16 State of Vermont for active State employees; or

17 ~~(B)~~(ii) for a Group F and Group G plan member first included in the  
18 membership of the system on or after July 1, 2008, coverage in the group  
19 medical benefit plan offered by the State of Vermont for active State  
20 employees and pursuant to the following, provided:

1            ~~(i)~~(I) a member who has completed five years and less than 10  
2 years of creditable service at the member's retirement shall pay the full cost of  
3 the premium;

4            ~~(ii)~~(II) a member who has completed 10 years and less than 15  
5 years of creditable service at the member's retirement shall pay 60 percent of  
6 the cost of the premium;

7            ~~(iii)~~(III) a member who has completed 15 years and less than 20  
8 years of creditable service at ~~his or her~~ the member's retirement shall pay 40  
9 percent of the cost of the premium;

10           ~~(iv)~~(IV) a member who has completed 20 years or more of  
11 creditable service at ~~his or her~~ the member's retirement shall pay 20 percent of  
12 the cost of the premium; and

13           ~~(2)~~(B) members who have completed 20 years of creditable service at  
14 their effective date of retirement shall be entitled to the continuation of life  
15 insurance in the amount of \$10,000.00.

16           (2) Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (1)(A)(i) or (ii) of this  
17 subsection to the contrary, a member may be offered health coverage other  
18 than coverage in the group medical benefit plan provided by the State of  
19 Vermont for active State employees if the following conditions are met:

1           (A) the alternative health coverage is substantially equivalent to the  
2 coverage offered through the group medical benefit plan provided by the State  
3 of Vermont for active State employees; and

4           (B) the alternative health coverage is mutually agreeable to:

5                 (i) the State;

6                 (ii) each employee organization that has been certified to represent  
7 one or more bargaining units pursuant to chapters 27 and 28 of this title; and

8                 (iii) the Vermont Retired State Employees' Association.

9           (b) As of July 1, 2007, members of the Group C plan who separate from  
10 service prior to being eligible for retirement benefits under this chapter, who  
11 have at least 20 years of creditable service, and who participated in the group  
12 medical benefit plan at the time of separation from service shall have a one-  
13 time option at the time retirement benefits commence to participate in the  
14 group medical benefit plan provided by the State of Vermont for active State  
15 employees or any alternative health coverage provided pursuant to subdivision  
16 (a)(2) of this section. Premiums for the plan shall be prorated between the  
17 retired member and the Retirement System pursuant to section 631 of this title.

18           (c) Premiums for coverage of retired members of the Group C plan and  
19 their dependents in the group medical benefit plan or any alternative health  
20 coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be  
21 prorated on the same basis as is provided for active employees by the current

1 collective bargaining agreement for the nonmanagement unit. The amounts  
2 designated as the State's share of premium for the medical benefit plan and the  
3 total premium for group life insurance provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this  
4 section shall be paid by the Fund as an operating expense in accordance with  
5 subsection 473(d) of this title.

6 (d) After January 1, 2007, the State Treasurer may offer and administer a  
7 dental benefit plan for retired members, beneficiaries, eligible dependents, and  
8 eligible retirees of special affiliated groups and the dependents of members of  
9 those groups who are eligible for coverage in the State Employee Group  
10 Medical Benefit Plan or any alternative health coverage provided pursuant to  
11 subdivision (a)(2) of this section. The Plan shall be separate and apart from  
12 any dental benefit plan offered to Vermont State employees. The original plan  
13 of benefits, and any changes thereto, shall be determined by the State Treasurer  
14 with due consideration of recommendations from the Retired Employees'  
15 Committee on Insurance established in section 636 of this title.

16 \* \* \*

17 (3) Dependent eligibility shall be determined in the manner applied to  
18 determinations for coverage in the State Employee Medical Benefit Plan or any  
19 alternative health coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this  
20 section.

21 (4) [Repealed.]

1 (e) As of January 1, 2007, and thereafter, upon retirement, members  
2 entitled to prorated group medical benefit plan premium payments from the  
3 Retirement System under the terms of this section shall have a one-time option  
4 to reduce the percentage of premium payments from the Retirement System  
5 during the member's life, with the provision that the Fund shall continue  
6 making an equal percentage of premium payments after the member's death  
7 for the life of the dependent beneficiary nominated by the member under  
8 section 468 of this title, should such dependent beneficiary survive the  
9 member. The Retirement Board, after consultation with its actuary, shall  
10 establish reduced premium payment percentages that are as cost neutral to the  
11 Fund as possible.

12 (f) [Repealed.]

13 (g) A member of the Group F or Group G plan who is first included in the  
14 membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who separates from service  
15 prior to being eligible for retirement benefits under this chapter, who has at  
16 least 20 years of creditable service, and who participated in the group medical  
17 benefit plan at the time of separation from service shall have a one-time option  
18 at the time retirement benefits commence to reinstate the same level of  
19 coverage, in the group medical benefit plan provided by the State of Vermont  
20 for active State employees or any alternative health coverage provided  
21 pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, that existed at the date of

1 separation from service. Premiums for the plan shall be prorated between the  
2 retired member and the Retirement System pursuant to subsection 479(a) of  
3 this title.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.108.1 3 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

6 § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY  
7 DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND  
8 CREDIT UNIONS

9 (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State  
10 with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this  
11 State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. ~~Beginning July 1,~~  
12 ~~1978, the~~ The terms of coverage under the policy shall be determined under  
13 section 904 of this title, but it may include:

14 (A) life, disability, health, and accident insurance and benefits for  
15 any class or classes of State employees; and

16 (B) hospital, surgical, and medical benefits for any class or classes of  
17 State employees or for those employees and any class or classes of their  
18 dependents.

19 (2)(A)(i) As used in this section, the term “employees” includes any  
20 class or classes of elected or appointed officials, State’s Attorneys, sheriffs,  
21 employees of State’s Attorneys’ offices whose compensation is administered



1 through the State of Vermont payroll system, except contractual and temporary  
2 employees, and deputy sheriffs paid by the State of Vermont pursuant to 24  
3 V.S.A. § 290(b). The term “employees” shall not include members of the  
4 General Assembly as such, any person rendering service on a retainer or fee  
5 basis, members of boards or commissions, or persons other than employees of  
6 the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film Corporation, the Vermont  
7 State Employees’ Credit Union, Vermont State Employees’ Association, and  
8 the Vermont Council on the Arts, whose compensation for service is not paid  
9 from the State Treasury, or any elected or appointed official unless the official  
10 is actively engaged in and devoting substantially full-time to the conduct of the  
11 business of ~~his or her~~ the official’s public office.

12 (ii) For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense  
13 insurance, the term “employees” shall include employees as defined in  
14 subdivision (i) of this subdivision (2)(A) and former employees as defined in  
15 this subdivision who are retired and are receiving a retirement allowance from  
16 the Vermont State Retirement System or the State Teachers’ Retirement  
17 System of Vermont and, for the purposes of group life insurance only, are  
18 retired on or after July 1, 1961; and have completed 20 creditable years of  
19 service with the State before their retirement dates and are insured for group  
20 life insurance on their retirement dates.

21

\* \* \*



1           (2)(A) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's  
2 Attorneys and Sheriffs, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after  
3 transmittal of findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time  
4 frame mutually agreed upon by the parties that may be not more than an  
5 additional 30 days, each party shall submit as a single package its last best  
6 offer on all disputed issues to the Board, or upon the request of either party, to  
7 an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree  
8 on an arbitrator, the American Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral  
9 third party to act as arbitrator.

10           (B)(i) Each party's last best offer shall be filed with the Board or the  
11 arbitrator under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the public record only  
12 when both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board or the arbitrator.

13           (ii) A party's last best offer shall not include a proposal to:

14                   (I) provide alternative health coverage to retired State  
15 employees that has not been agreed to pursuant to the provisions of subdivision  
16 479(a)(2) of this title; or

17                   (II) provide health coverage that includes a Medicare  
18 Advantage plan or similar plan established pursuant to Title XVIII of the  
19 Social Security Act unless the inclusion of the plan has been agreed to by both  
20 parties.





1 amended, is a special fund to support information technology improvements  
2 and initiatives of the Department of Taxes. Balances in the Fund shall be  
3 administered by the Department of Taxes and used exclusively for the  
4 purposes prescribed in subsection (c) of this section. Balances in the Fund at  
5 the end of each fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of the  
6 Fund. Interest earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

7 (b) The Fund shall receive annual transfers from the General Fund and the  
8 Education Fund in amounts not to exceed 0.21 percent of total revenue  
9 collected in the prior fiscal year by the Department of Taxes. The fund may  
10 receive other receipts as directed or authorized by the General Assembly.

11 (c) The Fund shall be used for the development, implementation,  
12 enhancement, and maintenance of information technology systems and  
13 services for the administration of taxes and programs administered by the  
14 Department. This shall include requests for proposal, business requirements,  
15 analysis, implementation of new tax types, enhancements to existing systems,  
16 and payments due to vendors of information technology systems and services.

17 (d) The Commissioner of Taxes shall submit an annual report on the  
18 receipts, expenditures, and balances in the Tax Computer System  
19 Modernization Fund to the Joint Fiscal Committee each year at or prior to the  
20 Committee's November meeting each year.

21 Sec. E.111.2 TAX COMPUTER SYSTEM MODERNIZATION FUND

1 TRANSFER

2 (a) Any remaining funds on June 30, 2023 in the Tax Computer System  
3 Modernization Fund established by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 282,  
4 and amended from time to time, shall be deposited into the fund established by  
5 32 V.S.A. § 3209.

6 Sec. E.111.3 24 V.S.A. § 138(c) is amended to read:

7 (c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected  
8 and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with State law  
9 governing such State tax or taxes; provided, however, that a sales tax imposed  
10 under this section shall be collected on each sale that is subject to the Vermont  
11 sales tax using a destination basis for taxation. Except with respect to taxes  
12 collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, a per-return fee of \$5.96 shall be  
13 assessed ~~to compensate the Department for the costs of administration and~~  
14 ~~collection~~, 70 percent of which shall be borne by the municipality, and  
15 30 percent of which shall be borne by the State to be paid from the PILOT  
16 Special Fund. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603 or any other provision of law  
17 or municipal charter to the contrary, revenue from the fee shall be used to  
18 compensate the Department for the costs of administering and collecting the  
19 local option tax and of administering the State appraisal and litigation program  
20 established in 32 V.S.A. § 5413. The fee shall be subject to the provisions of  
21 32 V.S.A. § 605.

1 Sec. E.124 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 8 is amended to  
2 read:

3 Sec. 8. REPEAL

4 ~~On June 30, 2024:~~

5 ~~(1) Sec. 3 of this act (creating the Executive Director of Racial Equity~~  
6 ~~and Racial Equity Advisory Panel in 3 V.S.A. chapter 68) is repealed and the~~  
7 ~~Executive Director position and Panel shall cease to exist; and~~

8 ~~(2) Sec. 4 of this act (authorization for the Executive Director of Racial~~  
9 ~~Equity position) is repealed. [Repealed.]~~

10 Sec. E.124.1 COUNCIL ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS; INTENT

11 (a) It is the intent of the Vermont General Assembly to support the work of  
12 the Governor's Council on Housing and Homelessness, focusing on strategies  
13 for affordability and solving homelessness. The Council is encouraged to  
14 review and inventory the affordable housing that has been developed since  
15 January 2020, including the various public and private financing sources that  
16 have been utilized. The Council is also encouraged to review and inventory  
17 available housing assistance programs and funding levels.

18 Sec. E.125 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 126, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 2. REPORT ON ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE REMEDIES AND LAW  
20 ENFORCEMENT QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IN VERMONT



1 (a) On or before November 15, ~~2022~~ 2023, the Office of Legislative  
2 Counsel shall submit a written legal analysis to the Senate Committee on  
3 Judiciary, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Joint Legislative Justice  
4 Oversight Committee concerning the impact of the doctrine of qualified  
5 immunity on access to civil justice remedies in the State of Vermont and the  
6 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In particular, the analysis shall  
7 identify:

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. E.125.1 REVIEW OF WORKFORCE INCENTIVES, LOANS, AND  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

11 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Office of Legislative Counsel and  
12 the Joint Fiscal Office, in collaboration with the Agency of Human Services,  
13 the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Health, the Department of  
14 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the Vermont Student Assistance  
15 Corporation (VSAC), and the Office of Primary Care and Area Health  
16 Education Centers (AHEC) Program at the University of Vermont Larner  
17 College of Medicine shall issue a written report to the House and Senate  
18 Committees on Appropriations including:

19 (1) a complete inventory of existing State programs that provide  
20 workforce incentives in the form of scholarships, forgivable loans or loan  
21 repayment grants for a specified service obligation or other incentives with the

1 objective of increasing the number of practitioners in health care and other  
2 social service occupations in Vermont;

3 (2) a summary of the amount and sources of funds for each program,  
4 both base and one-time, and any anticipated carryforward of unobligated  
5 balances at the close of fiscal year 2023;

6 (3) recommendations for streamlining or restructuring the existing  
7 programs with the goal of consolidating administration and making the  
8 programs easily accessible to potential students and existing or potential staff.

9 There should be consideration of the level of program specificity that should  
10 be included in statute or remain within the authority of the administering  
11 entities. The report shall include the authorizing statute for each program and  
12 necessary statutory amendments to accomplish the recommendations.

13 Sec. E.127 FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEE REPORT; NATURAL RESOURCES  
14 AND HUMAN SERVICES; NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD;  
15 VETERANS' HOME

16 (a) Fiscal Year 2024 Fee Information. The Secretary of Natural Resources,  
17 the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural  
18 Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans'  
19 Home shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a  
20 comprehensive fee report for the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of  
21 Human Services, the Natural Resources Board, and the Vermont Veterans'

1 Home, respectively, for each fee in existence on July 1, 2023. Each fee report

2 shall contain the following information:

3 (1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;

4 (2) the current rate or amount and date the fee was last set or adjusted by

5 the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;

6 (3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;

7 (4) the revenues derived from each fee in the previous five fiscal years;

8 (5) the number of instances that each fee was paid in the two most

9 recent fiscal years;

10 (6) a projection for fee revenues in the current fiscal year and the next

11 fiscal year;

12 (7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory

13 function performed;

14 (8) the relationship between the revenue raised and the cost of the

15 service, product, or regulatory function supported by the fee;

16 (9) the amount of the fee if it would have been adjusted by inflation

17 since the fee was last set;

18 (10) for any fees deposited in a special fund, the percent of the special

19 fund that the fee represents;

20 (11) whether any comparable fees exist in other jurisdictions;

21 (11) any policies that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

1           (12) any other relevant considerations for setting the fee amount.

2           (b) Reports.

3           (1) On or before October 15, 2023, the Secretary of Natural Resources,  
4 the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural  
5 Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans'  
6 Home shall each submit a written draft report of the fiscal year 2024 fee  
7 information described in subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office  
8 for review and feedback. The Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of  
9 Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Board, and  
10 the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home shall each work  
11 with the Joint Fiscal Office to respond to feedback prior to submission of the  
12 final report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

13           (2) On or before December 15, 2023, the Secretary of Natural  
14 Resources, the Secretary of Human Services, the Executive Director of the  
15 Natural Resources Board, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont  
16 Veterans' Home shall each submit a written final report of the fiscal year 2024  
17 fee information described in subsection (a) of this section to the House  
18 Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate  
19 Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

20           (3) If any of the information on any fee that is requested in this section  
21 cannot be provided, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of

1 Human Services, the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Board, and  
2 the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home shall include in  
3 both the draft and final reports described in this subsection (b) a written  
4 explanation for why the information is not available.

5 (c) Fee Report Moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal  
6 year 2024, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated  
7 Executive Branch fee report and request to the General Assembly.

8 Sec. E.128 OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS; NEW POSITIONS

9 (a) The establishment of two new permanent exempt Capitol Police Officer  
10 positions in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms are authorized in fiscal year  
11 2024.

12 Sec. E.128.1 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.126(a) is amended to  
13 read:

14 Sec. E.126a LEGISLATIVE – HUMAN RESOURCES ASSOCIATE  
15 POSITION

16 (a) One ~~limited service~~ permanent exempt position, Human Resources  
17 ~~Associate Generalist~~, is authorized for establishment in fiscal year 2022.

18 Sec. E.128.2 FARMERS' NIGHT CONCERT SERIES; APPROPRIATION

19 (a) The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is authorized to use not more than  
20 \$10,000 from resources available within the General Assembly's budget to  
21 provide honoraria to speakers and performing groups who are invited to

1 participate in the 2024 Farmers' Night Concert Series and who are not  
2 otherwise sponsored or compensated for their participation.

3 Sec. E. 131 TREASURER CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING  
4 COORDINATION

5 (a) The Treasurer may use funds appropriated in fiscal year 2024 to  
6 coordinate the State's climate infrastructure financing efforts. Use of funds  
7 can include administrative costs and third party consultation. The Treasurer  
8 will collaborate with, among others, the Vermont Climate Council, the Agency  
9 of Natural Resources – Climate Action Office, the Public Service Department,  
10 Vermont members of the Coalition for Green Capital, and the three financial  
11 instrumentalities of the State to create a framework for effective collaboration  
12 among Vermont organizations, agencies, and the financial instrumentalities of  
13 the State to maximize the amount of federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds  
14 the State may receive and effectively coordinate the deployment of these and  
15 other greenhouse gas reduction funds. The Treasurer shall submit  
16 recommendations to the General Assembly regarding legislation for Vermont's  
17 climate infrastructure financing on or before January 15, 2024.

18 Sec. E.131.1 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID TASK FORCE; REPORT

19 (a) Creation. The School Construction Aid Task Force is created to  
20 examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

- 1       (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
2       members:
- 3           (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, who shall be  
4       appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 5           (2) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
6       Committee on Committees;
- 7           (3) the State Treasurer or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;  
8           (4) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;  
9           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education  
10       Association or designee;
- 11          (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or  
12       designee;
- 13          (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or  
14       designee;
- 15          (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
16       or designee;
- 17          (9) the Executive Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee;  
18          (10) the President of the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance  
19       Association or designee;
- 20          (11) a person with expertise in historic preservation, appointed by the  
21       Governor;

1       (12) a person with expertise in the construction industry specializing in  
2 school facilities projects, appointed by the Governor;

3       (13) a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association,  
4 appointed by the Governor; and;

5       (14) a person with expertise in school energy efficiency and energy  
6 performance contracting, who shall be appointed by the Governor.

7       (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall review the results of the  
8 statewide school facilities inventory and conditions assessment and the school  
9 construction funding report required by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 72 and  
10 study the following issues relating to school construction aid:

11       (1) the needs, both programmatic and health and safety, of statewide  
12 school construction projects;

13       (2) funding options for a statewide school construction program,  
14 including any incentive plans;

15       (3) a governance structure for the oversight and management of a school  
16 construction aid program;

17       (4) the appropriate state action level for response to polychlorinated  
18 biphenyl contamination in a school; and

19       (5) criteria for prioritizing school construction funding.

20       (d) Assistance.



1       (1) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal  
2 assistance of the Agency of Education, the Department of Health, and the  
3 Office of the State Treasurer.

4       (2) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to contract for  
5 services for the Task Force for technical assistance from a school construction  
6 expert and any administrative, technical, financial, or legal assistance required  
7 by the Task Force.

8       (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a  
9 written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on  
10 Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education,  
11 on Finance, and on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for  
12 legislative action, including a recommendation on how the State should expend  
13 the funding in the Education Fund reserved for future school construction.

14       (f) Meetings.

15       (1) The State Treasurer shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to  
16 occur on or before July 15, 2023.

17       (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

18       (3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

19       (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

20       (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
21 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's

1 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
2 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than 10  
3 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the  
4 General Assembly.

5 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem  
6 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
7 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from  
8 monies appropriated to the Office of the State Treasurer.

9 Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
10 AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;  
11 OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

12 (a) Of the \$2,990,679 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$2,018,947  
13 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating  
14 budget, and \$971,732 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
15 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State  
16 Employees' Retirement System.

17 Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT  
18 SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT  
19 COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

20 (a) Of the \$1,721,823 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,361,777  
21 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating

1 budget, and \$360,046 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
2 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State  
3 Employees' Retirement System.

4 Sec. E.134.1 PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS; CARBON FOOTPRINT;  
5 REVIEW; VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT  
6 COMMISSION

7 (a) Review. The Vermont Pension Investment Commission, in  
8 consultation with the Office of the State Treasurer, shall complete a review of  
9 the carbon footprint of the holdings of the Vermont State Employees'  
10 Retirement System, the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System, and the  
11 Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System. For purposes of the  
12 review, "carbon footprint" means the extent to which the holdings are invested  
13 in stocks, securities, or other obligations of any fossil fuel company or any  
14 subsidiary, affiliate, or parent of any fossil fuel company.

15 (b) Report. On or before February 15, 2024, the Commission shall submit  
16 a report on the review described in subsection (a) of this section to the House  
17 Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military  
18 Affairs, the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Government  
19 Operations, and to the Joint Pension Oversight Committee. The report shall  
20 include the definition of "fossil fuel company" that the Commission used for  
21 purposes of conducting the review and whether there are any recommendations

1 for legislative action to divest from holdings that contain assets in the fossil  
2 fuel industry.

3 Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

4 (a) Of the appropriation in Sec B.139 of this act, \$9,000 shall be transferred  
5 to the Attorney General and \$70,000 shall be transferred to the Department of  
6 Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review and reserved and used with  
7 any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment  
8 of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list  
9 appeals regarding the reappraisals of hydroelectric plants and other expenses  
10 incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in the State of Vermont.

11 Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

12 (a) The appropriation in Sec. B.142 of this act is for State payments in lieu  
13 of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4. The payments  
14 shall be calculated in addition to and without regard to the appropriations for  
15 PILOT for Montpelier and for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act.  
16 Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT  
17 Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

18 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the payments under this  
19 section shall be adjusted so that the total payments made under Secs. E.142,  
20 E.143, and E.144 of this act do not exceed 100 percent of the assessed value of  
21 State buildings as defined by 32 V.S.A. § 3701(2).

1 Sec. E.143 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES – MONTPELIER

2 (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under Sec. B.143 of this act shall be paid from  
3 the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

4 Sec. E.144 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES – CORRECTIONAL

5 FACILITIES

6 (a) Payments in lieu of taxes under Sec. B.144 of this act shall be paid from  
7 the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

8 \* \* \* Protection \* \* \*

9 Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

10 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the  
11 Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to  
12 retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries  
13 from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State  
14 share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional  
15 recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential  
16 Abuse Unit activities.

17 (b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A.  
18 § 2458(b)(4), \$1,545,393 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

19 Sec. E.204 JUDICIARY; NEW POSITIONS



1 (8)(A) For any offense or violation committed after June 30, 2006, but  
2 before July 1, 2008, \$26.00, of which \$18.75 shall be deposited in the Victims  
3 Compensation Special Fund.

4 (B) For any offense or violation committed after June 30, 2008, but  
5 before July 1, 2009, \$36.00, of which \$28.75 shall be deposited in the Victims'  
6 Compensation Special Fund.

7 (C) For any offense or violation committed after June 30, 2009, but  
8 before July 1, 2013, \$41, of which ~~\$23.75~~ \$27.50 shall be deposited in the  
9 Victims Compensation Special Fund created by section 5359 of this title, and  
10 of which ~~\$10.00~~ \$13.50 shall be deposited in the Domestic and Sexual  
11 Violence Special Fund created by section 5360 of this title.

12 (D) For any offense or violation committed after June 30, 2013,  
13 \$47.00, of which ~~\$29.75~~ \$33.50 shall be deposited in the Victims  
14 Compensation Special Fund created by section 5359 of this title, and of which  
15 ~~\$10.00~~ \$13.50 shall be deposited in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special  
16 Fund created by section 5360 of this title.

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) ~~SUI~~ SIU surcharge. In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the  
19 court or Judicial Bureau for a criminal offense committed after July 1, 2009,  
20 the clerk of the court or Judicial Bureau shall levy an additional surcharge of  
21 \$100.00 to be deposited in the General Fund, in support of the Specialized

1 Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to  
2 pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.

3 Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY – ADMINISTRATION

4 (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety may enter into a performance-based  
5 contract with the Essex County Sheriff’s Department to provide law  
6 enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the Commissioner of  
7 Public Safety and the Essex County Sheriff.

8 Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY – STATE POLICE

9 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$35,000  
10 shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue  
11 Team, which comprises State Police, the Department of Fish and Wildlife,  
12 county sheriffs, and local law enforcement personnel in Bennington,  
13 Windham, and Windsor Counties, for snowmobile enforcement.

14 (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$405,000 is  
15 allocated for grants in support of the Drug Task Force. Of this amount,  
16 \$190,000 shall be used by the Vermont Drug Task Force to fund three town  
17 Task Force officers. These town Task Force officers shall be dedicated to  
18 enforcement efforts with respect to both regulated drugs as defined in 18  
19 V.S.A. § 4201(29) and the diversion of legal prescription drugs. Any  
20 unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to the Drug Task  
21 Force or carried forward.



1 Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE SAFETY

2 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.212 of this act, \$55,000  
3 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force to design dry  
4 hydrants.

5 Sec. E.215 MILITARY – ADMINISTRATION

6 (a) The amount of \$1,319,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student  
7 Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program  
8 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

9 Sec. E.219 MILITARY – VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

10 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, \$1,000 shall be used  
11 for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program, \$4,800 shall be used for the  
12 expenses of the Governor’s Veterans’ Advisory Council, \$7,500 shall be used  
13 for the Veterans’ Day parade, and \$10,000 shall be granted to the American  
14 Legion for the Boys’ State and Girls’ State programs.

15 Sec. E.223 9 V.S.A. § 2730 is amended to read:

16 § 2730. LICENSING FOR OPERATION OF WEIGHING AND  
17 MEASURING DEVICES

18 (a) As used in this section:

19 \* \* \*

1 (14) “Electric vehicle supply equipment” and “electric vehicle supply  
2 equipment available to the public” have the same meanings as in 30 V.S.A.  
3 § 201.

4 \* \* \*

5 (f)(1) The Secretary shall charge, per unit, the following annual license  
6 fees:

7 (A) Retail motor fuel dispenser meter: \$25.00.

8 \* \* \*

9 (E) Each distinct plug-in connection point of electric vehicle supply  
10 equipment available to the public: \$25.00.

11 Sec. E.232 30 V.S.A. § 3085 is added to read:

12 § 3085. CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

13 (a) A district may apply to the Secretary of State for a certificate of good  
14 standing.

15 (b) A certificate of good standing shall include:

16 (1) the official name of the district;

17 (2) that the district is duly formed pursuant to this chapter;

18 (3) the date of the district’s formation;

19 (3) that the fee required by this section has been paid; and

20 (4) that a plan of dissolution for the district has not been approved  
21 pursuant to section 3083 of this chapter.

1     (c) Subject to any qualification stated in the certificate, a certificate of good  
2     standing issued by the Secretary of State may be:

3         (1) relied upon as conclusive evidence that the district is in existence  
4     and is authorized to deliver communications services and operate a  
5     communications plant pursuant to this chapter; and

6         (2) taken as prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

7     (d) A district that applies for a certificate of good standing under this  
8     section shall pay to the Secretary of State a nonrefundable application fee of  
9     \$25.00.

10                             \* \* \* Human Services \* \* \*

11     Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE

12                             ADVOCATE; VERMONT LEGAL AID

13     (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

14         (1) \$1,847,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the  
15     Health Care Advocate;

16         (2) \$1,717,994 for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty  
17     Law Project and mental health services; and

18         (3) \$650,000 is for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal  
19     Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including  
20     eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

21     Sec. E.300.1 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;

1 INCREASE

2 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Human Services shall increase  
3 funding to the designated and specialized service agencies in the following  
4 manner:

5 (1) A five percent base increase for developmental disability services  
6 effective July 1,2023; and

7 (2) A three percent base increase for mental health services effective  
8 July 1, 2023.

9 (A) The remaining mental health service fund increase shall be used  
10 to provide payment equity across the provider agencies. These funds shall be  
11 distributed as determined by the Agency of Human Services in the annual  
12 agreements or appropriate valuation model allocations for providers. The  
13 Agency shall report to the General Assembly in the fiscal year 2024 budget  
14 adjustment process on the status of these payment changes.

15 Sec. E.300.2 BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH HUB AND SPOKE PROGRAM

16 PILOT; FUND SOURCES

17 (a) The Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with the Departments  
18 of Vermont Health Access and of Health, shall identify alternative fund  
19 sources, including sales tax revenue from tobacco, cannabis, and liquor, for  
20 ongoing funding of the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program and shall

1 update the Joint Fiscal Committee on its findings on or before November 15,  
2 2023.

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

4 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec.  
5 B.301 of this act for payment of the actuarially certified premium required  
6 under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human  
7 Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health  
8 Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment to Health Section 1115  
9 demonstration (Global Commitment) approved by the Centers for Medicare  
10 and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

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

14 (1) \$21,957,400 certified State match available from local education  
15 agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under  
16 Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$28,542,600 of federal  
17 funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated  
18 expenditure of \$50,500,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal  
19 matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services  
20 under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment

1 Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A.

2 § 2959a.

3 (2) \$3,093,521 certified State match available from local designated  
4 mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health  
5 services provided under Global Commitment.

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

10 Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER;

11 REPORT

12 (a) To facilitate the end-of-year closeout for fiscal year 2024, the Secretary  
13 of Human Services, with approval from the Secretary of Administration, may  
14 make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and  
15 Medicaid-waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment  
16 appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business  
17 days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the  
18 Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section.  
19 A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint  
20 Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2024 meeting.  
21 The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to

1 modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the  
2 Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the  
3 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social  
4 Security Act.

5 Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a, as amended by 2022  
6 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105 is further amended to read:

7 \* \* \*

8 (f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this  
9 section may be obligated in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 for the  
10 purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal year  
11 2024 and fiscal year 2025, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections  
12 (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in  
13 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 in the same manner as the Global  
14 Commitment appropriations in ~~Sec. E.301 of H.740 of 2022~~ 2022 Acts and  
15 Resolves No, 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal  
16 Committee in September 2023 and September 2024, respectively, on transfers  
17 of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in  
18 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, respectively, and any obligated funds  
19 carried forward to be expended in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025,  
20 respectively.

21 **Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT FUND; HOSPITAL DIRECTED**

1                    PAYMENT PROGRAM

2            (a) The Agency of Human Services is authorized to seek a State Directed  
3 Payment model with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).  
4 This payment model will be for a Hospital Directed Payment (HDP) program.  
5 Upon approval from CMS, the Agency of Human Services' Department of  
6 Vermont Health Access, the University of Vermont, and the University of  
7 Vermont Medical Center may enter into a mutual agreement on the  
8 implementation of the HDP program.

9            (b) If CMS approves a Vermont HDP program within the State's Global  
10 Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in fiscal year 2024  
11 while the General Assembly is not in session, then, pursuant to 32 V.S.A.  
12 § 511 and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the  
13 Department of Finance and Management is authorized to approve the Agency  
14 of Human Services' allocation and expenditure of excess receipts for Global  
15 Commitment Fund spending up to the amount approved by CMS for the  
16 Vermont HDP program.

17            (c) In State fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Human Services is authorized,  
18 to the extent permitted under federal law, to reasonably manage the timing of  
19 federal fiscal year 2024 Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments to  
20 hospitals due to the impact the Vermont HDP program payments received in  
21 State fiscal year 2024 may have on hospitals' eligibility for DSH payments.



1       (d) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the status of the  
2       Vermont HDP program, the expenditure of excess receipts, and the status of  
3       the program’s potential impacts on DSH payments at the September and  
4       November 2023 meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

5       Sec. E.306 VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE RULES

6       (a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.  
7       chapter 25 to conform Vermont’s rules regarding health care eligibility and  
8       enrollment and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to State  
9       and federal law and guidance. The Agency may use the emergency rules  
10       process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 prior to June 30, 2024, but only if new  
11       State or federal law or guidance requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules  
12       in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking  
13       process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall  
14       be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required  
15       pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

16       Sec. E.306.1 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by  
17       2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187,  
18       Sec. 5, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, and 2021 Acts and Resolves  
19       No. 73, Sec. 14, is further amended to read:

20               (10) Secs. 48–51 (health claims tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and  
21       Sec. 52 (Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2023~~ 2025.

1 Sec. E.306.2 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019  
2 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19 and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec.  
3 75, is further amended to read:

4 Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 \* \* \*

6 (b) Sec. 73 (further amending 32 V.S.A. § 10402) shall take effect on  
7 July 1, ~~2023~~ 2025.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. E.306.3 ADULT DAY PROGRAM; RATE REPORT

10 (a) On or before February 15, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health  
11 Access, in collaboration with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and  
12 Independent Living, and the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services shall  
13 report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and  
14 to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on  
15 recommended payment methodologies that encourage increased enrollment or  
16 attendance or both and provide predictable funding levels for adult day  
17 programs.

18 Sec. E.307 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.334.1 is amended to read:

19 Sec. E.334.1 LONG-TERM CARE – PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE  
20 INCREASE

1 (a) The amount of the State supplement for Medicaid beneficiaries who  
2 reside in a nursing home and receive Supplemental Security Income shall  
3 increase by 10 percent to the degree practicable effective January 1, 2023 but  
4 not later than January 1, 2024.

5 (b) The amount of the personal needs allowance for all Medicaid  
6 beneficiaries who reside in a nursing home shall increase by 10 percent to the  
7 degree practicable effective January 1, 2023 but not later than January 1, 2024.

8 Sec. E.307.1 33 V.S.A. § 1992 is amended to read:

9 § 1992. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES

10 (a) Vermont Medicaid shall provide coverage for medically necessary  
11 dental services provided by a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist  
12 working within the scope of the provider's license as follows:

13 \* \* \*

14 (2)(A) Diagnostic, restorative, and endodontic procedures, to a  
15 maximum of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,500.00 per calendar year, provided that the  
16 Department of Vermont Health Access may ~~approve~~ adjust the maximum  
17 pursuant to the process outlined in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2) and  
18 may approve expenditures in excess of that amount when exceptional medical  
19 circumstances so require.

20 (B) The Department may set the maximum for coverage of  
21 diagnostic, restorative, and endodontic procedures in excess of the amount set

1 forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) for a calendar year based on the  
2 Department's annual assessment of available funds, provided that the  
3 Department submit a report to the House Committee on Health Care, the  
4 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate  
5 Committees on Appropriations, or to the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General  
6 Assembly is not in session, each time the Department adjusts the maximum.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. E.307.2 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;  
9 MEDICAID DENTAL SERVICES; REPORT

10 (a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health  
11 Access shall report to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate  
12 Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate Committees on  
13 Appropriations on its analysis of the impact of Medicaid dental provider rate  
14 increases on the participation of dental providers in the Medicaid program, the  
15 geographic and network adequacy of dental providers for the Medicaid  
16 population, utilization of emergency dental services due to allowable  
17 exceptional medical circumstances, and predictions on costs of increasing or  
18 eliminating the dental cap.

19 Sec. E.312 HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH

20 (a) HIV/AIDS funding:

1           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in  
2 the amount of \$475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to Vermont  
3 AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services.  
4 The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the  
5 Community Advisory Group (CAG) with current information and data relating  
6 to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to an RFP  
7 process.

8           (2) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in  
9 the amount of \$295,000 to the following organizations:

10                   (A) Vermont CARES – \$140,000;

11                   (B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont – \$100,000; and

12                   (C) HIV/HCV Resource Center – \$55,000.

13           (3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont  
14 Medication Assistance Program (VMAP) shall be distributed in accordance  
15 with federal guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or  
16 services funded solely by State general funds.

17                   (A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the  
18 Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in VMAP to  
19 assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with  
20 persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to VMAP  
21 medications until such time as the General Assembly can act.

1           (B) The Secretary of Human Services shall work in collaboration  
2 with the VMAP Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less  
3 than 50 percent of members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification  
4 to the program’s eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the  
5 Committee shall make recommendations regarding the program’s formulary of  
6 approved medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and  
7 eligibility for the program.

8           (4) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in  
9 the amount of \$100,000 in General Funds to Vermont AIDS service  
10 organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers for  
11 community-based HIV prevention programs and services. These funds shall  
12 be used for HIV/AIDS prevention purposes, including syringe exchange  
13 programs; improving the availability of confidential and anonymous HIV  
14 testing; prevention work with at-risk groups such as women, intravenous drug  
15 users, and people of color; and anti-stigma campaigns. Not more than 15  
16 percent of the funds may be used for the administration of such services by the  
17 recipients of these funds. The method by which these prevention funds are  
18 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of  
19 Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont  
20 HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

1           (5) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide grants in  
2 the amount of \$300,000 in General Funds to Vermont AIDS service  
3 organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers for syringe  
4 exchange programs. The method by which these prevention funds are  
5 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of  
6 Health, the Vermont AIDS service organizations, and other Vermont  
7 HIV/AIDS prevention providers. The performance period for these grants  
8 shall be State fiscal year 2024. Grant reporting shall include outcomes and  
9 results.

10           (6) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall not reduce any  
11 grants to Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe  
12 service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels  
13 below those in fiscal year 2023 without receiving prior approval from the Joint  
14 Fiscal Committee.

15           Sec. E.312.1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: EMERGENCY MEDICAL

16                               SERVICES COORDINATION; REPORT

17           (a) The Commissioner of Health shall provide a report to the General  
18 Assembly on or before January 15, 2024, on Emergency Medical Services in  
19 Vermont.

20           (b) The Commissioner shall design and conduct a stakeholder engagement  
21 process that ensures input and representation from all types of emergency

1 medical service providers serving Vermonters, as well as hospital and health  
2 systems, public safety, and municipal government.

3 (c) The report shall identify issues and provide recommendations for  
4 legislative consideration that will sustain and improve the provision of  
5 emergency medical services for Vermonters. This may include:

6 (1) issues related to costs of service and existing funding models;

7 (2) issues related to coordination across agencies; and

8 (3) issues related to EMS District structure and authority, including

9 consideration of recommendations on the number and configuration of EMS  
10 Districts and their powers, duties, and authority.

11 Sec. E.313 HEALTH; SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

12 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide additional  
13 grants from the Global Commitment fund in the amount of \$1,850,000 to  
14 Vermont's 12 recovery centers. The methods by which these funds are  
15 distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department and the  
16 recipients. The performance period of these grants shall be State fiscal year  
17 2024. Recipients shall report outcomes to the Department.

18 (b) The Department of Health shall review and analyze the capital and  
19 operating model for recovery residences. This shall include the portion of  
20 capital investment for these facilities that is privately and publicly financed, a  
21 description of the existing operating models of these facilities, existence and



1 content of sustainability plans, the current operating margins net of rental  
2 income generated and the array of existing other operating funding available to  
3 the facilities, and the annual amounts of depreciation claimed by investors  
4 related to these facilities. The Department shall report to the General  
5 Assembly on this analysis and any related recommendations.

6 Sec. E.316 STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING  
7 FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

8 (a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the  
9 Department of Buildings and General Services, shall assemble a stakeholder  
10 working group to provide regular input on the planning, design, development,  
11 and implementation of the temporary stabilization facility for youth and on the  
12 development of a long-term plan for the high-end system of care.

13 (b) The stakeholder working group, constituted as a subcommittee of, or  
14 drawn from, existing groups or created as a separate group, may include  
15 representatives from:

16 (1) the families of children in the Department's custody for delinquency  
17 offenses;

18 (2) youth who have been in custody for juvenile offenses;

19 (3) the Juvenile Defender's Office;

20 (4) the Office of State's Attorneys;

21 (5) the Family Court;

- 1       (6) the Office of Racial Equity;
  - 2       (7) the Vermont Family Network;
  - 3       (8) the Vermont Federation of Families;
  - 4       (9) the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs;
  - 5       (10) the Vermont Protection and Advocacy;
  - 6       (11) the Department of Mental Health;
  - 7       (12) the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living;
  - 8       (13) the State Program Standing Committees for Developmental
  - 9       Services, Children’s Mental Health, and Adult Mental Health; and
  - 10       (14) any other groups the Department may select.
- 11       (c) The Department shall regularly present relevant information to the
- 12       stakeholder working group established pursuant to this section and review
- 13       recommendations from the working group regarding:
- 14       (1) facility design layout, programming, and policy development for the
  - 15       temporary stabilization facility, including data on the number of cases and
  - 16       types of case mix, as well as likely length of stay; and
  - 17       (2) the Department’s data and assumptions for size, type of treatment,
  - 18       and security levels for future permanent facilities included in the planning
  - 19       process proposed in the fiscal year 2024 capital bill; optimal locations,
  - 20       including whether a campus plan is appropriate; and any plans regarding the

1 use of outside contractors for facility operations, including State oversight of  
2 appropriate quality of care.

3 (d) The stakeholder working group established in this section shall be  
4 subject to the requirements of the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

5 (e) On or before January 15, 2024, the Commissioner of Children and  
6 Families shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the House Committees on  
7 Corrections and Institutions and on Human Services and to the Senate  
8 Committees on Health and Welfare and Institutions, as part of the overall  
9 planning process for development of the high-end system of care, for  
10 preventing the disproportionality of youth who are Black, Indigenous, or  
11 Persons of Color in staff- or building-secure facilities. The strategic plan shall  
12 include mechanisms for collecting necessary data, and the process of  
13 development shall include input from relevant public stakeholders.

14 (f) The stakeholder working group shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025.

15 Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE HOUSING: ADVERSE WEATHER

16 CONDITIONS

17 (a) The Commissioner for Children and Families may, by policy, provide  
18 temporary housing for a limited duration in adverse weather conditions when  
19 appropriate shelter space is not available.

20 Sec. E.323 33 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

21 § 1001. DEFINITIONS

1 As used in this chapter:

2 (1) ~~“Able to work” means to be free of any physical, emotional, or~~  
3 ~~mental condition that would prevent the individual from engaging in any~~  
4 ~~combination of the work activities for at least 35 hours per week. [Repealed.]~~

5 (2) ~~“Able to work part time” means having a physical, emotional, or~~  
6 ~~mental condition that would allow the individual to engage in any combination~~  
7 ~~of the work activities for at least 10 hours per week but would prevent the~~  
8 ~~individual from engaging in such activities for 35 or more hours per week.~~  
9 ~~[Repealed.]~~

10 \* \* \*

11 (25) ~~“Unable to work” means not able to work and not able to work part~~  
12 ~~time. [Repealed.]~~

13 (26) ~~“Work activities” means the following activities limited to the~~  
14 ~~extent and degree that they are allowed and countable in accordance with Part~~  
15 ~~A of Title IV of the Social Security Act:~~

16 (A) ~~unsubsidized employment;~~

17 (B) ~~subsidized private sector employment;~~

18 (C) ~~subsidized public sector employment;~~

19 (D) ~~work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing~~  
20 ~~of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not~~  
21 ~~available;~~

1           ~~(E) on-the-job training;~~

2           ~~(F) job search and job readiness assistance;~~

3           ~~(G) community service programs;~~

4           ~~(H) vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with  
5 respect to any individual);~~

6           ~~(I) job skills training directly related to employment;~~

7           ~~(J) education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
8 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high  
9 school equivalency;~~

10           ~~(K) satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of  
11 study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient  
12 who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate;~~

13           ~~(L) the provision, consistent with the Department's rules applicable  
14 to self-employment, of child care services to an individual who is participating  
15 in a community service program;~~

16           ~~(M) attendance at a financial literacy class; and~~

17           ~~(N) any other work activity recognized in accordance with Part A of  
18 Title IV of the Social Security Act, as amended. [Repealed.]~~

19           (27) "Work-ready" means the participant possesses the education or  
20 skills demanded by the local job market or is capable of participating in one or

1 ~~more work activities at the level required by the participant's work~~  
2 ~~requirement, and is not subject to any barrier. [Repealed.]~~

3 Sec. E.323.1 33 V.S.A. § 1004 is amended to read:

4 § 1004. REACH FIRST PAYMENT

5 \* \* \*

6 (c) For the purposes of calculating the payment, child support shall be  
7 treated as income, except that the first ~~\$500.00~~ \$100.00 amount of child  
8 support shall be disregarded from income.

9 Sec. E.323.2 33 V.S.A. § 1005(b)(8) is amended to read:

10 ~~(8) Assistance with obtaining documentation of an apparent or claimed~~  
11 ~~physical, emotional, or mental condition that reasonably can be presumed to~~  
12 ~~limit or eliminate the individual's capacity to engage in employment or other~~  
13 ~~work activity. [Repealed.]~~

14 Sec. E.323.3 33 V.S.A. § 1006 is amended to read:

15 § 1006. CASE MANAGEMENT; FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLANS;

16 COORDINATED SERVICES

17 \* \* \*

18 (b) The family development plan shall include:

19 (1) Each ~~parent~~ parent's or caretaker's employment goal or plan to  
20 engage in the program, to the best of the parent's or caretaker's ability.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. E.323.4 33 V.S.A. § 1011 is amended to read:

2 § 1011. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

3 \* \* \*

4 (b) ~~If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~  
5 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, but is~~  
6 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, the Department shall transfer the family to~~  
7 ~~Reach Up, unless the family chooses not to participate. A family transferring~~  
8 ~~from Reach First to Reach Up shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of~~  
9 ~~income calculation. [Repealed.]~~

10 (c) ~~If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~  
11 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, is not~~  
12 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, and is eligible for the Reach Ahead program,~~  
13 ~~the Department shall transfer the family to Reach Ahead, unless the family~~  
14 ~~chooses not to participate. A family transferring from Reach First to Reach~~  
15 ~~Ahead shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of income calculation.~~  
16 [Repealed.]

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. E.323.5 33 V.S.A. § 1203 is amended to read:

19 § 1203. ELIGIBILITY

20 A family shall be eligible for Reach Ahead if the family resides in Vermont  
21 and:

1 (1) has left Reach Up or the postsecondary education program within the  
2 prior six months for employment that meets the federal work requirements for  
3 the ~~Reach Up~~ TANF program for the family's size and composition;

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.323.6 33 V.S.A. § 1212 is amended to read:

6 § 1212. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

7 If a family loses employment meeting or exceeding the work requirements  
8 for ~~Reach Up~~ TANF for the family's size and composition and is financially  
9 eligible for Reach Up, the family shall be transferred to Reach First or Reach  
10 Up without an additional application process, unless the family chooses not to  
11 participate. Verification of income or other documentation may be required as  
12 provided for by rule.

13 Sec. E 323.7 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

14 (a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 33 V.S.A. chapter 12,  
15 funds appropriated to the Department for Children and Families for the Reach  
16 Ahead Pilot Program in fiscal year 2024 shall be used to:

17 (1) enroll families that have left the Reach Up program or the  
18 postsecondary education program within the prior 12 months for employment  
19 that meets the federal work requirements for the Temporary Assistance for  
20 Needy Families program for the family's size and composition;



1           (2) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$50 to \$100 in  
2 the first 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead;

3           (3) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$5 to \$50 in the  
4 second 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead; and

5           (4) provide incentive payments to participating families in the amounts  
6 of:

7           (A) \$750, to be paid after participating in the Program for six  
8 months;

9           (B) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for  
10 12 months;

11           (C) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 18  
12 months; and

13           (D) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 24  
14 months.

15           (b) Funding for this program is provided for in Sec. B.1100(o)(1) of this act  
16 and is only in effect for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, unless additional funding  
17 is authorized.

18       Sec. E.323.8 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

19           (a) The Department for Children and Families – Economic Services  
20 Division shall collect and report data that measures outcomes for participants  
21 of the Reach Ahead Pilot Program established in Sec. E.323.7 of this act; the

1 indicators used to measure participant and Pilot Program progress; and the  
2 strategies that are implemented.

3 Sec. E.324 EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

4 (a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize  
5 crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for  
6 an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it if the benefit  
7 cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The  
8 crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the one crisis  
9 fuel grant allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33  
10 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

11 Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE  
12 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

13 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act,  
14 \$18,776,814 shall be granted to community agencies to assist individuals  
15 experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services,  
16 or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone  
17 or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Funds shall  
18 be administered in consultation with the Vermont Coalition to End  
19 Homelessness.

20 (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$170,301  
21 shall be granted to community agencies for financial coaching.

1 Sec. E.325.1 CHILD CARE FACILITIES FINANCING PROGRAM

2 (a) 33 V.S.A. § 3521 (Child Care Facilities Financing Program established)  
3 is repealed.

4 Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE  
5 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – WEATHERIZATION  
6 ASSISTANCE

7 (a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is  
8 for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

9 Sec. E.329 18 V.S.A. § 8725 is amended to read:

10 § 8725. SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN

11 \* \* \*

12 (e) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before ~~January~~ February 15 of  
13 each year, the Department shall report to the Governor and the committees of  
14 jurisdiction regarding implementation of the plan, the extent to which the  
15 principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title are achieved, and  
16 whether people with a developmental disability have any unmet service needs,  
17 including the number of people on waiting lists for developmental services.

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. E.330 SENIOR MEALS; MEAL PROVIDER EQUITY

20 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall, in  
21 collaboration with the Vermont Area Agencies on Aging and the Vermont

1 Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers, identify a mechanism for  
2 the direct distribution of the funds appropriated to the Department in Sec.  
3 B.330 of this act that ensures equity among meal providers to support quality  
4 meals and limit administrative costs.

5 Sec. E.333 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND

6 INDEPENDENT LIVING; QUALITY AND PROGRAM

7 PARTICIPANT SPECIALIST POSITIONS

8 (a) The five Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living  
9 Quality and Program Participant Specialist positions created in Sec. E.100 of  
10 this act shall be dedicated exclusively to the Developmental Disabilities  
11 Services division of the Department to ensure that quality oversight onsite  
12 visits for designated and specialized service agencies are performed at least  
13 annually and that Home and Community Based Services quality standards are  
14 implemented.

15 Sec. E. 334 NURSING HOME RATE SETTING

16 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the  
17 Department of Vermont Health Access shall report to the House Committees  
18 on Human Services and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on  
19 Health and Welfare and on Appropriations not later than December 15, 2023,  
20 on the budgetary impact of eliminating the minimum occupancy threshold in  
21 the nursing home rate setting process and reducing the minimum occupancy

1 threshold to not more than 80 percent in the nursing home rate setting process.  
2 The report shall include a recommendation on whether to eliminate or reduce  
3 the minimum occupancy requirement, timeline, and next steps for  
4 implementing the recommendation and anticipated impact on sustainability of  
5 Vermont nursing homes.

6 Sec. E.335 28 V.S.A. § 126 is added to read:

7 § 126. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM;

8 CONFIDENTIALITY

9 (a) As used in this section:

10 (1) “Department” has the same meaning as in subdivision 3(4) of this  
11 title.

12 (2) “Participant” means a Department staff member who has been  
13 involved in a traumatic incident by reason of employment at the Department  
14 and who has agreed to participate in the Department’s peer support program.

15 (3) “Peer support” means appropriate support and services offered by a  
16 peer support specialist to a participant.

17 (4) “Peer support program” means a program established by the  
18 Department of Corrections to provide appropriate peer support services to  
19 Department staff members.

1           (5) “Peer support session” means a peer support program session for a  
2 Department staff member who has been involved in a traumatic incident by  
3 reason of employment at the Department or related to other personal matters.

4           (6) “Peer support specialist” means a Department staff member who, by  
5 reason of the staff member’s prior experience, training, or interest, has  
6 expressed a desire and has been selected to provide appropriate peer support  
7 services to a participant.

8           (7) “Staff member” means a supervising officer as defined in  
9 subdivision 3(9) of this title, a correctional officer as defined in subdivision  
10 3(10) of this title, and any other employee of the Department.

11           (b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, any  
12 communication made by a participant or peer support specialist in a peer  
13 support session of the peer support program, including any oral or written  
14 information conveyed during a peer support session, shall not be disclosed by  
15 any individual participating in the peer support session.

16           (2) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, any  
17 communication relating to a peer support session between peer support  
18 specialists, between peer support specialists and participants of the peer  
19 support program, between participants of the peer support program, or between  
20 any other Department staff member, including any oral or written information,  
21 shall not be disclosed by any individual participating in the communication.

1           (3) Written communications described in this subsection, such as notes,  
2 records, and reports related to a peer support session, are exempt from public  
3 inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept  
4 confidential. The Public Records Act exemptions created in this section shall  
5 not be subject to the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 317(e) (repeal of Public Records  
6 Act exemptions).

7           (c) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, any  
8 communication made by a participant or peer support specialist in a peer  
9 support session, including any oral or written communication, such as notes,  
10 records, and reports related to the peer support session, shall not be admissible  
11 in a judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceeding. Limitations on  
12 disclosure imposed by this subsection include disclosure during any discovery  
13 conducted as part of an adjudicatory proceeding. Limitations on disclosure  
14 imposed by this subsection shall not include knowledge acquired by the  
15 Department or staff members from observations made during the course of  
16 employment or information acquired by the Department or staff members  
17 during the course of employment that is otherwise subject to discovery or  
18 introduction into evidence.

19           (d)(1) Confidentiality protections described in subsections (b) and (c) of  
20 this section shall only apply to a peer support session conducted by an  
21 individual who has:

1           (A) been designated by the Department or the peer support program  
2 to act as a peer support specialist; and

3           (B) received and completed training in peer support and providing  
4 emotional and moral support to Department staff members who have been  
5 involved in emotionally traumatic incidents by reason of their employment or  
6 other personal matters.

7           (2) Confidentiality protections described in subsections (b) and (c) of  
8 this section shall not apply to the following information as it pertains to an  
9 individual designated to receive such information in the normal course the  
10 individual's professional responsibilities:

11           (A) any threat of suicide or homicide made by a participant of a peer  
12 support session or any information conveyed in a peer support session relating  
13 to a threat of suicide or homicide;

14           (B) any information relating to the abuse of a child or vulnerable  
15 adult, or other information that is required to be reported by law;

16           (C) any admission of criminal conduct; or

17           (D) any admission of a plan to commit a crime.

18           (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any communications between peer  
19 support specialists regarding a peer support session or between peer support  
20 specialists and participants of the peer support program.

21   Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES







1 staff within three days if convicted of a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. §  
2 5301(7) or seven days if convicted of an unlisted crime;

3 (B) the offender flees from Department staff or law enforcement; or

4 (C) the offender left the State without Department authorization.

5 (2) “Conditional reentry” means the process by which a sentenced  
6 offender is released into a community for supervision while participating in  
7 programs that assist the reintegration process. The offender’s ability to remain  
8 in the community under supervision is conditioned on the offender’s progress  
9 in reentry programs.

10 ~~(2)~~(3) “Listed crime” means any offense identified in 13 V.S.A. §  
11 5301(7).

12 (4) “Technical violation” means a violation of conditions of furlough  
13 that does not constitute a new crime.

14 ~~(3)~~(5) “Total effective sentence” means the sentence imposed under 13  
15 V.S.A. §§ 7031 and 7032 as calculated by the Department in the offender’s  
16 records.

17 ~~(4)~~(6) “Unlisted crime” means any offense that is a crime under  
18 Vermont law, but is not identified in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7).

19 \* \* \*

20 § 724. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

21 FURLOUGH

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

(d) Technical violations.

~~(1) As used in this section, “technical violation” means a violation of conditions of furlough that does not constitute a new crime.~~

~~(2) It shall be abuse of the Department’s discretion to revoke furlough or interrupt furlough status for 90 days or longer for a technical violation, unless:~~

~~(A)(1) The offender’s risk to reoffend can no longer be adequately controlled in the community, and no other method to control noncompliance is suitable.~~

~~(B)(2) The violation or pattern of violations indicate the offender poses a danger to others.~~

~~(C)(3) The offender’s violation is absconding from community supervision furlough. As used in this subdivision, “absconding” means:~~

~~(i) the offender has not met supervision requirements, cannot be located with reasonable efforts, and has not made contact with Department staff within three days if convicted of a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. §~~

~~5301(7) or seven days if convicted of a crime not listed in 13 V.S.A. §~~

~~5301(7);~~

~~(ii) the offender flees from Department staff or law enforcement;~~

~~or~~

~~(iii) the offender left the State without Department authorization.~~

1

\* \* \*

2 § 808e. ABSCONDING FROM FURLOUGH; WARRANT

3 (a) “Absconded” has the same meaning as “absconding” as defined in  
4 subdivision 724(d)(2)(C) of this title.

5 (b) The Commissioner of Corrections may issue a warrant for the arrest of  
6 a person who has absconded from furlough status in violation of subsection  
7 808(a) or section 723 or 808a, 808b, or 808e of this title, requiring the person  
8 to be returned to a correctional facility. A law enforcement officer who is  
9 provided with a warrant issued pursuant to this section shall execute the  
10 warrant and return the person who has absconded from furlough to the  
11 Department of Corrections.

12 ~~(b)~~(c) A person for whom an arrest warrant is issued pursuant to this  
13 section shall not earn credit toward service of ~~his or her~~ the person’s sentence  
14 for any days that the warrant is outstanding.

15

\* \* \*

16 Sec. E.345 HOSPITAL SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PLANNING;  
17 PILOT PROJECTS; UPDATE

18 (a) The Green Mountain Care Board Shall submit an update to the Health  
19 Reform Oversight Committee on or before November 1, 2023 regarding the  
20 financial status of hospitals as reflected in the fiscal year 2022 actual operating  
21 results, any early indications for fiscal year 2023 hospital budget performance,

1 and an overview of the fiscal year 2024 budget guidance provided to hospitals.  
2 The update shall address how budget guidance development aligns with the  
3 intent and requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167.

4 \* \* \* General Education \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.500 EDUCATION – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

6 (a) The Global Commitment funds appropriated in Sec. B.500 of this act  
7 shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of  
8 Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These services are intended to  
9 increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured  
10 persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

11 Sec. E.500.1 16 V.S.A. § 4018 is added to read:

12 § 4018. AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

13 (a) Education Fund grants in an amount equal to the receipts from the sales  
14 and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 on retail sales of cannabis or  
15 cannabis products in this State, net of any administrative costs per subsection  
16 (b)(4) of this section, shall be used to fund grant programs for the expansion of  
17 summer and afterschool programs with an emphasis on increasing access in  
18 underserved areas of the State.

19 (b) The Secretary of Education shall administer the grant programs, as  
20 follows:

1           (1) Grants shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for  
2 afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public,  
3 private, or nonprofit organizations.

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

6           (3) Grants may be used to directly target communities with low existing  
7 capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

8           (4) The Agency may use up to \$500,000 for administrative costs to  
9 allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to  
10 communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant programs.

11           (c) An Advisory Committee is created to support the Secretary of  
12 Education in administering funds pursuant to this section. The Agency shall  
13 provide administrative and technical support to the Committee. The  
14 Committee is to be composed of:

15           (1) the State's Chief Prevention Officer;

16           (2) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

17           (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

18           (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

19           (5) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

20           (6) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or  
21 designee;

1           (7) the Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or designee; and  
2           (8) a representative from the Governor’s Office.  
3           (d) On or before each November 15, the Agency of Education shall submit to  
4           the General Assembly a plan to fund grants in furtherance of the purposes of  
5           subsection (a) of this section and report outcomes data on the grants made  
6           during the previous year. The Agency shall also report on the number of  
7           programs, slots, weeks, or hours; geographic distribution; and what is known  
8           about costs to families. The report should be inclusive of 21C programming.  
9           The amount of grant funds awarded shall be in alignment with the actual  
10           revenue collected from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. § 233 on  
11           cannabis or cannabis products in this State. Discrepancies between the amount  
12           of grant funds awarded and actual revenue shall be reconciled through the  
13           budget adjustment process. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of  
14           required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this subsection.

15           Sec. E.500.2 REPEALS

16           (a) 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Secs. 17c (dedicated use of sales and  
17           use tax on cannabis) and 17d (annual budgeting of sales and use tax revenue)  
18           are repealed.

19           Sec. E.502 EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

20           (a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and  
21           notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed



1 \$4,195,600 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 as  
2 funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the  
3 Secretary will not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. §  
4 2969(c)–(d).

5 Sec. E.503 EDUCATION – STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

6 (a) The Independence Place Program of the Lund Family Center will be  
7 considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of  
8 education costs.

9 Sec. E.504 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY HSCP

10 STUDENT ACCESS STUDY; REPORT

11 (a) The High School Completion Program (HSCP) is experiencing  
12 decreased enrollment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, policy changes within the  
13 program, and lower literacy skills that limit acceptance into the program.  
14 Adult basic education programs overall are experiencing funding reductions  
15 due to decreased enrollment.

16 (b) There is created the Adult Education and Literacy HSCP Student  
17 Access Study Committee to review and report on decreased HSCP enrollment  
18 and subsequent adult basic education funding issues. The Committee shall  
19 make recommendations to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the General Assembly,  
20 and the Agency of Administration on or before January 15, 2024, to increase  
21 enrollment in HSCP.

1       (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
2       members:

3           (1) a current member of the House, who shall be appointed by the  
4       Speaker of the House;

5           (2) a current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
6       Committee on Committees;

7           (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

8           (4) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee; and

9           (5) the Executive Director of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education or  
10       designee.

11       (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall review and make  
12       recommendations to reduce barriers for vulnerable Vermonters, including  
13       English learner applicants to Adult Education Programs, including any  
14       discrepancies between admission and testing standards for English learner  
15       applicants and all other applicants. The Committee shall provide  
16       recommendations in its report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the House and  
17       Senate Committees on Education on how to increase equity and education  
18       access to Adult Education Programs. The Committee shall include in its report  
19       any administrative changes that could be made to help achieve these goals.

20       (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
21       and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

1       (e) The Committee shall submit a written report to the Joint Fiscal  
2       Committee, the General Assembly, and the Agency of Administration on or  
3       before January 15, 2024 with its findings and any recommendations for  
4       legislative action based on the analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of  
5       this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Committee report  
6       be used to inform fiscal year 2025 budget considerations and that the  
7       recommendations of the Committee be implemented to increase HSCP  
8       enrollment.

9       (f) The Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee shall call the  
10       first meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall hold not more than five  
11       meetings, the first of which shall be on or before September 15, 2023.

12       Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION – FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

13       (a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$1,900,000 from the  
14       Education Fund will be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of  
15       high school completion services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 943(c).

16       (b) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, of  
17       this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

18               (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding  
19               16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

20               (2) \$2,000,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual Learning  
21       Cooperative at the River Valley Technical Center School District;

1           (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

2           (4) \$4,000,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §  
3 946.

4           (c) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the  
5 General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

6 Sec. E.511.1 MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW APPROVED  
7           INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

8           (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Board  
9 of Education shall be prohibited from approving an application for initial  
10 approval of an approved independent school until further direction by the  
11 General Assembly.

12 Sec. E.514 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

13           (a) The total annual employer contribution to the Vermont State Teachers'  
14 Retirement System (VSTRS) in fiscal year 2024 shall be \$203,281,051.

15           (b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to  
16 the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (VSTRS) shall be  
17 \$194,281,051 of which \$184,811,051 shall be the State's contribution and  
18 \$9,470,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational  
19 entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c).

1       (c) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution,  
2       \$34,825,673 is the “normal contribution,” and \$159,455,378 is the “accrued  
3       liability contribution.”

4       (d) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(13)(A), \$9,000,000 shall be  
5       contributed from the General Fund for a supplemental plus accrued liability  
6       contribution.

7       Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
8                                AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;  
9                                OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

10       (a) Of the \$3,448,255 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,401,835  
11       constitutes the Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement System operating budget,  
12       and \$1,046,420 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment  
13       Commission’s budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement  
14       System.

15       Sec. E.514.2 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM;  
16                                CALENDAR YEAR 2023–2024 SUPPLEMENTAL COST OF  
17                                LIVING PAYMENTS; INTENT; ACTUARIAL COST  
18                                ANALYSIS

19       (a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

20               (1) The maximum percentage value methodology set forth in 16 V.S.A.  
21       § 1949 that applies to the postretirement adjustment allowances for the

1 Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (VSTRS) shall be actuarially  
2 evaluated to determine the cost required to revert to the methodology used  
3 prior to the enactment of 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 114.

4 (2) The General Assembly further intends to make such a reversion by  
5 future legislative action amending 16 V.S.A. § 1949, provided that the present  
6 value of changes to the postretirement adjustment allowance methodology be  
7 fully funded at the time the change is made and not increase the unfunded  
8 liability in VSTRS.

9 (3) The General Assembly further intends that if the June 30, 2023,  
10 change in the Consumer Price Index exceeds the statutory maximum  
11 percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949 (b)(1), the General Assembly  
12 will provide a sufficient appropriation in the 2024 Budget Adjustment Act to  
13 make a one-time supplemental payment, similar in form to that described in  
14 subsection (b) of this section, to qualifying VSTRS retired members and  
15 beneficiaries in calendar year 2024.

16 (b) Calendar year 2023 supplemental payment. A one-time supplemental  
17 payment during calendar year 2023 shall be made to VSTRS retired members  
18 and beneficiaries who received a 2.5 percent postretirement adjustment  
19 allowance in an amount equal to the net difference between what members  
20 actually received in calendar year 2023 and what they would have received  
21 under a 3.8 percent postretirement adjustment allowance.

1       (c) Actuarial cost analysis. Following the completion of the next  
2 experience study, expected in fall 2023, the State Treasurer shall conduct an  
3 actuarial analysis to evaluate the cost of changing the current methodology for  
4 calculating the postretirement adjustment allowance for the Vermont State  
5 Teachers' Retirement System to a methodology calculated by applying the  
6 maximum percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949(b)(1) to the  
7 postretirement adjustment allowance rather than applying the statutory  
8 maximum percentage values to the net percentage change in the Consumer  
9 Price Index. The actuarial analysis shall take into account any changes to  
10 actuarial assumptions that may occur following the experience study to be  
11 performed at the end of fiscal year 2023, as required by 16 V.S.A. § 1942.

12       (d) Report. Based on the actuarial cost analysis described in subsection (c)  
13 of this section, on or before January 15, 2024, the State Treasurer shall submit  
14 a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with an  
15 actuarial cost estimate for changing the VSTRS postretirement adjustment  
16 allowance methodology as set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

17 Sec. E.514.3 16 V.S.A. § 1944 is amended to read:

18 § 1944. VERMONT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND

19       (a) Pension Fund. All of the assets of the System shall be credited to the  
20 Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund.

21       (b) Member contributions.

1 (1) Contributions deducted from the compensation of members shall be  
2 accumulated in the Pension Fund and separately recorded for each member.

3 (2) The proper authority or officer responsible for making up each  
4 employer payroll shall cause to be deducted from the compensation:

5 (A) Of each Group A member, five and one-half percent of the  
6 member's total earnable compensation, including compensation paid for  
7 absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title.

8 (B) Of each Group C member, the following shall apply:

9 \* \* \*

10 (ii) Beginning on July 1, 2023, a Group C member shall have the  
11 rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) applied to the member's total  
12 earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include compensation  
13 paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title, and any  
14 additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not be  
15 adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency  
16 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and  
17 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who  
18 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total  
19 earnable compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base  
20 salary. If a member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or  
21 more employers, the highest rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted from



1 each employer. A member's rate shall be calculated according to the following  
2 rates and income brackets:

3 \* \* \*

4 (iii) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, a Group C~~  
5 ~~member shall have an effective rate, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a~~  
6 ~~percent, that is calculated based on the member's base salary as of July 1 each~~  
7 ~~year, which equals the member's total earnable compensation, including~~  
8 ~~compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title,~~  
9 ~~and any additional stipends identified as of July 1 for the next fiscal year. A~~  
10 ~~member's effective rate shall not be adjusted during any fiscal year unless the~~  
11 ~~member's full-time equivalency status changes, which shall require that the~~  
12 ~~member's effective rate be recalculated and the new rate applied for the~~  
13 ~~remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who works a part-time equivalency~~  
14 ~~status, the effective rate shall apply to the member's total earnable~~  
15 ~~compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base salary. If a~~  
16 ~~member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or more~~  
17 ~~employers, the highest effective rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted~~  
18 ~~from each employer. Beginning on July 1, 2024, a Group C member shall~~  
19 ~~have the rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii) applied to the member's~~  
20 ~~total earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include~~  
21 ~~compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title,~~

1 and any additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not  
2 be adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency  
3 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and  
4 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who  
5 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total  
6 earnable compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base  
7 salary. If a member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or  
8 more employers, the highest rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted from  
9 each employer. A member's effective rate shall be calculated according to the  
10 following ~~marginal~~ rates and income brackets:

11 (I) if a member's base salary is at or below \$40,000.00, the rate  
12 is ~~6.25~~ 6.15 percent;

13 (II) if a member's base salary is \$40,000.01 or more but not  
14 more than ~~\$60,000.00~~, ~~the rate is the equivalent of \$2,900.00 on \$40,000.00~~  
15 ~~and 6.75 percent of the member's salary that is \$40,000.01 or more~~  
16 \$50,000.00, the rate is 6.20 percent;

17 (III) if a member's base salary is ~~\$60,000.01~~ \$50,000.01 or  
18 more but not more than ~~\$80,000.00~~ \$60,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~  
19 ~~\$3,850.00 on \$60,000.00 and 7.5 percent of the member's salary that is~~  
20 ~~\$60,000.01 or more~~ 6.30 percent;

1 (IV) if a member's base salary is ~~\$80,000.01~~ \$60,000.01 or  
2 more but not more than ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~  
3 ~~\$5,350.00 on \$80,000.00 and 8.25 percent of the member's salary that is~~  
4 ~~\$80,000.01 or more~~ 6.40 percent; and

5 (V) if a member's base salary is ~~\$100,000.01~~ \$70,000.01 or  
6 more but not more than \$80,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of \$7,000.00 on~~  
7 ~~\$100,000.00 and 9.0 percent of the member's salary that is \$100,000.01 or~~  
8 ~~more~~ 6.55 percent.

9 (VI) If a member's base salary is \$80,000.01 or more but not  
10 more than \$90,000.00, the rate is 6.80 percent.

11 (VII) If a member's base salary is \$90,000.01 or more but not  
12 more than \$100,000.00, the rate is 7.10 percent.

13 (VIII) If a member's base salary is \$100,000.01 or more, the  
14 rate is 7.35 percent.

15 Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL

16 BENEFITS

17 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2), and 16 V.S.A.  
18 § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and  
19 Medical Benefits plan shall be \$61,290,528, of which \$53,740,528 shall be the  
20 State's contribution and \$7,550,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher  
21 health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1944d. Of the

1 annual contribution, \$17,589,046 is the “normal contribution,” and  
2 \$43,701,482 is the “accrued liability contribution.”

3 \* \* \* Higher Education \* \* \*

4 Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

5 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
6 pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of  
7 Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

8 (b) Of this appropriation, \$380,326 shall be transferred to the Experimental  
9 Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to comply with State  
10 matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or  
11 private funds, or both.

12 Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

13 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
14 pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State  
15 Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

16 (b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont  
17 Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund  
18 requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or  
19 both.

20 Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES – ALLIED HEALTH

1       (a) If Global Commitment fund monies are unavailable, the total grant  
2       funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the  
3       General Fund or other State funding sources.

4       (b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment funds  
5       appropriated in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory  
6       therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care  
7       providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care  
8       services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

9       Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

10       (a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act, \$25,000 is appropriated  
11       from the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
12       (VSAC) to be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845.

13       (b) Of this appropriation, not more than \$300,000 may be used by VSAC  
14       for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools.

15       (c) Of the appropriated amount remaining after accounting for subsections  
16       (a) and (b) of this section, not less than 93 percent of this appropriation shall be  
17       used for direct student aid.

18       (d) Up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to VSAC in this act or  
19       otherwise currently or previously appropriated to VSAC or provided to VSAC  
20       by an agency or department of the State for the administration of a program or  
21       initiative may be used by VSAC for its costs of administration. VSAC may

1 recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment.  
2 Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent these are federal  
3 funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be  
4 consistent with federal grant requirements.

5 (e) \$1,000,000 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act  
6 shall be used to continue operating the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program  
7 in accordance with 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

8 Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND  
9 EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

10 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the  
11 sum of \$41,225 in education funds and \$41,225 in general funds is  
12 appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) for dual  
13 enrollment and need-based stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based  
14 stipend or voucher program for financially needy students enrolled in a dual  
15 enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to  
16 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation,  
17 and payment of fees. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall  
18 establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible  
19 students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

20 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Student Assistance  
21 Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on

1 Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate  
2 Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and  
3 General Affairs.

4 Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 6006 is amended to read:

5 \* \* \*

6 (d) Membership.

7 \* \* \*

8 (7) Members of the Advisory Council who are not State employees shall  
9 be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for each  
10 day spent in the performance of their duties, as permitted under 32 V.S.A. §  
11 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency  
12 of Natural Resources.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. E.702 10 V.S.A. § 4829(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) A person engaged in the business of farming who suffers damage by  
16 deer to the person's crops, fruit trees, or crop-bearing plants on land not posted  
17 against the hunting of deer, or a person engaged in the business of farming who  
18 suffers damage by black bear to the person's cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, or  
19 bees or bee hives on land not posted against hunting or trapping of black bear  
20 is entitled to reimbursement for the damage up to an amount not to exceed  
21 \$5,000.00 per year, and may apply to the Department of Fish and Wildlife

1 within 72 hours of the occurrence of the damage for reimbursement for the  
2 damage. As used in this section, “post” means any signage that would lead a  
3 reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.811 LAND ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD;

6 ATTACHMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION; REPORT

7 (a) On or before December 15, 2024, the Land Access and Opportunity  
8 Board shall submit a written report to the House Committees on  
9 Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the  
10 Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations  
11 regarding the appropriate State entity for the Board to be attached to for  
12 administrative purposes. The report shall, in consideration of the mission,  
13 powers, and duties of the Board, identify various State entities to which the  
14 Board could be attached for administrative purposes and shall examine the  
15 potential benefits and drawbacks of the Board being attached to each of the  
16 entities identified. The report shall consider the benefits and drawbacks of the  
17 Board continuing to be attached to the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
18 Board for administrative purposes.

19 Sec. E.900 TRANSPORTATION FUND RESERVE – REVERSIONS

20 EXCLUDED





1       (b) In fiscal year 2024, the estimated fees that would have been collected  
2       under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) shall be accounted for through funds  
3       appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General Fund.

4       Sec. F.2 EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

5       (a) Educator demographics. In order to understand and improve the  
6       longstanding and well-documented issue of underrepresentation in the  
7       Vermont educator workforce, including underrepresentation of Black,  
8       Indigenous, and Persons of Color; New Americans; and other historically  
9       underrepresented communities, the Agency of Education shall collect  
10       demographic information from educators and report such information in its  
11       annual teacher and staff full-time equivalencies report. The Agency shall  
12       submit the educator demographic information section of the report annually to  
13       the General Assembly on or before each January 15.

14       Sec. F.3 18 V.S.A. § 39 is added to read:

15       § 39. VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

16               PRACTITIONER FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

17       (a) As used in this section:

18               (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
19       established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

20               (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
21       requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

1           (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education  
2 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

3           (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering  
4 tuition, which may also cover room, board, and the cost of required books and  
5 supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

6           (5) “Program” means the Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
7 Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created under this section.

8           (b) The Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable  
9 Loan Incentive Program is created and shall be administered by the  
10 Corporation in collaboration with the Department of Health. The Program  
11 provides forgivable loans to students enrolled in a master’s program at an  
12 eligible school who commit to working as a psychiatric mental health nurse  
13 practitioner in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in  
14 subsection (d) of this section.

15           (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program  
16 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
17 General Assembly for this purpose.

18           (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,  
19 whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following  
20 requirements:

1           (1) be enrolled at an eligible school in a program, whether through in-  
2 person or remote instruction, that leads to a master's degree or specialty in  
3 psychiatric mental health;

4           (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual  
5 is enrolled;

6           (3) agree to work as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in  
7 Vermont for a minimum of one year following licensure for each year of  
8 forgivable loan awarded;

9           (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce  
10 the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to  
11 subsection (f) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of  
12 service required in subdivision (3) of this subsection;

13           (5) have completed the Program's application form and the Free  
14 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), in accordance with a schedule  
15 determined by the Corporation; and

16           (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may  
17 require.

18           (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a psychiatric mental health  
19 nurse practitioner in this State in compliance with the Program for a period that  
20 would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit received by the  
21 individual, other than for good cause as determined by the Corporation in

1 consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the individual shall  
2 receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant  
3 to the terms of the interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the  
4 individual at the time of entering the Program.

5 (f) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
6 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum  
7 forgivable loan amounts.

8 Sec. F.4 18 V.S.A. § 40 is added to read:

9 § 40. VERMONT DENTAL HYGIENIST FORGIVABLE LOAN

10 INCENTIVE PROGRAM

11 (a) As used in this section:

12 (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
13 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

14 (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
15 requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

16 (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education  
17 institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

18 (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering  
19 tuition, which may also include room, board, and the cost of required books  
20 and supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

1           (5) “Program” means the Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan  
2 Incentive Program created under this section.

3           (b) The Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan Incentive Program is  
4 created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration  
5 with the Corporation. The Program provides forgivable loans to students  
6 enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a dental hygienist in  
7 this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (d) of this  
8 section.

9           (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program  
10 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
11 General Assembly for this purpose.

12           (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,  
13 whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following  
14 requirements:

15           (1) be enrolled at a dental hygienist program at an eligible school;

16           (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual  
17 is enrolled;

18           (3) agree to work as a dental hygienist in Vermont for a minimum of  
19 one year following licensure for each year of forgivable loan awarded;

20           (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce  
21 the individual’s forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to

1 subsection (g) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of  
2 service required in this subsection;

3 (5) have completed the Program's application form, the Free  
4 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant  
5 application each academic year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule  
6 determined by the Corporation; and

7 (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may  
8 require.

9 (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a dental hygienist in this State  
10 for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit  
11 received by the individual, other than for good cause as determined by the  
12 Corporation in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the  
13 individual shall receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of  
14 the loan pursuant to the terms of the interest-free credit agreement or  
15 promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

16 (f) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under this  
17 section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds  
18 are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over  
19 and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation in the  
20 following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this  
21 section.

1       (g) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
2       necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum  
3       forgivable loan amounts.

4       Sec. F.5 BROWNFIELDS FUNDING; USE IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

5       (a) The Department of Economic Development shall use the funds  
6       appropriated in [Sec. B.1101\(f\)\(4\) of this act](#) for brownfields redevelopment for  
7       the assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfield sites to be used  
8       in the same manner as the Brownfields Revitalization Fund established by 10  
9       V.S.A. § 6654 except, notwithstanding the grant limitations in 10 V.S.A. §  
10       6654, projects supported by this appropriation shall not be limited to a  
11       maximum amount per site. The Agency of Commerce and Community  
12       Development shall award the amount of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 to  
13       regional planning commissions for the purposes of brownfields assessment. In  
14       awarding funds under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the  
15       Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall select one  
16       regional planning commission to administer these funds. To ensure statewide  
17       availability, the selected regional planning commission shall subgrant to  
18       regional planning commissions with brownfield programs, with not more than  
19       10 percent of the funds being used for administrative purposes.



1 Sec. F.6 10 V.S.A. § 6654(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) A grant may be awarded by the Secretary of Commerce and  
3 Community Development with the approval of the Secretary of Natural  
4 Resources, provided that:

5 (1) A grant may not exceed \$50,000 for characterization and assessment  
6 of a site.

7 (2) A grant may not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ \$500,000 for remediation of a site.

8 (3) A grant may be used by an applicant to purchase environmental  
9 insurance relating to the performance of the characterization, assessment, or  
10 remediation of a Brownfield site in accordance with a corrective action plan  
11 approved by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

12 (4) Financial assistance may be provided to applicants by developing a  
13 risk sharing pool, an indemnity pool, or other insurance mechanism designed  
14 to help applicants.

15 (5) All reports generated by financial assistance from the Brownfield  
16 Revitalization Fund, including site assessments, site investigations, feasibility  
17 studies, corrective action plans, and completion reports shall be provided as  
18 hard copies to the Secretaries of Commerce and Community Development and  
19 of Natural Resources.

20 Sec. F.7 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. H.18, as amended by 2022 Acts  
21 and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 46, is further amended to read:

1       Sec. H.18. COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION

2                               GRANT PROGRAM

3   \* \* \*

4       (b) Eligible applicants.

5               (1) To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must be located within the  
6 State and:

7                       (A)(i) the applicant is a for-profit entity with not less than a 10  
8 percent equity interest in the project, or a nonprofit entity, which has  
9 documented financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic; or

10                      (ii) intends to utilize the funds for an enumerated use as defined in  
11 the U.S. Treasury Final Rule for Coronavirus State and Fiscal Recovery Funds;

12                      (B)(i) the applicant is a municipality;

13                      (ii) the municipality needs to make infrastructure improvements to  
14 incentivize community development; and

15                      (iii) the proposed infrastructure improvements and the projected  
16 development or redevelopment are compatible with confirmed municipal and  
17 regional development plans and the project has clear local significance for  
18 employment.

19       (2) The applicant must demonstrate:

20               (A) community and regional support for the project;

21               (B) that grant funding is needed to complete the project;

1 (C) leveraging of additional sources of funding from local, State, or  
2 federal economic development programs; and

3 (D) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a  
4 plan for fiscal viability.

5 (3) The following are ineligible to apply for a grant:

6 (A) ~~a State or local government-operated business [Repealed.]~~

7 (B) a business that, together with any affiliated business, owns or  
8 operates more than 20 locations, regardless of whether those locations do  
9 business under the same name or within the same industry; and

10 (C) a publicly traded company.

11 \* \* \*

12 (k) Limited grants for operating support. Notwithstanding any provision of  
13 this section or guidelines adopted pursuant to this subsection (j) of this section  
14 to the contrary, the Secretary may award a grant of not more than  
15 \$1,000,000.00 for operating support to an applicant that:

16 (1) is a nonprofit entity with a documented financial impact from the  
17 COVID-19 pandemic;

18 (2) promotes community benefit through educational services,  
19 agriculture, or food security;

20 (3) demonstrates a risk of losing at least 20 jobs if the operating support  
21 is not received; and



- 1           (2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of  
2 businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;
- 3           (3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a  
4 grant award; and
- 5           (4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.
- 6       (c) Eligible applicants; priority.
- 7           (1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development  
8 corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this  
9 State.
- 10          (2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may  
11 designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities  
12 that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.
- 13       (d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient may use funding for the following:
- 14           (1) to purchase land for potential industrial use;
- 15           (2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing  
16 infrastructure for property the recipient owns;
- 17           (3) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the  
18 Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12,  
19 subchapter 3; or
- 20           (4) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant  
21 consistent with this section.

1       (e) Application; market assessment.

2           (1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional  
3 market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed  
4 development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth  
5 opportunities.

6           (2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to  
7 begin and complete the proposed project:

8               (A) community and regional support for the project;

9               (B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;

10           (C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a  
11 plan for fiscal viability; and

12           (D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the  
13 project and a plan for obtaining the permits.

14       (f) Awards; amount.

15           (1) An award shall not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 20 percent of  
16 the total project cost.

17           (2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other  
18 sources.

19           (3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the  
20 applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.

1           (4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future  
2 amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but  
3 eligible use.

4           (g) Deed restrictions; property sales. The Agency shall include deed  
5 restrictions that require the return of the principal amount to the state and may  
6 require the payment of a percentage of the sales profit.

7   Sec. F.9 24 V.S.A. § 2799 is amended to read:

8   § 2799. BETTER PLACES PROGRAM; CROWD GRANTING

9           (a)(1) There is created the Better Places Program within the Department of  
10 Housing and Community Development, and the Better Places Fund, which the  
11 Department shall manage pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

12           (2) The purpose of the Program is to utilize crowdfunding to spark  
13 community revitalization through collaborative grantmaking for projects that  
14 create, activate, or revitalize public spaces.

15           (3) The Department may administer the Program in coordination with  
16 and support from other State agencies and nonprofit and philanthropic partners.

17           (b) The Fund is composed of the following:

18           (1) State or federal funds appropriated by the General Assembly;

19           (2) gifts, grants, or other contributions to the Fund; and

20           (3) any interest earned by the Fund.

1 (c) As used in this section, “public space” means an area or place that is  
2 open and accessible to all people with no charge for admission and includes  
3 village greens, squares, parks, community centers, town halls, libraries, and  
4 other publicly accessible buildings and connecting spaces such as sidewalks,  
5 streets, alleys, and trails.

6 (d)(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall  
7 establish an application process, eligibility criteria, and criteria for prioritizing  
8 assistance for awarding grants through the Program.

9 (2) The Department may award a grant to a municipality, a nonprofit  
10 organization, or a community group with a fiscal sponsor for a project that is  
11 located in or serves a designated downtown, village center, new town center, or  
12 neighborhood development area that will create a new public space or  
13 revitalize or activate an existing public space.

14 (3) The Department may award a grant to not more than ~~one project~~  
15 three projects per calendar year within a municipality.

16 (4) The minimum amount of a grant award is \$5,000, and the maximum  
17 amount of a grant award is \$40,000.

18 (5) The Department shall develop matching grant eligibility  
19 requirements to ensure a broad base of community and financial support for  
20 the project, subject to the following:



1 (A) A project shall include in-kind support and matching funds raised  
2 through a crowdfunding approach that includes multiple donors.

3 (B) An applicant may not donate to its own crowdfunding campaign.

4 (C) A donor may not contribute more than \$10,000 or 35 percent of  
5 the campaign goal, whichever is less.

6 (D) An applicant shall provide matching funds raised through  
7 crowdfunding of not less than 33 percent of the grant award.

8 (e) The Department of Housing and Community Development, with the  
9 assistance of a fiscal agent, shall distribute funds under this section in a manner  
10 that provides funding for projects of various sizes in as many geographical  
11 areas of the State as possible.

12 (f) The Department of Housing and Community Development may use up  
13 to 15 percent of any appropriation to the Fund from the General Fund to assist  
14 with crowdfunding, administration, training, and technological needs of the  
15 Program.

16 Sec. F.10 24 V.S.A. § 2792(d) is amended to read:

17 (d) The Department shall provide staff and administrative support to the  
18 State Board, ~~and~~ shall produce guidelines to direct municipalities seeking to  
19 obtain designation under this chapter, and shall pay per diem compensation for  
20 board members pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010(b).

21 Sec. F.11 24 V.S.A. § 2793(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ At the first  
2 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
3 application, the State Board shall designate a downtown development district if  
4 the State Board finds in its written decision that the municipality has:

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. F.12 24 V.S.A. § 2793a(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ At the first  
8 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
9 application, the State Board shall designate a village center if the State Board  
10 finds the applicant has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

11 Sec. F.13 24 V.S.A. § 2793b(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ At the first  
13 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
14 application, the State Board shall designate a new town center development  
15 district if the State Board finds, with respect to that district, the municipality  
16 has:

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. F.14 24 V.S.A. § 2793e(d) is amended to read:

19 (d) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first  
20 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
21 application, for designation of a neighborhood development area, the State

1 Board, after opportunity for public comment, shall approve a neighborhood  
2 development area if the Board determines that the applicant has met the  
3 requirements of this section.

4 Sec. F.15 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 196, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts  
5 and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 13, is further amended to read:

6 Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

7 (a) The Secretary of ~~State~~ Digital Services shall serve as the chair of a  
8 steering committee, composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of  
9 Commerce and Community Development, the Secretary of Administration,  
10 and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees.

11 (b) The ~~Secretary of State, in collaboration with the~~ steering committee,  
12 and in collaboration with other State agencies and departments and interested  
13 stakeholders ~~as necessary~~, shall:

14 (1) review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps  
15 to enhance the Secretary of State's one-stop business portal for businesses,  
16 entrepreneurs, and citizens to provide information about starting and operating  
17 a business in Vermont; and

18 (2) submit on or before December 15, ~~2019~~ 2023:

19 (A) a design proposal that includes a project scope, timeline,  
20 roadmap, and cost projections;

1 (B) any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the  
2 proposal; and

3 (C) a sustainable funding model for the portal.

4 (c) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy, and  
5 integrate into the current one-stop portal to the extent feasible, features that:

6 (1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a ~~clear~~  
7 comprehensive, one-stop compilation of other State business requirements,  
8 including permits and licenses;

9 (2) implement a data collection component that offers the registrant the  
10 option to self-identify, and make available to the public through the business  
11 search function, demographic information concerning ownership of the  
12 business, including whether the business is woman-owned, veteran-owned,  
13 BIPOC-owned, LGBTQ-owned, or minority-owned;

14 (3) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State by  
15 allowing a person to pay amounts ~~he or she~~ the person owes to the State for  
16 taxes, fees, or other charges to a single recipient within State government;

17 ~~(3)~~(4) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make  
18 a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if  
19 nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

20 ~~(4)~~(5) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to  
21 persons who are forming or operating a small business;

1           ~~(5)~~(6) after registration, provide information about additional and  
2 ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or  
3 explore any assistance needed;

4           ~~(6)~~(7) provide guidance and information about State and federal  
5 programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-  
6 based businesses of interest; and

7           ~~(7)~~(8) map communication channels for project updates, including  
8 digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

9           (d) All State agencies and departments shall designate a single employee or  
10 team of employees who are charged with the duty to provide assistance to the  
11 steering committee upon its request.

12           (e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services  
13 through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses  
14 with 20 or fewer employees.

15           (f) The Agency of Digital Services shall assign a project manager or  
16 business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the  
17 implementation of this act through June 30, ~~2020~~ 2025 for the purpose of  
18 developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses,  
19 entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in  
20 Vermont, and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State  
21 government.

1 Sec. F.16 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONAL  
2 DEVELOPMENT; INTENT; CONTRACT

3 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to assist the Department of  
4 Corrections to continue and further engage in a professional development  
5 initiative to enhance supervisory effectiveness and strengthen leadership  
6 development within the Department and among its employees. The  
7 Department's enhanced supervisory training is part of its effort to address an  
8 employee workforce crisis and strengthen workplace satisfaction.

9 (b) The Department of Corrections shall contract or expand an existing  
10 contract with a vendor to provide supervisory and management professional  
11 development services to the Department and among its employees.

12 (c) On or before March 15, 2024, the Department and the contracted  
13 vendor shall testify before the General Assembly about the progress and  
14 effectiveness of its professional development initiative. The Department shall  
15 make management, supervisory, and frontline staff available to testify.

16 \* \* \* Department of Motor Vehicles Fees \* \* \*

17 \* \* \* Enhanced Driver's License \* \* \*

18 Sec. G.100 23 V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

19 § 7. ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE; MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE  
20 INFORMATION; FEE

21 \* \* \*

1 (d) The fee for an enhanced license shall be ~~\$30.00~~ \$36.00 in addition to  
2 the fees otherwise established by this title.

3 \* \* \*

4 \* \* \* Department of Motor Vehicles \* \* \*

5 Sec. G.101 23 V.S.A. § 114 is amended to read:

6 § 114. FEES

7 (a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees for miscellaneous  
8 transactions:

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 9  | (1) Listings of 1 through 4 registrations   | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |
| 10 | (2) Certified copy of registration application  | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |
| 11 | (3) Sample plates   | <del>\$18.00</del> <u>\$22.00</u>         |
| 12 | (4) Lists of registered dealers, transporters, periodic inspection stations,<br>13 fuel dealers, and distributors, including gallonage sold or delivered and rental<br>14 vehicle companies | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u> per page |
| 15 | (5) [Repealed.]   |   |
| 16 | (6) Periodic inspection sticker record  | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |
| 17 | (7) Certified copy individual crash report  | <del>\$12.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u>         |
| 18 | (8) Certified copy police crash report  | <del>\$18.00</del> <u>\$22.00</u>         |
| 19 | (9) Certified copy suspension notice  | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |
| 20 | (10) Certified copy mail receipt  | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |
| 21 | (11) Certified copy proof of mailing  | <del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>          |

1	(12) Certified copy reinstatement notice	<del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>
2	(13) Certified copy operator's license application	<del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>
3	(14) Certified copy three-year operating record	<del>\$14.00</del> <u>\$17.00</u>
4	(15) [Repealed.]	
5	(16) Government official photo identification card	<del>\$6.00</del> <u>\$8.00</u>
6	(17) Listing of operator's licenses of 1 through 4	<del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>
7	(18) Statistics and research	<del>\$42.00</del> <u>\$51.00</u> per hour
8	(19) Insurance information on crash	<del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u>
9	(20) Certified copy complete operating record	<del>\$20.00</del> <u>\$24.00</u>
10	(21) Records not otherwise specified	<del>\$8.00</del> <u>\$10.00</u> per page
11	(22) Public records request for Department records requiring custom	
12	computer programming	\$100.00 per hour, but not less than
13	\$500.00	
14	(23) Public records request for Department records requiring custom	
15	computer programming (updated)	<del>\$119.00</del> <u>\$143.00</u>

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. G.102. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

18 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

19 (a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and  
20 be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true  
21 name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is



1 requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other  
2 identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case  
3 of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or  
4 other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification  
5 card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age  
6 and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (l) of  
7 this section. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the  
8 applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the applicant's  
9 identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), requests a  
10 veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other  
11 proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of  
12 Veterans Affairs confirms the veteran's status as an honorably discharged  
13 veteran or a veteran discharged under honorable conditions, the identification  
14 card shall include the term "veteran" on its face. The Commissioner shall  
15 require payment of a fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 at the time application for an  
16 identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card  
17 shall be issued at no charge to an individual who surrenders ~~his or her~~ the  
18 individual's license in connection with a suspension or revocation under  
19 subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition.

20 (b) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00  
21 midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the

1 cardholder following the date of original issue, and may be renewed every four  
2 years upon payment of a ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 fee. A renewed identification card  
3 shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth  
4 anniversary of the date of birth of the cardholder following the expiration of  
5 the card being renewed. At least 30 days before an identification card will  
6 expire, the Commissioner shall mail first-class to the cardholder or send the  
7 cardholder electronically an application to renew the identification card; a  
8 cardholder shall be sent the renewal notice by mail unless the cardholder opts  
9 in to receive electronic notification. An individual born on February 29 shall,  
10 for the purposes of this section, be considered as born on March 1.

11 (c) In the event an identification card is lost, destroyed, mutilated, or a new  
12 name is acquired, a replacement may be obtained upon furnishing satisfactory  
13 proof to the Commissioner and paying a ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 fee.

14 \* \* \*

15 \* \* \* Registration; General Provisions \* \* \*

16 Sec. G.103 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

17 § 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY  
18 AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES

19 \* \* \*

20 (b) The authority to issue vanity motor vehicle number plates or special  
21 number plates for safety organizations and service organizations shall reside

1 with the Commissioner. Determination of compliance with the criteria  
2 contained in this section shall be within the discretion of the Commissioner.  
3 Series of number plates for safety and service organizations that are authorized  
4 by the Commissioner shall be issued in order of approval, subject to the  
5 operating considerations in the Department as determined by the  
6 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall issue vanity and special organization  
7 number plates in the following manner:

8 (1) Vanity plates. Subject to the restrictions of this section, vanity plates  
9 shall be issued at the request of the registrant of a motor vehicle unless the  
10 vehicle is registered under the International Registration Plan, upon application  
11 and upon payment of an annual fee of ~~\$48.00~~ \$58.00 in addition to the annual  
12 fee for registration. The Commissioner shall not issue two sets of plates  
13 bearing the same initials or letters unless the plates also contain a  
14 distinguishing number. Vanity plates are subject to reassignment if not  
15 renewed within 60 days of expiration of the registration.

16 (2) Special organization plates.

17 \* \* \*

18 (B) The officer of a safety organization or service organization may  
19 apply to the Commissioner to approve special plates indicating membership in  
20 a qualifying organization to be issued to organization members for a ~~\$17.00~~  
21 \$21.00 special fee for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for

1 registration. The application shall include designation of an officer or member  
2 to serve as the principal contact with the Department and a distinctive name or  
3 emblem, or both, for use on the proposed special plate. The name and emblem  
4 shall not be objectively obscene or confusing to the general public and shall  
5 not promote, advertise, or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for  
6 sale. The organization's name and emblem must not infringe on or violate a  
7 trademark, trade name, service mark, copyright, or other proprietary or  
8 property right, and the organization must have the right to use the name and  
9 emblem. After consulting with the principal contact, the Commissioner shall  
10 determine the design of the special plate on the basis that the primary purpose  
11 of motor vehicle number plates is vehicle identification. An organization may  
12 have only one design, regardless of the number of individual organizational  
13 units, squads, or departments within the State that may conduct the same or  
14 substantially similar activities.

15 (C) After the plate design is finalized and an officer or the principal  
16 contact provides the Commissioner a written statement authorizing issuance of  
17 the plates, the organization shall deposit ~~\$2,200.00~~ \$2,600.00 with the  
18 Commissioner. Of this deposit, \$500.00 shall be retained by the Department to  
19 recover costs of developing the organization plate. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A.  
20 § 502, the Commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the  
21 plates against the fees collected and the balance shall be deposited in the

1 Transportation Fund. Upon application, special plates shall be issued to a  
2 registrant of a vehicle registered at the pleasure car rate or of a truck registered  
3 for less than 26,001 pounds (but excluding trucks registered under the  
4 International Registration Plan) who furnishes the Commissioner satisfactory  
5 proof that ~~he or she~~ the registrant is a member of an organization that has  
6 satisfied the requirements of this subdivision (b)(2). For each of the first 100  
7 applicants to whom sets of plates are issued, the ~~\$17.00~~ \$21.00 special plate  
8 fee shall not be collected and shall be subtracted from the balance of the  
9 deposit. When the ~~\$1,700.00~~ \$2,100.00 balance of the deposit is depleted,  
10 applicants shall be required to pay the ~~\$17.00~~ \$21.00 fee as provided for in  
11 subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection. No organization shall charge its  
12 members any additional fee or premium charge for the authorization, right, or  
13 privilege to display special number plates, but any organization may recover  
14 up to ~~\$1,700.00~~ \$2,100.00 from applicants for the special plates.

15 \* \* \*

16 (f) Upon the request of a registrant of a motor vehicle with the previous  
17 issue number plates, the Commissioner shall issue current issue number plates  
18 bearing the same number as shown on the previous issue plates that are being  
19 replaced. The initial one-time fee for the plates shall be ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 in  
20 addition to the regular registration fee. Official plates and plates with numbers  
21 of 9999 or lower are specifically exempted.

1

\* \* \*

2 Sec. G.104 23 V.S.A. § 304b is amended to read:

3 § 304b. CONSERVATION MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

4 (a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue conservation

5 registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate,

6 on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, and on vehicles registered to

7 State agencies under section 376 of this title, but excluding vehicles registered

8 under the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted

9 on the front and rear of the vehicle. The Commissioners of Motor Vehicles

10 and of Fish and Wildlife shall determine the graphic design of the special

11 plates in a manner that serves to enhance the public awareness of the State's

12 interest in restoring and protecting its wildlife and major watershed areas. The

13 Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Fish and Wildlife may alter the

14 graphic design of these special plates, provided that plates in use at the time of

15 a design alteration shall remain valid subject to the operator's payment of the

16 annual registration fee. Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the

17 Commissioner and shall pay an initial fee of ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00 in addition to the

18 annual fee for registration. In following years, in addition to the annual

19 registration fee, the holder of a conservation plate shall pay a renewal fee of

20 ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00. The Commissioner may adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25

21 to implement the provisions of this subsection.



1 Sec. G.106 23 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

2 § 307. CARRYING OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE; REPLACEMENT  
3 AND CORRECTED CERTIFICATES

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) In case of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of a certificate, the owner  
6 of the vehicle described in it shall forthwith notify the Commissioner and remit  
7 a fee of ~~\$16.00~~ \$20.00, upon receipt of which the Commissioner shall furnish  
8 the owner with a duplicate certificate.

9 (c) A corrected registration certificate shall be furnished by the  
10 Commissioner upon request and receipt of a fee of ~~\$16.00~~ \$20.00.

11 (d) An operator cited for violating subsection (a) of this section with  
12 respect to a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less  
13 than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5.00,  
14 which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if  
15 ~~he or she~~ the operator is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of  
16 the motor vehicle's registration.

17 Sec. G.107 23 V.S.A. § 323 is amended to read:

18 § 323. TRANSFER FEES

19 A person who transfers the ownership of a registered motor vehicle to  
20 another, upon the filing of a new application and upon the payment of a fee of  
21 ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00, may have registered in ~~his or her~~ the person's name another



1 motor vehicle for the remainder of the registration period without payment of  
2 any additional registration fee, provided the proper registration fee of the  
3 motor vehicle sought to be registered is the same as the registration fee of the  
4 transferred motor vehicle. However, if the proper registration fee of the motor  
5 vehicle sought to be registered by such person is greater than the registration  
6 fee of the transferred motor vehicle, the applicant shall pay, in addition to such  
7 fee of ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00, the difference between the registration fee of the motor  
8 vehicle previously registered and the proper fee for the registration of the  
9 motor vehicle sought to be registered.

10 \* \* \* Registration; Fees and Exemptions \* \* \*

11 Sec. G.108 23 V.S.A. § 361 is amended to read:

12 § 361. PLEASURE CARS

13 The annual registration fee for ~~registration of any motor vehicle of the a~~  
14 ~~pleasure car type, as defined in subdivision 4(28) of this title,~~ and all vehicles  
15 powered by electricity, shall be ~~\$74.00~~ \$89.00, and the biennial fee shall be  
16 ~~\$136.00~~ \$163.00.

17 Sec. G.109 23 V.S.A. § 364 is amended to read:

18 § 364. MOTORCYCLES

19 The annual fee for registration of a motorcycle, with or without sidecar,  
20 shall be ~~\$46.00~~ \$56.00.

21 Sec. G.110 23 V.S.A. § 364a is amended to read:

1 § 364a. MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES; REGISTRATION; FINANCIAL  
2 RESPONSIBILITY

3 (a) The annual fee for registration of a motor-driven cycle shall be ~~\$28.00~~  
4 \$34.00.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. G.111 23 V.S.A. § 364b is amended to read:

7 § 364b. ALL-SURFACE VEHICLES; REGISTRATION

8 (a) The annual fee for registration of an all-surface vehicle (ASV) shall be  
9 the sum of the fees established by sections 3305 and 3504 of this title, plus  
10 ~~\$26.00~~ \$32.00.

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. G.112 23 V.S.A. § 367 is amended to read:

13 § 367. TRUCKS

14 (a)(1) The annual fee for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor  
15 trucks except truck cranes, truck shovels, road oilers, bituminous distributors,  
16 and farm trucks used as specified in subsection (f) of this section shall be based  
17 on the total weight of the truck-tractor or motor truck, including body and cab  
18 plus the heaviest load to be carried. In computing the fees for registration of  
19 tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks with trailers or semi-trailers attached,  
20 except trailers or semi-trailers with a gross weight of less than 6,000 pounds,  
21 the fee shall be based upon the weight of the tractor, truck-tractor, or motor

1 truck, the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer, and the weight of the heaviest  
2 load to be carried by the combined vehicles. In addition to the fee set out in  
3 the following schedule, the fee for vehicles weighing between 10,000 and  
4 25,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$35.50~~ \$42.53, the fee for  
5 vehicles weighing between 26,000 and 39,999 pounds inclusive shall be an  
6 additional ~~\$70.98~~ \$85.03, the fee for vehicles weighing between 40,000 and  
7 59,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$248.48~~ \$297.68, and the fee  
8 for vehicles 60,000 pounds and over shall be an additional ~~\$390.48~~ \$467.80.  
9 The fee shall be computed at the following rates per 1,000 pounds of weight  
10 determined pursuant to this subdivision and rounded up to the nearest whole  
11 dollar; the minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck  
12 to 6,000 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:  
13           ~~\$15.20~~ \$18.21 when the weight exceeds 6,000 pounds but does not  
14 exceed 8,000 pounds.  
15           ~~\$17.39~~ \$20.83 when the weight exceeds 8,000 pounds but does not  
16 exceed 12,000 pounds.  
17           ~~\$19.17~~ \$22.97 when the weight exceeds 12,000 pounds but does not  
18 exceed 16,000 pounds.  
19           ~~\$20.50~~ \$24.56 when the weight exceeds 16,000 pounds but does not  
20 exceed 20,000 pounds.



1 (a)(1) The one-year and two-year fees for registration of a trailer or semi-  
2 trailer, except a contractor's trailer or farm trailer, shall be as follows:

3 (A) ~~\$27.00~~ \$33.00 and ~~\$51.00~~ \$62.00, respectively, when such trailer  
4 or semi-trailer has a gross weight of trailer and load of 1,500 pounds or less;

5 (B) ~~\$52.00~~ \$63.00 and ~~\$102.00~~ \$123.00, respectively, when such  
6 trailer or semi-trailer has a gross weight of trailer and load of more than 1,500  
7 pounds and is drawn by a vehicle of the pleasure car type;

8 (C) ~~\$52.00~~ \$63.00 and ~~\$102.00~~ \$123.00, respectively, when such  
9 trailer or semi-trailer is drawn by a motor truck or tractor, when such trailer or  
10 semi-trailer has a gross weight of more than 1,500 pounds but less than 3,000  
11 pounds;

12 (D) ~~\$52.00~~ \$63.00 and ~~\$102.00~~ \$123.00, respectively, when such  
13 trailer or semi-trailer is used in combination with a truck-tractor or motor truck  
14 registered at the fee provided for combined vehicles under section 367 of this  
15 title. Excepting for the fees, the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply  
16 to trailer coaches as defined in section 4 of this title nor to modular homes  
17 being transported by trailer or semi-trailer.

18 (2) The one-year and two-year fees for registration of a contractor's  
19 trailer shall be ~~\$197.00~~ \$237.00 and ~~\$394.00~~ \$473.00, respectively.

20 \* \* \*

21 Sec. G.114 23 V.S.A. § 372 is amended to read:

1 § 372. MOTOR BUS

2 The annual fee for registration of a motor bus shall be based on the actual  
3 weight of such bus, plus passenger carrying capacity at 150 pounds per person,  
4 and shall be ~~\$2.00~~ \$2.40 per 100 pounds of such weight, except for motor  
5 buses registered under section 372a or 376 of this title. Fractions of a hundred-  
6 weight shall be disregarded. The minimum fee for the registration of any  
7 motor bus shall be \$43.00.

8 Sec. G.115 23 V.S.A. § 372a is amended to read:

9 § 372a. LOCAL TRANSIT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

10 (a) The annual registration fee for any motor bus used in local transit or  
11 public transportation service shall be ~~\$62.00~~ \$75.00, except for those vehicles  
12 owned by a municipality for such service that are subject to the provisions of  
13 section 376 of this title. In the event a bus registered for local transit or public  
14 transportation service is subsequently registered for general use during the  
15 same registration year, such fee shall be applied toward the fee for general  
16 registration.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. G.116 23 V.S.A. § 373 is amended to read:

19 § 373. EXHIBITION VEHICLES; YEAR OF MANUFACTURE PLATES

20 (a) The annual fee for the registration of a motor vehicle that is maintained  
21 for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public

1 interest and that is not used for general daily transportation of passengers or  
2 property on any highway shall be ~~\$21.00~~ \$26.00, in lieu of fees otherwise  
3 provided by law. Permitted use shall include:

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. G.117 23 V.S.A. § 376 is amended to read:

6 § 376. STATE, MUNICIPAL, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND RESCUE  
7 ORGANIZATION MOTOR VEHICLES

8 \* \* \*

9 (b) The fee for registration of a motor vehicle owned by any municipality  
10 in this State and used entirely by it or any other municipality for municipal  
11 purposes shall be ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00 in lieu of fees otherwise specified in this  
12 chapter. ~~As used in~~ For purposes of this subsection, the term municipality  
13 shall include county-owned vehicles. The Commissioner shall issue specially  
14 designed registration plates for county-owned sheriffs' departments' vehicles.

15 (c) The registration fee for registration of a motor truck, trailer, ambulance,  
16 or other motor vehicle, owned by a volunteer fire department or other  
17 volunteer ~~fire fighting~~ firefighting organization or other organization  
18 conducting rescue operations and used solely for fire fighting or rescue  
19 purposes shall be ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00 in lieu of fees otherwise specified in this  
20 chapter. A motor vehicle or trailer registered under this section shall be plainly  
21 marked on both sides of the body or cab to indicate its ownership.

1

\* \* \*

2 (f) A replacement registration plate shall be provided by the Commissioner  
3 upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$9.00~~ \$11.00.

4 (g)(1) The fee for registration of a motor vehicle obtained from the  
5 government as excess government property, or a vehicle purchased with 100  
6 percent federal funds and used for federally supported local programs, shall be  
7 \$14.00, in lieu of fees otherwise specified in this chapter. The Commissioner  
8 shall determine the eligibility as to whether or not the motor vehicle qualifies  
9 for this registration and ownership of the vehicle shall be plainly marked on  
10 both sides of the body or cab.

11

\* \* \*

12 Sec. G.118 23 V.S.A. § 382 is amended to read:

13 § 382. DIESEL-POWERED PLEASURE CARS

14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the annual registration fee for a  
15 pleasure car or tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck up to 6,000 pounds  
16 powered by fuel as defined in section 3002 of this title shall be ~~\$74.00~~ \$89.00,  
17 and the biennial fee shall be ~~\$136.00~~ \$163.00.

18 \* \* \* Registration; Registration of Dealers and Transporters \* \* \*

19 Sec. G.119 23 V.S.A. § 453 is amended to read:

20 § 453. FEES AND NUMBER PLATES



1 (a)(1) An application for registration as a dealer in new or used cars or  
2 motor trucks shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$503.00~~ \$603.00 for each  
3 certificate issued in such dealer's name. The Commissioner shall furnish free  
4 of charge with each dealer's registration certificate three number plates  
5 showing the distinguishing number assigned such dealer. The Commissioner  
6 may furnish additional plates according to the volume of the dealer's sales in  
7 the prior year or, in the case of an initial registration, according to the dealer's  
8 reasonable estimate of expected sales, as follows:

9 \* \* \*

10 (2) If the issuance of additional plates is authorized under subdivision  
11 (1) of this subsection, up to two plates shall be provided free of charge, and the  
12 Commissioner shall collect ~~\$55.00~~ \$66.00 for each additional plate thereafter.

13 (b) Application by a "dealer in farm tractors or other self-propelled farm  
14 implements," which shall mean a person actively engaged in the business of  
15 selling or exchanging new or used farm tractors or other self-propelled farm  
16 implements, for such dealer registration shall annually be accompanied by a  
17 fee of ~~\$78.00~~ \$94.00. The Commissioner shall furnish free of charge with  
18 each such dealer registration certificate two sets of number plates showing the  
19 distinguishing number assigned such dealer and in ~~his or her~~ the  
20 Commissioner's discretion may furnish further sets of plates at a fee of \$12.00

1 per set; such number plates may, however, be displayed only upon a farm  
2 tractor or other self-propelled farm implement.

3 (c) Application by a “dealer in motorized highway building equipment and  
4 road making appliances,” which shall mean a person actively engaged in the  
5 business of selling or exchanging new or used motorized highway building  
6 equipment or road making appliances, for such dealer registration shall  
7 annually be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$123.00~~ \$148.00. The Commissioner  
8 shall furnish free of charge with each such dealer registration certificate two  
9 sets of number plates showing the distinguishing number assigned such dealer  
10 and in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner’s discretion may furnish further sets of  
11 plates at a fee of \$30.00 per set; such number plates may, however, be  
12 displayed only upon motorized highway building equipment or road making  
13 appliances.

14 (d) If a dealer is engaged only in the business of selling or exchanging  
15 motorcycles or motor-driven cycles, the registration fee shall be ~~\$62.00~~  
16 \$75.00, which shall include three number plates. The Commissioner may, in  
17 ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner’s discretion, furnish further sets of plates at a fee  
18 of \$10.00 for each set.

19 (e) If a dealer is engaged only in the business of selling or exchanging  
20 trailers, semi-trailers, or trailer coaches, the registration fee shall be ~~\$123.00~~  
21 \$148.00, which shall include three number plates; such number plates may,

1 however, be displayed only upon a trailer, semi-trailer, or trailer coach. The  
2 Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, furnish  
3 further plates at a fee of \$10.00 for each such plate.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. G.120 23 V.S.A. § 457 is amended to read:

6 § 457. TEMPORARY PLATES

7 At the time of the issuance of a registration certificate to a dealer as  
8 provided in this chapter, the Commissioner shall furnish the dealer with a  
9 sufficient number of number plates and temporary validation stickers,  
10 temporary number plates, or temporary decals for use during the 60-day period  
11 immediately following sale of a vehicle or motorboat by the dealer. The plates  
12 and decals shall have the same general design as the plates or decals furnished  
13 individual owners, but the plates and decals may be of a material and color as  
14 the Commissioner may determine. The Commissioner shall collect a fee of  
15 ~~\$5.00~~ \$6.00 for each temporary plate issued.

16 Sec. G.121 23 V.S.A. § 463 is amended to read:

17 § 463. SALE OF VEHICLE TO GO OUT OF STATE

18 A registered motor vehicle dealer is authorized to issue an in-transit  
19 registration permit for the purpose of movement over the highways of certain  
20 motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when these vehicles are sold  
21 in this State to be transported to and registered in another state or province.

1 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon request, provide registered  
2 motor vehicle dealers with such numbers of applications and special in-transit  
3 number plates for vehicles sold in this State to be transported to and registered  
4 in another state or province as shall be necessary. The Commissioner is  
5 authorized to charge a fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for the processing of the plate  
6 application and the issuance of the plate. The dealer, upon the sale of a motor  
7 vehicle to be transported to and registered in another state or province, shall  
8 cause the application to be filled out and transmitted to the Commissioner and  
9 shall attach to the vehicle the in-transit number plate corresponding to the  
10 application. No registered motor vehicle dealer shall sell, exchange, give, or  
11 transfer any application or in-transit plate to any person other than the person  
12 to whom the dealer sells or exchanges a motor vehicle to be registered in  
13 another state or province. The application shall be in a form prescribed and  
14 furnished by the Commissioner. The special in-transit number plate to be  
15 attached to the vehicle will be issued in the form and design as prescribed by  
16 the Commissioner and shall be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of  
17 issue.

18 Sec. G.122 23 V.S.A. § 476 is amended to read:

19 § 476. MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTY FEE

20 A motor vehicle warranty fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 is imposed on the registration  
21 of each new motor vehicle in this State, not including trailers, tractors,

1 motorized highway building equipment, road-making appliances,  
2 snowmobiles, motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, or trucks with a gross vehicle  
3 weight over 12,000 pounds.

4 Sec. G.123 23 V.S.A. § 494 is amended to read:

5 § 494. FEES

6 The annual fee for a transporter's registration certificate, number plate, or  
7 validation sticker is ~~\$123.00~~ \$148.00.

8 \* \* \* Registration; Display of Number Plates \* \* \*

9 Sec. G.124 23 V.S.A. § 514 is amended to read:

10 § 514. REPLACEMENT NUMBER PLATES

11 (a) In case of the loss of a number plate, the owner of the motor vehicle to  
12 which it was assigned shall immediately notify the Commissioner of such loss,  
13 and the Commissioner shall furnish such owner with a new plate. The fee  
14 charged shall be ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00 for each plate. The owner of a motor vehicle  
15 who has lost one number plate may operate ~~his or her~~ the owner's vehicle with  
16 only one number plate attached, until a new plate is furnished ~~him or her~~ to the  
17 owner, provided ~~he or she~~ the owner notified the Commissioner as required  
18 under this section.

19 (b) Any replacement number plate shall be issued at a fee of ~~\$12.00~~ \$15.00.

20 However, if the Commissioner, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion,  
21 determines that a plate has become illegible as a result of deficiencies in the

1 manufacturing process or by use of faulty materials, the replacement fee shall  
2 be waived.

3 Sec. G.125 23 V.S.A. § 516 is amended to read:

4 § 516. SALE OF VEHICLE TO GO OUT OF STATE BY A PERSON

5 OTHER THAN DEALER

6 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is authorized to issue an in-transit  
7 registration permit for the purpose of movement over the highways of certain  
8 motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when the vehicles are sold  
9 in this State by a person, other than a registered motor vehicle dealer, to be  
10 transported to and registered in another state or province. The registration may  
11 be obtained by submitting an application on a form prescribed and furnished  
12 by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner is authorized to  
13 charge a fee of ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for the processing of the application and the  
14 issuance of the plate. The in-transit registration plate pursuant to this section  
15 shall be valid for a period of 30 days from issuance and shall be in the form  
16 and design prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Issuance of an  
17 in-transit plate for vehicles sold by a registered motor vehicle dealer to a  
18 person to be transported to and registered in another state or province shall be  
19 governed by the provisions of section 463 of this title.

20 Sec. G.126 23 V.S.A. § 517 is amended to read:

21 § 517. INTRASTATE IN-TRANSIT PERMIT

1 The Commissioner may issue an intrastate in-transit registration permit to  
2 authorize the movement within Vermont of a motor vehicle otherwise required  
3 to be registered, if the vehicle is sold in this State by a person other than a  
4 registered motor vehicle dealer. The permit may be obtained after submission  
5 of an application on a form prescribed and furnished by the Commissioner and  
6 payment of a ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 fee. The permit shall be valid for a period of 10 days  
7 from the date of issuance and shall be in the form and design prescribed by the  
8 Commissioner.

9 \* \* \* Operator's License; General Provisions \* \* \*

10 Sec. G.127 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

11 § 608. FEES

12 (a) The four-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an  
13 operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be  
14 ~~\$51.00~~ \$62.00. The two-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for  
15 licensing an operator or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be ~~\$32.00~~  
16 \$39.00, and the two-year fee for licensing a junior operator or for issuing a  
17 junior operator's privilege card shall be ~~\$32.00~~ \$39.00.

18 (b) An additional fee of ~~\$3.00~~ \$4.00 per year shall be paid for a motorcycle  
19 endorsement. The endorsement may be obtained for either a two-year or four-  
20 year period, to be coincidental with the length of the operator's license.

21 Sec. G.128 23 V.S.A. § 613 is amended to read:

1 § 613. REPLACEMENT LICENSE

2 (a) In case of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of a license or error in a  
3 license, the licensee shall forthwith notify the Commissioner who shall furnish  
4 such licensee with a replacement on receipt of ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. G.129 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

7 § 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

8 \* \* \*

9 (b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any  
10 licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a  
11 learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the  
12 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall offer both a motorcycle learner's  
13 permit that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only and a  
14 motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of any motorcycle.  
15 The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 at the time  
16 application is made.

17 (2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable  
18 motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the Commissioner  
19 may issue to the applicant a learner's permit that entitles the applicant, subject  
20 to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle only,  
21 or to operate any motorcycle, upon the public highways for a period of 120



1 days from the date of issuance. The fee for the examination shall be ~~\$9.00~~  
2 \$11.00.

3 (3) A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon  
4 payment of a ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 fee. If, during the original permit period and two  
5 renewals the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or  
6 motorcycle rider training course, ~~he or she~~ the permittee may not obtain  
7 another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the  
8 expiration of the permit unless:

9 \* \* \*

10 (d) An applicant shall pay ~~\$20.00~~ \$24.00 to the Commissioner for each  
11 learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

12 \* \* \*

13 \* \* \* Operator's License; General Provisions \* \* \*

14 Sec. G.130 23 V.S.A. § 634 is amended to read:

15 § 634. FEE FOR EXAMINATION

16 (a) The fee for an examination for a learner's permit shall be ~~\$32.00~~  
17 \$39.00. The fee for an examination to obtain an operator's license when the  
18 applicant is required to pass an examination pursuant to section 632 of this title  
19 shall be ~~\$19.00~~ \$23.00. The fee for a motorcycle skill test to obtain a  
20 motorcycle endorsement shall be ~~\$19.00~~ \$23.00.

1 (b) A scheduling fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 shall be paid by the applicant before  
2 ~~he or she~~ the applicant may schedule the road test required under section 632  
3 of this title. Unless an applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice  
4 of cancellation, if the applicant does not appear as scheduled, the ~~\$24.00~~  
5 \$29.00 scheduling fee is forfeited. If the applicant appears for the scheduled  
6 road test, the fee shall be applied toward the license examination fee. The  
7 Commissioner may waive the scheduling fee until the Department is capable of  
8 administering the fee electronically.

9 \* \* \*

10 \* \* \* Operator's License; Suspension and Revocation \* \* \*

11 Sec. G.131 23 V.S.A. § 675 is amended to read:

12 § 675. FEE PRIOR TO TERMINATION OR REINSTATEMENT OF  
13 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE

14 (a) Before a suspension or revocation issued by the Commissioner of a  
15 person's operator's license or privilege of operating a motor vehicle may be  
16 terminated or before a person's operator's license or privilege of operating a  
17 motor vehicle may be reinstated, there shall be paid to the Commissioner a fee  
18 of ~~\$80.00~~ \$96.00 in addition to any other fee required by statute. This section  
19 shall not apply to suspensions issued under the provisions of chapter 11 of this  
20 title nor suspensions issued for physical disabilities or failing to pass  
21 reexamination. The Commissioner shall not reinstate the license of a driver

1 whose license was suspended pursuant to section 1205 of this title until the  
2 Commissioner receives certification from the court that the costs due the State  
3 have been paid.

4 \* \* \*

5 \* \* \* Operator's License; Driver Training School Licenses \* \* \*

6 Sec. G.132 23 V.S.A. § 702 is amended to read:

7 § 702. TRAINING SCHOOL AND INSTRUCTOR'S LICENSES

8 A person shall not operate a driver training school or act as an instructor  
9 unless the person has secured a license from the Commissioner. Applications  
10 for such licenses may be filed with the Commissioner and shall contain the  
11 information and shall be on the forms the Commissioner may prescribe. Each  
12 application for a driver's training school license shall be accompanied by an  
13 application fee of ~~\$150.00~~ \$180.00, which shall not be refunded. If the  
14 application is approved by the Commissioner, the applicant upon payment of  
15 an additional fee of ~~\$225.00~~ \$270.00 shall be granted a license, which shall  
16 become void two years after the first day of the month of issue unless sooner  
17 revoked as provided in this subchapter. The renewal fee shall be ~~\$225.00~~  
18 \$270.00. Each application for an instructor's license shall be accompanied by  
19 an application fee of ~~\$105.00~~ \$126.00, which shall not be refunded. If the  
20 application is approved by the Commissioner, the applicant upon payment of  
21 an additional fee of ~~\$75.00~~ \$90.00 shall be granted a license, which shall

1 become void two years after the first day of the month of issue unless sooner  
2 revoked as provided in this subchapter. The renewal fee shall be ~~\$75.00~~  
3 \$90.00.

4 Sec. G.133 23 V.S.A. § 703 is amended to read:

5 § 703. POSSESSION OF LICENSE

6 Each person granted a driver's training school license shall display the same  
7 conspicuously on the school premises. Each person granted an instructor's  
8 license shall carry the same in ~~his or her~~ the person's possession while engaged  
9 in giving driver training. In case of loss, mutilation, or destruction of a license  
10 certificate, the Commissioner shall issue a duplicate certificate upon payment  
11 of a fee of ~~\$8.00~~ \$10.00.

12 \* \* \* Operation of Vehicles; Equipment \* \* \*

13 Sec. G.134 23 V.S.A. § 1230 is amended to read:

14 § 1230. CHARGE

15 For each inspection certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles,  
16 the Commissioner shall be paid ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00, provided that State and municipal  
17 inspection stations that inspect only State or municipally owned and registered  
18 vehicles shall not be required to pay a fee. All vehicle inspection certificate  
19 charge revenue shall be allocated to the Transportation Fund with one-half  
20 reserved for bridge maintenance activities.

21 \* \* \* Operation of Vehicles; Weight, Size, Loads \* \* \*

1 Sec. G.135 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

2 § 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

3 Except as provided in section 1400 of this title, a person ~~or corporation~~ shall  
4 not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total  
5 weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

6 \* \* \*

7 (13) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the  
8 maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a special annual permit,  
9 which shall expire with the vehicle's registration, except for vehicles not  
10 registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on January 1  
11 following date of issue, may be issued to a person operating on designated  
12 routes on the State Highway System for a fee of ~~\$382.00~~ \$458.00 for each  
13 vehicle registered for a weight of 80,000 pounds. This special permit shall be  
14 issued only for a combination of vehicle and semi-trailer or trailer equipped  
15 with five or more axles, with a distance between axles that meets the minimum  
16 requirements of registering the vehicle to 80,000 pounds as allowed under  
17 subdivision (4) of this section. The maximum gross load under this special  
18 permit shall be 90,000 pounds. Unless authorized by federal law, this  
19 subdivision shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National  
20 System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

1           (14) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the  
2 axle spacing and maximum gross load provisions of subdivision (4) of this  
3 section, a special annual permit, which shall expire with the vehicle's  
4 registration, except for vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the  
5 permit shall become void on January 1 following date of issue, may be issued  
6 to a person transporting loads on vehicles on designated routes on the State  
7 Highway System for the following fees for each vehicle unit. Unless  
8 authorized by federal law, the provisions of this subdivision regarding weight  
9 limits or tolerances, or both, shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D.  
10 Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This special  
11 permit shall be issued for the following vehicles and conditions:

12           (A) 3-axle trucks with a single steering axle and a rear tandem axle  
13 that have a maximum gross weight of not more than 60,000 pounds when  
14 registered for a minimum gross weight of not more than 55,000 pounds, the  
15 permit fee shall be ~~\$156.00~~ \$187.00.

16           (B) 4-axle trucks with a single steering axle and a rear tri-axle unit  
17 that have a maximum gross weight of not more than 69,000 pounds when  
18 registered for a minimum weight of 60,000 pounds, the permit fee shall be  
19 ~~\$352.00~~ \$422.00.

20           (C) 4-axle tractor semi-trailer or truck trailer combination with a  
21 maximum gross weight of not more than 72,000 pounds, provided the distance

1 between the second axle of the tractor and the rear axle of the trailer is at least  
2 24 feet measured to the nearest foot. For each foot or fraction of a foot less  
3 than 24 feet, measured to the nearest foot, a reduction of 2,000 pounds in the  
4 maximum gross weight shall be made. The permit fee shall be ~~\$15.00~~ \$18.00.

5 (D) 5- or more axle tractor semi-trailer or truck trailer combination  
6 with a maximum gross weight of not more than 76,000 pounds, provided that  
7 the distance between the first and last axle of two consecutive sets of tandem  
8 axles is at least 24 feet measured to the nearest foot. For each foot or fraction  
9 of a foot less than 24 feet, measured to the nearest foot, a reduction of 2,000  
10 pounds in the maximum gross weight shall be made. The permit fee shall be  
11 ~~\$15.00~~ \$18.00.

12 \* \* \*

13 (17) Notwithstanding the gross vehicle weight provisions of subdivision  
14 (4) of this section, a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer  
15 combination with six or more load-bearing axles registered for 80,000 pounds  
16 shall be allowed to bear a maximum of 99,000 pounds by special annual  
17 permit, which shall expire with the vehicle's registration, except for vehicles  
18 not registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on  
19 January 1 following the date of issue, for operating on designated routes on  
20 State and town highways, subject to the following:

21 \* \* \*

1 (F) The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision (17)  
2 shall be ~~\$382.00~~ \$458.00 for vehicles bearing up to 90,000 pounds and  
3 ~~\$560.00~~ \$671.00 for vehicles bearing up to 99,000 pounds.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. G.136 23 V.S.A. § 1402 is amended to read:

6 § 1402. OVERWEIGHT, WIDTH, HEIGHT, AND LENGTH PERMITS;

7 FEES

8 (a) Overweight, overwidth, indivisible overlength, and overheight permits.  
9 Overweight, overwidth, indivisible overlength, and overheight permits shall be  
10 signed by the Commissioner or by ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's agent and a  
11 copy shall be kept in the office of the Commissioner or in a location approved  
12 by the Commissioner. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a  
13 copy shall also be available in the towing vehicle and must be available for  
14 inspection on demand of a law enforcement officer. Before operating a  
15 traction engine, tractor, trailer, motor truck, or other motor vehicle, the person  
16 to whom a permit to operate in excess of the weight, width, indivisible  
17 overlength, and height limits established by this title is granted shall pay a fee  
18 of ~~\$40.00~~ \$48.00 for each single trip permit or ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00 for a blanket  
19 permit, except that the fee for a fleet blanket permit shall be ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00  
20 for the first unit and ~~\$6.00~~ \$8.00 for each unit thereafter. At the option of a  
21 carrier, an annual permit for the entire fleet, to operate over any approved



1 route, may be obtained for ~~\$112.00~~ \$135.00 for the first tractor and ~~\$6.00~~  
2 \$8.00 for each additional tractor, up to a maximum fee of \$1,000.00. The fee  
3 for a fleet permit shall be based on the entire number of tractors owned by the  
4 applicant. An applicant for a fleet permit may apply for any number of  
5 specific routes, each of which shall be reviewed with regard to the  
6 characteristics of the route and the type of equipment operated by the  
7 applicant. When the weight or size of the vehicle-load are considered  
8 sufficiently excessive for the routing requested, the Agency of Transportation  
9 shall, on request of the Commissioner, conduct an engineering inspection of  
10 the vehicle-load and route, for which a fee of \$300.00 will be added to the cost  
11 of the permit if the load is a manufactured home. For all other loads of any  
12 size or with gross weight limits less than 150,000 pounds, the fee shall be  
13 \$800.00 for any engineering inspection that requires up to eight hours to  
14 conduct. If the inspection requires more than eight hours to conduct, the fee  
15 shall be \$800.00 plus \$60.00 per hour for each additional hour required. If the  
16 vehicle and load weigh 150,000 pounds or more but not more than 200,000  
17 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$2,000.00. If the vehicle and  
18 load weigh more than 200,000 pounds but not more than 250,000 pounds, the  
19 engineering inspection fee shall be \$5,000.00. If the vehicle and load weigh  
20 more than 250,000 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$10,000.00.  
21 The study must be completed prior to the permit being issued. Prior to the

1 issuance of a permit, an applicant whose vehicle weighs 150,000 pounds or  
2 more, or is 15 or more feet in width or height, shall file with the Commissioner  
3 a special certificate of insurance showing minimum coverage of \$250,000.00  
4 for death or injury to one person, \$500,000.00 for death or injury to two or  
5 more persons, and \$250,000.00 for property damage, all arising out of any one  
6 crash.

7 (b) Overlength permits. Except as provided in subsections 1432(c) and (e)  
8 of this title, it shall be necessary to obtain an overlength permit as follows:

9 (1) For vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than 75 feet,  
10 anywhere in the State on highways approved by the Agency of Transportation.  
11 In such cases, the vehicle may be operated with a single trip overlength permit  
12 issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles for a fee of ~~\$28.00~~ \$34.00. If the  
13 vehicle is 100 feet or more in length, the permit applicant shall file with the  
14 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a special certificate of insurance showing  
15 minimum coverage of \$250,000.00 for death or injury to one person,  
16 \$500,000.00 for death or injury to two or more persons, and \$250,000.00 for  
17 property damage, all arising out of any one crash.

18 \* \* \*

19 \* \* \* Title to Motor Vehicles; General Provisions \* \* \*

20 Sec. G.137 23 V.S.A. § 2002 is amended to read:

21 § 2002. FEES

1 (a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

2 (1) for any certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, or  
3 an exempt vehicle title, ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00;

4 (2) for each security interest noted upon a certificate of title, including a  
5 salvage certificate of title, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

6 (3) for a certificate of title after a transfer, ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00;

7 (4) for each assignment of a security interest noted upon a certificate of  
8 title, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

9 (5) for a duplicate certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of  
10 title, ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00;

11 (6) for an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a  
12 distinctive certificate, ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00;

13 (7) for filing a notice of security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

14 (8) for a certificate of search of the records of the Department of Motor  
15 Vehicles, for each motor vehicle searched against, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

16 (9) for filing an assignment of a security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

17 (10) for a certificate of title after a security interest has been released,  
18 ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00;

19 (11) for a certificate of title for a motor vehicle acquired by a veteran  
20 with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and  
21 exempt from registration fees pursuant to section 378 of this title, no fee;

1 (12) for a corrected certificate of title, ~~\$35.00~~ \$42.00.

2 \* \* \*

3 \* \* \* Titling of Vessels, Snowmobiles, and All-terrain Vehicles \* \* \*

4 Sec. G.138. 23 V.S.A. § 3802 is amended to read:

5 § 3802. FEES

6 (a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

7 (1) for filing an application for a first certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

8 (2) for each security interest noted upon a certificate of title, ~~\$11.00~~

9 \$14.00;

10 (3) for a certificate of title after a transfer, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

11 (4) for each assignment of a security interest noted upon a certificate of  
12 title, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

13 (5) for a duplicate certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

14 (6) for an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a  
15 distinctive certificate, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

16 (7) for filing a notice of security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

17 (8) for a certificate of search of the records of the Department of Motor  
18 Vehicles for each vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle searched against,  
19 ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

20 (9) for filing an assignment of a security interest, ~~\$11.00~~ \$14.00;

1 (10) for a certificate of clear title after the security interest or interests  
2 have been released, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00;

3 (11) for a corrected certificate of title, ~~\$22.00~~ \$27.00.

4 \* \* \*

5 \* \* \* Commercial Driver's License Act \* \* \*

6 Sec. G.139 23 V.S.A. § 4108 is amended to read:

7 § 4108. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE, COMMERCIAL

8 LEARNER'S PERMIT QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

9 \* \* \*

10 (f) The fee for a knowledge test and the fee for a skills test shall each be  
11 ~~\$32.00~~ \$39.00. The fee for an endorsement test shall be ~~\$14.00~~ \$17.00. In the  
12 event that an applicant fails a test three times, ~~he or she~~ the applicant may not  
13 take the test again for at least six months. A fee of ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 shall be paid  
14 by the applicant before ~~he or she~~ the applicant may schedule a skills test. If an  
15 applicant does not appear for the scheduled skills test, the ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00  
16 scheduling fee is forfeited, unless the applicant has given the Department of  
17 Motor Vehicles at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation of the test. If the  
18 applicant appears for the skills test, the ~~\$24.00~~ \$29.00 scheduling fee for that  
19 test will be used as part of the test fee. Use of an interpreter is prohibited  
20 during the administration of the knowledge or skills tests.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. G.140 23 V.S.A. § 4110 is amended to read:

2 § 4110. APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE OR  
3 COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT

4 \* \* \*

5 (8) The proper fee.

6 (A) The four-year fee for a commercial driver's license shall be  
7 ~~\$90.00~~ \$108.00. The two-year fee shall be ~~\$60.00~~ \$72.00. In those instances  
8 where the applicant surrenders a valid Vermont Class D license, the total fees  
9 due shall be reduced by:

10 \* \* \*

11 (B) The fee for a commercial learner's permit is ~~\$15.00~~ \$18.00.

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) When a licensee or permittee changes ~~his or her~~ the licensee's or  
14 permittee's name, mailing address, or residence or in the case of the loss,  
15 mutilation, or destruction of a license or permit, the licensee or permittee shall  
16 forthwith notify the Commissioner and apply in person for a duplicate license  
17 or permit in the same manner as set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The  
18 fee for a duplicate license or permit shall be ~~\$15.00~~ \$18.00.

19 \* \* \*



1 leased, or otherwise acquired for use in short-term rentals, in which case the  
2 vehicle shall be subject to taxation under subsection (d) of this section.

3 \* \* \*

4 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

5 Sec. H.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

6 (a) This section and Secs. C.100 through C.125 (fiscal year 2023  
7 adjustments, appropriations, and amendments) shall take effect upon passage.

8 (b) Sections G.100 through G. 141 (Department of Motor Vehicles fee  
9 increases) shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

10 (c) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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