Introduced by House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Date:
Subject: Executive Branch; Judicial Branch; Legislative Branch; State employees; appropriations; Pay Act

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enact the Pay Act for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

An act relating to compensation for certain State employees (Pay Act)
It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
*** Collective Bargaining Agreements; Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 ***
Sec. 1. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS; FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026
(a) Fiscal year 2025. This act fully funds the first year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2025 an average 1.9 percent step increase and 4.5 percent across-the-board increase for a total of a 6.4 percent increase.
(b) Fiscal year 2026. This act fully funds the second year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2026 an average 1.9 percent step increase and 3.5 percent across-the-board increase for a total of a 5.4 percent increase. *** Exempt Employees; Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 * **

Sec. 2. EXEMPT EMPLOYEES; PERMITTED SALARY INCREASES; FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026
(a) Fiscal year 2025. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2025 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.
(b) Fiscal year 2026. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2026 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

Sec. 3. EXECUTIVE BRANCH; EXEMPT AGENCY AND
DEPARTMENT HEADS, DEPUTIES, AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS; ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND SPECIAL SALARY INCREASE OR BONUS
(a) Fiscal year 2025. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. $\S \S$ 1003(b) and 1020(b), "the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement" shall be, in fiscal year 2025, 6.4 percent.
(b) Fiscal year 2026. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. $\S \S 1003(\mathrm{~b})$ and 1020(b), "the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement" shall be, in fiscal year 2026, 5.4 percent.

*     *         * Executive Branch; Miscellaneous Statutory Salaries;

Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 ***
Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:
§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS
(a) Each elective officer of the Executive Department is entitled to an annual salary as follows:

| Annual | Annmal | $\underline{\text { Annual }}$ | $\underline{\text { Annual }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salary | Salary | $\underline{\text { Salary }}$ | $\underline{\text { Salary }}$ |
| as of | as of | $\underline{\text { as of }}$ | $\underline{\text { as of }}$ |
| July 3, | July 2, | $\underline{\text { July 14, }}$ | $\underline{\text { July 13, }}$ |
| 2022 | 2023 | $\underline{2024}$ | $\underline{2025}$ |
| $\$ 201,150$ | $\$ 208,995$ | $\underline{\$ 222,371}$ | $\underline{\$ 234,379}$ |
| $\$ 85,384$ | $\$ 88,714$ | $\underline{\$ 94,392}$ | $\underline{\$ 99,489}$ |
| $\$ 127,548$ | $\$ 132,522$ | $\underline{\$ 141,003}$ | $\underline{\$ 148,617}$ |
| $\$ 127,548$ | $\$ 132,522$ | $\underline{\$ 141,003}$ | $\underline{\$ 148,617}$ |
| $\$ 127,548$ | $\$ 132,522$ | $\underline{\$ 141,003}$ | $\underline{\$ 148,617}$ |
| $\$ 152,725$ | $\$ 158,681$ | $\underline{\$ 168,837}$ | $\underline{\$ 177,954}$ |

(b) The Governor may appoint each officer of the Executive Branch listed in this subsection at a starting salary ranging from the base salary stated for that position to a salary that does not exceed the maximum salary unless otherwise authorized by this subsection. The maximum salary for each appointive officer shall be 50 percent above the base salary. Annually, the Governor may grant to each of those officers an annual salary adjustment subject to the maximum salary. The annual salary adjustment granted to officers under this subsection shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect. In addition to the annual salary adjustment specified
in this subsection, the Governor may grant a special salary increase subject to the maximum salary, or a bonus, to any officer listed in this subsection whose job duties have significantly increased, or whose contributions to the State in the preceding year are deemed especially significant. Special salary increases or bonuses granted to any individual shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect.

|  |  | Base | Base | Base | Base |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Salary | Salary | Salary | Salary |
|  |  | as of | as of | as of | as of |
|  |  | July 3, | July 2, | July 14, | July 13, |
|  |  | 2022 | 2023 | $\underline{2024}$ | $\underline{2025}$ |
| (A) | Administration | \$121,634 | \$126,378 | \$134,466 | \$141,727 |
| (B) Agriculture, |  |  |  |  |  |
| Food and |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Markets | \$121,634 | \$126,378 | \$134,466 | \$141,727 |
| (C) | Financial |  |  |  |  |
|  | Regulation | \$113,710 | \$118,145 | \$125,706 | \$132,494 |
| (D) | Buildings and |  |  |  |  |
|  | General Services | \$113,710 | \$118,145 | \$125,706 | \$132,494 |

(E) Children and

Families \$143,710 \$118,145 \$125,706 \$132,494
(F) Commerce and

Community
Development $\$ 121,634 \quad \$ 126,378 \quad \$ 134,466$ \$141,727
(G) Corrections $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(H) Defender

General $\quad \$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(I) Disabilities,

Aging, and
Independent
Living
$\$ 113,710 \$ 118,145 \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(J) Economic

Development \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(K) Education \$121,634 \$126,378 \$134,466 \$141,727
(L) Environmental

Conservation $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(M) Finance and

Management \$113,710 \$118,145 \$125,706 \$132,494
(N) Fish and

Wildlife
\$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189

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(O) Forests, Parks
and Recreation \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(P) Health $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \quad \$ 132,494$
(Q) Housing and

Community
Development \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(R) Human

Resources $\quad \$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(S) Human Services $\$ 121,634 \$ 126,378$ \$134,466 \$141,727
(T) Digital Services $\$ 121,634 \quad \$ 126,378 \quad \$ 134,466 \quad \$ 141,727$
(U) Labor
$\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(V) Libraries \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(W) Liquor and

Lottery \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(X) [Repealed.]
(Y) Mental Health \$113,710 \$118,145 \$125,706 \$132,494
(Z) Military $\quad \$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \quad \$ 132,494$
(AA) Motor
Vehicles \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(BB) Natural
Resources \$121,634 \$126,378 \$134,466 \$141,727
(CC) Natural

Resources
Board Chair \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(DD) Public Safety $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706$ \$132,494
(EE) Public Service $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(FF) Taxes $\$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \quad \$ 132,494$
(GG) Tourism and
Marketing \$103,149 \$107,172 \$114,031 \$120,189
(HH) Transportation \$121,634 \$126,378 \$134,466 \$141,727
(II) Vermont Health

Access $\quad \$ 113,710 \quad \$ 118,145 \quad \$ 125,706 \$ 132,494$
(JJ) Veterans' Home \$113,710 \$118,145 \$125,706 \$132,494
(2) [Repealed.]
(3) If the Chair of the Natural Resources Board is employed on less than a full-time basis, the hiring and salary maximums for that position shall be reduced proportionately.
(4) When a permanent employee is appointed to an exempt position, the Governor may authorize such employee to retain the present salary even though it is in excess of any salary maximum provided in statute.


(d) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the Defender General shall not receive compensation in excess of the compensation established for the Attorney General in this section.
(e) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the maximum salary for the Commissioner of Health shall not exceed 100 percent above the base salary for this position.

*     *         * Judicial Branch; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 * * * Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 1003(c) is amended to read:
(c) The officers of the Judicial Branch named in this subsection shall be entitled to annual salaries as follows:

| Anmmal | Anmal | $\underline{\text { Annual Annual }}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Salary | Salary | $\underline{\text { Salary }} \underline{\text { Salary }}$ |
| as of | as of | $\underline{\text { as of }}$ as of |
| July 3, | July 2, | $\underline{\text { July 14, July 13, }}$ |
| 2022 | 2023 | $\underline{2024}$ |

(1) Chief Justice of

Supreme Court $\$ 193,600 \quad \$ 201,150 \quad \$ 214,024 \quad \$ 225,581$
(2) Each Associate

Justice $\$ 184,771 \quad \$ 191,977 \quad \$ 204,264 \quad \$ 215,294$
(3) Administrative

Judge $\$ 184,771 \quad \$ 191,977 \quad \$ 204,264 \quad \$ 215,294$
(4) Each Superior

Judge
$\$ 175,65$
$\$ 182,505 \$ 194,185 \$ 204,671$
(5) [Repealed.]
(6) Each

Magistrate
$\$ 132,441 \quad \$ 137,606 \quad \$ 146,413 \quad \$ 154,319$
(7) Each Judicial

Bureau hearing
officer
$\$ 132,441 \quad \$ 137,606 \quad \$ 146,413 \quad \$ 154,319$
Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 1141 is amended to read:
§ 1141. ASSISTANT JUDGES
(a)(1) Each assistant judge of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive compensation in the amount of $\$ 203.05 \$ 224.47$ a day as of July 3, 2022 July 14, 2024 and $\$ 210.97 \$ 236.59$ a day as of July 2, 2023 July 13, 2025 for time spent in the performance of official duties and necessary expenses as allowed to classified State employees. Compensation under this section shall be based on a two-hour minimum and hourly thereafter.
(2)(A) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the State except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2).
(B) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the county at the State rate established in subdivision
(a)(1) of this section when an assistant judge is sitting with a presiding Superior judge in the Civil or Family Division of the Superior Court.
(b) Assistant judges of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive pay
for such days as they attend court when it is in actual session or during a court recess when engaged in the special performance of official duties.

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 1142 is amended to read:

## § 1142. PROBATE JUDGES

(a) The Probate judges in the several Probate Districts shall be entitled to receive the following annual salaries, which shall be paid by the State in lieu of all fees or other compensation:

| Anmmal | Anmmal | $\underline{\text { Annual }}$ | $\underline{\text { Annual }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salary | Salary | $\underline{\text { Salary }}$ | Salary |
| as of | as of | $\underline{\text { as of }}$ | $\underline{\text { as of }}$ |
| July 3, | July 2, | $\underline{\text { July 14, }}$ | $\underline{\text { July 13, }}$ |
| z022 | z023 | $\underline{2024}$ | $\underline{2025}$ |
| $\$ 69,249$ | $\$ 71,950$ | $\underline{\$ 76,555}$ | $\underline{\$ 80,689}$ |
| $\$ 87,541$ | $\$ 90,955$ | $\underline{\$ 96,776}$ | $\underline{\$ 102,002}$ |
| $\$ 61,412$ | $\$ 63,807$ | $\underline{\$ 67,891}$ | $\underline{\$ 71,557}$ |
| $\$ 146,093$ | $\$ 151,794$ | $\underline{\$ 161,506}$ | $\underline{\$ 170,227}$ |
| $\$ 17,156$ | $\$ 17,825$ | $\underline{\$ 18,966}$ | $\underline{\$ 19,990}$ |
| $\$ 69,249$ | $\$ 71,950$ | $\underline{\$ 76,555}$ | $\underline{\$ 80,689}$ |

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(7) Grand Isle
(8) Lamoille
(9) Orange
(10) Orleans
(11) Rutland
(12) Washington
(13) Windham
(14) Windsor

| $\$ 17,156$ | $\$ 17,825$ | $\underline{\$ 18,966}$ | $\underline{\$ 19,990}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 48,343$ | $\$ 50,228$ | $\underline{\$ 53,443}$ | $\underline{\$ 56,329}$ |
| $\$ 57,489$ | $\$ 59,731$ | $\underline{\$ 63,554}$ | $\underline{\$ 66,986}$ |
| $\$ 56,183$ | $\$ 58,374$ | $\underline{\$ 62,110}$ | $\underline{\$ 65,464}$ |
| $\$ 124,126$ | $\$ 128,967$ | $\underline{\$ 137,221}$ | $\underline{\$ 144,631}$ |
| $\$ 95,379$ | $\$ 99,099$ | $\underline{\$ 105,441}$ | $\underline{\$ 111,135}$ |
| $\$ 77,089$ | $\$ 80,095$ | $\underline{\$ 85,221}$ | $\underline{\$ 89,823}$ |
| $\$ 104,527$ | $\$ 108,604$ | $\underline{\$ 115,555}$ | $\underline{\$ 121,795}$ |

(b) Probate judges shall be entitled to be paid by the State for their actual and necessary expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees. The compensation for the Probate judge of the Chittenden District shall be for full-time service.
(c) All Probate judges, regardless of the number of hours worked annually, shall be eligible to participate in all employee benefits that are available to exempt employees of the Judicial Department.

*     *         * Sheriffs; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 *** Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 1182 is amended to read:
§ 1182. SHERIFFS
(a) The sheriffs of all counties except Chittenden shall be entitled to receive salaries in the amount of $\$ 94,085.00 \$ 104,010.00$ as of July 3, 2022 July 14, $\underline{2024}$ and $\$ 97,754.00 \$ 109,627.00$ as of July 2, 2023 July 13, 2025. The

Sheriff of Chittenden County shall be entitled to an annual salary in the amount of $\$ 99,566.00 \$ 110,070.00$ as of July 3, 2022 July 14, 2024 and $\$ 103,449.00$ $\$ 116,014.00$ as of July 2, 2023 July 13, 2025.
(b) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by 10 percent for any sheriff who has not obtained Level III law enforcement officer certification under 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

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\text { * * * State’s Attorneys; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years } 2025 \text { and } 2026 \text { *** }
$$

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:
§ 1183. STATE'S ATTORNEYS
(a) The State's Attorneys shall be entitled to receive annual salaries as follows:

| Annwal | Annmal | Annual | Annual |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Salary | Salary | $\underline{\text { Salary }}$ | Salary |

as of as of $\underline{\text { as of }}$ as of
fuly 3, fuly 2, July 14, July 13,
$2022 \quad 2023 \quad \underline{2024}$
(1) Addison County
(2) Bennington

County $\$ 127,265$
(3) Caledonia County
(4) Chittenden County
$\$ 127,265$
$\$ 132,228 \quad \$ 140,691$
\$148,288
$\$ 132,228 \$ 140,691 \quad \$ 148,288$
$\$ 127,265 \quad \$ 132,228 \quad \$ 140,691 \quad \$ 148,288$
$\$ 133,051 \quad \$ 138,240 \quad \$ 147,087 \quad \$ 155,030$
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(5) Essex County \$95,454 \$99,174 \$105,521 \$111,219
(6) Franklin County $\$ 127,265$
$\$ 132,228 \quad \$ 140,691 \quad \$ 148,288$
(7) Grand Isle County
$\$ 95,451$
(8) Lamoille County
$\$ 127,265$
(9) Orange County $\$ 127,265$
(10) Orleans County
$\$ 127,265$
(11) Rutland County
$\$ 127,265$
(12) Washington

County
$\$ 127,265 \quad \$ 132,228 \quad \$ 140,691 \quad \$ 148,288$
(13) Windham County $\$ 127,265 \$ 132,228 \$ 140,691 \$ 148,288$
(14) Windsor County
$\$ 127,265$
$\$ 132,228 \quad \$ 140,691 \quad \$ 148,288$
(b) In settlement of their accounts, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall allow the State's Attorneys the expense of printing briefs in cases in which the State's Attorney has represented the State and their necessary and actual expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees.

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* * * \text { Appropriations } * * *
$$

Sec. 10. PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026
(a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees'

Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers’ Association for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:
(1) Fiscal year 2025.
(A) General Fund. The amount of $\$ 27,279,337.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2025 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.
(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of $\$ 2,500,000.00$ is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety to fund the fiscal year 2025 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.
(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2025 collective bargaining agreements and the
requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are $\$ 25,627,057.00$ from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.
(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.
(2) Fiscal year 2026.
(A) General Fund. The amount of $\$ 24,644,442.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2026 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.
(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of $\$ 3,000,000.00$ is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety to fund the fiscal year 2026 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.
(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2026 collective bargaining agreements and the
requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are $\$ 27,868,854.00$ from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.
(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.
(3) This section shall include sufficient funding to ensure administration of exempt pay plans authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 1020(c).
(b) Judicial Branch.
(1) Extension to non-covered employees. The Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court may extend the provisions of the Judiciary's collective bargaining agreement to Judiciary employees who are not covered by the bargaining agreement.
(2) Fiscal year 2025. The first year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of $\$ 2,470,963.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of
$\$ 185,986.00$ is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2025 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.
(3) Fiscal year 2026. The second year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of $\$ 2,388,783.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of $\$ 179,801.00$ is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2026 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.
(c) Legislative Branch.
(1) For the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of $\$ 884,808.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.
(2) For the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of $\$ 758,613.00$ is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.

2 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE
3 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

