

ATTACHMENT:

Committee on Education

Please review the provisions below that are included in the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2023 proposed Budget Adjustment bill. The explanations highlighted in yellow were provided by the Department of Finance and Management. The notes in gray are from the House Appropriations Committee.

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

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

* * *

(29) \$350,000 to the State Refugee Resettlement Office, located within the Agency of Human Services Central Office, to implement Employment Assistance Grants for New Americans created in Section E.300.2 of this Act. Funds remaining at the end of FY2025 shall revert to the General Fund.

EXPLANATION: These funds will provide financial assistance to organizations engaged in developing community-based systems of support for New Americans.

NOTE: The Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 4 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

* * *

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

* * *

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

* * *

<u>5100060000 Adult Basic Education</u>	<u>\$ 7,192.22</u>
<u>5100070000 Education Services</u>	<u>\$ 3,870.00</u>
<u>5100210000 Education – Flexible Pathways</u>	<u>\$ 182,072.00</u>
<u>5100400000 State Board of Education</u>	<u>\$ 54,755.46</u>
<u>5100892214 AOA School Food Program Administration</u>	<u>\$ 50,670.70</u>
<u>5100892216 AOE Vaccine Incentive Program</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
<u>6100040000 Property Tax Assessment Appropriation</u>	<u>\$ 4,263.13</u>

EXPLANATION: Net new General Fund balances available for reappropriation.

NOTES: The Committee on Ways and Means is also reviewing these reversions except for the AOA School Food Program Administration reversion of \$50,670.70 and the AOE Vaccine Incentive Program of \$50,000.

The Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, and the Committee on Human Services are also reviewing the AOA School Food Program Administration reversion of \$50,670.70.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023,

the following amounts shall revert to the Education Fund from the accounts

indicated:

<u>5100010000 Administration</u>	<u>\$ 1,607,144.76</u>
<u>5100040000 Special Education Formula</u>	<u>\$ 27,333,400.07</u>
<u>5100050000 State-Placed Students</u>	<u>\$ 1,443,542.45</u>
<u>5100090000 Education Grant</u>	<u>\$ 11,754,133.93</u>
<u>5100110000 Small School Grant</u>	<u>\$ 34,348.00</u>
<u>5100200000 Education-Technical Education</u>	<u>\$ 1,497,300.35</u>
<u>5100210000 Education – Flexible Pathways</u>	<u>\$ 1,843,900.61</u>

EXPLANATION: \$45,513,770 net Education Fund balances available for reappropriation.

NOTE: The Committee on Ways and Means is also reviewing these reversions.

Sec. 10 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.300.2 is added to read:

Sec. E.300.2 Employment Supports for New Americans

(a) Employment Assistance Grants. The State Refugee Office, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Labor, shall administer a grant program to support the development of coordinated community-based systems, with consideration of regional networks and resources, to assist in achieving economic self-sufficiency for New Americans, including refugees, humanitarian parolees, special immigrant visa holders, asylees, asylum-seekers and others who are pursuing a path to citizenship.

(b) Grant funds may be allocated to:

(1) Assess the current ability of a municipality or region supporting the resettlement of New Americans, with a focus on Brattleboro, Bennington, Chittenden and Rutland, including the availability of English language services, transportation, housing, employment supports and economic and health services.

(2) Provide employment and related support services for refugees, asylum seekers and other New Americans including technical support, employment training before or during employment, English language learning, employment – related case management, job placement, transportation or other related services.

(3) Provide staff support for the coordination of local and state resources to secure partnerships with organizations employing refugees, development of sustainable New American support systems for regions where New Americans are

being settled, creation of employer partnerships to serve multiple refugees, identification of cultural barriers for individual or groups of refugees and facilitation with necessary stakeholders to remove barriers and prepare for successful employment.

EXPLANATION: Creates a grant program, to be administered by the State Refugee Office, to assist organizations engaged in developing community-based systems of support for New Americans. \$350K has been provided to support this effort in Section XX of this Act amending 2022 Act 185 to add subsection (a)(29).

NOTE: The Committees on Human Services and Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 14 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.501.1 is added to read:

Sec. E.501.1 EDUCATION RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION

(a) The Agency of Education may adjust any of the allocations concerning ESSER II and ARP ESSER state set aside funds made in Acts 9, 67, 72, and 74 of 2021 and Acts 28, 83, 112, 166 and 185 of 2022 during the final reconciliation process to ensure the entirety of the federal awards are expended. The Agency of Education shall provide a final reconciliation report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on the reallocation of these funds in October 2023 and October 2024.

EXPLANATION: Through a series of legislative actions, all ESSER II and ARP ESSER state set aside funds have been fully allocated. As grant programs, contracts and administrative costs are reconciled, the Agency of Education requires additional flexibility to ensure that all funds can be expended by the end of the funding periods.

NOTE: The Committee on Ways and Means is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 15 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.514 is amended to read:

Sec. E.514 State Teachers' Retirement System

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), and consistent with system changes enacted for fiscal year 2023 in the 2022 session, the annual contribution

to the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) shall be ~~\$194,161,651~~\$194,961,651 of which ~~\$187,273,782~~\$188,073,782 shall be the State's contribution and \$6,887,869 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, ~~\$34,342,965~~\$34,842,965 is the "normal contribution," and ~~\$159,818,686~~\$160,118,686 is the "accrued liability contribution."

EXPLANATION: Changes represent the difference between Actuarial adjustments following Act 114 and the estimates used to calculate Act 185 totals.

NOTE: The Committees on Ways and Means and Government Operations and Military Affairs are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 23 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72 is amended to read:

Sec. 72. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVE

GRANT FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYERS

(a)(1) Program established. The Secretary of Human Services shall establish a workforce recruitment and retention incentive grant program for employees of eligible employers, as defined in this section. Eligible employers may apply for a grant within the grant application period determined by the Secretary.

(2) For all eligible employers except for home health agencies, ~~t~~The total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of \$2,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application. For home health agencies, the total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be

calculated at a rate of \$3,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application.

* * *

~~(4) Eligible employers shall distribute the full amount of their awards within 12 months following receipt of the grant funds.~~

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(f) Allocations. Of the funds made available in subsection (e) of this section, \$45,000,000 shall be allocated for a first round of funding, to be made available to the eligible employers identified in subsection (b) of this section. The remaining \$15,000,000 shall be reserved for a second round of funding pending identification of a set of additional health care and social service provider employers with a demonstrated need for the recruitment and retention incentive grant funding, as recommended by the Agency of Human Services and accepted by the General Assembly, or by the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, except that the Agency is authorized to access all or a portion of the reserved funding to the extent that a funding deficiency is identified when meeting the needs of the first round of eligible employers. Any remaining funds following a second round of funding may be used for one or more of the following workforce recruitment and retention purposes:

(1) Incentive grants to nurses employed by health care employers in Vermont for serving as preceptors for nursing students enrolled in Vermont nursing schools. The Agency shall distribute all or a portion of the remaining funds to health care employers employing nurses who provide student preceptor

supervision based on the number of preceptor hours to be provided, at a rate of \$5.00 per preceptor hour, or a lesser hourly rate if the need exceeds the available funds. The Agency shall prioritize funding for health care employers that provide matching funds for additional preceptor compensation or that commit to providing future compensation and support to expanding the number of preceptors.

(2) If nurse preceptors receiving compensation pursuant to a grant awarded to a health care employer under this section are subject to a collective bargaining agreement, the use of the grant funds provided to the health care employer for the nurse preceptors shall be subject to bargaining between the health care employer and the collective bargaining representative of the nurses to the extent required by the collective bargaining agreement.

(3) Grants to health care employers, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, designated and specialized service agencies, federally qualified health centers, and other health care providers, to establish or expand partnerships with Vermont nursing schools to create nursing pipeline or apprenticeship programs, or both, that will train members of the health care employers' existing staff, including personal care attendants, licensed nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses, to become higher-level nursing professionals. Through a combination of scholarship awards, grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to this section, grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to Act 183 of 2022 Sec. 22, and the health care employer's contributions, the trainees' tuition and fees shall be covered in full, and trainees shall be provided with

assistance in meeting their living costs, such as housing and child care, while attending the program.

* * *

EXPLANATION:

- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(2) necessary to expend a portion of the remaining premium pay funds on a 50% increase in grants to home health agencies.
- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(4) necessary to avoid complexities with potential end of public health emergency and the IT platform that supports the grant program.

Amendment to Sec.72(f) necessary to maximize effectiveness of nursing programs and ensure impact beyond public health emergency. Additional programs will expand programs authorized in Act 183, Secs. 21 and 22 by adding funding and additional health care employer types to the nurse preceptor program and adding a more flexible funding source that can cover living costs for the nursing pipeline or apprenticeship program

NOTE: The Committees on Health Care, Human Services, and Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 26 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 16(b)(1) is amended to read:

(1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d); ~~In~~in fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to create and administer the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund pursuant to this section

EXPLANATION: Language necessary to implement the use of Education Funds without repealing the education property tax. This adjustment effectuates the changes expressed in the June 30, 2022 Statement of Legislative Intent's Act 183 Section 16 paragraph (pp. 6 of 7).

NOTE: The Committee on Ways and Means and on General and Housing are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 27 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

* * *

(a) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$227,169.00 in Global Commitment funds is appropriated to the Department of Health for forgivable loans for nursing students under the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

(b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment ~~appropriation~~Program for the State match for the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

(c) In fiscal year 2023, \$127,169.00 in federal funds is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment ~~appropriation~~Program for the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in 18 V.S.A. § 34 by Sec. 23 of this act.

EXPLANATION: Technical correction to ensure these appropriations are correctly categorized as one-time in nature, and not additive to the Global Commitment base appropriation.

NOTE: The Committee on Health Care is also reviewing this section.