

1 Sec. B.1100. MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 * * *

4 (X) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated
5 for the following:

6 (1) \$1,700,000 Transportation Fund for the purpose of providing grants
7 to increase access to level 1 and 2 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)
8 charging ports at workplaces and multiunit dwelling places;

9 (2) \$140,000 Transportation Fund for the purpose of providing grants
10 under the eBike Incentive Program.

11 EXPLANATION Language would align budget bill with the transportation bill

1 Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2024 BASE REDUCTIONS

2 (a) In fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration shall reduce
3 appropriations for labor savings due to unfilled vacant positions within the
4 Executive Branch. The Secretary of Administration shall provide status
5 reports to the Joint Fiscal Committee on achievement of this base reduction at
6 meetings in July, September and November of 2024. The Commissioner of
7 Finance and Management is authorized to transfer other funds saved as a result
8 of these initiatives to the General Fund in fiscal year 2025:

9 General Fund \$5,000,000

10 **EXPLANATION: Language to have AoA find vacancy savings**

1 Sec. B.1102 UNOBLIGATED GENERAL FUND CONTINGENT

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 (a) After satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308, but prior to
4 satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c, the remaining unobligated and
5 unexpended balance of the General Fund at the close of fiscal year 2024 shall
6 be appropriated in fiscal year 2025 as follows:

7 (1) \$20,000,000 to the Department for Children and Families for the
8 General Assistance Emergency Housing program; and

9 (2) \$9,000,000 to the Department for Children and Families for the
10 Child Care Financial Assistance Program for grants.

11 **EXPLANATION: Contingent appropriation list for GF**

1 Sec. C.106 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.104.1 is amended to read:

2 Sec. E.104.1 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT;
3 PENSION PLUS APPROPRIATION DIRECTIVE

4 (a) In fiscal year 2024, and in each applicable year thereafter, funds
5 appropriated to the Department of Finance and Management and the Agency of
6 Administration in Sec. B.104.1 of this act to fund additional payments to the
7 Vermont State Retirement System made pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473(c)(8) shall
8 be directly deposited in the Vermont State Retirement System.

9 * * *

10 **EXPLANATION: JFO and Treasurer recommended language replacing Gov.**
11 **Rec. C sections. Relates to pension “plus” payments**

1 Sec. C.107 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.107(d) is amended to read:

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

16 (1) the actuarially determined employer contribution to the Vermont
17 State Retirement System; and

18 (2) the employer contribution to the State Employees' Postemployment
19 Benefits Trust Fund made pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 479a (e)(3). ~~any additional~~
20 ~~payments made pursuant to subdivision (c)(8) of this section to the Vermont~~
21 ~~State Retirement System; and~~

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

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EXPLANATION: JFO and Treasurer recommended language replacing Gov. Rec. C section. Relates to pension "plus" payments

1 Sec. C.XX 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 4(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) Appropriation. The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the
3 General Fund to the Secretary of State in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of
4 offsetting election costs incurred by school districts pursuant to this section or
5 the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 1. To the extent to which these
6 funds remain unobligated and unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2024, they
7 shall carry forward and be used for election costs in fiscal year 2025.

8 **EXPLANATION: Ensures that Act 84 appropriation can be used for**
9 **election costs**

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

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

4 * * *

5 (X) From the Central Garage Fund established by 19 V.S.A. § 13 to:

6 (A) the Transportation Fund: \$1,700,000.

7 **EXPLANATION Language would align budget bill with the transportation bill**

1 Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

2 (a) The establishment of 11 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year
3 2025 for the following:

4 (1) Permanent classified positions:

5 (A) Department of Public Safety:

6 (i) one Criminal History Record Specialist I; and

7 (ii) one Regional Emergency Management Program Coordinator.

8 (B) Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation:

9 (i) four Field Park Manager IV.

10 (C) Agency of Education:

11 (i) one CTE Education Programs Coordinator.

12 (D) Office of the Treasurer:

13 (i) one Internal Auditor.

14 (2) Permanent exempt positions:

15 (A) Agency of Administration – Secretary’s Office:

16 (i) one Chief Performance Officer.

17 (B) Judiciary:

18 (i) two Superior Court Judges.

19 (b) The conversion of 12 limited service positions to classified permanent
20 status is authorized in fiscal year 2025 as follows:

21 (1) Department of Environmental Conservation:

22 (A) one Environmental Engineer V;

23 (B) one Environmental Engineer III; and

1 (C) one Environmental Scientist IV.

2 (2) Department of Labor:

3 (i) one Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment

4 Program Program Coordinator; and

5 (ii) eight Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment

6 Program Facilitators.

7 EXPLANATION: Adds requested positions. Position titles from the
8 Department of Labor have not been received

1 Sec. E.100.1 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 95, is amended to read:

2 Sec. 95. MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ACCESS STATE
3 AND FEDERAL FUNDING

4 (a) Expanding municipal access to State and federal funding. The Agency
5 of Administration, consistent with the provisions of this section, shall design
6 and implement a process to provide expanded technical and administrative
7 assistance to municipalities with high need that may be eligible for State or
8 federal funding for the following activities:

9 (1) Community needs assessment. Conducting a review of community
10 assets and needs, strategic planning, and identifying potential eligible projects,
11 including in the following categories:

12 (A) water supply and wastewater infrastructure;

13 (B) housing;

14 (C) community recovery, workforce development, and business
15 support;

16 (D) climate change mitigation and resilience

17 (E) a municipal project that is capital in nature, or an activity that is a
18 precursor or requirement to taking on a capital project; and

19 ~~(F)~~ other community economic development projects identified by
20 a municipality and approved by the Agency of Administration.

21 **EXPLANATION: House Commerce language to include capital projects in the**
22 **eligibility list for the Municipal Technical Assistance Program**

1 Sec. E.100.2 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

2 LIMITED SERVICE POSITIONS; REVERSION

3 (a) To the extent to which limited service positions funded with American
4 Rescue Plan Act dollars remain vacant after June 30, 2024, the positions shall
5 be abolished and monies shall be reverted to the American Rescue Plan Act
6 Fund.

7 **EXPLANATION: Reverts ARPA funds from unfilled limited service positions**
8 **at start of FY25**

1 Sec. E.106 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

2 APPROPRIATIONS; REVERSION AND REALLOCATION

3 (a) The Agency of Administration shall structure any existing Coronavirus
4 State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) program in accordance with the requirements of
5 31 C.F.R. Part 35 and in a manner designed to achieve the intent of the General
6 Assembly and may reallocate unspent funds across governmental units in an
7 overall net-neutral manner.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Finance and Management is authorized to revert
9 Fall unobligated SFR monies prior to December 31, 2024. The total amount of
10 SFR monies reverted in accordance with this subsection shall be allocated
11 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 to the following purposes:

12 (1) \$36,000,000 to the Department of Public Safety Division of
13 Emergency Management for FEMA match and municipal support for hazard
14 mitigation.

15 (2) \$4,000,000 to the Agency of Administration for Administration costs
16 including for anticipated audit response per 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74,
17 Sec.G.801(a) and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G.801(A).

18 (3) 30,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
19 (VHCB) to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and
20 preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership
21 units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities,
22 permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness, recovery residences,
23 and housing available to farm workers and refugees.

1 (3) \$25,000,000 to the Department for Housing and Community
2 Development for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency for the
3 Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program and the Vermont
4 Rental Revolving Loan Fund.

5 (4) any remaining funds shall be reallocated, with the express
6 authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee, to existing SFR programs
7 established by the General Assembly.

8 (c) If previously obligated SFR monies become unobligated after
9 December 31, 2024, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may, with
10 the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, revert the unobligated SFR monies
11 and allocate the monies for expenditure pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 to any
12 existing SFR programs in accordance with the requirements of 31 C.F.R. Part
13 35.

14 EXPLANATION: Establishes procedure for handling future ARPA SFR
15 reversions and reallocations to facilitate the full utilization of the time-limited
16 federal funds.
17

1 Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
2 AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;
3 OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

4 (a) Of the \$3,063,180 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$2,047,989
5 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating
6 budget, and \$1,015,191 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension
7 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State
8 Employees' Retirement System.

9 **EXPLANATION:**
10 **Annual language to disaggregate the pension funds used to support**
11 **administrative costs provided by the Office of the State Treasurer and the**
12 **VPIC.**

13

1 Sec. E.125 OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL; NEW POSITION

2 (a) The abolishment of two session-only Law Clerk positions and the
3 establishment of one new permanent exempt Law Clerk position in the Office
4 of Legislative Counsel is authorized in fiscal year 2025.

5 **EXPLANATION: Establishes position requested in the legislative budget**

1 Sec. E.126.1 OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION
2 TECHNOLOGY; NEW POSITIONS

3 (a) The establishment of one new permanent exempt Audio Visual
4 Specialist position in the Office of Legislative Information Technology is
5 authorized in fiscal year 2025.

6 **EXPLANATION:** Establishes position requested in the legislative budget

1 Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
2 SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT
3 COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

4 (a) Of the \$1,737,125 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,359,845
5 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating
6 budget, and \$377,280 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension
7 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State
8 Employees' Retirement System.

9 **EXPLANATION:**

10 Annual language to disaggregate the pension funds used to support
11 administrative costs provided by the Office of the State Treasurer and the
12 VPIC.

13

1 Sec. E.208 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; EMBEDDED

2 MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS; REPORT

3 (a) The General Assembly supports the development and maintenance of a
4 comprehensive, coordinated, and equitable system of care that promotes
5 community safety and public health by delivering high-quality, evidence-
6 based, data-driven, and person-centered responses to emergencies. To the
7 extent that funds are appropriated for embedded mental health workers in the
8 Department of Public Safety, they should be used to improve integration,
9 continuity, and consistency of care between every part of the system, including
10 regional dispatch, homes, schools, clinics, and the streets in order to meet
11 people where they are with responses that most appropriately and effectively
12 address their needs when they ask for help.

13 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Public Safety shall
14 report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on
15 Health and Welfare with measurable outcomes on the results of the
16 Department's embedded mental health worker program to date, by barrack,
17 and on the Department's collaboration with the Department of Mental Health
18 to achieve a coordinated and integrated system of care, including how this
19 program works with 988, with the statewide Mobile Crisis Response program,
20 and with the designated and specialized service agencies.

21 **EXPLANATION: From House Health Care Letter. DPS report on emergency**
22 **response.**

1 Sec. E.300 FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS;

2 RESIDENTIAL BEDS FOR YOUTH

3 (a) As part of their fiscal year 2026 budget presentations to the General
4 Assembly, the Agency of Human Services and departments within the AHS
5 shall provide coordinated information regarding:

6 (1) the basis for the projected number of beds per facility to create 41
7 new beds for youth in high-end facilities under the Departments for Children
8 and Families, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent
9 Living for inpatient, psychiatric residential, stabilization, and treatment
10 services, including projected reductions in out-of-state placements;

11 (2) the status of capacity at lower level residential and crisis facilities
12 and their capabilities in preventing higher level needs if investments would
13 enable full capacity-use; and

14 (3) a projected five-year operating budget across the Agency and
15 departments for full utilization of the new high-end system components as
16 currently planned, including:

17 (A) costs to the Department of Vermont Health Access' budget; and

18 (B) how these costs will impact the overall budgets for lower-level,
19 community-based, prevention and other services needed to prevent escalation
20 to higher levels of care.

21 **EXPLANATION:**

22 Human Services Language directing AHS to include information on expansion
23 of youth beds in the state as part of its (and its departments') FY26 budget
24 presentation

1 Sec. E.300.1 PLANNING FOR HIGH END SYSTEM OF CARE YOUTH.

2 STAKEHOLDER INPUT

3 (a) The stakeholder working group for the development of a long-term plan
4 for the high-end system of care and for the temporary stabilization facility for
5 youth established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.316 shall
6 be consulted by the Agency of Human Services and departments within the
7 Agency prior to each substantive decision regarding facility locations, facility
8 capacity, facility design, treatment planning, policy planning, staffing, and
9 implementation.

10

11 EXPLANATION:

12 Human Services Language directing AHS to include the stakeholder working
13 group created in Act 78 in the development of the temporary stabilization
14 facility for youth

1 Sec. E.300.2 REVERSION AND APPROPRIATION OF HEALTH CARE-
2 RELATED FUNDS

3 (a) Of the funds appropriated to the Agency of Human Services in 2023
4 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100(1)(3), the sum of \$2,525,043.03 is
5 reverted to the General Fund and shall be appropriated in fiscal year 2025 as
6 follows:

7 (1) \$835,073.03 from the General Fund to the Department of Health for
8 the Bridges to Health program.

9 (2) \$488,970.00 in Global Commitment funds to the Department of
10 Mental Health to support mental health urgent care centers. On or before
11 January 15, 2025, the Department of Mental Health shall report to the House
12 Committees on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees
13 on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations with data regarding each
14 independent urgent care center and the Department's recommendations
15 regarding continued funding needs.

16 (3) \$1,201,000.00 in Global Commitment funds to the Department of
17 Vermont Health Access for non-emergency medical transportation. The
18 Department shall report on its new payment methodology for non-emergency
19 medical transportation as part of its fiscal year 2025 budget adjustment
20 presentation.

21 EXPLANATION: From House Health Care Letter. Removes several suggested
22 appropriations per actual dollar amount available for reversion per AHS

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1 Sec. E.306 HOME HEALTH AGENCY RATE COMPARISON

2 METHODOLOGIES; REPORT

3 (a) On or before August 31, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health
4 Access shall provide the following to the Health Reform Oversight Committee
5 and the Joint Fiscal Committee:

6 (1) a methodology for comparing Medicaid rates for home health
7 agency services to rates under the Medicare home health prospective payment
8 system model; and

9 (2) a methodology for comparing Medicaid pediatric palliative care rates
10 to rates under the Medicare home health prospective payment system model or
11 to Medicare hospice rates, or both.

12 **EXPLANATION:** From House Health Care Letter. Directs DVHA to provide
13 committees of jurisdiction with methodologies for comparing Medicaid service
14 rates

1 Sec. E.306.1 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR 2025 MEDICAID

2 RESOURCE-BASED RELATIVE VALUE SCALE

3 PROFESSIONAL FEE SCHEDULE

4 (a) On or before July 1 and October 1, 2024, the Department of Vermont
5 Health Access shall meet with interested stakeholders to develop a proposed
6 methodology for the Medicaid Resource-Based Relative Value Scale
7 professional fee schedule for calendar year 2025. In developing the proposed
8 methodology, the Department shall consider:

9 (1) maintaining alignment with relative value units used by Medicare
10 but implementing a mandatory minimum on the conversion factors used in
11 Vermont Medicaid, so that Vermont Medicaid's conversion factors do not
12 decrease in the event that Medicare decreases its conversion factor;

13 (2) whether to benchmark one or more conversion factors in Vermont
14 Medicaid to the Medicare conversion factor from a specific year; and

15 (3) whether Vermont Medicaid should continue to use two separate
16 conversion factors, one for primary care services and one standard conversion
17 factor, or transition to a single conversion factor in combination with other
18 methods of providing enhanced support for primary care services, such as
19 implementing payment of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System add-
20 on code G2211 for primary care services, and the potential implications that
21 any proposed approach may have on Vermont's participation in the States
22 Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD)
23 Model, as applicable.

1 (b) On or before November 1, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health
2 Access shall provide its proposed methodology to the House Committees on
3 Health Care and on Appropriations, the Senate Committees on Health and
4 Welfare and on Appropriations, and the Health Reform Oversight Committee.

5 (c) On or before December 15, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health
6 Access shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on
7 Appropriations, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on
8 Appropriations, and the Health Reform Oversight Committee on the fiscal
9 impact of implementing its proposed methodology for calendar year 2025 and,
10 if the new methodology would not result in an increase to provider rates that
11 are greater than or equal to the Medicare Economic Index, the costs of
12 increasing provider rates in an amount equal to the Medicare Economic Index
13 increase as part of the Department's fiscal year 2026 budget.

14 EXPLANATION: From House Health Care Letter. Directs DVHA to come up
15 with a methodology for the calendar year 2025 Medicaid Resource-Based
16 Relative Value Scale professional fee schedule

1 Sec. E.311 18 V.S.A. § 5017 is amended to read:

2 § 5017. FEES FOR COPIES

3 (a) For a certified copy of a vital event certificate, the fee shall be \$10.00.

4 (b) The State Registrar shall waive the fee for a certified copy of a vital

5 event certificate issued to a person experiencing homelessness or to any

6 individual 24 years of age or younger who was placed in a foster home or

7 residential child care facility by a child-placing agency.

8 **EXPLANATION:**

9 Human Services Language exempting certain individuals from the vital event
10 certificate fee

1 **Sec. E.316** 33 V.S.A. § 3531 is amended to read:

2 § 3531. CHILD CARE – BUILDING BRIGHT ~~SPACES FOR BRIGHT~~
3 FUTURES FUNDS

4 (a) ~~A child care facilities~~ An early childhood services financing program is
5 established to facilitate the development and expansion of ~~child care facilities~~
6 early childhood service programs in the State. ~~The Program~~ This financing
7 program shall be administered by the Department for Children and Families.

8 (b) ~~The Program shall be supported from a special fund, to be known as the~~
9 ~~“Building Bright Spaces for Bright Futures Fund,”~~ referred to in this section as
10 ~~“the Bright Futures Fund,”~~ is hereby created for this purpose to be
11 administered by the Commissioner for Children and Families. Subject to
12 approvals required by 32 V.S.A § 5, the Fund may accept gifts and donations
13 from any source, and the Commissioner may take appropriate actions to
14 encourage contributions and designations to the ~~account~~ Fund, including
15 publicizing explanations of the purposes of the Fund and the uses to which the
16 ~~Bright Futures~~ Fund has been or will be applied.

17 (c) ~~Funds appropriated for this Program shall be used by the~~ The
18 ~~Commissioner to award grants to eligible applicants for the development and~~
19 ~~expansion of child care options and community programs targeted for youths~~
20 ~~14 pre natal through 18 8~~ years of age. These options may include recreational
21 ~~programs and related equipment or facilities, development or expansion of~~
22 ~~child care facilities, and community based programs that address specific child~~
23 ~~care and youth program needs of the applicant region. The Commissioner shall~~

1 ~~establish by rule, criteria, conditions, and procedures for awarding such grants~~
2 ~~and administering this Program.~~ shall disburse the proceeds of this fund in
3 accordance with the plan developed by the Building Bright Futures Council per
4 33 V.S.A. § 4603(3).

5 **EXPLANATION From F&M creates the Building Bright Futures Fund in**
6 **statute and clarifies how proceeds are disbursed. Reflects statutory mandate of**
7 **the Building Bright Futures Council.**

1 **Sec.** E.316.1 33 V.S.A. § 4601 is amended to read:

2 § 4601. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) “Early care, health, and education” means all services provided to
5 families expecting a child and to children up to the age of ~~six~~ eight, including
6 child care, family support, early education, mental and physical health
7 services, nutrition services, and disability services.

8 (2) “Regional council” means a regional entity linked to the State
9 Building Bright Futures Council to support the creation of an integrated system
10 of early care, health, and education at the local level.

11 **EXPLANATION** From F&M technical correction to reflect the age range of
12 the population served.

1 Sec. E.317 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT; COMPREHENSIVE CHILD
2 WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

3
4 (a) In developing and implementing a comprehensive child welfare
5 information system, the Department for Children and Families' Division of
6 Family Services shall solicit input and leverage expertise from youth, foster
7 parents, kinship care providers, Division staff, and the employees of the Office
8 of Racial Equity's Division of Racial Justice Statistics.

9 **EXPLANATION:**

10 Human Services Language directing DCF to solicit input from relevant
11 stakeholders while developing a comprehensive child welfare system

1 Sec. E.317.1 ADOPTION; POST PERMANENCY SERVICES

2 (a) Any unused funds designated for the purposes described in 2023 Acts
3 and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.317, not to exceed \$716,487, shall be used in
4 fiscal year 2025 for post-permanency adoption services provided by Lund,
5 Easterseals of Vermont, and the Northeastern Family Institute of Vermont.

6 **EXPLANATION: Human Services Language directing unused funds from Act**
7 **78 B.317 to post-permanency adoption services**

9
10 Sec. X 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 101 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 101. [Repealed.]

12
13 Sec. X.1 FOSTER CARE; SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION; EXPENDITURE

14 (a) The Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division
15 shall spend funds appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.317
16 on a four percent rate increase for foster care and to fund an expansion of post-
17 permanence services benefiting families joined through ~~subsidized~~ adoption.

18
19 **EXPLANATION:**

20 **AHS construct to achieve the same end**

21 From AHS: The language as enacted in BAA is problematic. Federal rules
22 require that the adoption subsidy must not be more than what would be paid if
23 the child were in foster care. DCF-FSD would potentially face audit findings
24 if the 4% increase puts any adoption agreement over the threshold of what
25 DCF-FSD would have otherwise paid had the child been in foster care. DCF-
26 FSD will instead expand and enhance Post-Permanence Services for adoptive
27 families.

1 Sec. E.318 CONSENSUS ESTIMATE; CHILD CARE FINANCIAL

2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

3 (a) On or before December 1, 2024, 2025, and 2026 the Department for
4 Children and Families and the Joint Fiscal Office shall jointly determine and
5 submit a consensus estimate for costs related to the Child Care Financial
6 Assistance Program for the coming fiscal year to the House Committees on
7 Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on
8 Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. This consensus estimate shall
9 serve as a baseline for the Department for Children and Families' Child Care
10 Financial Assistance Program budget.

11 **EXPLANATION: Human Services recommended language to have DCF and**
12 **JFO determine a consensus estimate for CCFAP costs**

1 Sec. E.322 REPORT; 3SQUARESVT; MINIMUM BENEFIT

2 CALCULATION

3
4 (a) On or before January 1, 2025, the Department for Children and Families
5 shall submit a transition plan to the House Committees on Appropriations and
6 on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on
7 Health and Welfare detailing the process and resources necessary to calculate
8 the minimum benefit for 3SquaresVT participants at 30 percent of the U.S.
9 Department of Agriculture’s moderate-cost food plan, including:

10 (1) the nature, cost, and timeline of any information technology changes
11 needed to implement the new benefit calculation;

12 (2) the annual cost of implementing the increased 3SquaresVT benefit;

13 (3) the number and type of additional staff positions necessary to
14 implement the new benefit calculation; and

15 (4) any statutory changes or federal approvals necessary to implement
16 the new benefit calculation.

17 **EXPLANATION:**

18 **Human Services Language directing DCF to submit a transition plan to**
19 **relevant committees for a new 3SquaresVT benefit calculation**

1 Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE
2 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

3 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act,
4 \$25,747,402 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families’ Office
5 of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies assisting
6 individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services,
7 increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds
8 may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions
9 Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in
10 consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
11 recognized Continuum of Care Program.

12 **EXPLANATION:**
13 Human Services Language with small changes (adds DCF OEO) to Gov Rec.
14 sec. E.325. Dollar amount change per AHS.

1 Sec. E.323 RECALCULATION; REACH UP; RATABLE REDUCTION

2 REPORT

3 (a) On or before October 1, 2024, the Department for Children and Families
4 shall submit an amended report to the House Committees on Appropriations and
5 on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on
6 Health Welfare recalculating the amount needed to remove the ratable reduction in
7 the Reach Up program using current housing costs.

8 **EXPLANATION: HAC DCF Reach Up report language**

1 Sec. E.325.1 33 V.S.A. § 3517 is amended to read:

2 § 3517. CHILD CARE TUITION RATES

3 A child care provider shall ensure that its tuition rates are available to the
4 public. ~~A regulated child care provider shall not impose an increase on annual
5 child care tuition that exceeds 1.5 times the most recent annual increase in the
6 NAICS code 611, Educational Services. This amount shall be posted on the
7 Department's website annually.~~

8 **EXPLANATION: Human Services recommended language striking the**
9 **tuition increase cap language in statute.**

1 Sec. E.325.2 33 V.S.A. § 3517 is amended to read:

2 § 3517. CHILD CARE TUITION RATES

3 A child care provider shall ensure that its tuition rates are available to the
4 public. A regulated child care provider shall not impose an increase on annual
5 child care tuition that exceeds 1.5 times the most recent annual increase in the
6 NAICS code 611, Educational Services. This amount shall be posted on the
7 Department's website annually.

8 **EXPLANATION: Human Services recommended language adding the**
9 **tuition increase cap language in statute (effective July 1, 2025).**

1 Sec. E.345 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h) is amended to read:

2 (h)(1) ~~The Board may assess and collect from each regulated entity the~~
3 ~~actual costs incurred by the Board, including staff time and contracts for~~
4 ~~professional services, in carrying out its regulatory duties for health insurance~~
5 ~~rate review under 8 V.S.A. § 4062; hospital budget review under chapter 221,~~
6 ~~subchapter 7 of this title; and accountable care organization certification and~~
7 ~~budget review under section 9382 of this title. The Board may also assess and~~
8 ~~collect from general hospitals licensed under chapter 43 of this title expenses~~
9 ~~incurred by the Commissioner of Health in administering hospital community~~
10 ~~reports under section 9405b of this title.~~

11 (2)(A) ~~In addition to the assessment and collection of actual costs~~
12 ~~pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and except Except as otherwise~~
13 ~~provided in subdivisions (2)(C) and (3) (1)(C) and (2) of this subsection, all~~
14 ~~other the expenses of the Board shall be borne as follows:~~

15 (i) ~~40.0~~ 40.0 percent by the State from State monies;

16 (ii) ~~30 28.8~~ 28.8 percent by the hospitals;

17 (iii) ~~24 23.2~~ 23.2 percent by nonprofit hospital and medical service
18 corporations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 123 or 125, health insurance
19 companies licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 101, and health maintenance
20 organizations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 139; and

21 (iv) ~~six 8.0~~ 8.0 percent by accountable care organizations ~~certified~~
22 ~~under section 9382 of this title.~~

1 (B) Expenses under subdivision (A)(iii) of this subdivision ~~(2)(1)~~
2 shall be allocated to persons licensed under Title 8 based on premiums paid for
3 health care coverage, which for the purposes of this subdivision ~~(2)(1)~~ shall
4 include major medical, comprehensive medical, hospital or surgical coverage,
5 and comprehensive health care services plans, but shall not include long-term
6 care, limited benefits, disability, credit or stop loss, or excess loss insurance
7 coverage.

8 (C) Expenses ~~incurred by the Board for regulatory duties associated~~
9 ~~with certificates of need shall be~~ assessed pursuant to the provisions of section
10 9441 of this title ~~and not~~ shall not be assessed in accordance with the formula
11 set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision ~~(2)(1)~~.

12 ~~(3)(2)~~ The Board may determine the scope of the incurred expenses to
13 be allocated pursuant to the formula set forth in subdivision ~~(2)(1)~~ of this
14 subsection if, in the Board's discretion, the expenses to be allocated are in the
15 best interests of the regulated entities and of the State.

16 ~~(4)(3)~~ If the amount of the proportional assessment to any entity
17 calculated in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision ~~(2)(A)(1)(A)~~
18 of this subsection would be less than \$150.00, the Board shall assess the entity
19 a minimum fee of \$150.00. The Board shall apply the amounts collected based
20 on the difference between each applicable entity's proportional assessment
21 amount and \$150.00 to reduce the total amount assessed to the regulated
22 entities pursuant to subdivisions ~~(2)(A)(ii)-(iv)~~ (1)(A)(ii)-(iv) of this
23 subsection.

1 ~~(5)~~(4)(A) Annually on or before September 15, the Board shall report to
2 the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the total amount of all
3 expenses eligible for allocation pursuant to this subsection (h) during the
4 preceding State fiscal year and the total amount actually billed back to the
5 regulated entities during the same period. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d)
6 (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under
7 this subdivision.

8 (B) The Board ~~and the Department~~ shall also present the information
9 required by this subsection (h) to the Joint Fiscal Committee annually at its
10 September meeting.

11 **EXPLANATION: House Health Care substitute for Sec. E.345 of Governor's**
12 **recommended budget language)**

1 Sec. E.400 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; OFFICE OF WORKFORCE

2 EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

3 (a) The two staff positions within the Office of Workforce Expansion and

4 Development shall be existing positions within the Department of Labor and

5 funded through the appropriation made in Sec. B.400 of this act.

6 **EXPLANATION: Clarifies that the positions in the Office established by**
7 **H.707 are not new positions but existing positions within the Department of**
8 **Labor.**

1 Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
2 AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;
3 OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

4 (a) Of the \$3,572,780 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,516,037
5 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget,
6 and \$1,056,743 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment
7 Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement
8 System.

9 **EXPLANATION: Annual language to disaggregate the pension funds used to**
10 **support administrative costs provided by the Office of the State Treasurer and**
11 **the VPIC**

1 Sec. E.910 23 V.S.A. § 304c is amended to read:

Commented [GN2]: 1/1/24 effective date

2 § 304c. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES: BUILDING
3 ~~SPACES FOR BRIGHT FUTURES FUND~~

4 (a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue “Building Bright
5 ~~Spaces for Bright Futures Fund,”~~ referred to as “the Bright Futures Fund,”
6 registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate,
7 on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, on vehicles registered to State
8 agencies under section 376 of this title, and excluding vehicles registered under
9 the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the
10 front and rear of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
11 utilize the graphic design recommended by the Commissioner for Children and
12 Families for the special plates to enhance the public awareness of the State’s
13 interest in supporting early childhood children’s services. Applicants shall
14 apply on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall
15 pay an initial fee of \$29.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. In
16 following years, in addition to the annual registration fee, the holder of a
17 ~~Bright Futures Fund~~ plate shall pay a renewal fee of \$29.00. The
18 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25
19 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

20 (b) Fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be ~~allocated~~
21 deposited as follows:

- 22 (1) 29 percent ~~to~~ in the Transportation Fund.

1 (2) 71 percent ~~in to the Department for Children and Families for~~
2 ~~deposit in~~ the Building Bright Futures Fund created in 33 V.S.A. § 3531.

3 (c) Renewal fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be
4 ~~allocated~~ deposited as follows:

5 (1) 79 percent ~~in to the Department for Children and Families for~~
6 ~~deposit in~~ the Building Bright Futures Fund created in 33 V.S.A. § 3531.

7 (2) 21 percent ~~to~~ in the Transportation Fund.

8 (d) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall be charged by the Department
9 of Corrections for the production of the Building Bright Futures ~~Fund~~ license
10 plates.

11 **EXPLANATION** From F&M changes the name of the registration plate. The
12 term “allocated” determines how receipts are divided but does not direct the
13 funds to be deposited accordingly. The language change ensures the proper
14 allocation and the necessary directive.
15

1 Sec. E.910 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

2 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

3 * * *

4 (n) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the two-year fee
5 required to be paid the Commissioner for issuing a nondriver identification
6 card to an individual who is experiencing homelessness and submits an
7 affidavit of homeless status, or any individual under 24 years of age who was
8 placed in a foster home or residential child care facility by a child-placing
9 agency, shall be \$0.00.

10 **EXPLANATION: Human Services Language exempting certain individuals**
11 **from fees on nondriver IDs**

1 Sec. E.910.1 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

2 § 608. FEES

3 * * *

4 (c) An individual who is experiencing homelessness and submits an
5 affidavit of homeless status, or any individual under 24 years of age who was
6 placed in a foster home or residential child care facility by a child-placing
7 agency, shall be provided with an operator's privilege card or junior operator's
8 privilege card for a fee of \$0.00.

9 **EXPLANATION: Human Services Language exempting certain individuals**
10 **from fees on permits and driver licenses**

1 Sec. E.915 TRANSPORTATION – TOWN HIGHWAY AID PROGRAM

2 (a) The total appropriation in Sec. B.915 of this act is authorized,

3 notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(a).

4 **EXPLANATION: Notwithstanding language to allow for funding level above**
5 **that prescribed by the formula in statute.**