

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(2) \$3,000,000 to the University of Vermont to continue the Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program originally funded by 2021 Act 9 Sec. 18(b)

(3) \$19,000,000 to the Vermont State Colleges for the following:

(A) \$9,000,000 for bridge funding to support ongoing system transformation.

(B) \$10,000,000 for the Community College of Vermont to reduce by fifty percent, for two years, the tuition fee for certificates, degrees, and courses that have a direct nexus to Vermont business and industry needs.

(4) \$3,400,000 to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for continuation of the 802 Opportunity Program

(13) \$545,000 to the Department of Liquor and Lottery for the development of a state-control model of legal sports wagering, and associated administrative structure.

(16) \$30,538,537 to the Agency of Human Services Central Office for the following:

(A) \$1,000,000 to the State Refugee Office for the Employment Assistance Grants program created in 2022 Act 185 Section E.300.2 as amended by the Governor's Recommended FY 2023 Budget Adjustment Act. Funds remaining at the end of FY2025 shall revert to the General Fund.

(B) \$170,000 to fund the Health Care Workforce limited service position created in Act 183 Sec. 34 (a) for one additional year.

(C) \$8,833,934 for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program. Funds will be used to expand the substances covered by the program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic investments with community partners.

(D) \$10,000,000 to continue to address the emergent and exigent circumstances impacting healthcare providers following the COVID-19 pandemic. 6

(E) \$10,534,603 for use as Global Commitment matching funds for one-time caseload pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

(20) \$1,200,000 to the Department of Labor for the following:

(A) \$200,000 to be granted to the State Workforce Development Board for the New American Labor Force Program.

(B) \$1,000,000 to provide services under the Work-Based Learning and Training Program established per 10 V.S.A. § 547.

(26) \$117,000 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the Vermont 250th Commission

(27) \$35,650,000 to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the following:

(A) \$150,000 for a Land Value Tax Feasibility Study, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Taxes, to explore the potential economic and community development benefits of aligning local property tax policy to spur revitalization and economic development

(B) \$20,000,000 to fund the Middle-Income Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program to create and preserve multi-family rental housing that serves middle-income households.

(C) \$15,000,000 for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program changes established in 10 V.S.A. § 699.

(D) \$500,000 for Municipal Bylaw Modernization Grants established in 24 V.S.A. § 4307, to assist municipalities in updating their bylaws to reflect the changes proposed in H.68 as introduced on January 19, 2023.

(28) \$29,368,000 to the Department of Economic Development for the following:

(A) \$5,000,000 for the Vermont Training Program to fulfill Vermont's obligation to procure incentives in accordance with the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America (CHIPS Act).

(B) \$10,000,000 for Brownfields Redevelopment

(C) \$4,000,000 for New and Relocated Worker Grants

(D) \$10,000,000 for the Rural Industry and Development Fund to make grants to assist non-profit entities, in rural regions of the state, with addressing building and property needs for growing or new businesses.

(E) \$18,000 for granting to the Vermont Council on Rural Development to be used as match for a US Housing and Urban Development grant

(F) \$350,000 for the Innovate Northeast Kingdom Build to Scale program that will help build regional economies by furthering tech-based economic development initiatives that accelerate job growth, create more economic opportunities and support the next generation of industry leading companies.

(29) \$3,000,000 to the Agency of Transportation for the continuation of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Community Grant program. Funding to communities is available for scoping studies, and design and construction of projects that will enhance the connectivity of towns to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Local entities will be required to provide 20% match toward any granted projects.

(30) \$10,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. 322, the entirety of this appropriation will be allocated toward affordable housing development.

Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS (a) In FY 2024, funds are appropriated from the following special funds for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(4) Public Service Department – Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698

(A) \$500,000 to upgrade and expand the ePSD case management system

(B) \$400,000 to complete the Telecom Plan Update scheduled for June 2024.

(C) \$300,000 to craft policy proposals to reform and streamline electric sector policy

Sec. D.100 APPROPRIATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

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

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

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

(A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) is to be offset by the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to VHCB and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The FY 2024 appropriation of \$11,462,855 to VHCB reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to VHCB is intended to be restored.

(3) The sum of \$6,045,993 is appropriated from the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts above \$6,045,993 from the property transfer tax that are deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund will be transferred into the General Fund. The \$6,045,993 will be allocated as follows:

(A) \$4,711,650 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

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

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

EXPLANATION: Language provides the property transfer tax allocation.

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

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

(3) From the Transportation Fund to the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement Fund (21575) established by 24 V.S.A. § 2796 to be used by the Vermont Downtown Development Board for the purposes of the Fund: \$523,966.

EXPLANATION: Annual transfer to support the program at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

B.236.1 Liquor & Lottery Comm. Office

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Personal services	452,118	8,610,070
Operating expenses	20,306	5,529,374
Expense Total	472,424	14,139,444
Special funds	0	60,000
Tobacco fund	0	213,843
Interdepartmental transfers	0	70,000
Enterprise funds	472,424	13,795,601
Fund Total	472,424	14,139,444

Sec. E.236.1 - 31 V.S.A. § 651 is amended to read:

The Board of Liquor and Lottery shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, governing the establishment and operation of the State Lottery. The rules may include the following:

(1) Types of lotteries to be conducted, to include sports wagering, provided that no lottery shall be conducted that depends upon the outcome of an athletic contest except that the lottery may be affiliated with a sporting event, or sweepstakes, where the outcome is determined solely by lot or random drawing and not by choice of the lottery participant.

(8) Method for sale of tickets, provided that they may be sold only for cash, debit card or electronic transfer. EXPLANATION: This statutory change removes language that prohibits sports betting and adds debit cards and electronic transfers as permitted payment methods.

B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	4,412,900	4,412,900
Expense Total	4,412,900	4,412,900
General fund	3,496,850	3,496,850
Federal funds	916,050	916,050
Fund Total	4,412,900	4,412,900

B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	9,143,000	10,143,000
Expense Total	9,143,000	10,143,000
General fund	921,500	921,500
Education fund	8,221,500	9,221,500
Fund Total	9,143,000	10,143,000

Sec. E.504 EDUCATION – FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$1,900,000 from the Education Fund will be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of high school completion services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 943(c).

(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), of this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

- (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);
- (2) \$2,000,000 is available to support the ~~Vermont Virtual High School~~;
- (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants; and
- (4) ~~\$3,400,000~~\$4,000,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4011(e).
- ~~(5) \$600,000 is available for the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology~~

(c) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

EXPLANATION: Annual language ensures education funds are paid directly to school districts to fund the high school completion program, to help fund the dual enrollment program created in 16 V.S.A Sec 944, and to support distance learning in Vermont schools.

B.602 Vermont state colleges

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	30,500,464	30,500,464
Expense Total	30,500,464	30,500,464
General fund	30,500,464	30,500,464

Fund Total	30,500,464	30,500,464
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B.602.2 Vermont state colleges - Transformation funding

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	15,000,000	17,500,000
Expense Total	15,000,000	17,500,000
General fund	15,000,000	17,500,000
Fund Total	15,000,000	17,500,000

B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	1,157,775	1,157,775
Expense Total	1,157,775	1,157,775
General fund	748,314	748,314
Global Commitment fund	409,461	409,461
Fund Total	1,157,775	1,157,775

Sec. E.602.1 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) For the appropriation in B.1100(a)(3)(B), those programs eligible for the 50% tuition reduction will be determined annually in consultation with the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, and the Executive Director of the State Workforce Development Board. Community Colleges of Vermont (“CCV”) will report annually on December 15th to the Governor and General Assembly on enrollment, and degree or certificate completion, in programs that receive 50 percent tuition reduction, including any enrollment or graduation growth trends as compared to the previous five years.

EXPLANATION: CCV 50% tuition reduction program parameters

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(3) \$19,000,000 to the Vermont State Colleges for the following:

(A) \$9,000,000 for bridge funding to support ongoing system transformation.

(B) \$10,000,000 for the Community College of Vermont to reduce by fifty percent, for two years, the tuition fee for certificates, degrees, and courses that have a direct nexus to Vermont business and industry needs.

B.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	20,978,588	21,978,588

Expense Total	20,978,588	21,978,588
General fund	20,978,588	21,978,588
Fund Total	20,978,588	21,978,588

B.605.1 VSAC - Flexible Pathways Stipend

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Grants	82,450	82,450
Expense Total	82,450	82,450
General fund	41,225	41,225
Education fund	41,225	41,225
Fund Total	82,450	82,450

Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act, \$25,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845.

(b) Of the appropriated amount remaining after accounting for subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent of this appropriation will be used for direct student aid.

(c) To the extent other funding is provided to VSAC in this act or other legislation enacted into law this year, up to six percent, but not to exceed \$100,000, may be used for staff expenses associated with administering the funds. Funds will not be used for indirect costs. To the extent these are federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds will be consistent with federal grant requirements.

(d) \$1,000,000 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.605 of this act will be used to continue operating the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program in accordance with 2022 Act 183 Section 14.

EXPLANATION: Standard annual language with a section added to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program.

B.700 Natural resources - agency of natural resources - administration

Fund/Expense Category	FY23	Governor's Rec
Personal services	4,896,594	5,503,798
Operating expenses	1,329,284	1,471,913
Expense Total	6,225,878	6,975,711
General fund	4,188,563	4,593,987

Special funds	680,985	775,079
Interdepartmental transfers	1,356,330	1,606,645
Fund Total	6,225,878	6,975,711

Sec. E.700 CLEAN HEAT HOMES PROGRAM

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the Clean Heat Homes Program is to provide incentives for weatherization, clean heat systems, and electrification ready upgrades for low- and medium-income Vermonters. The Program will be focused on underserved households not eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program operated by DCF-OEO but earning less than 120% of Area Median Income.

(b) The Agency of Natural Resources will grant \$5,000,000 to the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) to administer the program. VEIC will:

(1) Identify and conduct outreach to eligible households;

(2) Serve as a single point of contact to help identify, coordinate, and provide incentive funding to support “whole home climate upgrades” including:

(A) thermal energy efficiency and moisture management improvements,

(B) fossil fuel heating system displacement options, and

(C) panel and wiring improvements necessary to support modern electric technologies, such as cold climate heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, batteries, and EV charging.

(3) coordinate with distribution utilities and other weatherization and energy efficiency providers to ensure program funds are used to compliment and leverage other existing incentives.

EXPLANATION: Codifies the creation of the Clean Heat Homes Program to which funds are appropriated in Section B.1100(a)(21)(C) of this Act.

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(21) \$6,900,000 to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for the following:

(A) \$700,000 for Refrigerant Management. Funds will be used for incentives to improve commercial and industrial refrigeration systems, focused on reducing the use of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants, and/or replacing outright, older systems prone to leaks.

(B) \$900,000 for Climate Office Technical Analyses, Tools and Training. Funds will be used for investments in on-going evaluation, implementation support and tracking the impact of programs and policy approaches needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve landscape-level resilience consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act.

(C) \$5,000,000 for the Clean Heat Homes program. Funds will be used to augment federal funding for a single-point program to help low- and moderate-income Vermonters with “whole home”

climate improvements – weatherization, clean heat systems, and electrification ready upgrades – supported by on-bill financing.

(D) \$300,000 for Environmental Justice positions created in 2022 Act 154 Sec. 4(b) and funded with a one-time appropriation in fiscal year 2023. Funds will be used to provide one additional year of funding for the following positions: one fulltime Civil Rights Compliance Director; and 7 two fulltime positions to assist in the implementation of the Environmental Justice State Policy and support the Environmental Justice Advisory Council.