

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 310 entitled “An act relating to natural disaster government response, recovery,
4 and resiliency” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the report of the Committee on Government Operations be
6 amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 2, 20 V.S.A. § 49, in subsection (b), after “The Fund shall
8 consist of monies appropriated”, by adding or transferred

9 Second: By striking out Sec. 3, Community Resilience and Disaster
10 Mitigation Grant Program; appropriation, in its entirety and inserting in lieu
11 thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

13 Third: By striking out Sec. 12, establishment of five and a half new
14 regional emergency management program coordinators; appropriation, in its
15 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 12 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 12. [Deleted.]

17 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 16, 20 V.S.A. § 49, in its entirety and inserting
18 in lieu thereof a new Sec. 16 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 50 is added to read:

2 § 50. URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

3 (a) The Department of Public Safety is authorized to create the Urban
4 Search and Rescue (USAR) Team to provide for the rapid response of trained
5 professionals to emergencies and other hazards occurring in the State. The
6 Commissioner shall appoint a USAR Team program manager to carry out the
7 duties and responsibilities of the USAR Team.

8 (b) The USAR Team program manager shall perform all the following
9 duties:

10 (1) organize the State USAR Team to assist local first responders in
11 response to emergencies and other hazards;

12 (2) hire persons for the USAR Team from fire, police, and emergency
13 medical services and persons with specialty backgrounds in emergency
14 response or search and rescue;

15 (3) coordinate the acquisition and maintenance of adequate vehicles and
16 equipment for the USAR Team;

17 (4) ensure that USAR Team personnel are organized, trained, and
18 exercised in accordance with the appropriate search and rescue standards or
19 certifications;

20 (5) negotiate and enter into agreements with municipalities, municipal
21 agencies that maintain swiftwater rescue teams, State-recognized swiftwater

1 rescue teams, or other technical rescue teams to provide expert assistance and
2 services to the USAR Team when necessary; and

3 (6) coordinate USAR Team participation in search and rescue operations
4 under chapter 112 of this title.

5 (c) The Department of Public Safety may employ as many USAR Team
6 responders as the Commissioner deems necessary as temporary State
7 employees, who shall be compensated as such when authorized to respond to
8 an emergency or hazard incident or to attend USAR Team training. State
9 USAR Team responders, whenever acting as State agents in accordance with
10 this section, shall be afforded all of the protections and immunities of State
11 employees.

12 Fifth: By striking out Sec. 20, Enhanced 911 Board tariffs; report;
13 appropriation, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 20 to read
14 as follows:

15 Sec. 20. ENHANCED 911 BOARD TARIFFS; REPORT

16 On or before January 15, 2025, the Enhanced 911 Board shall report to the
17 House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the
18 Senate Committee on Government Operations on current local exchange
19 telecommunications tariffs, and, in particular, evaluating existing tariffs
20 permitted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 7055, determining actual costs for the

1 provision of the service elements, and comparing those tariffs to similar cost
2 recovery mechanisms in other states.

3 Sixth: By striking out Sec. 22, emergency communications; appropriations,
4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 22 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 22. [Deleted.]

6 Seventh: By striking out Sec. 36, Continuing Local Economic Damage
7 Grant Program for recovery from the August and December 2023 floods;
8 appropriation, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 36 to read
9 as follows:

10 Sec. 36. [Deleted.]

11 Eighth: By striking out Sec. 37, Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund for
12 recovery from the August and December 2023 floods; transfer, in its entirety
13 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 37 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 37. [Deleted.]

15
16
17

18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Senator _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE