

1 H.494

2 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 \* \* \* Purpose, Definitions, Legend \* \* \*

5 Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

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

8 Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

9 (a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of  
10 State government during fiscal year 2024. It is the express intent of the  
11 General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments,  
12 divisions, boards, and commissions be limited to those which can be supported  
13 by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2023.  
14 Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service  
15 levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2024 to meet this condition unless  
16 otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General  
17 Assembly.

18 Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

19 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the  
20 primary source and reference for appropriations for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

11       Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

12       (a) As used in this act:

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

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

21

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

6           (4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per  
7           diems, contracted third-party services, and similar items.

8           Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

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

11           Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

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

15           Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

16           (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Governor, with the approval of the General  
17           Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in  
18           session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including  
19           block grants in lieu of or in addition to funds designated as federal in this act.  
20           The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal  
21           Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any

1 portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for  
2 which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

3 (b) If, during fiscal year 2024, federal funds available to the State of  
4 Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2023 session of  
5 the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants or are  
6 abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new  
7 title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for  
8 any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were  
9 appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for no  
10 more than 45 days prior to legislative or Joint Fiscal Committee approval.  
11 Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the  
12 Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint  
13 Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's  
14 request for approval.

15 Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

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

1       Sec. A.108 LEGEND

2           (a) The act is organized by functions of government. The sections between  
3       B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming budget  
4       year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that relates to  
5       specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The function areas  
6       by section numbers are as follows:

|                                           |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 <u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>      | <u>General Government</u>        |
| 8 <u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>      | <u>Protection to Persons and</u> |
| 9                                         | <u>Property</u>                  |
| 10 <u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>     | <u>Human Services</u>            |
| 11 <u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>     | <u>Labor</u>                     |
| 12 <u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>     | <u>General Education</u>         |
| 13 <u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>     | <u>Higher Education</u>          |
| 14 <u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>     | <u>Natural Resources</u>         |
| 15 <u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>     | <u>Commerce and Community</u>    |
| 16                                        | <u>Development</u>               |
| 17 <u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>     | <u>Transportation</u>            |
| 18 <u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u> | <u>Debt Service</u>              |
| 19 <u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u> | <u>One-time and other</u>        |
| 20                                        | <u>appropriation actions</u>     |

1       (b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year and  
2       the D sections contain fund transfers, reversions, and reserve allocations for the  
3       upcoming budget year, and the F sections contain workforce and economic  
4       development policies.

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

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

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

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

(1) \$1,500,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide language access plan;

(2) \$5,000,000 General Fund for the purpose of supporting the a new Community Safety Grant Program; and

(3) \$5,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied claims for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement.

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

(1) \$3,820,000 General Fund and \$5,180,000 ARPA-SFR for bridge funding to support ongoing system transformation; and

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

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

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

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

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

15           (d) \$400,000 General Fund to the Office of State Treasurer in fiscal year  
16       2024 for the Vermont Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

17           (e) \$200,000 General Fund to the Department of Libraries in fiscal year  
18       2024 to support the FiberConnect project relating to Internet access in public  
19       libraries.

20           (f) Department of Public Safety. In fiscal year 2024, funds are  
21       appropriated for the following:



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

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

9           (g) Military Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the  
10          following:

11           (1) \$10,000 General Fund for granting to the USS Vermont Support  
12          Group, a nonprofit organization supporting military members serving on the  
13          USS Vermont (SSN 792) and their families; and

14           (2) \$10,000 General Fund for granting to North Country Honor Flight,  
15          an organization that sponsors escorted trips for veterans to visit the war  
16          memorials on the National Mall, to cover the expenses of 10 Vermont resident  
17          attendees.

18          (h) Criminal Justice Council. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
19          for the following:

1           (1) \$400,000 General Fund for the first year of a three-phase  
2           accreditation process to include job task analysis, curriculum development and  
3           piloting;

4           (2) \$20,000 General Fund for a records management system to ensure  
5           efficient and compliant recordkeeping, including case management tracking  
6           and reporting and compliance monitoring for remote learning; and

7           (3) \$200,000 General Fund for request for proposals and contracts  
8           related to procedure development; off-site course development, records  
9           management system transition, developing pathways to certification, and  
10          medical personnel.

11          (i) \$210,000 General Fund to the Office of the Defender General in fiscal  
12          year 2024, for the case management system.

13          (j) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2024, funds  
14          are appropriated for the following:

15               (1) \$110,000 General Fund for electric vehicle charger inspections.  
16               Funds shall be used for the purchase of two testing units and related equipment  
17               to support the development and implementation of the Commercial Electric  
18               Vehicle Fueling Systems regulatory program;

19               (2) \$1,070,000 General Fund for replacement of the existing Food  
20               Safety Inspection Database;

1           (3) \$400,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs

2           Fund as follows:

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

4                   (B) \$250,000 to the Beef on Dairy project; and

5                   (C) \$50,000 to the Alternative Access Land Models Project;

6           (4) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Salvation Farms to expand

7           access to locally grown food for all Vermonters; and

8           (5) \$1,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the State Natural Resources

9           Conservation Council.

10           (k) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are

11           appropriated for the following:

12                   (1) \$105,000 General Fund for expediting competency and sanity

13           evaluations; and

14                   (2) \$985,000 General Fund to provide a grant to Pathways Vermont for

15           the purchase and renovation of a building to serve as a permanent home for the

16           Soteria House program.

17           (l) Green Mountain Care Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated

18           for the following:

19                   (1) \$620,000 General Fund for costs associated with the implementation

20           of the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System

21           (VHCURES) database;

1           (2) \$120,500 General Fund for the implementation of a new financial  
2           database solution; and

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

5           (m) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds  
6           are appropriated for the following:

7           (1) \$975,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for the  
8           Employment Assistance Grants program created in 2022 Acts and Resolves  
9           No. 185, amended by the 2023 Budget Adjustment Act H.145. Funds  
10          remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the General Fund.

11          (2) \$25,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for a  
12          comprehensive inventory and needs assessment of Vermont's immigrant  
13          community and the organizations providing support to this community.

14          (3) \$4,400,000 General Fund and \$5,702,529 Federal Revenue Fund  
15          #22005 for the first year of a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health  
16          Hub and Spoke program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances  
17          covered by the program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and  
18          make strategic investments with community partners.

19          (4) \$10,000,000 General Fund and \$13,693,231 Federal Revenue Fund  
20          #22005 to continue to address the emergent and exigent circumstances  
21          impacting health care providers following the COVID-19 pandemic.

1           (5) \$10,534,603 General Fund for use as Global Commitment matching  
2           funds for one-time caseload pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid  
3           eligibility redeterminations.

4           (n) \$175,000 General Fund and \$186,024 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 to  
5           the Department of Vermont Health Access in the non-waiver or state-only lines  
6           for the first year of a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and  
7           Spoke program and \$7,791,676 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the  
8           Department of Health Access Medicaid program for the first year of a two-year  
9           pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program.

10           (o) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for  
11           the following:

12           (1) \$2,297,724 Global Commitment Fund #20405 Division of Health  
13           Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the first year of a two-year pilot to  
14           expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program.

15           (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund to be granted to the Vermont Foundation  
16           for Recovery for housing support.

17           (3) \$30,000 General Fund for a housing voucher program administered  
18           by the Vermont Association of Recovery Residences and Jenna's Promise to  
19           pay for a recovery home residents' first month of rent.

1           (4) \$150,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermonters for Criminal  
2           Justice Reform for Case Management and Contingency Management Services  
3           for justice-involved Vermonters with substance use disorder.

4           (5) \$1,590,000 General Fund for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program ,  
5           in conjunction with an estimated \$1,410,000 to be available from the 30  
6           percent of fiscal year 2023 forecast for cannabis excise tax and to be allocated  
7           in the budget adjustment process consistent with the Substance Misuse  
8           Prevention Coalition funding intent as stated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
9           185, Sec. B.1100(a)(12)(A)(i).

10           (6) \$500,000 General Fund for Division of Substance Use Programs  
11           tobacco and substance use disorder prevention and cessation activities. The  
12           Division shall require that information on the use of the funds appropriated in  
13           accordance with this section be provided to the Division by grantees in an  
14           agreed-upon time frame, including the specific activities supported by the  
15           funds, a description of the number of individuals served, and information on  
16           the outcomes achieved by this investment. On or before, January 10, 2024, the  
17           Division shall report on these metrics to the House and Senate Committees on  
18           Appropriations, to the House Committee on Human Services, and to the Senate  
19           Committee on Health and Welfare.

20           (7) \$100,000 General Fund to the Department of Health to support the  
21           Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordination Study Committee.

1        (p) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are  
2        appropriated for the following:

3            (1) \$2,000,000 General Fund to implement the two-year Reach Ahead  
4        Pilot Program. Funds shall be used to increase monthly food assistance  
5        benefits to Reach Ahead participants, expand the eligibility window for those  
6        leaving Reach Up, and provide incentive payments.

7            (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund to fund a two-year continuation of the  
8        Youth Development Independent Living stipends program.

9            (3) \$40,000 General Fund to fund the purchase of a driving school  
10       vehicle for the Youth Development Program to support foster and former  
11       foster youth access to driver's education.

12           (4) \$18,884,610 General Fund to address the estimated need for the  
13       Adverse Weather Conditions policy and General Assistance emergency  
14       housing hotel and motel expenditures in fiscal year 2024.

15           (5) \$2,500,000 General Fund to the Housing Opportunity Grant Program  
16       to expand and provide wrap-around support services for households  
17       participating in the General Assistance Emergency Housing program.

18           (6) \$1,000,000 General Fund to grant to the Vermont Food Bank to  
19       support increased capacity of services to meet the persistent of food insecurity.

1           (7) \$768,180 General Fund to support the implementation of a  
2           Salesforce-based community data system to three additional Children's  
3           Integrated Services regions in Vermont.

4           (8) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont  
5           to provide education regarding the prevention of unsafe infant sleep and to  
6           expand programming and support services regarding child abuse often related  
7           to parental substance misuse.

8           (9) \$130,000 General Fund to be granted to the Snelling Center to restart  
9           the Early Childhood Education Leadership Program.

10          (q) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for  
11          the following:

12               (1) \$200,000 General Fund to be granted to the State Workforce  
13               Development Board for the New American Labor Force Program; and

14               (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund to provide services under the Work-Based  
15               Learning and Training Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 547.

16          (r) Natural Resources Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
17          for the following:

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



1           (2) \$200,000 General Fund for an Act 250 study contract. Funds shall  
2           be used to contract with a consultant to assist with the preparation of a report  
3           on updates necessary to the Act 250 program, per 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
4           182, Sec. 41(a).

5           (s) \$198,000 General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Education  
6           for the Governor's Institutes of Vermont.

7           (t) \$35,000 General Fund to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to support  
8           celebration of the Symphony's 90th season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (4) \$1,000,000 General Fund to the Public Service Department for a  
2           grant to the Vermont Access Network to provide a third year of bridge funding  
3           to a secure funding stream to replace declining cable revenues.

4           (x) \$1,000,000 Transportation Fund to the Agency of Transportation for  
5           Green Mountain Transit to operate routes on a zero-fare basis and prepare for  
6           the transition to tiered-fare service.

7           (y) Agency of Digital Services. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated  
8           for the following:

9           (1) \$5,000,000 from the Technology Modernization Fund #21951 for  
10           Network & Security Infrastructure Modernization for the planning and design  
11           and for the replacement of legacy infrastructure, hardware and software,  
12           platforms underlying the network and security architecture.

13           (A) The Agency of Digital Services shall select a vendor through a  
14           competitive bid process. The Agency of Digital Services shall consider bids  
15           with options to buy or lease equipment. Per 3 V.S.A. § 3303, any project with  
16           a total cost of \$1,000,000 or greater shall be subject to an expert independent  
17           review. The review shall include an analysis of all options, although the  
18           Agency of Digital Services is limited to the bids that it receives. The Agency  
19           of Digital Services may also purchase or lease equipment through a separate  
20           competitive bid process.

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

4           (2) \$2,500,000 for IT investments to modernize existing IT systems or  
5           automate manual processes by adding IT solutions.

6           (A) Any project with a total cost of \$1,000,000 shall be subject to an  
7           expert independent review per 3 V.S.A. § 3303. Vendors shall be selected  
8           through a competitive bid process.

9           (z) \$4,680,000 General Fund to the Judiciary for the Judiciary network  
10          replacement project. Funds shall be held in reserve and shall not be allocated  
11          until the General Assembly has assessed the independent expert review  
12          outlined in the 2023 Budget Adjustment Act, H.145, Sec. 93.

13                           \* \* \* Workforce Development \* \* \*

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

16           (a) Education workforce.

17           (1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), in fiscal year 2024, the  
18           amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of  
19           Education for the purpose of funding the Emerging Pathways Grant Program  
20           established by Sec. F.4 of this act.

1           (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated from  
2           the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the  
3           Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created in 16 V.S.A.  
4           § 2871.

5           (3) In fiscal year 2024, the sum of \$30,000 is appropriated from the  
6           General Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of funding the  
7           Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant Program  
8           created in Sec. F.6 of this act.

9           (b) Corrections workforce.

10           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 is appropriated from the  
11           General Fund to the Department of Corrections for the purpose of contracting  
12           or expanding an existing contract with a vendor to provide supervisory and  
13           management professional development services to the Department's  
14           employees in accordance with the Department's efforts to address an employee  
15           workforce crisis and strengthen workplace satisfaction, pursuant to Sec. F.7 of  
16           this act.

17           (c) Youth workforce.

18           (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,400,000 is appropriated from  
19           the General Fund to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to  
20           continue funding through the pilot project the Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn  
21           Program, which supports workforce development goals through creating

1 meaningful paid service and learning opportunities for young adults, through  
2 the Serve, Learn, and Earn Partnership made up of the Vermont Youth  
3 Conservation Corps, Vermont Audubon, Vermont Works for Women, and  
4 Resource VT. The Department shall enter into a grant agreement with the  
5 Partnership that specifies the required services and outcomes for the Program.

6 (d) Climate workforce.

7 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$100,000 is appropriated from the  
8 General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a subgrant to  
9 Advance Vermont to implement Sec. F.9 of this act.

10 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$180,000 is appropriated from the  
11 General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for a  
12 subgrant to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to expand its Business  
13 Coaching program to work with a group of existing energy services businesses  
14 interested in adopting a climate centered mission and working with trades  
15 persons looking to start their own climate-centered business.

16 (e) Higher education.

17 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated from  
18 the General Fund to the University of Vermont Office of Engagement, in  
19 consultation with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, for additional  
20 forgivable loans of \$5,000 per graduate for recent college graduates across all

1 Vermont higher education institutions who commit to work in Vermont for  
2 two years after graduation.

3 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$700,000 is appropriated from the  
4 General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish a Bachelor of Science  
5 program in restorative justice at Vermont State University.

6 (3) In fiscal year 2024 the amount of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from  
7 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to establish the Certificate in  
8 3-D Technology program established in Sec. F.12 of this act.

9 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,800,000 is appropriated from  
10 the General Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to provide Critical  
11 Occupations Scholarships for eligible students with a household income of  
12 \$75,000 or less enrolled in education programs that lead to a career in an  
13 occupation with critical need, including early childhood occupations, clinical  
14 mental health counseling, criminal justice occupations, dental hygienists, and  
15 all levels of nursing.

16 (5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from  
17 the General Fund to the University of Vermont to provide additional free  
18 classes through the Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program for Vermont  
19 residents seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance job skills.

20 (6) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$350,000 is appropriated from the  
21 General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a subgrant to

1 Advance Vermont to continue work pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
2 183, Sec. 39 in support of the State's goal articulated in 10 V.S.A. § 546 that  
3 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025.

4 (f) Healthcare and social services workforce.

5 (1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from  
6 the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the  
7 Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan  
8 Incentive Program created in 18 V.S.A. § 39.

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

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

17 (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from  
18 the General Fund to the Agency of Human Services to be distributed to the  
19 designated and specialized service agencies equitably consistent with the  
20 requirements in Sec. F.15 of this act.

1           (5) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$255,026 is appropriated from the  
2           General Fund to the Agency of Human Services for a subgrant to the United  
3           Way of Lamoille County to expand resource coordination for employee  
4           stability through its Working Bridges program.

5           (g) Economic development.

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

11          (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,250,000 is appropriated from  
12          the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
13          for a subgrant to provide services and assistance through the Small Business  
14          Technical Assistance Exchange created in 10 V.S.A. § 2.

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

19          (4) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 from the Rural  
20          Industry Development Special Fund to the Agency of Commerce and  
21          Community Development to make grants to assist nonprofit entities in rural



1 regions of the State, with addressing building and property needs for growing  
2 or new businesses consistent with 10 V.S.A. § 6 as created in this act.

3 (5) \$8,000,000 General Fund for Brownfields redevelopment consistent  
4 with Sec. F.18 of this act.

5 (6) In fiscal year 2024, \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the General  
6 Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund Agriculture  
7 Development Grants for meat, produce, and maple processing. The Secretary  
8 of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall determine that there are significant  
9 interests in establishing certain parameters in the grant program before making  
10 an award. Grants should be awarded to farmers, processors, and businesses,  
11 which shall not include hydroponic operations. Furthermore, the Secretary  
12 shall not allocate more than 25 percent of grant funds toward the maple  
13 industry. Of the funds appropriated under this subdivision, an amount not to  
14 exceed \$125,000.00 may be used by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and  
15 Markets to support the cost of temporary employees to administer the grants.

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

19 \* \* \* Affordable Housing \* \* \*

20 Sec. B.1102 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – FISCAL YEAR  
21 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

1       (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$150,000 General Fund is  
2       appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a  
3       Land Value Tax Feasibility Study, in partnership with the Vermont  
4       Department of Taxes, to explore the potential economic and community  
5       development benefits of aligning local property tax policy to spur revitalization  
6       and economic development.

7       (b) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$10,000,000 General Fund is  
8       appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for  
9       the Vermont Housing Improvement Program established in 10 V.S.A. § 699.

10       (c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$500,000 General Fund is  
11       appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for  
12       Municipal Bylaw Modernization Grants established in 24 V.S.A. § 4307 to  
13       assist municipalities in updating their bylaws consistent with statute as  
14       amended by legislative action.

15       (d) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$50,000,000 General Fund is  
16       appropriated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.  
17       Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 322, the entirety of this appropriation shall be  
18       allocated toward affordable housing development.

19                                   \* \* \* Climate and Environment \* \* \*

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

21                                   ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

1       (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$700,000 General Fund is  
2       appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for  
3       refrigerant management. Funds shall be used for incentives to improve  
4       commercial and industrial refrigeration systems, focused on reducing the use  
5       of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants or replacing outright,  
6       older systems prone to leaks, or both.

7       (b) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$900,000 General Fund is  
8       appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for Climate  
9       Office technical analyses, tools, and training. Funds shall be used for  
10       investments in ongoing evaluation, implementation support and tracking of the  
11       impact of programs, and policy approaches needed to reduce greenhouse gas  
12       emissions and improve landscape-level resilience consistent with the Global  
13       Warming Solutions Act.

14       (c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$3,000,000 General Fund is  
15       appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office for the  
16       Clean Heat Homes program. Funds shall be used to augment federal funding  
17       for a single-point program to help Vermonters with low and moderate income  
18       with “whole home” climate improvements, including weatherization, clean  
19       heat systems, and electrification-ready upgrades, supported by on-bill  
20       financing.

1       (d) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$150,000 General Fund is  
2       appropriated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wildlife Crop Damage  
3       Payments. Funds shall be used for payments to farmers under the provisions  
4       of 10 V.S.A. §§ 4829 and 4831.

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

12       (f) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$1,000,000 General Fund is  
13       appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for Small  
14       Communities Outdoor Recreation Grant matching funds. Funds shall be used  
15       to support communities with low income in Vermont by providing State match  
16       funds for federal recreation grants.

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

1       (h) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 General Fund is  
2       appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the  
3       Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act/Brownfields.  
4       Funds shall be used for the assessment and cleanup planning for a maximum of  
5       25 brownfields sites.

6       (i) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$200,000 General Fund is  
7       appropriated to the Emissions Repair Program. Funds shall be used for the  
8       emissions repair program established by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec.  
9       25 for fiscal year 2024.

10       (j) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 ARPA-SFR is  
11       appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Healthy  
12       Homes Initiative. Funds shall be used to make repairs or improvements to  
13       drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater systems for Vermonters who have  
14       low to moderate income or who live in manufactured housing communities, or  
15       both.

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

20       (l) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$5,000,000 Environmental  
21       Contingency Fund #21275 is appropriated to the Department of Environmental

1 Conservation for statewide Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) groundwater  
2 remediation.

3 (m) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$93,613 Clean Water Fund #21932  
4 is appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for one  
5 limited service Forester II position in accordance with Sec. E.100 of this act.

6 (n) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$402,525 Federal Revenue Fund  
7 #22005 is appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for  
8 the following four IJA funded positions in accordance with Sec. E.100 of this  
9 act: one Climate Forester, two Forester IIs, and one Communications and  
10 Outreach Coordinator.

11 \* \* \* Pension Funding \* \* \*

12 Sec. B.1104 REQUIRED PENSION PLUS FUNDING – FISCAL YEAR  
13 2024

14 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$18,000,000 General Fund is  
15 appropriated to the Office of the State Treasurer. This the first year of a three-  
16 year funding requirement that will result in each pension system receiving a  
17 base funding supplement of \$15,000,000.

18 (1) \$9,000,000 for the additional contribution to the Vermont State  
19 Employees' Retirement System per 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 114, Sec. 11  
20 and 3 V.S.A. §473(c)(8)(A); and

1           (2) \$9,000,000 for the additional contribution to the Vermont State  
2 Teachers' Retirement System contribution per 2022 Acts and Resolves No.  
3 114, Sec. 19 and 16 V.S.A. §1944(c)(13)(A).

4                                   \* \* \* Capital Projects \* \* \*

5           Sec. B.1105 CAPITAL PROJECTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME  
6                                   APPROPRIATIONS

7           (a) In fiscal year 2024, \$7,385,000 is authorized from the Capital  
8 Infrastructure Reserve Fund for the following appropriations:

9           (1) \$250,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
10 General Services for planning, reuse, and contingency;

11           (2) \$135,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
12 General Services for 32 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs;

13           (3) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
14 General Services for the renovation of the interior HVAC steam lines at 120  
15 State Street;

16           (4) \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
17 General Services for planning for the boiler replacement at the Northern State  
18 Correctional Facility in Newport;

19           (5) \$750,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
20 General Services for planning for renovations to the administration building,  
21 West Cottage, at the Criminal Justice Training Council in Pittsford;

1           (6) \$600,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
2           General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the planning and  
3           design of the booking expansion at the Northwest State Correctional Facility;

4           (7) \$1,500,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
5           General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the planning and  
6           design for the replacement of the women’s correctional facility and reentry  
7           facility;

8           (8) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
9           General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the planning and  
10          design of the Department for Children and Families’ short-term stabilization  
11          facility;

12          (9) \$750,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
13          General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Washington County  
14          Superior Courthouse in Barre;

15          (10) \$250,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
16          General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and  
17          design of the Special Teams Facility and Storage;

18          (11) \$250,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
19          General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and  
20          design of the Rutland Field Station; and



1           (12) \$300,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
2           General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the  
3           planning and design of the Vermont Agriculture and Environmental  
4           Laboratory Heat Plant.

5           (b) In fiscal year 2024, \$32,000,000 is authorized from the Capital  
6           Infrastructure Reserve Fund for the following appropriations. This funding is  
7           provided by the General Fund transfer in Sec. D.101(a)(1)(E) of this act.

8           (1) \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Buildings and  
9           General Services for electric vehicle charging stations at State buildings.

10           (2) \$9,000,000 is appropriated to the Vermont State Colleges for  
11           construction, renovation, and major maintenance at any facility owned or  
12           operated in the State by the Vermont State Colleges; infrastructure  
13           transformation planning; and the planning, design, and construction of Green  
14           Hall and Vail Hall.

15           (3) \$9,700,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
16           the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match to the  
17           Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Drinking Water State Revolving  
18           Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

19           (4) \$4,500,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
20           the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Waterbury Dam  
21           rehabilitation.

1           (5) \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
2           the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Municipal Pollution  
3           Control Grants for pollution control projects and planning advances for  
4           feasibility studies.

5           (6) \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for  
6           the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the maintenance facilities  
7           at the Gifford Woods State Park and Groton Forest State Park.

8           (7) \$800,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the  
9           Department of Fish and Wildlife for infrastructure maintenance and  
10          improvements of the Department's buildings, including conservation camps.

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

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

13                           CARRYFORWARD

14          (a) After satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308, and after other  
15          reserve requirements have been met, but prior to satisfying the requirements of  
16          32 V.S.A. § 308c, the first \$337,300,000 of remaining unreserved and  
17          undesignated funds at the close of fiscal year 2023 shall remain in the General  
18          Fund and be carried forward to fiscal year 2024.

19          Sec. C.101 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022 OUT

20                           OF STATE BEDS CARRYFORWARD FUNDS AND JUSTICE

21                           REINVESTMENT II FUNDING

1        (a) Notwithstanding 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.335, as  
2        amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 62, and by 2022 Acts and  
3        Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.111, \$1,000,000 of Department of Corrections Out  
4        of State Bed General Fund appropriation carried forward from fiscal year 2022  
5        shall revert to the General Fund in fiscal year 2023 for appropriation to Justice  
6        Reinvestment II in fiscal year 2023.

7        (b) \$250,000 to Community Justice Centers to be distributed for the  
8        following:

9            (1) \$95,640 for a 3 percent COLA increase for fiscal year 2024; and

10           (2) \$154,360 in grants to be distributed equally to the 17 Community  
11        Justice Centers to be used for program development and implementation,  
12        technology upgrades, and staff and volunteer recruitment.

13        (c) \$250,000 for re-Entry Services to support the re-entry services for  
14        incarcerated women at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility as provided  
15        by the Lund, Mercy Connections, Vermont Works for Women, and the DIVAS  
16        program.

17        (d) \$500,000 to the Department of Corrections for the development and  
18        implementation of the Offender Management System (OMS) intelligence  
19        layer.

1 Sec. C.102 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.335, as amended by 2022  
2 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 62, and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec.  
3 C.111 is further amended to read:

4 Sec. E.335 CORRECTIONS APPROPRIATIONS; UNEXPENDED  
5 FUNDS TRANSFER; JUSTICE REINVESTMENT;  
6 REPORT

7 \* \* \*

8 (c) ~~Any funds expended authorized to be used on community-based service~~  
9 ~~programs justice reinvestment programs~~ pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
10 section ~~shall be included in the subsequent year Department of Corrections~~  
11 ~~budget for the same purpose at the same amount~~ may be spent over multiple  
12 fiscal years until fully expended.

13 Sec. C.103 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.335 is amended to read:

14 Sec. E.335 CORRECTIONS APPROPRIATIONS; UNEXPENDED  
15 FUNDS TRANSFER; JUSTICE REINVESTMENT; REPORT

16 \* \* \*

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

20 [Repealed.]

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

1       Sec. D.100 APPROPRIATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

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

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

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

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

1 The fiscal year 2024 appropriation of \$21,462,855 to the Vermont Housing and  
2 Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing  
3 bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed  
4 after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, it is the  
5 intent of the General Assembly that the \$1,500,000 reduction in the  
6 appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board should be  
7 restored.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (1) From the General Fund to:

2                   (A) the Transportation Fund – Non-Dedicated (20105): \$10,925,980;

3                   (B) the Environmental Contingency Fund (21275): \$5,000,000;

4                   (C) the Enhanced 9-1-1 Board Fund (21711): \$2,115,000:

5                   (i) Of the funds transferred to the Enhanced 9-1-1 Board Fund in  
6                   subdivision (C) of this section, \$815,000 shall be used to support necessary 9-  
7                   1-1 system upgrades beginning in fiscal year 2024;

8                   (D) the Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951):  
9                   \$7,500,000;

10                  (E) the Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund (21952): \$32,000,000 for  
11                  use on capital projects as authorized in the capital bill and appropriated in this  
12                  act; and

13                  (F) the Rural Industry Development Special Fund: \$5,000,000.

14                  (2) From the Clean Water Fund (21932) established by 10 V.S.A.  
15                  § 1388 to:

16                   (A) the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (21933) created  
17                   under 6 V.S.A. §4803: \$6,684,880; and

18                   (B) the Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (21938)  
19                   created under 10 V.S.A. § 1315: \$120,000.

20                  (3) From the Transportation Fund to the Downtown Transportation and  
21                  Related Capital Improvement Fund (21575) established by 24 V.S.A. § 2796 to

1 be used by the Vermont Downtown Development Board for the purposes of  
2 the Fund: \$523,966.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
4 2024:

5 (1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from  
6 the funds indicated:

|    |              |                                                       |                     |
|----|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7  | <u>22005</u> | <u>AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts</u>     | <u>\$4,641,960</u>  |
| 8  | <u>50300</u> | <u>Liquor Control Fund</u>                            | <u>\$21,200,000</u> |
| 9  |              | <u>Sports Wagering Fund</u>                           | <u>\$1,204,000</u>  |
| 10 |              | <u>Caledonia Fair</u>                                 | <u>\$5,000</u>      |
| 11 |              | <u>North Country Hospital Loan Repayment</u>          | <u>\$29,047</u>     |
| 12 |              | <u>Springfield Hospital Promissory Note Repayment</u> | <u>\$121,412</u>    |

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

|    |               |                                                  |                    |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 19 | <u>21638</u>  | <u>AG-Fees &amp; reimbursement – Court order</u> | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| 20 | <u>621000</u> | <u>Unclaimed Property Fund</u>                   | <u>\$1,743,425</u> |



1           (3) Notwithstanding 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E. 228,  
2           \$60,044,000 of the unencumbered balances in the Insurance Regulatory and  
3           Supervision Fund (21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision  
4           Fund (21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (21080)  
5           shall be transferred to the General Fund.

6           (c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
7           2024, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the  
8           accounts indicated:

9           3400004000 Agency of Human Services –  
10                           Secretary’s Office – Global Commitment                   \$15,103,683

11           (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
12           2024 the following estimated General Fund reserves shall be made:

13           (1) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 308, an estimated amount of \$1,768,423  
14           shall be unreserved from the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve.

15           Sec. D.102 27/53 RESERVE

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

20           Sec. D.103 UNRESERVED; INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

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

4       Sec. D.104 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME SURPLUS; ADDITIONAL  
5               FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME FUNDING PRIORITIES

6       (a) To the extent that the close of fiscal year 2023 results in fund balances  
7       in the General Fund or other special funds, it is the intent of the General  
8       Assembly that the following areas be prioritized for additional one-time  
9       funding in fiscal year 2024:

10       (1) In the Agency of Human Services, \$4,625,000 for state match for the  
11       second year of a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and  
12       Spoke program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the  
13       program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic  
14       investments with community partners.

15       (2) In the Agency of Administration, \$1,150,000 to be used to continue  
16       implementation of a comprehensive statewide language access plan.

17       (3) In the Agency of Digital Services, \$7,500,000 for the Technology  
18       Modernization Fund.

19       (4) In the Agency of Administration, \$10,000,000 to be used to offset  
20       the cost of denied claims for Federal Emergency Management Agency  
21       (FEMA) reimbursement.



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

1                   (i) one Crisis Program Director;

2                   (ii) one Mental Health Analyst I;

3                   (iii) one Operations Manager; and

4                   (iv) one Training and Curriculum Development Supervisor;

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

6                   Program:

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

8                   (I) Office of the State Treasurer:

9                   (i) one Program Technician;

10                  (ii) one Administrative Services Coordinator;

11                  (iii) one Financial Specialist III;

12                  (iv) one Financial Manager I;

13                  (v) one Financial Manager II; and

14                  (vi) one Program Technician II;

15                  (J) E911 Board:

16                  (i) one Program Technician I;

17                  (K) Department of Motor Vehicles:

18                  (i) three Motor Vehicle Inspectors;

19                  (L) Office of the Defender General:

20                  (i) one Financial Director;

21                  (M) Agency of Natural Resources:

1                   (i) one Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Specialist;

2                   (N) Vermont Pension Investment Commission:

3                   (i) one Administrative Assistant; and

4                   (O) Agency of Transportation – Highway Division:

5                   (i) one Transportation Operations Technician III; and

6                   (ii) one Transportation Technician IV.

7                   (2) Permanent exempt positions:

8                   (A) Department of Taxes – State Appraisal and Litigation Assistance

9                   Program: one Staff Attorney;

10                  (B) Agency of Commerce and Community Development – Division

11                  for Historic Preservation – Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs:

12                  one Executive Director;

13                  (C) Human Rights Commission – one Staff Attorney II; and

14                  (D) Office of the Attorney General – one private secretary.

15                  (b) The conversion of 46 limited service positions to classified permanent

16                  status is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

17                  (1) Criminal Justice Council:

18                  (A) one Victims Services Specialist;

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

20                  (A) one HCR Integration Manager;

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

1           (A) one Administrative Services Manager I;

2           (B) five DVHA Program Consultants;

3           (C) one DVHA Quality Control Manager;

4           (D) one Health Reform Enterprise Director I;

5           (E) two Medicaid Operations Administrators;

6           (F) one Project & Operations Director;

7           (G) one Project & Operations Specialist; and

8           (H) one Project Director;

9           (4) Department of Vermont Health Access, Medicaid Policy Fiscal &

10          Support Unit:

11           (A) two Audit Liaison/Internal Control positions;

12           (B) three DVHA Healthcare QC Auditors;

13           (C) one DVHA Healthcare QC CAP Auditor;

14           (D) two DVHA Program & Operations Auditors;

15           (E) one DVHA Program Consultant;

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

17           (G) one Nurse Auditor;

18           (5) Department of Vermont Health Access, Payment

19          Reform/Reimbursement Unit:

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

21           (B) three Change Management Practitioners;

1           (C) one Deputy Director of Payment Reform;

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

3           (E) one Grant Programs Manager;

4           (F) one Health Care Project Director;

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

6           (H) one Senior Policy Advisor; and

7           (6) Agency of Transportation – Aviation Program:

8           (A) nine Airport Maintenance Workers;

9           (B) one Airport Operations Specialist.

10          (c) The establishment of 30 new classified limited service positions is  
11          authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

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

14           (A) one Benefits Program Assistant Administrator; and

15           (B) two Reach Up Case Manager IIs;

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

17           (A) one Communications & Outreach Coordinator;

18           (B) one Climate Forester; and

19           (C) three Forester IIs;

20           (3) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

21           (A) six Deputy State’s Attorneys;



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

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

3           (D) four State’s Attorney Secretaries.

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

5       § 479. GROUP INSURANCE

6           (a)(1) As provided under section 631 of this title, a member who is insured  
7       by the respective group insurance plans immediately preceding the member’s  
8       effective date of retirement shall be entitled to continuation of group insurance  
9       as follows:

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

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

16           ~~(i)~~(I) a member who has completed five years and less than 10  
17       years of creditable service at the member’s retirement shall pay the full cost of  
18       the premium;

19           ~~(ii)~~(II) a member who has completed 10 years and less than 15  
20       years of creditable service at the member’s retirement shall pay 60 percent of  
21       the cost of the premium;

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

4           ~~(iv)~~(IV) a member who has completed 20 years or more of  
5 creditable service at his or her retirement shall pay 20 percent of the cost of the  
6 premium; and

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

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

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

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

18           (i) the State;

19           (ii) the Vermont State Employees' Association;

20           (iii) the Vermont Troopers' Association; and

21           (iv) the Vermont Retired State Employees' Association.

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

10 (c) Premiums for coverage of retired members of the Group C plan and  
11 their dependents in the group medical benefit plan or any alternative health  
12 coverage provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be  
13 prorated on the same basis as is provided for active employees by the current  
14 collective bargaining agreement for the nonmanagement unit. The amounts  
15 designated as the State's share of premium for the medical benefit plan and the  
16 total premium for group life insurance provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this  
17 section shall be paid by the Fund as an operating expense in accordance with  
18 subsection 473(d) of this title.

19 (d) After January 1, 2007, the State Treasurer may offer and administer a  
20 dental benefit plan for retired members, beneficiaries, eligible dependents, and  
21 eligible retirees of special affiliated groups and the dependents of members of

1 those groups who are eligible for coverage in the State Employee Group  
2 Medical Benefit Plan or any alternative health coverage provided pursuant to  
3 subdivision (a)(2) of this section. The Plan shall be separate and apart from  
4 any dental benefit plan offered to Vermont State employees. The original plan  
5 of benefits, and any changes thereto, shall be determined by the State Treasurer  
6 with due consideration of recommendations from the Retired Employees'  
7 Committee on Insurance established in section 636 of this title.

8 \* \* \*

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

13 (4) [Repealed.]

14 (e) As of January 1, 2007, and thereafter, upon retirement, members  
15 entitled to prorated group medical benefit plan premium payments from the  
16 Retirement System under the terms of this section shall have a one-time option  
17 to reduce the percentage of premium payments from the Retirement System  
18 during the member's life, with the provision that the Fund shall continue  
19 making an equal percentage of premium payments after the member's death  
20 for the life of the dependent beneficiary nominated by the member under  
21 section 468 of this title, should such dependent beneficiary survive the

1 member. The Retirement Board, after consultation with its actuary, shall  
2 establish reduced premium payment percentages that are as cost neutral to the  
3 Fund as possible.

4 (f) [Repealed.]

5 (g) A member of the Group F or Group G plan who is first included in the  
6 membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who separates from service  
7 prior to being eligible for retirement benefits under this chapter, who has at  
8 least 20 years of creditable service, and who participated in the group medical  
9 benefit plan at the time of separation from service shall have a one-time option  
10 at the time retirement benefits commence to reinstate the same level of  
11 coverage, in the group medical benefit plan provided by the State of Vermont  
12 for active State employees or any alternative health coverage provided  
13 pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, that existed at the date of  
14 separation from service. Premiums for the plan shall be prorated between the  
15 retired member and the Retirement System pursuant to subsection 479(a) of  
16 this title.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. E.108.1 3 V.S.A. § 925 is amended to read:

19 § 925. MEDIATION; FACT FINDING

20 \* \* \*

1           (i)(1) In the case of the Vermont State Colleges or the University of  
2 Vermont, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of  
3 findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time frame mutually  
4 agreed upon by the parties that may be not more than an additional 30 days,  
5 each party shall submit as a single package its last best offer on all disputed  
6 issues to the Board. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with the Board  
7 under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the public record only when  
8 both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board. The Board shall hold one  
9 or more hearings. Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board shall select  
10 between the last best offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without  
11 amendment.

12           (2) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's  
13 Attorneys and Sheriffs, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after  
14 transmittal of findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time  
15 frame mutually agreed upon by the parties that may be not more than an  
16 additional 30 days, each party shall submit as a single package its last best  
17 offer on all disputed issues to the Board, or upon the request of either party, to  
18 an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree  
19 on an arbitrator, the American Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral  
20 third party to act as arbitrator. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with  
21 the Board or the arbitrator under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the

1 public record only when both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board  
2 or the arbitrator. A party's last best offer shall not include a proposal to  
3 provide alternative health coverage to retired State employees that has not been  
4 agreed to pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 479(a)(2) of this title. The  
5 Board or the arbitrator shall hold one or more hearings. Within 30 days of the  
6 certifications, the Board or the arbitrator shall select between the last best  
7 offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without amendment.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. E.108.2 3 V.S.A. § 1018 is amended to read:

10 § 1018. MEDIATION; FACT-FINDING; LAST BEST OFFER

11 \* \* \*

12 (i)(1) If the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of  
13 findings and recommendations or within a period of time mutually agreed upon  
14 by the parties that may be not more than an additional 30 days, each party shall  
15 submit to the Board or, upon the request of either party, to an arbitrator  
16 mutually agreed upon by the parties its last best offer on all disputed issues as a  
17 single package. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the American  
18 Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral third party to act as arbitrator.

19 (2) Each party's last best offer shall be:

20 (A) filed with the Board or the arbitrator under seal;

21 (B) certified to the Board or the arbitrator by the fact finder; and

1 (C) unsealed and placed in the public record only when both parties'  
2 last best offers are filed with the Board or the arbitrator.

3 (3) A party's last best offer shall not include a proposal to provide  
4 alternative health coverage to retired employees that has not been agreed to  
5 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 479(a)(2) of this title.

6 (4) The Board or the arbitrator shall hold one or more hearings and  
7 consider the recommendations of the fact finder.

8 ~~(4)~~(5)(A) Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board or the arbitrator  
9 shall select between the last best offers of the parties, considered in their  
10 entirety without amendment, and shall determine its cost.

11 \* \* \*

12 ~~(5)~~(6) The Board or the arbitrator shall not issue an order under this  
13 subsection that is in conflict with any law or rule or that relates to an issue that  
14 is not bargainable.

15 ~~(6)~~(7) The decision of the Board or the arbitrator shall be final and  
16 binding on the parties.

17 Sec. E.111.1 32 V.S.A. § 3209 is added as to read:

18 § 3209. TAX COMPUTER SYSTEM MODERNIZATION FUND

19 (a) The Tax Computer System Modernization Fund is established in the  
20 State Treasury as a special fund to support information technology  
21 improvements and initiatives of the Department of Taxes. Balances in the



1 Fund shall be administered by the Department of Taxes and used exclusively  
2 for the purposes prescribed in subsection (c) of this section. Balances in the  
3 Fund at the end of each fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of  
4 the Fund. Interest earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

5 (b) The Fund shall receive an annual transfer from the General Fund in an  
6 amount not to exceed 0.21 percent of total revenue collected in the prior fiscal  
7 year by the Department of Taxes. The fund may receive other receipts as  
8 directed or authorized by the General Assembly.

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

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

19 Sec. E.111.2 24 V.S.A. § 138(c) is amended to read:

20 (c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected  
21 and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with State law

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

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

16 Sec. 8. REPEAL

17 ~~On June 30, 2024:~~

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

21 ~~(2) Sec. 4 of this act (authorization for the Executive Director of Racial~~

1 ~~Equity position) is repealed.~~ [Repealed.]

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

3 (a) The establishment of two new permanent exempt Capitol Police Officer  
4 positions in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms are authorized in fiscal year  
5 2024.

6 Sec. E.128.1 FARMERS' NIGHT CONCERT SERIES; APPROPRIATION

7 (a) The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is authorized to use not more than  
8 \$10,000 from resources available within the General Assembly's budget to  
9 provide honoraria to speakers and performing groups who are invited to  
10 participate in the 2024 Farmers' Night Concert Series and who are not  
11 otherwise sponsored or compensated for their participation.

12 Sec. E.131 STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE – VCBB ESCROW  
13 ACCOUNT

14 (a) In fiscal year 2024, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 10, the Treasurer is  
15 authorized to use up to \$20,000,000 of the State's average cash balance to  
16 establish an escrow account for the exclusive benefit of the Vermont  
17 Community Broadband Board and for the sole purpose of securing federal  
18 funding under the National Telecommunications and Information  
19 Administration's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

20 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Community Broadband  
21 Board shall submit a recommendation to the House and Senate Committees on

1 Appropriations with a recommendation for legislative action to create a long-  
2 term funding plan for the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure  
3 Program.

4 Sec. E.133 VERMONT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS AND VERMONT  
5 PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; SOURCE OF  
6 FUNDS

7 (a) The funds appropriated from the pension systems for administrative  
8 costs in Secs. B.133, B.134, and B.514.1 of this act are intended to provide  
9 spending authority needed to cover the operating costs of the State's pensions  
10 systems, including transferring funds from the State's pension systems to the  
11 Treasurers Retirement Admin Costs Fund (21520) and to the Vermont Pension  
12 Investment Commission Special Fund (21521) to cover the portion of the  
13 Treasurer's budget attributable to the State's pension systems and the Vermont  
14 Pension Investment Commission's budget.

15 (1) Of the \$2,857,679 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$1,937,839  
16 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating  
17 budget, and \$919,840 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
18 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State  
19 Employees' Retirement System.

20 (2) Of the \$1,650,789 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,309,958  
21 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating

1 budget, and \$340,831 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
2 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal  
3 Employees' Retirement System.

4 (3) Of the \$3,299,987 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act,  
5 \$2,309,460 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System  
6 operating budget, and \$990,527 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
7 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers'  
8 Retirement System.

9 Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

10 (a) Of the appropriation in Sec B.139 of this act, \$9,000 shall be transferred  
11 to the Attorney General and \$70,000 shall be transferred to the Department of  
12 Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review and reserved and used with  
13 any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment  
14 of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list  
15 appeals regarding the reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other  
16 property owned by TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. and its successor Great  
17 River Hydro, LLC in the State of Vermont.

18 Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

19 (a) The appropriation in Sec. B.142 of this act is for State payments in lieu  
20 of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. § 3701. The payments shall be calculated in  
21 addition to and without regard to the appropriations for PILOT for Montpelier

1 and for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act. Payments in lieu of taxes  
2 under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A.  
3 § 3709.

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

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

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

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

12 FACILITIES

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

15 \* \* \* Protection \* \* \*

16 Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

17 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the  
18 Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to  
19 retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries  
20 from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State  
21 share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional

1 recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential  
2 Abuse Unit activities.

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

5 Sec. E.204 JUDICIARY; NEW POSITIONS

6 (a) The establishment of two new permanent exempt positions at the  
7 Judiciary are authorized in fiscal year 2024: one Judge, and one court clerk.

8 Sec. E.204.1. 13 V.S.A. § 7282 is amended to read:

9 § 7282. SURCHARGE

10 (a) In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the court ~~or Judicial~~  
11 ~~Bureau~~ for a criminal offense or any civil penalty imposed by the Judicial  
12 Bureau for a traffic violation, including any violation of a fish and wildlife  
13 statute or regulation, violation of a motor vehicle statute, or violation of any  
14 local ordinance relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, except violations  
15 relating to seat belts and child restraints and ordinances relating to parking  
16 violations, the clerk of the court or Judicial Bureau shall levy an additional  
17 surcharge of:

18 \* \* \*

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

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

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

9 (D) For any offense or violation committed after June 30, 2013,  
10 \$47.00, of which ~~\$29.75~~ \$33.50 shall be deposited in the Victims  
11 Compensation Special Fund created by section 5359 of this title, and of which  
12 ~~\$10.00~~ \$13.50 shall be deposited in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special  
13 Fund created by section 5360 of this title.

14 \* \* \*

15 (c) ~~SIU~~ SIU surcharge. In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the  
16 court or Judicial Bureau for a criminal offense committed after July 1, 2009,  
17 the clerk of the court or Judicial Bureau shall levy an additional surcharge of  
18 \$100.00 to be deposited in the General Fund, in support of the Specialized  
19 Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to  
20 pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.



1 Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY – ADMINISTRATION

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

6 Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY – STATE POLICE

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

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



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

4 \* \* \*

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

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

8 \* \* \*

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

11 \* \* \* Human Services \* \* \*

12 Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE  
13 ADVOCATE; VERMONT LEGAL AID

14 Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

15 (1) \$1,847,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the

16 Health Care Advocate; and

17 (2) \$500,000 is for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal  
18 Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including  
19 eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

20 Sec. E.300.1 STATE REFUGEE OFFICE; INVENTORY AND NEEDS  
21 ASSESSMENT; REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1       (a) Request for proposal. On or before September 15, 2023, the State  
2       Refugee Office shall issue a request for proposal for a comprehensive  
3       inventory and needs assessment of Vermont’s immigrant community and the  
4       organizations providing support to this community. For purposes of this  
5       section, “Vermont’s immigrant community” includes refugees, asylum seekers,  
6       asylees, humanitarian parolees, immigrants, individuals without a legal  
7       immigrant status, and any permanent lawful residents who may have held one  
8       of these statuses in the past.

9       (b) Inventory and assessment. The State Refugee Office shall contract with  
10       an independent third party to conduct the inventory and assessment described  
11       in subsection (a) of this section. On or before November 15, 2024, the  
12       completed inventory and assessment shall be delivered to the State Refugee  
13       Office.

14       (c) Scope. The inventory and assessment described in subsection (a) of this  
15       section shall include the following:

16               (1) a list of any organizations in the State that formally provide social,  
17       housing, health, mental health, or legal support services to Vermont’s  
18       immigrant community;

19               (2) a summary of the services provided by each listed organization to  
20       Vermont’s immigrant community;

21               (3) the sources of funding supporting each organization;

1           (4) the relationship with and support provided by the State Refugee  
2           Office and any listed refugee agency and the organization, including how each  
3           organization's needs, goals, and opportunities are communicated to the State  
4           Refugee Office;

5           (5) how referrals are made to each organization; and

6           (6) the governing structure of each organization.

7           (d) Reports.

8           (1) On or before January 15, 2024, the State Refugee Office shall submit  
9           a status update on the request for proposal described in subsection (a) of this  
10           section to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate  
11           Committee on Health and Welfare.

12           (2) On or before December 1, 2024, the State Refugee Office shall  
13           submit a copy of the final inventory and assessment described in subsection (b)  
14           of this section to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate  
15           Committee on Health and Welfare.

16           Sec. E.300.2 LUND; SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

17           It is the intent of the General Assembly that Lund will develop a  
18           sustainability plan and share it with the Agency of Human Services and the  
19           General Assembly.

1 Sec. E.300.3 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;

2 INCREASE

3 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that it will be incumbent upon  
4 the designated and specialized service agencies to focus any new funds on  
5 recruitment and retention of their direct service staff and contractors providing  
6 direct services. In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Human Services shall  
7 increase funding to the designated and specialized service agencies in such a  
8 manner so as to support a four percent fund increase that furthers improved  
9 transparency, accountability and equity for Vermonters.

10 Sec. E.300.4 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

11 (a) On or before September 1, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall  
12 convene a working group, including individuals with lived experience of  
13 homelessness, local and statewide representatives of the Continuums of Care  
14 Program, representatives of housing- and homelessness-related organizations, a  
15 member from the House Committee on General and Housing, a member from  
16 the House Committee on Human Services, a member from the Senate  
17 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and a  
18 member from the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to review, develop,  
19 and provide recommendations on Vermont's homelessness response and  
20 prevention programs and governance system, including any measures of  
21 success that incorporate recent and relevant assessments and statewide plans.

1       (b)(1) On or before January 15, 2024, the working group established  
2       pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit its initial findings and  
3       recommendations to the House Committees on Human Services and on  
4       General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and  
5       on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to align with the  
6       federal goal to reduce homelessness by 25 percent by 2025, in accordance with  
7       the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, including  
8       strategies to:

9               (A) address racial and other disparities, as well as the multiplier  
10              effects of two or more concurrent risk factors, among people experiencing  
11              homelessness;

12              (B) justify State and local action through research of quantitative and  
13              qualitative data, including the perspectives of individuals who have or are  
14              currently experiencing homelessness;

15              (C) eliminate the silos between State and local governments and  
16              organizations; public, private, and philanthropic sectors; and individuals who  
17              have or are currently experiencing homelessness;

18              (D) increase the supply of and access to safe, affordable, and  
19              accessible housing and tailored supports for individuals at risk of or currently  
20              experiencing homelessness;

1           (E) improve response systems to meet the urgent crisis of  
2           homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness; and

3           (F) reduce the risk of housing instability for households most likely  
4           to experience homelessness.

5           (2) On or before January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit an  
6           interim report on its work pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) to  
7           the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and to  
8           the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Economic Development,  
9           Housing and General Affairs.

10           (3) On or before January 1, 2025, the working group convened in  
11           subsection (a) of this section shall submit a final report on its work pursuant to  
12           subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) to the House Committees on Human  
13           Services and on General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on Health  
14           and Welfare and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

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

16           (a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec.  
17           B.301 of this act for payment of the actuarially certified premium required  
18           under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human  
19           Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health  
20           Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment to Health Section 1115



1 demonstration (Global Commitment) approved by the Centers for Medicare  
2 and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

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

6 (1) \$21,957,400 certified State match available from local education  
7 agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under  
8 Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$28,542,600 of federal  
9 funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated  
10 expenditure of \$50,500,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal  
11 matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services  
12 under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment  
13 Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A.  
14 § 2959a.

15 (2) \$3,093,521 certified State match available from local designated  
16 mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health  
17 services provided under Global Commitment.

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



1 purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal year  
2 2024 and fiscal year 2025, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections  
3 (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in  
4 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 in the same manner as the Global  
5 Commitment appropriations in ~~Sec. E.301 of H.740 of 2022~~ 2022 Acts and  
6 Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal  
7 Committee in September 2023 and September 2024, respectively, on transfers  
8 of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in  
9 fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, respectively, and any obligated funds  
10 carried forward to be expended in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025,  
11 respectively.

12 Sec. E.306 VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE RULES

13 (a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.  
14 chapter 25 to conform Vermont's rules regarding health care eligibility and  
15 enrollment and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to State  
16 and federal law and guidance. The Agency may use the emergency rules  
17 process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 prior to June 30, 2024, but only if new  
18 State or federal law or guidance requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules  
19 in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking  
20 process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall

1 be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required  
2 pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

3 Sec. E.306.1 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by  
4 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187,  
5 Sec. 5, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, and 2021 Acts and Resolves  
6 No. 73, Sec. 14, is further amended to read:

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

9 Sec. E.306.2 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019  
10 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19 and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec.  
11 75, is further amended to read:

12 Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

13 \* \* \*

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

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. E.306.3 ADULT DAY PROGRAMS; RATE STUDY

18 (a) The Department of Vermont Health Access, in collaboration with the  
19 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, and the Vermont  
20 Association of Adult Day Services shall propose payment methodologies that

1 encourage increased enrollment or attendance or both and predictable funding  
2 levels for adult day programs.

3 (b) On or before February 15, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health  
4 Access shall submit the report to the House Committees on Appropriations and  
5 on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on  
6 Health and Welfare.

7 Sec. E.306.4 ASSISTIVE COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

8 (a) Beginning in fiscal year 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall  
9 move the appropriation for assistive community care services from the  
10 Department of Vermont Health Access to the Department of Disabilities,  
11 Aging, and Independent Living.

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

13 Sec. E.334.1 LONG-TERM CARE – PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

14 INCREASE

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

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

1 Sec. E.307.1 BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH; PAYMENTS TO PATIENT

2 CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES; REPORT

3 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director of Health Care Reform in  
4 the Agency of Human Services shall recommend to the House Committees on  
5 Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and  
6 Welfare, on Appropriations, and on Finance the amounts by which health  
7 insurers and Vermont Medicaid should increase the amount of the per person,  
8 per month payments they make to Blueprint for Health patient-centered  
9 medical homes in furtherance of the goal of providing the additional resources  
10 necessary for delivery of comprehensive primary care services to Vermonters  
11 and in order to sustain access to primary care services in Vermont. The  
12 Agency shall provide an estimate of the State funding that would be needed to  
13 support the increase for Medicaid, both with and without federal financial  
14 participation. The Agency shall also evaluate and report on potential  
15 mechanisms for ensuring that all payers are contributing equitably to the  
16 Blueprint on behalf of their covered lives in Vermont, including a  
17 consideration of supporting Blueprint initiatives through the health care claims  
18 tax established in 32 V.S.A. chapter 243.

1 Sec. E.307.2 33 V.S.A. § 1992 is amended to read:

2 § 1992. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES

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

6 \* \* \*

7 (2) Diagnostic, restorative, and endodontic procedures, to a maximum of  
8 ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,500.00 per calendar year, provided that the Department of  
9 Vermont Health Access may approve expenditures in excess of that amount  
10 when exceptional medical circumstances so require.

11 Sec. E.307.3 MEDICAID DENTAL COVERAGE; ESTIMATED COST OF  
12 REMOVING COVERAGE LIMIT; REPORT

13 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to improve access to dental care  
14 for Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries by eliminating individual caps on dental  
15 spending. Following implementation of a proposed increase in the dental cap  
16 from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and evaluation of the financial impacts of the increase,  
17 the Department of Vermont Health Access shall project the potential costs of  
18 eliminating the dental cap entirely. The Department shall report its findings on  
19 the projected costs of lifting the dental cap as part of its fiscal year 2026 budget  
20 presentation.

1 Sec. E.312 HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH

2 (a) AIDS/HIV funding:

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

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

12 (A) Vermont CARES - \$140,000;

13 (B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont - \$100,000; and

14 (C) HIV/HCV Resource Center - \$55,000.

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

19 (A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the  
20 Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in VMAP to  
21 assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with



1 persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to VMAP  
2 medications until such time as the General Assembly can act.

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

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

1 Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont  
2 HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

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

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

17 Sec. E.312.1 REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

18 COORDINATION; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

19 (a) Creation. There is created the Regional Emergency Medical Services  
20 (EMS) Coordination Study Committee to assess the current EMS District  
21 structure and the current level and cost of service in each district.

1        (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
2        members:

3            (1) a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker  
4        of the House;

5            (2) a member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on  
6        Committees;

7            (3) the EMS Chief of the EMS Office in the Department of Health;

8            (4) the Commissioner of the Department of Health or designee;

9            (5) the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or designee;

10          (6) one member, appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and  
11        Towns;

12          (7) one member who is a volunteer emergency medical technician or  
13        paramedic, appointed by the Vermont Ambulance Association;

14          (8) one member, appointed by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and  
15        Health Systems;

16          (9) one member, appointed by the Vermont State Firefighters’  
17        Association;

18          (10) one member, appointed by Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont;

19          (11) one member, appointed by the Statewide EMS Medical Director;

20          (12) one member, appointed by the EMS Education Council;

1           (13) three members representing three separate EMS Districts, with at  
2           least one selected District primarily covering small, rural communities,  
3           appointed by the EMS Chief at the Department of Health; and

4           (14) two members of the public, appointed by the Governor.

5           (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the provision of  
6           emergency medical services in the State, including the following issues:

7           (1) ways to decrease costs;

8           (2) ways to improve EMS coordination;

9           (3) ways to increase access to emergency services within each district;

10          and

11          (4) ways to optimize the EMS District structure and authority, including  
12          consideration of recommendations on the number and configuration of EMS  
13          Districts and their powers, duties, and authority.

14          (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
15          and legal assistance of the Department of Health.

16          (e) Report. On or before December 31, 2023, the Committee shall submit a  
17          written report to the House Committees on Government Operations and  
18          Military Affairs and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on  
19          Government Operations and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any  
20          recommendations for legislative action.

21          (f) Meetings.

1           (1) The EMS Chief of the EMS Office in the Department of Health shall  
2           call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2023.

3           (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the  
4           first meeting.

5           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

6           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 31, 2023.

7           (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

8           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
9           Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's  
10           capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
11           reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight  
12           meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the  
13           General Assembly.

14           (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem  
15           compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
16           § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from  
17           monies appropriated to the Department of Health.

18           (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated to the Department  
19           of Health from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to support the work of the  
20           Committee as set forth in this section, including hiring a consultant to assist the

1 Committee in conducting its study and writing a report on its findings and  
2 recommendations.

3 Sec. E.313 HEALTH; SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

4 (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Health shall provide additional  
5 grants from the Global Commitment in the amount of \$1,850,000 to Vermont's  
6 13 recovery centers, including Jenna's Promise and Vermont Recovery  
7 Partners, for recovery center operations. The methods by which these funds  
8 are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department and  
9 the recipient recovery centers. The performance period of these grants shall be  
10 State fiscal year 2024. Recipient recovery centers shall report outcomes to the  
11 Department.

12 Sec. E.316 STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING  
13 FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

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

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

- 1           (1) the families of children in the Department’s custody for delinquency  
2 offenses;
- 3           (2) youth who have been in custody for juvenile offenses;  
4           (3) the Juvenile Defender’s Office;  
5           (4) the Office of State’s Attorneys;  
6           (5) the Family Court;  
7           (6) the Office of Racial Equity;  
8           (7) the Vermont Family Network;  
9           (8) the Vermont Federation of Families;  
10          (9) the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs;  
11          (10) the Vermont Protection and Advocacy;  
12          (11) the Department of Mental Health;  
13          (12) the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living;  
14          (13) the State Program Standing Committees for Developmental  
15 Services, Children’s Mental Health, and Adult Mental Health; and  
16          (14) any other groups the Department may select.
- 17          (c) The Department shall regularly present relevant information to the  
18 stakeholder working group established pursuant to this section and review  
19 recommendations from the working group regarding:

1           (1) facility design layout, programming, and policy development for the  
2           temporary stabilization facility, including data on the number of cases and  
3           types of case mix, as well as likely length of stay; and

4           (2) the Department's data and assumptions for size, type of treatment,  
5           and security levels for future permanent facilities included in the planning  
6           process proposed in the fiscal year 2024 capital bill; optimal locations,  
7           including whether a campus plan is appropriate; and any plans regarding the  
8           use of outside contractors for facility operations, including State oversight of  
9           appropriate quality of care.

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

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

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



1       Sec. E.316.1 REPORT; CRISIS STANDARDS – EMERGENCY HOUSING

2           (a) On or before January 1, 2024, the Department for Children and Families  
3       shall develop and submit a plan to coordinate and deliver crisis standards,  
4       including for emergency housing and shelter with strong connections to  
5       housing, health, and employment services, to the House Committees on  
6       Human Services and on General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on  
7       Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and  
8       Welfare. In developing the plan, the Department shall consult with  
9       stakeholders who specialize in homelessness prevention and mitigation,  
10       including those organizations who participated in developing the Vermont  
11       Roadmap to End Homelessness developed pursuant to 2016 Acts and Resolves  
12       No. 172, Sec. B.1102(a).

13       Sec. E.318 PARENT CHILD CENTERS NETWORK; EMPLOYEE

14                       SALARIES AND BENEFITS

15           (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly increased funding appropriated  
16       in fiscal year 2024 to the parent child centers be used to increase employee  
17       salaries and benefits, and not for new or expanded programming.

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

19                       CONDITIONS

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

4       Sec. E.321.1. GENERAL ASSISTANCE HOUSING; PLAN TO END  
5                   HOTEL AND MOTEL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED DURING  
6                   COVID-19 EMERGENCY

7       (a)(1) In fiscal year 2024, \$20,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General  
8       Fund to the Department for Children and Families to support any services  
9       necessary to transition individuals from the hotel and motel housing program  
10       established in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The  
11       Department shall collaborate with the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
12       Board, community action agencies, housing opportunity programs, and other  
13       relevant stakeholders to locate alternative housing and supportive services for  
14       individuals utilizing the hotel and motel housing program established in  
15       response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

16       (2) Of the amount appropriated in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
17       \$10,000,000.00 shall be allocated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
18       Board for the purchase and support of manufactured housing and the remaining  
19       \$10,000,000.00 shall be utilized by the housing opportunity programs,  
20       community action agencies, and the Department for the provision of supportive  
21       services.

1       (b) The following households participating in the hotel and motel program  
2       on June 1, 2023 shall be eligible for alternative housing and supportive  
3       services pursuant to this section:

4           (1) a household that lost its housing due to a natural disaster, such as a  
5       flood, fire, or hurricane;

6           (2) a household that has a member who has experienced domestic  
7       violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;

8           (3) a household that has a member who has experienced a dangerous or  
9       life-threatening incident related to violence against the member that either  
10       occurred within the member's home or caused the member to reasonably  
11       believe that the member was at risk of further harm if the member remained in  
12       the home;

13           (4) a household with a child or children who are either under 18 years of  
14       age or who are 18 or 19 years of age and attending secondary school on a full-  
15       time basis or an equivalent level of vocational or technical training;

16           (5) a household that has a member who is 60 years of age or older;

17           (6) a household that has a member who receives SSI or SSDI;

18           (7) a household that has a member who is pregnant;

19           (8) a household that is pursuing legal resolution of violations of the  
20       Rental Housing Health Code through the Department of Health or appropriate  
21       local officials; and



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

4                     ~~(A) unsubsidized employment;~~

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

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

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

10                    ~~(E) on the job training;~~

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

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

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

15                    ~~(I) job skills training directly related to employment;~~

16                    ~~(J) education directly related to employment, in the case of a~~  
17           ~~recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high~~  
18           ~~school equivalency;~~

19                    ~~(K) satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of~~  
20           ~~study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient~~  
21           ~~who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate;~~



1 Sec. E.323.3 33 V.S.A. § 1006 is amended to read:

2 § 1006. CASE MANAGEMENT; FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLANS;

3 COORDINATED SERVICES

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) The family development plan shall include:

6 (1) Each ~~parent~~ parent's or caretaker's employment goal or plan to  
7 engage in the program, to the best of the parent's or caretaker's ability.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. E.323.4 33 V.S.A. § 1011 is amended to read:

10 § 1011. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

11 \* \* \*

12 ~~(b) If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~  
13 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, but is~~  
14 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, the Department shall transfer the family to~~  
15 ~~Reach Up, unless the family chooses not to participate. A family transferring~~  
16 ~~from Reach First to Reach Up shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of~~  
17 ~~income calculation. [Repealed.]~~

18 ~~(c) If a family finds employment meeting or exceeding the work~~  
19 ~~requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition, is not~~  
20 ~~financially eligible for Reach Up, and is eligible for the Reach Ahead program,~~  
21 ~~the Department shall transfer the family to Reach Ahead, unless the family~~

1 ~~chooses not to participate. A family transferring from Reach First to Reach~~  
2 ~~Ahead shall be treated as a recipient for the purposes of income calculation.~~

3 [Repealed.]

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.323.5 33 V.S.A. § 1203 is amended to read:

6 § 1203. ELIGIBILITY

7 A family shall be eligible for Reach Ahead if the family resides in Vermont  
8 and:

9 (1) has left Reach Up or the postsecondary education program within the  
10 prior six months for employment that meets the federal work requirements for  
11 the ~~Reach Up~~ TANF program for the family's size and composition;

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. E.323.6 33 V.S.A. § 1212 is amended to read:

14 § 1212. TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS

15 If a family loses employment meeting or exceeding the work requirements  
16 for ~~Reach Up~~ TANF for the family's size and composition and is financially  
17 eligible for Reach Up, the family shall be transferred to Reach First or Reach  
18 Up without an additional application process, unless the family chooses not to  
19 participate. Verification of income or other documentation may be required as  
20 provided for by rule.



1       Sec. E 323.7 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

2           (a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 33 V.S.A. chapter 12,  
3         funds appropriated to the Department for Children and Families for the Reach  
4         Ahead Pilot Program in fiscal year 2024 shall be used to:

5           (1) enroll families that have left the Reach Up program or the  
6         postsecondary education program within the prior 12 months for employment  
7         that meets the federal work requirements for the Temporary Assistance for  
8         Needy Families program for the family's size and composition;

9           (2) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$50 to \$100 in  
10         the first 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead;

11          (3) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$5 to \$50 in the  
12         second 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead; and

13          (4) provide incentive payments to participating families in the amounts  
14         of:

15           (A) \$1,250, to be paid after participating in the Program for six  
16         months;

17           (B) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for  
18         12 months;

19           (C) \$750, to be paid after participating in the Program for 18 months;

20         and

21           (D) \$750, to be paid after participating in the Program for 24 months.



1 or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Funds shall  
2 be administered in consultation with the Vermont Coalition to End  
3 Homelessness.

4 (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$170,301  
5 will shall be granted to community agencies for financial coaching.

6 Sec. E.325.1 CHILD CARE FACILITIES FINANCING PROGRAM

7 (a) 33 V.S.A. § 3521 (Child Care Facilities Financing Program established)  
8 is repealed.

9 Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE  
10 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – WEATHERIZATION  
11 ASSISTANCE

12 (a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is  
13 for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

14 Sec. E.329 18 V.S.A. § 8725 is amended to read:

15 § 8725. SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN

16 \* \* \*

17 (e) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before ~~January~~ February 15 of  
18 each year, the Department shall report to the Governor and the committees of  
19 jurisdiction regarding implementation of the plan, the extent to which the  
20 principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title are achieved, and

1 whether people with a developmental disability have any unmet service needs,  
2 including the number of people on waiting lists for developmental services.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. E.330 1 V.S.A. § 331 is amended to read:

5 § 331. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in the subchapter:

7 (1) “Person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
8 DeafBlind” means any person who has such difficulty hearing, even with  
9 amplification, that the person cannot rely on hearing for communication.

10 (2) “Proceeding” means any judicial proceeding, contested case under  
11 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or other hearing before an administrative agency not  
12 included under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

13 (3) “Qualified interpreter” means an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf~~  
14 ~~or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who meets standards  
15 of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of Interpreters  
16 for the Deaf as amended, by rule, by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and  
17 ~~Hard of Hearing~~.

18 Sec. E.330.1 1 V.S.A. § 332 is amended to read:

19 § 332. RIGHT TO INTERPRETER; ASSISTIVE LISTENING EQUIPMENT

20 (a) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
21 DeafBlind who is a party or witness in any proceeding shall be entitled to be

1 provided with a qualified interpreter for the duration of the person's  
2 participation in the proceeding.

3 (b) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
4 DeafBlind shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter upon five  
5 working days' notice that the person has reasonable need to do any of the  
6 following:

7 \* \* \*

8 (c) If a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
9 DeafBlind is unable to use or understand sign language, the presiding officer or  
10 State board or agency or State legislative official shall, upon five working  
11 days' notice, make available appropriate assistive listening equipment for use  
12 during the proceeding or activity.

13 Sec. E.330.2 1 V.S.A. § 333 is amended to read:

14 § 333. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER

15 (a) The presiding officer in a proceeding shall appoint an interpreter after  
16 making a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to:

17 (1) readily communicate with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~  
18 ~~to~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

19 (2) accurately interpret statements or communications from the person  
20 who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and ~~to~~



1           (6) shall not exert any influence over the person who is ~~deaf or hard of~~  
2 ~~hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and

3           (7) ~~shall~~ does not accept assignments the interpreter does not feel  
4 competent to handle.

5           (b) ~~Rules established by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of~~  
6 ~~Hearing pursuant to subdivision 331(3) of this title amending the standards of~~  
7 ~~competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of the Deaf shall~~  
8 ~~be limited to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

9           (c) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall~~  
10 ~~prepare an explanation of the provisions of this subchapter which shall be~~  
11 ~~distributed to all State agencies and courts. [Repealed.]~~

12           (d) ~~The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall~~  
13 ~~maintain a list of qualified interpreters in Vermont and, where such~~  
14 ~~information is available, in surrounding states. The list shall be distributed~~  
15 State of Vermont, though a statewide contract, shall maintain access to  
16 qualified interpreters in Vermont. Access to qualified interpreters shall be  
17 available to all State agencies and courts.

18           Sec. E.330.4 1 V.S.A. § 337 is amended to read:

19           § 337. REVIEW

20           (a) A decision, order, or judgment of a court or administrative agency may  
21 be reversed on appeal if the court or agency finds that a person who is ~~deaf or~~

1 ~~hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who was a party or a  
2 witness in the proceeding was deprived of an opportunity to communicate  
3 effectively, and that the deprivation was prejudicial.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.330.5 1 V.S.A. § 338 is amended to read:

6 § 338. ADMISSIONS; CONFESSIONS

7 (a) An admission or confession by a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
8 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind made to a law enforcement officer or any  
9 other person having a prosecutorial function may only be used against the  
10 person in a criminal proceeding if:

11 (1) ~~The~~ the admission or confession was made knowingly, voluntarily,  
12 and intelligently and is not subject to alternative interpretations resulting from  
13 the person's habits and patterns of communication-; and

14 (2) ~~The~~ the admission or confession, if made during a custodial  
15 interrogation, was made after reasonable steps were taken, including the  
16 appointment of a qualified interpreter, to ensure that the defendant understood  
17 ~~his or her~~ the defendant's constitutional rights.

18 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section supplement the  
19 constitutional rights of the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
20 Hearing, or DeafBlind.



1 Sec. E.330.6 1 V.S.A. § 339 is amended to read:

2 § 339. COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO INTERPRETERS; PROHIBITION  
3 ON DISCLOSURE

4 (a) An interpreter, whether or not the interpreter is a qualified interpreter,  
5 shall not disclose or testify to:

6 (1) a communication made by a person to an interpreter acting in ~~his or~~  
7 ~~her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
8 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
9 proficiency; or

10 (2) any information obtained by the interpreter while acting in ~~his or her~~  
11 the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
12 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
13 proficiency.

14 (b) There is no prohibition on disclosure under this section if the services  
15 of the interpreter were sought or obtained to enable or aid anyone to commit or  
16 plan to commit what the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
17 Hearing, or DeafBlind or the person with limited English proficiency knew or  
18 reasonably should have known to be a crime or fraud.

19 \* \* \*

20 (d) As used in this section, “person with limited English proficiency”  
21 means a person who does not speak English as ~~his or her~~ the person’s primary

1 language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand  
2 English.

3 Sec. E.334 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND TRAUMATIC  
4 BRAIN INJURY SERVICES RATE STUDY; REPORT

5 (a) The Department of Vermont Health Access, in collaboration with the  
6 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, shall conduct a  
7 rate study of the Medicaid reimbursement rates paid for developmental  
8 disability and traumatic brain injury (TBI) related services.

9 (b) On or before February 15, 2024, the Department of Vermont Health  
10 Access shall report the results of its rate study to the House Committees on  
11 Human Services and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health  
12 and Welfare and on Appropriations.

13 Sec. E. 334.1 NURSING HOME RATE SETTING

14 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the  
15 Department of Vermont Health Access shall report to the House Committees  
16 on Human Services and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on  
17 Health and Welfare and on Appropriations not later than December 15, 2023,  
18 on the budgetary impact of eliminating the minimum occupancy threshold in  
19 the nursing home rate setting process and reducing the minimum occupancy  
20 threshold to not more than 80 percent in the nursing home rate setting process.  
21 The report shall include a recommendation on whether to eliminate or reduce

1 the minimum occupancy requirement, timeline, and next steps for  
2 implementing the recommendation and anticipated impact on sustainability of  
3 Vermont nursing homes.

4 Sec. E.335 CORRECTIONS OUT-OF-STATE BEDS APPROPRIATION;  
5 UNEXPENDED FUNDS CARRY FORWARD TO JUSTICE  
6 REINVESTMENT II APPROPRIATION; REPORT

7 (a) In fiscal year 2024, any unexpended funds for the Department of  
8 Corrections out-of-state beds appropriation ~~will~~ shall be carried forward to  
9 fiscal year 2025, and the amount reported to the Joint Legislative Justice  
10 Oversight Committee in September 2024, to provide funding for justice  
11 reinvestment-related programs. Funds may only be expended on justice  
12 reinvestment-related programs upon approval of the Joint Legislative Justice  
13 Oversight Committee. The House Committees on Appropriations and on  
14 Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and  
15 on Judiciary will be notified of any proposed expenditures on justice  
16 reinvestment-related programs.

17 (b) Any funds authorized to be used on justice reinvestment-related  
18 programs pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may be spent over multiple  
19 fiscal years until fully expended.

20 Sec. E.335.1 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; OUT-OF-STATE BEDS

1       (a) To the extent that the General Fund is reduced in the Correctional  
2       Services – out-of-state beds appropriation under Sec. B.339 of this act, the  
3       corresponding amount of General Fund is budgeted in the Correctional  
4       Services Justice Reinvestment II appropriation under Sec. B.338.1 of this act in  
5       a net-neutral manner. As a result of this neutral reallocation of General Fund  
6       among the two appropriations, any unexpended appropriations remaining in  
7       Correctional Services – out-of-state beds appropriation on June 30 of any fiscal  
8       year shall revert pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 703.

9       Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

10       (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special funds appropriation of  
11       \$152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield  
12       ~~will~~ shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

13       Sec. E.338.1 13 V.S.A. § 7554b is amended to read:

14       § 7554b. HOME DETENTION PROGRAM

15       (a) Definition. As used in this section, “home detention” means a program  
16       of confinement and supervision that restricts a defendant to a preapproved  
17       residence continuously, except for authorized absences, and is enforced by  
18       appropriate means of surveillance and electronic monitoring by the Department  
19       of Corrections, including the use of passive electronic monitoring. The court  
20       may authorize scheduled absences such as for work, school, or treatment. Any  
21       changes in the schedule shall be solely at the discretion of the Department of

1 Corrections. A defendant who is on home detention shall remain in the  
2 custody of the Commissioner of Corrections with conditions set by the court.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. E.338.2 HOME DETENTION PROGRAM; REVIEW; REPORT

5 (a) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review the  
6 Home Detention Program under 13 V.S.A. § 7554b, including its historical and  
7 current use, defendant eligibility criteria, and any potential changes to the types  
8 of crimes for which it can be used.

9 (b) On or before November 15, 2023, the Committee shall submit any  
10 findings resulting from its review in the form of proposed legislation to the  
11 House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

12 Sec. E.338.3 REPEALS

13 (a) 13 V.S.A. § 7554(a)(1)(G) is repealed.

14 (b) 13 V.S.A. § 7554(a)(2)(F) is repealed.

15 (c) 13 V.S.A. § 7554b is repealed on July 1, 2025.

16 (d) 13 V.S.A. § 7554d is repealed.

17 Sec. E.338.4 28 V.S.A. chapter 11 is amended to read:

18 CHAPTER 11. SUPERVISION OF ADULT INMATES AT  
19 THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

20 \* \* \*

21 Subchapter 1A. Offender Reintegration

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\* \* \*

§ 722. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Absconding” means:

(A) the offender has not met supervision requirements, cannot be located with reasonable efforts, and has not made contact with Department staff within three days if convicted of a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) or seven days if convicted of an unlisted crime;

(B) the offender flees from Department staff or law enforcement; or

(C) the offender left the State without Department authorization.

(2) “Conditional reentry” means the process by which a sentenced offender is released into a community for supervision while participating in programs that assist the reintegration process. The offender’s ability to remain in the community under supervision is conditioned on the offender’s progress in reentry programs.

~~(2)~~(3) “Listed crime” means any offense identified in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7).

(4) “Technical violation” means a violation of conditions of furlough that does not constitute a new crime.









1 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the progress of the  
2 hospital system transformation planning activities described in subsection (a)  
3 of this section.

4 \* \* \* General Education \* \* \*

5 Sec. E.500 EDUCATION – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

6 (a) The Global Commitment funds appropriated in Sec. B.500 of this act  
7 shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of  
8 Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These services are intended to  
9 increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured  
10 persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

11 Sec. E.500.1 UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER

12 (a) Pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, which dedicates the  
13 cannabis sales tax revenue to support grant programs for the expansion of  
14 summer and afterschool programs, with an emphasis on increasing access in  
15 underserved areas of the State, a Universal Afterschool and Summer Special  
16 Fund is created, to be managed by the Secretary of Education. The cannabis  
17 sales tax revenue shall be transferred to the Universal Afterschool and Summer  
18 Special Fund. The Secretary shall use the assets in the Fund as follows:

19 (1) To set up programs to support the expansion of universal afterschool  
20 and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the State.

1           (2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery  
2           system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be  
3           public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

4           (A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program  
5           implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

6           (B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low  
7           existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

8           (C) The Agency may use up to \$500,000 for administrative costs to  
9           allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to  
10           communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant program.

11           (b) Advisory Committee. An Advisory Committee is created to support the  
12           Secretary of Education in administering the funds. The Agency will provide  
13           administrative and technical support to the Committee. The Committee is to  
14           be composed of:

15           (1) State's Chief Prevention Officer;

16           (2) DCF Commissioner or designee;

17           (3) VDH Commissioner or designee;

18           (4) DMH Commissioner or designee;

19           (5) ANR Secretary or designee;

20           (6) ACCD Secretary or designee;

21           (7) Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or Designee; and

1           (8) a Representative from the Governor's Office.

2           Sec. E.500.2 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164 (Cannabis Regulation), Sec.

3           17d is amended to read:

4           Sec. 17d. ANNUAL BUDGETING OF SALES AND USE TAX

5                           REVENUE

6           On or before November 15, 2021, and on or before each subsequent  
7           November 15, the Agency of Education shall submit to the General Assembly  
8           a plan to fund grants in furtherance of the purposes of Sec. 17c of this act, and  
9           report outcomes data on the grants made during the previous year. The  
10          Agency will also report on the number of programs, slots, weeks or hours,  
11          geographic distribution, and what is known about costs to families. The report  
12          should be inclusive of 21C programming. The grants shall be in an amount  
13          equal to the official forecasted revenues to be raised from the sales and use tax  
14          imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 on cannabis or cannabis products in this  
15          State. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall  
16          not apply to the plan to be made under this subsection.

17          Sec. E.502 EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

18          (a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and

19          notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed

20          \$4,195,600 ~~will~~ shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024

21          as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the

1 Secretary will not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. §  
2 2969(c)–(d).

3 Sec. E.503 EDUCATION – STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

4 (a) The Independence Place Program of the Lund Family Center will be  
5 considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of  
6 education costs.

7 Sec. E.504 EDUCATION – FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

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

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

13 (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding  
14 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

15 (2) \$2,000,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

16 (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

17 (4) \$3,400,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §  
18 946; and

19 (5) \$600,000 is available for the Vermont Academy of Science and  
20 Technology.



1           (2) The General Assembly further intends to make such a reversion by  
2           future legislative action amending 16 V.S.A. § 1949, provided that the present  
3           value of changes to the postretirement adjustment allowance methodology be  
4           fully funded at the time the change is made and not increase the unfunded  
5           liability in VSTRS.

6           (3) The General Assembly further intends that if the June 30, 2023,  
7           change in the Consumer Price Index exceeds the statutory maximum  
8           percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949 (b)(1), the General Assembly  
9           will provide a sufficient appropriation in the 2024 Budget Adjustment Act to  
10           make a one-time supplemental payment, similar in form to that described in  
11           subsection (b) of this section, to qualifying VSTRS retired members and  
12           beneficiaries in calendar year 2024.

13           (b) Calendar year 2023 supplemental payment. A one-time supplemental  
14           payment during calendar year 2023 shall be made to VSTRS retired members  
15           and beneficiaries who received a 2.5 percent postretirement adjustment  
16           allowance in an amount equal to the net difference between what members  
17           actually received in calendar year 2023 and what they would have received  
18           under a 3.8 percent postretirement adjustment allowance.

19           (c) Actuarial cost analysis. Following the completion of the next  
20           experience study, expected in fall 2023, the State Treasurer shall conduct an  
21           actuarial analysis to evaluate the cost of changing the current methodology for

1 calculating the postretirement adjustment allowance for the Vermont State  
2 Teachers' Retirement System to a methodology calculated by applying the  
3 maximum percentage values set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 1949(b)(1) to the  
4 postretirement adjustment allowance rather than applying the statutory  
5 maximum percentage values to the net percentage change in the Consumer  
6 Price Index. The actuarial analysis shall take into account any changes to  
7 actuarial assumptions that may occur following the experience study to be  
8 performed at the end of fiscal year 2023, as required by 16 V.S.A. § 1942.

9 (d) Report. Based on the actuarial cost analysis described in subsection (c)  
10 of this section, on or before January 15, 2024, the State Treasurer shall submit  
11 a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with an  
12 actuarial cost estimate for changing the VSTRS postretirement adjustment  
13 allowance methodology as set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

14 Sec. E.514.2 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM;  
15 SUPPLEMENTAL COST OF LIVING PAYMENT; FISCAL  
16 YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION

17 (a) In fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the amount of  
18 \$3,000,000 is appropriated to VSTRS from the Education Fund, for Calendar  
19 Year 2023 supplemental payments made in Sec. E.514.1 of this act and  
20 associated costs.



1 Sec. E.514.3 16 V.S.A. § 1944 is amended to read:

2 § 1944. VERMONT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND

3 (a) Pension Fund. All of the assets of the System shall be credited to the  
4 Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund.

5 (b) Member contributions.

6 (1) Contributions deducted from the compensation of members shall be  
7 accumulated in the Pension Fund and separately recorded for each member.

8 (2) The proper authority or officer responsible for making up each  
9 employer payroll shall cause to be deducted from the compensation:

10 (A) Of each Group A member, five and one-half percent of the  
11 member's total earnable compensation, including compensation paid for  
12 absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title.

13 (B) Of each Group C member, the following shall apply:

14 \* \* \*

15 (ii) Beginning on July 1, 2023, a Group C member shall have the  
16 rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii) applied to the member's total  
17 earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include compensation  
18 paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title, and any  
19 additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not be  
20 adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency  
21 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and

1 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who  
2 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total  
3 earnable compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base  
4 salary. If a member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or  
5 more employers, the highest rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted from  
6 each employer. A member's rate shall be calculated according to the following  
7 rates and income brackets:

8 \* \* \*

9 (iii) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, a Group C~~  
10 ~~member shall have an effective rate, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a~~  
11 ~~percent, that is calculated based on the member's base salary as of July 1 each~~  
12 ~~year, which equals the member's total earnable compensation, including~~  
13 ~~compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title,~~  
14 ~~and any additional stipends identified as of July 1 for the next fiscal year. A~~  
15 ~~member's effective rate shall not be adjusted during any fiscal year unless the~~  
16 ~~member's full-time equivalency status changes, which shall require that the~~  
17 ~~member's effective rate be recalculated and the new rate applied for the~~  
18 ~~remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who works a part-time equivalency~~  
19 ~~status, the effective rate shall apply to the member's total earnable~~  
20 ~~compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base salary. If a~~  
21 ~~member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or more~~

1 ~~employers, the highest effective rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted~~  
2 ~~from each employer.~~ Beginning on July 1, 2024, a Group C member shall  
3 have the rate set forth in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii) applied to the member's  
4 total earnable compensation for the fiscal year, which shall include  
5 compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title,  
6 and any additional stipends identified as of July 1. A member's rate shall not  
7 be adjusted during the fiscal year unless the member's full-time equivalency  
8 status changes, which shall require that the member's rate be recalculated and  
9 the new rate applied for the remainder of that fiscal year. For a member who  
10 works a part-time equivalency status, the rate shall apply to the member's total  
11 earnable compensation and not to an amount equal to an annualized base  
12 salary. If a member is employed on a part-time equivalency status with two or  
13 more employers, the highest rate shall be applied to the amounts deducted from  
14 each employer. A member's ~~effective~~ rate shall be calculated according to the  
15 following ~~marginal~~ rates and income brackets:

16 (I) if a member's base salary is at or below \$40,000.00, the rate  
17 is ~~6.25~~ 6.15 percent;

18 (II) if a member's base salary is \$40,000.01 or more but not  
19 more than ~~\$60,000.00, the rate is the equivalent of \$2,900.00 on \$40,000.00~~  
20 ~~and 6.75 percent of the member's salary that is \$40,000.01 or more~~  
21 \$50,000.00, the rate is 6.20 percent;

1                   (III) if a member's base salary is ~~\$60,000.01~~ \$50,000.01 or  
2                   more but not more than ~~\$80,000.00~~ \$60,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~  
3                   ~~\$3,850.00 on \$60,000.00 and 7.5 percent of the member's salary that is~~  
4                   ~~\$60,000.01 or more~~ 6.30 percent;

5                   (IV) if a member's base salary is ~~\$80,000.01~~ \$60,000.01 or  
6                   more but not more than ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of~~  
7                   ~~\$5,350.00 on \$80,000.00 and 8.25 percent of the member's salary that is~~  
8                   ~~\$80,000.01 or more~~ 6.40 percent; and

9                   (V) if a member's base salary is ~~\$100,000.01~~ \$70,000.01 or  
10                  more but not more than \$80,000.00, the rate is ~~the equivalent of \$7,000.00 on~~  
11                  ~~\$100,000.00 and 9.0 percent of the member's salary that is \$100,000.01 or~~  
12                  ~~more~~ 6.55 percent.

13                  (VI) If a member's base salary is \$80,000.01 or more but not  
14                  more than \$90,000.00, the rate is 6.80 percent.

15                  (VII) If a member's base salary is \$90,000.01 or more but not  
16                  more than \$100,000.00, the rate is 7.10 percent.

17                  (VIII) If a member's base salary is \$100,000.01 or more, the  
18                  rate is 7.35 percent.

19                  Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL  
20                  BENEFITS

1       (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2), and 16 V.S.A.  
2       § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and  
3       Medical Benefits plan shall be \$61,290,528, of which \$53,740,528 shall be the  
4       State's contribution and \$7,550,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher  
5       health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1944d. Of the  
6       annual contribution, \$17,589,046 is the "normal contribution," and  
7       \$43,701,482 is the "accrued liability contribution."

8       Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

9       (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
10       pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of  
11       Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

12       (b) Of this appropriation, \$380,326 shall be transferred to the Experimental  
13       Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to comply with State  
14       matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or  
15       private funds, or both.

16       Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

17       (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
18       pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State  
19       Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

20       (b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont  
21       Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund

1 requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or  
2 both.

3 Sec. E. 602.1 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

4 (a) For the appropriation in B.1100(a)(3)(B) of this act, those programs  
5 eligible for the 50 percent tuition reduction shall be determined annually in  
6 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce and  
7 Community Development, and the Executive Director of the State Workforce  
8 Development Board. The Community Colleges of Vermont (CCV) shall report  
9 annually on or before December 15 to the Governor and General Assembly on  
10 enrollment and degree or certificate completion in programs that receive the  
11 50 percent tuition reduction, including any enrollment or graduation growth  
12 trends as compared to the previous five years.

13 Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES – ALLIED HEALTH

14 (a) If Global Commitment fund monies are unavailable, the total grant  
15 funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the  
16 General Fund or other State funding sources.

17 (b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment funds  
18 appropriated in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory  
19 therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care  
20 providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care  
21 services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

1 Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

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

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

8 (c) To the extent other funding is provided to the Vermont Student  
9 Assistance Corporation in this act or other legislation enacted into law this  
10 year, up to six percent, but not to exceed \$100,000, may be used for staff  
11 expenses associated with administering the funds. Funds shall not be used for  
12 indirect costs. To the extent these are federal funds, allocation for expenses  
13 associated with administering the funds shall be consistent with federal grant  
14 requirements.

15 Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND  
16 EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

17 (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), the sum of \$41,225 in education  
18 funds and \$41,225 in general funds is appropriated to the Vermont Student  
19 Assistance Corporation (VSAC) for dual enrollment and need-based stipend  
20 purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for  
21 financially needy students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to

1 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for  
2 the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The  
3 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for  
4 program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come,  
5 first-served basis until funds are depleted.

6 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Student Assistance  
7 Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on  
8 Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate  
9 Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and  
10 General Affairs.

11 Sec. E.700 CLEAN HEAT HOMES PROGRAM

12 (a) Purpose. The purpose of the Clean Heat Homes Program is to provide  
13 incentives for weatherization, clean heat systems, and electrification ready  
14 upgrades for low- and moderate-income Vermonters. The Program shall be  
15 focus on underserved households who are not eligible for the Weatherization  
16 Assistance Program operated by the Department for Children and Families –  
17 Office of Economic Opportunity but who earn less than 120 percent of Area  
18 Median Income.

19 (b) The Agency of Natural Resources shall grant \$3,000,000 to the  
20 Vermont Energy Investment Corporation to administer the Program. The  
21 Vermont Energy Investment Corporation shall:



1           (1) identify and conduct outreach to eligible households;  
2           (2) serve as a single point of contact to help identify, coordinate, and  
3 provide incentive funding to support “whole home climate upgrades”  
4 including:

5                   (A) thermal energy efficiency and moisture management  
6 improvements,

7                   (B) fossil fuel heating system displacement options, and

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

11           (3) Coordinate with distribution utilities and other weatherization and  
12 energy efficiency providers to ensure Program funds are used to complement  
13 and leverage other existing incentives.

14           Sec. E.900 TRANSPORTATION FUND RESERVE – REVERSIONS

15                   EXCLUDED

16           (a) To calculate the fiscal year 2024 Transportation Fund Stabilization  
17 Reserve requirement of five percent of prior year appropriations, reversions of  
18 \$20,727,011 are excluded from the fiscal year 2023 total appropriations  
19 amount.

1 Sec. E.1000 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

2 § 1001b. ~~CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CASH FUND~~ INFRASTRUCTURE  
3 RESERVE FUND

4 (a) Creation. There is hereby created the ~~Capital Expenditure Cash Fund~~  
5 Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund to be administered by the Commissioner  
6 of Finance and Management, in consultation with the State Treasurer, for the  
7 purpose of using general funds to defray the costs of future capital  
8 expenditures that would otherwise be authorized in the capital construction act  
9 and paid for using the State's general obligation bonding authority and debt  
10 service obligations or paid for as a direct associated cost of a capital project.

11 (b) Fund. The Fund may consist of:

- 12 (1) any appropriations or transfers made by the General Assembly; and  
13 (2) any interest earned by the Fund.

14 (c) Use of funds. ~~Expenditure shall only be made from the Fund by~~  
15 ~~appropriations by the General Assembly. Plans for use shall be submitted as~~  
16 ~~part of the operating budget adjustment or operating budget process. Monies in~~  
17 the Fund shall only be used for:

- 18 (1) ~~costs associated with a proposed capital project that occur prior to~~  
19 ~~the construction phase of that project, including feasibility, planning, design,~~  
20 ~~and engineering and architectural costs~~ tangible capital investments, as

1 described in section 310 of this title, with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years or  
2 more;

3 (2) ~~projects with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years; engineering and~~  
4 architectural costs directly associated with a proposed capital project; and

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

7 (4) ~~other eligible capital projects receiving an appropriation from the~~  
8 ~~General Assembly.~~

9 (d) Project recommendation and approval. The House Corrections and  
10 Institutions Committee shall review any requests for use of the Fund and  
11 recommend projects to be paid for from the Fund to the House Committee on  
12 Appropriations. Expenditures shall only be made from the Fund by  
13 appropriation by the General Assembly.

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

16 (f) Spending authority. Any entity authorized to make expenditures from  
17 the Fund shall have not more than two years from the legislative session in  
18 which the act authorizing the expenditure was enacted to encumber the funds.  
19 Any remaining unencumbered funds shall remain part of the Fund.

20 (e)(g) Early redemption transfer. If any expenditures are made from the  
21 Fund or the General Assembly appropriates general funds to pay for the early

1 redemption of general obligation bonds pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) of this  
2 section, then an amount equal to the reduction in debt service required in any  
3 fiscal year resulting from that redemption shall be transferred to the Fund.

4 (h) Report.

5 (1) On or before November 15 each year, the Commissioner of Finance  
6 and Management shall require each entity to which spending authority has  
7 been authorized for a capital project from the Fund to submit a report on the  
8 current fund balances of each authorized project with unencumbered funds.  
9 The report shall include plans for the unencumbered funds, any projects or  
10 contracts the funds are assigned to, and an anticipated timeline for  
11 encumbering the funds.

12 (2) On or before December 15 each year, the Commissioner of Finance  
13 and Management shall submit in a consolidated format the reports required by  
14 subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House Committee on Corrections and  
15 Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

16 Sec. E.1000.1 32 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

17 § 1001. CAPITAL DEBT AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) Committee estimate of a prudent amount of net State tax-supported  
20 debt; affordability considerations. On or before September 30 of each year, the  
21 Committee shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly the

1 Committee's estimate of net State tax-supported debt that prudently may be  
2 authorized for the next fiscal year, together with a report explaining the basis  
3 for the estimate. The Committee's estimate shall not take into consideration  
4 the balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the Capital  
5 Infrastructure Reserve Fund, established pursuant to Sec. 1001b of this title.  
6 The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not  
7 apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In developing its annual  
8 estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the Committee shall consider:

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. E.1000.2 32 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

11 § 307. FORM OF BUDGET

12 (a) The budget shall be arranged and classified so as to show separately the  
13 following estimates and recommendations:

14 \* \* \*

15 (f) The budget shall also include the Governor's recommendation for any  
16 proposed transfers to the Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund, established in  
17 Sec. 1001b of this title.

18 Sec. E.1000.3 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 53(b)(5), as amended by  
19 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.102, is further amended to read:

20 \* \* \*

1 (B) \$20,000,000 shall be appropriated to the State Treasurer's Office  
2 and used for redeeming State of Vermont general obligation bonds prior to  
3 maturity. ~~Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. §1001b(e), beginning in fiscal year~~  
4 ~~2024, to the extent bonds are redeemed, an amount equal to the reduction in~~  
5 ~~payments for debt service required resulting from any redemption shall be~~  
6 ~~transferred and reserved in the Capital Expenditure Cash Fund, as establish in~~  
7 ~~32 V.S.A. §1001b created in Sec. E. 106.1 of H.740 of 2022.~~

8 \* \* \* Workforce and Economic Development Policies (H.484) \* \* \*

9 Sec. F.1 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

10 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

11 (a) Of the ~~\$1,500,000~~ \$1,150,000 appropriated from the General Fund to  
12 the Department of Labor in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 5a.,  
13 \$1,200,000 is reverted to the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 and allocated as  
14 follows:

15 (1) \$200,000 to the State Workforce Development Board for the New  
16 American Labor Force Program as appropriated in Sec. B.1100 (q).

17 (2) \$1,000,000 to provide services through the Work-Based Learning  
18 and Training Program pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 547 as appropriated in Sec.  
19 B.100(q).

20 Sec. F.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 51a is amended to read:

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

1 (a) Establishment and appropriation.

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

6 (2) The sum of ~~\$15,180,000~~ \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the  
7 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery  
8 Funds to the Department of Financial Regulation for fiscal years 2023 and  
9 2024 for the provision of grants to reimburse employers for the cost of  
10 providing COVID-19-related paid leave. ~~Not more than seven percent of the~~  
11 ~~amount appropriated pursuant to this subdivision may be used for expenses~~  
12 ~~related to Program administration and outreach.~~

13 \* \* \*

14 (c) Grant program.

15 \* \* \*

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

1 subdivision (3), for calendar quarters in the program period prior to the  
2 preceding calendar quarter.

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

6 (i) the employer has not already received grant funds in relation to  
7 the COVID-19-related leave; and

8 (ii) the costs of the COVID-19-related leave are eligible for a  
9 grant pursuant to the provisions of this section and any applicable federal  
10 requirements.

11 (4) An employer may combine grant funds with funding from other  
12 sources but shall not use grant funds from multiple sources for the same  
13 instance of paid leave provided to its employees for COVID-19-related  
14 reasons. As used in this subdivision, an “instance” means a calendar day in  
15 which the employee was absent from work for a COVID-19-related reason.

16 \* \* \*

17 (6) Grants shall be awarded to eligible employers on a first-come, first-  
18 served basis, subject to available funding.

19 \* \* \*

20 (e) Amount of grants.



1           (1) Employers may, subject to the limitations of subdivision (2) of this  
2 subsection (e), apply for grants to ~~either~~ reimburse the cost of COVID-19-  
3 related paid leave provided to employees ~~or to provide funds to be used to pay~~  
4 ~~the cost to retroactively provide paid leave to employees who took unpaid~~  
5 ~~leave for COVID-19 related reasons.~~

6           ~~(A) For reimbursement of COVID-19 related paid leave that was~~  
7 ~~already provided, the employer may, subject to the limitations of~~  
8 ~~subdivision (2) of this subsection (e), apply for a grant in an amount equal to~~  
9 the number of hours of COVID-19-related paid leave provided to each  
10 employee multiplied by the greater of either the minimum wage established  
11 pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 384 or the employee's regular hourly wage.

12           ~~(B) For COVID-19 related paid leave that will be provided~~  
13 ~~retroactively to employees who took unpaid leave for COVID-19 related~~  
14 ~~reasons, the employer may, subject to the limitations of subdivision (2) of this~~  
15 ~~subsection (e), apply for a grant in an amount equal to the number of hours of~~  
16 ~~COVID-19 related paid leave to be provided to each employee multiplied by~~  
17 ~~the greater of either the minimum wage established pursuant to 21 V.S.A.~~  
18 ~~§ 384 or the employee's regular hourly wage.~~

19           Sec. F.3 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 6 is added to read:

20                       Subchapter 6. Forgivable Loan Incentive Programs

21           § 2871. VERMONT TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE

1                   PROGRAM

2                   (a) As used in this section:

3                   (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
4 established in section 2821 of this title.

5                   (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
6 requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

7                   (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education  
8 institution as defined under section 2822 of this title.

9                   (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering  
10 tuition, which may also include room, board, and the cost of required books  
11 and supplies for up to full-time attendance in an undergraduate or graduate  
12 program at an eligible school.

13                   (5) “Program” means the Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive  
14 Program created under this section.

15                   (b) The Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program is created  
16 and shall be administered by the Corporation. The Program provides  
17 forgivable loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to  
18 working as a teacher in a Vermont public school and who meet the eligibility  
19 requirements in subsection (d) of this section. The intent of the Program is to  
20 encourage students to enter into teaching professions, with an emphasis on  
21 encouraging Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color Vermonters, New

1 Americans, and other historically underrepresented communities in an effort to  
2 diversify the educator workforce.

3 (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program  
4 on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
5 General Assembly for this purpose.

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

9 (1) be enrolled in teaching program at an eligible school;

10 (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual  
11 is enrolled;

12 (3) agree to work as a teacher in Vermont employed directly by a public  
13 school located in Vermont for a minimum of one year following licensure for  
14 each year of forgivable loan awarded;

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

19 (5) have completed the Program's application form, the Free  
20 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and for Vermont residents, the

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 Sec. F.4 EMERGING PATHWAYS TO TEACHING; REPORT

4 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to encourage and support the  
5 development and retention of qualified and effective Vermont educators. To  
6 combat the growing educator shortage throughout the State and meet the needs  
7 of Vermont students, it is necessary to invest in nontraditional educator  
8 training programs.

9 (b) Grant program.

10 (1) Program creation. In fiscal year 2024, there is established the  
11 Emerging Pathways Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of  
12 Education, to provide grants to expand support, mentoring, and professional  
13 development to prospective educators seeking licensure through the Agency of  
14 Education's emerging pathways, including peer review and apprentice  
15 pathways, with the goal of increased program completion rates and increased  
16 rates of licensure of underrepresented demographics.

17 (2) Program administration. The Agency shall adopt policies,  
18 procedures, and guidelines necessary for implementation of the Program  
19 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

20 (3) Eligibility criteria. The Agency shall issue grants to organizations,  
21 school districts, or a group of school districts for the development and

1 administration of programs and program coordinators designed to provide  
2 prospective educators in emerging pathways to teaching with the support  
3 necessary for successful entry into the educator workforce. Recruitment,  
4 support, and retention of prospective educator candidates shall focus on  
5 diversity, equity, and inclusion. Support provided through the Program may  
6 include:

7 (A) support through the Praxis exam process;

8 (B) local, educator-led seminars designed around the Vermont  
9 licensure portfolio themes;

10 (C) local educator mentors;

11 (D) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing  
12 process; and

13 (E) continued professional development support within the first year  
14 of licensure.

15 (4) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Agency of Education  
16 shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the status of  
17 the implementation of the Emerging Pathways Grant Program and a summary  
18 and performance review of the programs to which grants were awarded. The  
19 report shall include any metrics used in the performance review, the number of  
20 program participants, endorsement areas of participants, feedback from  
21 participants and mentors, and any recommendation for legislative action.

1 Sec. F.5 TEACHER LICENSING FEES; SUSPENSION

2 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, peer review  
3 process one-time licensure fee requirements under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) are  
4 suspended during fiscal years 2024 through 2029.

5 (b) In fiscal year 2024, the estimated fees that would have been  
6 collected under 16 V.S.A. § 1697(a)(7) shall be accounted for through funds  
7 appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General Fund.

8 Sec. F.6 EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

9 (a) Educator demographics. In order to understand and improve the  
10 longstanding and well-documented issue of underrepresentation in the  
11 Vermont educator workforce, including underrepresentation of Black,  
12 Indigenous, and Persons of Color; New Americans; and other historically  
13 underrepresented communities, the Agency of Education shall collect  
14 demographic information from educators and report such information in its  
15 annual teacher and staff full-time equivalencies report. The Agency shall  
16 submit the educator demographic information section of the report annually to  
17 the General Assembly on or before each January 15.

18 (b) Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant  
19 Program.

20 (1) There is created the Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity  
21 Groups Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants for the support of

1 existing and the development of new educator affinity groups for historically  
2 underrepresented groups. The Agency of Education shall administer the  
3 Program.

4 (2) The Agency shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
5 necessary for the implementation of the Program established pursuant to this  
6 subsection (b).

7 Sec. F.7 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONAL  
8 DEVELOPMENT; INTENT; CONTRACT

9 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to assist the Department of  
10 Corrections to continue and further engage in a professional development  
11 initiative to enhance supervisory effectiveness and strengthen leadership  
12 development within the Department and among its employees. The  
13 Department's enhanced supervisory training is part of its effort to address an  
14 employee workforce crisis and strengthen workplace satisfaction.

15 (b) The Department of Corrections shall contract or expand an existing  
16 contract with a vendor to provide supervisory and management professional  
17 development services to the Department and among its employees.

18 (c) On or before March 15, 2024, the Department and the contracted  
19 vendor shall testify before the House Committee on Corrections and  
20 Institutions about the progress and effectiveness of its professional



1 development initiative. The Department shall make management, supervisory,  
2 and frontline staff available to testify.

3 Sec. F.8 28 V.S.A. § 126 is added to read:

4 § 126. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM;

5 CONFIDENTIALITY

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) “Department” has the same meaning as in subdivision 3(4) of this  
8 title.

9 (2) “Participant” means a Department staff member who has been  
10 involved in a traumatic incident by reason of employment at the Department  
11 and who has agreed to participate in the Department’s peer support program.

12 (3) “Peer support” means appropriate support and services offered by a  
13 peer support specialist to a participant.

14 (4) “Peer support program” means a program established by the  
15 Department of Corrections to provide appropriate peer support services to  
16 Department staff members.

17 (5) “Peer support session” means a peer support program session for a  
18 Department staff member who has been involved in a traumatic incident by  
19 reason of employment at the Department or related to other personal matters.

20 (6) “Peer support specialist” means a Department staff member who, by  
21 reason of the staff member’s prior experience, training, or interest, has

1 expressed a desire and has been selected to provide appropriate peer support  
2 services to a participant.

3 (7) “Staff member” means a supervising officer as defined in  
4 subdivision 3(9) of this title, a correctional officer as defined in subdivision  
5 3(10) of this title, and any other employee of the Department.

6 (b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, any  
7 communication made by a participant or peer support specialist in a peer  
8 support session of the peer support program, including any oral or written  
9 information conveyed during a peer support session, shall not be disclosed by  
10 any individual participating in the peer support session.

11 (2) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, any  
12 communication relating to a peer support session between peer support  
13 specialists, between peer support specialists and participants of the peer  
14 support program, between participants of the peer support program, or between  
15 any other Department staff member, including any oral or written information,  
16 shall not be disclosed by any individual participating in the communication.

17 (3) Written communications described in this subsection, such as notes,  
18 records, and reports related to a peer support session, are exempt from public  
19 inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept  
20 confidential. The Public Records Act exemptions created in this section shall

1 not be subject to the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 317(e) (repeal of Public Records  
2 Act exemptions).

3 (c) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, any  
4 communication made by a participant or peer support specialist in a peer  
5 support session, including any oral or written communication, such as notes,  
6 records, and reports related to the peer support session, shall not be admissible  
7 in a judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceeding. Limitations on  
8 disclosure imposed by this subsection include disclosure during any discovery  
9 conducted as part of an adjudicatory proceeding. Limitations on disclosure  
10 imposed by this subsection shall not include knowledge acquired by the  
11 Department or staff members from observations made during the course of  
12 employment or information acquired by the by the Department or staff  
13 members during the course of employment that is otherwise subject to  
14 discovery or introduction into evidence.

15 (d)(1) Confidentiality protections described in subsections (b) and (c) of  
16 this section shall only apply to a peer support session conducted by an  
17 individual who has:

18 (A) been designated by the Department or the peer support program  
19 to act as a peer support specialist; and

20 (B) received and completed training in peer support and providing  
21 emotional and moral support to Department staff members who have been

1 involved in emotionally traumatic incidents by reason of their employment or  
2 other personal matters.

3 (2) Confidentiality protections described in subsections (b) and (c) of  
4 this section shall not apply to the following information as it pertains to an  
5 individual designated to receive such information in the normal course the  
6 individual's professional responsibilities:

7 (A) any threat of suicide or homicide made by a participant of a peer  
8 support session or any information conveyed in a peer support session relating  
9 to a threat of suicide or homicide;

10 (B) any information relating to the abuse of a child or vulnerable  
11 adult, or other information that is required to be reported by law;

12 (C) any admission of criminal conduct; or

13 (D) any admission of a plan to commit a crime.

14 (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any communications between peer  
15 support specialists regarding a peer support session or between peer support  
16 specialists and participants of the peer support program.

17 (f)(1) The Department shall not be liable for any disclosure made in  
18 violation of this section by a peer support specialist or participant who  
19 participates in a peer support session.

20 (2) A peer support specialist who in good faith provides appropriate peer  
21 support services to a participant of the peer support program shall be immune

1 from criminal or civil liability for any injury to the participant unless the peer  
2 support specialist's conduct constitutes gross negligence, recklessness, or  
3 intentional misconduct.

4 Sec. F.9 CLIMATE WORKFORCE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN;

5 ADVANCE VERMONT

6 (a) Advance Vermont shall create a climate workforce-focused digital  
7 public resource that engages current and prospective employees, Vermont  
8 youth, adults interested in changing careers, and individuals yet to earn a  
9 postsecondary credential, or those who are looking to upskill.

10 (b) The resource shall include:

11 (1) centralized information about career and education opportunities in  
12 Vermont that build awareness of needed climate careers; and

13 (2) video series and other media featuring opportunities with employers  
14 and employee success stories.

15 Sec. F.10 VERMONT SUSTAINABLE JOBS FUND; BUSINESS

16 COACHING

17 (a) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund shall recruit a cohort of up to  
18 twelve existing companies and a cohort of up to twelve trained tradespeople to  
19 receive advanced business assistance to enable them to either pivot their  
20 existing business or start a new business that will expand the State's ability to

1 deploy renewable energy and efficiency technologies to more homes and  
2 businesses across the State.

3 Sec. F.11 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; VERMONT POLICE  
4 ACADEMY; STUDY

5 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council  
6 and representatives of the Vermont State Colleges and other public and private  
7 postsecondary institutions that offer a degree program in criminal justice shall  
8 review, consider, and take steps necessary to standardize the curricula offered  
9 and avoid redundant requirements for obtaining certification by prospective  
10 criminal justice personnel and shall submit a report of its actions to the House  
11 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate  
12 Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs.

13 Sec. F.12 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; CERTIFICATE IN 3-D  
14 TECHNOLOGY

15 (a) The Vermont State Colleges shall establish a Certificate in 3-D  
16 Technology program offered as a full-time, six-week, intensive residential  
17 summer program at Vermont State University, which will:

18 (1) offer knowledge and hands-on experience that appeals to a wide  
19 range of interests from science and engineering to the arts and humanities;

20 (2) position students for greater success in college and with an  
21 employable edge upon completion;

1 (3) attract diverse types of learners from high schools and CTE centers;

2 (4) foster interest in STE(A)M with learners across different disciplines;

3 (5) leverage the latest 3-D technology available at the Advanced

4 Manufacturing Center; and

5 (6) build local and national awareness of the Vermont State College

6 System's innovative, experiential learning methodology and technical

7 expertise.

8 Sec. F.13 CREDENTIAL OF VALUE GOAL; PUBLIC-PRIVATE

9 PARTNERSHIP; REPORT

10 (a) Advance Vermont shall continue work pursuant to 2022 Acts and

11 Resolves No. 183, Sec. 39 in support of the State's goal articulated in 10

12 V.S.A. § 546 that 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of

13 value by 2025.

14 (b) On or before December 15, 2023, Advance Vermont shall report to the

15 House and Senate committees of jurisdiction regarding the use of grant funds

16 received from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in fiscal year 2024,

17 activities performed, and outcomes achieved pursuant to this section.

18 Sec. F.14 18 V.S.A. § 39 is added to read:

19 § 39. VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

20 PRACTITIONER FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

21 (a) As used in this section:

1           (1) “Corporation” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
2           established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

3           (2) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
4           requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

5           (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education  
6           institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

7           (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering  
8           tuition, which may also cover room, board, and the cost of required books and  
9           supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

10           (5) “Program” means the Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
11           Practitioner Forgivable Loan Incentive Program created under this section.

12           (b) The Vermont Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Forgivable  
13           Loan Incentive Program is created and shall be administered by the  
14           Department of Health in collaboration with the Corporation. The Program  
15           provides forgivable loans to students enrolled in a master’s program at an  
16           eligible school who commit to working as a psychiatric mental health nurse  
17           practitioner in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in  
18           subsection (d) of this section.

19           (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program  
20           on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
21           General Assembly for this purpose.



1        (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,  
2        whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following  
3        requirements:

4            (1) be enrolled at an eligible school in a program, whether through in-  
5        person or remote instruction, that leads to a master's degree or specialty in  
6        psychiatric mental health;

7            (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual  
8        is enrolled;

9            (3) agree to work as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in  
10       Vermont for a minimum of one year following licensure for each year of  
11       forgivable loan awarded;

12           (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce  
13       the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to  
14       subsection (f) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of  
15       service required in subdivision (3) of this subsection;

16           (5) have completed the Program's application form and the Free  
17       Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), in accordance with a schedule  
18       determined by the Corporation; and

19           (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may  
20       require.

1       (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a psychiatric mental health  
2       nurse practitioner in this State in compliance with the Program for a period that  
3       would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit received by the  
4       individual, other than for good cause as determined by the Corporation in  
5       consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the individual shall  
6       receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant  
7       to the terms of the interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the  
8       individual at the time of entering the Program.

9       (f) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
10       necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum  
11       forgivable loan amounts.

12       Sec. F.15 AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; DESIGNATED AND  
13               SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKFORCE  
14               DEVELOPMENT

15       (a) Of the funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of  
16       Human Services in this act, \$3,000,000 shall be distributed to the designated  
17       and specialized service agencies equitably based on each agency's proportion  
18       of full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff to the total number of FTE staff across all  
19       designated and specialized service agencies statewide.

20       (b)(1) Each designated and specialized service agency shall make the funds  
21       received pursuant to subsection (a) of this section available to its current and

1 prospective employees on a rolling basis in exchange for a one-year service  
2 obligation to work at a designated or specialized service agency in this State.

3 (2) The funds may be used for the following purposes:

4 (A) student loan repayment; and

5 (B) tuition assistance.

6 (3) Loan repayment and tuition assistance funds shall be in the form of  
7 forgivable loans, with the debt forgiven upon the employee's completion of the  
8 required service obligation.

9 (c) On or before March 1, 2024, the Agency of Human Services shall make  
10 a presentation available to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health  
11 Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations  
12 and on Health and Welfare on the use of the funds appropriated in this section.

13 Sec. F.16 18 V.S.A. § 40 is added to read:

14 § 40. VERMONT DENTAL HYGIENIST FORGIVABLE LOAN

15 INCENTIVE PROGRAM

16 (a) As used in this section:

17 (1) "Corporation" means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
18 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2821.

19 (2) "Eligible individual" means an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
20 requirements under this section for a forgivable loan.

1           (3) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education  
2           institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

3           (4) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering  
4           tuition, which may also include room, board, and the cost of required books  
5           and supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

6           (5) “Program” means the Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan  
7           Incentive Program created under this section.

8           (b) The Vermont Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan Incentive Program is  
9           created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration  
10           with the Corporation. The Program provides forgivable loans to students  
11           enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a dental hygienist in  
12           this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (d) of this  
13           section.

14           (c) The Corporation shall disburse forgivable loan funds under the Program  
15           on behalf of eligible individuals, subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
16           General Assembly for this purpose.

17           (d) To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual,  
18           whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following  
19           requirements:

20           (1) be enrolled at a dental hygienist program at an eligible school;

1           (2) maintain good standing at the eligible school at which the individual  
2           is enrolled;

3           (3) agree to work as a dental hygienist in Vermont for a minimum of  
4           one year following licensure for each year of forgivable loan awarded;

5           (4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce  
6           the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to  
7           subsection (g) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of  
8           service required in this subsection;

9           (5) have completed the Program's application form, the Free  
10          Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant  
11          application each academic year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule  
12          determined by the Corporation; and

13          (6) have provided such other documentation as the Corporation may  
14          require.

15          (e) If an eligible individual fails to serve as a dental hygienist in this State  
16          for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit  
17          received by the individual, other than for good cause as determined by the  
18          Corporation in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the  
19          individual shall receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of  
20          the loan pursuant to the terms of the interest-free credit agreement or  
21          promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

1       (f) There shall be no deadline to apply for a forgivable loan under this  
2       section. Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds  
3       are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over  
4       and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation in the  
5       following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this  
6       section.

7       (g) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
8       necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum  
9       forgivable loan amounts.

10      Sec. F.17 10 V.S.A. § 2 is added to read:

11      § 2. SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXCHANGE

12       (a) There is created the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange, a  
13       business assistance program through which the regional development  
14       corporations shall provide small- and mid-sized businesses with professional  
15       and technical assistance:

16           (1) through in-house Business Navigators;

17           (2) through partnerships with organizations specializing in outreach to  
18       mature workers, youth, individuals with disabilities, individuals who have been  
19       involved with the correction system, Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color  
20       Vermonters, New Americans, and other historically marginalized populations;  
21       and

1           (3) through grants to private providers for professional services,

2           including:

3                   (A) business operations, financial management, and grant writing;

4                   (B) digital strategies;

5                   (C) architecture and physical space design;

6                   (D) reconfiguring manufacturing equipment and processes and

7           incorporating safety measures;

8                   (E) technology and software consulting;

9                   (F) legal and other professional services; and

10                  (G) other technical assistance.

11           (b)(1) Through the Exchange, the regional development corporations shall  
12           maintain a directory of, and build connections to, Vermont technical assistance  
13           providers who have demonstrated the ability and expertise to assist businesses  
14           with critical tools to grow and adapt their businesses to the ever-changing  
15           business climate.

16           (2) The Exchange shall award technical assistance grants of not more  
17           than \$5,000 per business for technical services from approved providers.

18           (3) To be eligible to receive technical assistance through the Exchange,  
19           a business:

20                   (A) must be a for-profit entity located in Vermont; and

21                   (B) must have at least \$5,000 in average annual revenue.

1           (4) A business whose owner's income is higher than the federal labor  
2           market area in which the business operates, as evidenced by a self-attestation  
3           provided by the owner, shall provide a 50 percent match for the costs of  
4           professional services funded by a grant.

5           (c) The regional development corporations shall:

6           (1) operate the Exchange to produce benefits for both the client  
7           companies as well as the vendors providing the assistance;

8           (2) conduct outreach and direct engagement to promote participation by  
9           businesses in rural areas of this State and businesses owned by mature workers,  
10          youth, individuals with disabilities, individuals who have been involved with  
11          the correction system, Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color Vermonters,  
12          New Americans, and other historically marginalized populations; and

13          (3) supporting businesses in anticipating and addressing changing  
14          workforce needs and availability through creative solutions, including split  
15          shifts, shorter workweeks, and cross training.

16          (d) The regional development corporations shall publish a report on the  
17          activities and performance of the Exchange on or before January 15 and July  
18          15 each year.

19          Sec. F.18 BROWNFIELDS FUNDING; USE IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

20          (a) The Department of Economic Development shall use the \$8,000,000  
21          appropriated in fiscal year 2024 for brownfields redevelopment for the



1 remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites to be used in the same  
2 manner as the Brownfields Revitalization Fund established by 10 V.S.A.  
3 § 6654 except, notwithstanding the grant limitations in 10 V.S.A. § 6654,  
4 projects supported by this appropriation shall not be limited to a maximum  
5 amount per site. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
6 shall award the amount of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 to regional planning  
7 commissions for the purposes of brownfields assessment. In awarding funds  
8 under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Vermont Association  
9 of Planning and Development Agencies, shall select one regional planning  
10 commission to administer these funds. To ensure statewide availability, the  
11 selected regional planning commission shall subgrant to regional planning  
12 commissions with brownfield programs, with not more than 10 percent of the  
13 funds being used for administrative purposes.

14 Sec. F.19 10 V.S.A. § 6654(e) is amended to read:

15 (e) A grant may be awarded by the Secretary of Commerce and  
16 Community Development with the approval of the Secretary of Natural  
17 Resources, provided that:

18 (1) A grant may not exceed \$50,000 for characterization and assessment  
19 of a site.

20 (2) A grant may not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ \$500,000 for remediation of a site.



1 (I) the individual becomes a full-time resident of this State;

2 (II) the individual becomes a full-time employee at a Vermont  
3 location of a for-profit or nonprofit business organization domiciled or  
4 authorized to do business in this State, or of a State, municipal, or other public  
5 sector employer; and

6 (III) the employer attests to the Agency that, after reasonable  
7 time and effort, the employer was unable to fill the employee's position from  
8 among Vermont applicants; or

9 (ii) ~~on or after February 1, 2022~~ the individual is a new remote  
10 employee who meets the following criteria:

11 (I) the individual becomes a full-time resident of this State; and

12 (II) the individual is a full-time employee of an out-of-state  
13 business and performs the majority of ~~his or her~~ the employee's employment  
14 duties remotely from a home office or a co-working space located in this State.

15 (B) The individual receives gross salary or wages that equal or  
16 exceed the Vermont livable wage rate calculated pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 526.

17 (C) The individual is subject to Vermont income tax.

18 \* \* \* Economic Development;

19 Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program \* \* \*

20 Sec. F.21 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. H.18, as amended by 2022

21 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 46, is further amended to read:



1 efforts, including the purchase, demolition, and renovation of property for  
2 industrial use.

3 (2)(A) There is established a Rural Industry Development Special Fund  
4 comprising amounts appropriated to the Fund, contributions from other  
5 sources, and the return of principal from the sale of any property invested  
6 through the Program.

7 (B) Monies in the Fund shall be available to Agency to make grants  
8 through the Program to assist local development corporations with business  
9 relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.

10 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, interest  
11 earned and any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained  
12 by the Fund and carried forward in the Fund.

13 (b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall  
14 consider:

15 (1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including  
16 nonprofit organizations, in the applicant's region;

17 (2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of  
18 businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;

19 (3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a  
20 grant award; and

21 (4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.

1       (c) Eligible applicants; priority.

2           (1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development  
3       corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this  
4       State.

5           (2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may  
6       designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities  
7       that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.

8       (d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient may use funding for the following:

9           (1) to purchase land for potential industrial use;

10          (2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing  
11       infrastructure for property the recipient owns;

12          (3) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the  
13       Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12,  
14       subchapter 3; or

15          (4) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant  
16       consistent with this section.

17       (e) Application; market assessment.

18           (1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional  
19       market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed  
20       development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth  
21       opportunities.

1           (2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to  
2 begin and complete the proposed project:

3           (A) community and regional support for the project;

4           (B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;

5           (C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a  
6 plan for fiscal viability; and

7           (D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the  
8 project and a plan for obtaining the permits.

9           (f) Awards; amount.

10           (1) An award shall not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 20 percent of  
11 the total project cost.

12           (2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other  
13 sources.

14           (3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the  
15 applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.

16           (4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future  
17 amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but  
18 eligible use.

19           (g) Deed restrictions; property sales. The Agency shall include deed  
20 restrictions that require the return of the principal amount of the grant to the  
21 Special Fund and may require the payment of a percentage of the sales profit.

1 Sec. F.23 24 V.S.A. § 2799 is amended to read:

2 § 2799. BETTER PLACES PROGRAM; CROWD GRANTING

3 (a)(1) There is created the Better Places Program within the Department of  
4 Housing and Community Development, and the Better Places Fund, which the  
5 Department shall manage pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

6 (2) The purpose of the Program is to utilize crowdfunding to spark  
7 community revitalization through collaborative grantmaking for projects that  
8 create, activate, or revitalize public spaces.

9 (3) The Department may administer the Program in coordination with  
10 and support from other State agencies and nonprofit and philanthropic partners.

11 (b) The Fund is composed of the following:

12 (1) State or federal funds appropriated by the General Assembly;

13 (2) gifts, grants, or other contributions to the Fund; and

14 (3) any interest earned by the Fund.

15 (c) As used in this section, “public space” means an area or place that is  
16 open and accessible to all people with no charge for admission and includes  
17 village greens, squares, parks, community centers, town halls, libraries, and  
18 other publicly accessible buildings and connecting spaces such as sidewalks,  
19 streets, alleys, and trails.



1 (d)(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall  
2 establish an application process, eligibility criteria, and criteria for prioritizing  
3 assistance for awarding grants through the Program.

4 (2) The Department may award a grant to a municipality, a nonprofit  
5 organization, or a community group with a fiscal sponsor for a project that is  
6 located in or serves a designated downtown, village center, new town center, or  
7 neighborhood development area that will create a new public space or  
8 revitalize or activate an existing public space.

9 (3) The Department may award a grant to not more than ~~one project~~  
10 three projects per calendar year within a municipality.

11 (4) The minimum amount of a grant award is \$5,000, and the maximum  
12 amount of a grant award is \$40,000.

13 (5) The Department shall develop matching grant eligibility  
14 requirements to ensure a broad base of community and financial support for  
15 the project, subject to the following:

16 (A) A project shall include in-kind support and matching funds raised  
17 through a crowdfunding approach that includes multiple donors.

18 (B) An applicant may not donate to its own crowdfunding campaign.

19 (C) A donor may not contribute more than \$10,000 or 35 percent of  
20 the campaign goal, whichever is less.

1 (D) An applicant shall provide matching funds raised through  
2 crowdfunding of not less than 33 percent of the grant award.

3 (e) The Department of Housing and Community Development, with the  
4 assistance of a fiscal agent, shall distribute funds under this section in a manner  
5 that provides funding for projects of various sizes in as many geographical  
6 areas of the State as possible.

7 (f) The Department of Housing and Community Development may use up  
8 to 15 percent of any appropriation to the Fund from the General Fund to assist  
9 with crowdfunding, administration, training, and technological needs of the  
10 Program.

11 Sec. F.24 24 V.S.A. § 2792(d) is amended to read:

12 (d) The Department shall provide staff and administrative support to the  
13 State Board, ~~and~~ shall produce guidelines to direct municipalities seeking to  
14 obtain designation under this chapter, and shall pay per diem compensation for  
15 board members pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010(b).

16 Sec. F.25 24 V.S.A. § 2793(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first  
18 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
19 application, the State Board shall designate a downtown development district if  
20 the State Board finds in its written decision that the municipality has:

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. F.26 24 V.S.A. § 2793a(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first  
3 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
4 application, the State Board shall designate a village center if the State Board  
5 finds the applicant has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

6 Sec. F.27 24 V.S.A. § 2793b(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first  
8 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
9 application, the State Board shall designate a new town center development  
10 district if the State Board finds, with respect to that district, the municipality  
11 has:

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. F.28 24 V.S.A. § 2793e(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) ~~Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application~~ Upon the first  
15 meeting of the State Board held after 45 days of receipt of a completed  
16 application, for designation of a neighborhood development area, the State  
17 Board, after opportunity for public comment, shall approve a neighborhood  
18 development area if the Board determines that the applicant has met the  
19 requirements of this section.

20 Sec. F.29 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 196, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts  
21 and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 13, is further amended to read:

1           Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

2           (a) The Secretary of ~~State~~ Digital Services shall serve as the chair of a  
3 steering committee, composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of  
4 Commerce and Community Development, the Secretary of Administration,  
5 and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees.

6           (b) ~~The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the~~ steering committee,  
7 and in collaboration with other State agencies and departments and interested  
8 stakeholders ~~as necessary~~, shall:

9           (1) review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps  
10 to enhance the Secretary of State's one-stop business portal for businesses,  
11 entrepreneurs, and citizens to provide information about starting and operating  
12 a business in Vermont; and

13           (2) submit on or before December 15, ~~2019~~ 2023:

14           (A) a design proposal that includes a project scope, timeline,  
15 roadmap, and cost projections;

16           (B) any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the  
17 proposal; and

18           (C) a sustainable funding model for the portal.

19           (c) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy, and  
20 integrate into the current one-stop portal to the extent feasible, features that:

1           (1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a ~~clear~~  
2           comprehensive, one-stop compilation of other State business requirements,  
3           including permits and licenses;

4           (2) implement a data collection component that offers the registrant the  
5           option to self-identify, and make available to the public through the business  
6           search function, demographic information concerning ownership of the  
7           business, including whether the business is woman-owned, veteran-owned,  
8           BIPOC-owned, LGBTQ-owned, or minority-owned;

9           (3) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State by  
10          allowing a person to pay amounts ~~he or she~~ the person owes to the State for  
11          taxes, fees, or other charges to a single recipient within State government;

12          (3)(4) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make  
13          a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if  
14          nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

15          (4)(5) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to  
16          persons who are forming or operating a small business;

17          (5)(6) after registration, provide information about additional and  
18          ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or  
19          explore any assistance needed;

1           ~~(6)~~(7) provide guidance and information about State and federal  
2 programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-  
3 based businesses of interest; and

4           ~~(7)~~(8) map communication channels for project updates, including  
5 digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

6           (d) All State agencies and departments shall designate a single employee or  
7 team of employees who are charged with the duty to provide assistance to the  
8 steering committee upon its request.

9           (e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services  
10 through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses  
11 with 20 or fewer employees.

12           (f) The Agency of Digital Services shall assign a project manager or  
13 business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the  
14 implementation of this act through June 30, ~~2020~~ 2025 for the purpose of  
15 developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses,  
16 entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in  
17 Vermont, and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State  
18 government.

1  
2  
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\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. C.100 through C.103 (fiscal year 2023 adjustments, appropriations, and amendments) shall take effect upon passage.

(b) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2023.