

# H. 883 – Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act

## As Introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations

*Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2025 Budget<sup>1</sup>*

(\$ millions)	General Funds	Federal Funds	Transportation Funds	Education Funds	All other funds	Unduplicated totals
FY 2024 BAA	2,409.9	3,195.1	357.0	2,146.5	559.9	8,668.4
Change - House	(218.1)	(112.4)	16.7	204.1	26.4	(83.3)
FY 2025 Total	2,191.8	3,082.8	373.7	2,350.6	586.3	8,585.1

*Note: amounts reflect unduplicated appropriations and only includes bills directly tied to the Appropriations Act, such as H. 546, H.622, H.687, the T-bill (H.868) and the Capital bill. Numbers may not add due to rounding.*

### REVENUE OVERVIEW

In fiscal year 2025, General Fund revenues are expected to be \$17.9M below fiscal 2024 revenues for a total of \$2,113.5M. General Fund revenues in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 are projected to be a cumulative \$111.1M below fiscal year 2023 revenues.

### OVERVIEW

This budget addresses many of the ongoing challenges Vermont faces as the state continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and the upcoming end of related federal funding. It fills all statutorily-required reserves, meets all pension obligations, and makes essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, and the environment.

To develop this budget, the House Committee on Appropriations worked with House standing committees and many interested stakeholders, including members of the public who testified at public hearings or submitted written testimony. General Fund appropriations total \$2.1B. All funds (unduplicated) appropriations total \$8.6B. Compared to the fiscal year 2024 budget as adjusted by Act 87 (fiscal year 2024 BAA), this reflects a General Fund decrease of \$218.1M and all funds decrease of \$83.3M. This is due to the fact that fewer one-time appropriations were made in fiscal year 2025.

After transparently accounting for the \$12M Vermont State Employees’ Retirement System (VSERS) pension “plus” payment, the General Fund in this budget is \$3.3M, or less than 0.2%, higher than the Governor’s Recommend.

### BASE APPROPRIATIONS

- Sets aside \$31.7M General Fund (GF) in anticipation of the Pay Act
- Fully funds the Department of Public Safety (DPS) contract with the DAs for 12, and adds 4 additional, embedded Mental Health Crisis Specialists
- Provides \$1.1M Global Commitment (GC) to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for agreements with community providers for crisis management
- Provides \$200K Special Fund (SF) and establishes two permanent positions in the Secretary of State’s Office for communications and information technology
- Provides \$204K SF to fund two Cannabis Control Board positions added in Act 87

<sup>1</sup> The full Big Bill web report is available at:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/BILLS/H-0883/H-0883%20As%20Introduced.pdf>



- Provides \$1.3M GC to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to increase reimbursement rates for skilled nursing to Medicare Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rates for the Visiting Nurses Associations of Vermont (VNAs of Vermont)
- Provides \$2.4M GC to DAIL for Meals on Wheels (matched with existing \$1M FF)
- Restores \$9M GF for Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) at the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to support programs in Act 76 (2023)
- Adds \$700K GF to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for training contracts
- Increases GC in the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) by \$10.98M for Developmental Services (DS) caseload and DS Public Safety/Act 248 (1987) caseload
- Adds \$4.9M GC for statutory nursing home rate increase
- Dedicates \$1M for startup costs for the youth inpatient facility funded by Act 78 (2023)
- Authorizes three new Superior Court Judges in the Judiciary to address caseload backlog
- Provides funding and authorization for new Internal Auditor in the Treasurer's Office
- Provides \$12M GF required funding for pension "plus" payment in the Treasurer's Office

## HOUSING

- Includes \$7.5M GF in base for Emergency Housing
- Adds \$16.5M in one-time GF for Emergency Housing
- Adds \$20M contingent appropriation for Emergency Housing
- Includes \$839K GF for security at Emergency Housing motels and hotels
- Includes \$7.2M GF in DCF's Office of Economic Opportunity for shelter bed expansion
- Provides \$446K to fund Spectrum Youth and Family Services' 10-bed shelter for homeless youth
- Provides \$25.7M for the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) that assists homeless individuals

## PUBLIC HEALTH

- Includes \$2M from the Evidence Based Education Fund for naloxone distribution
- Directs \$6.1M of Opioid Settlement Fund to implement the recommendations of the House Committee on Human Services for substance use prevention and treatment

## ARPA REALLOCATIONS

If past American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriations will not meet required obligation deadlines, these appropriations will be reallocated as follows:

- \$36M to DPS Emergency Management for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) match and municipal support for hazard mitigation
- \$4M for anticipated ARPA audit response
- \$30M to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for production and preservation of affordable rental and homeownership units
- \$25M to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) for the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program and the Vermont Rental Revolving Loan Fund
- Any remaining funds will be reallocated with authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee to existing State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) programs
- Any unfilled limited service positions funded with ARPA dollars will be abolished on July 1, 2024, and the monies will be reverted



## HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES

### FLOOD

- Provides \$12.5M GF to match FEMA Flood Hazard Mitigation grants
- Includes \$500K GF for State match for the Water Resources Development Winooski Study
- Contingently appropriates \$3.5M to DPS Flood Resilient Communities Fund for structure elevation grants

### HOUSING

- Includes \$16.5M GF for Emergency Housing
- Includes \$20M GF contingent appropriation for Emergency Housing
- Includes \$1M GF to extend 10 DCF Economic Services positions to support Emergency Housing
- Includes \$2M GF to continue the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Healthy Homes Initiative
- Includes \$1M GF to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program

### AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides \$482.8K GC to support mental health urgent care centers
- Provides \$835K GF for the Bridges to Health Program
- \$400K GF for the Household Health Insurance Survey
- Provides \$3M GF for DCF Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), and additional \$3M to be provided if funds are available through the Agency of Human Services (AHS) closeout process
- Provides \$332K GF for the 2-1-1 service line contract
- Provides, in fiscal year 2024, \$500K GF and \$500K FF to support the Summer EBT program
- Provides, in fiscal year 2024, \$560K GF and \$641K FF (\$1.3M GC) for nonemergency medical transport

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- Includes \$10M GF to the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) for transformation bridge funding
- Includes \$1M GF for Community College of Vermont (CCV) Tuition Advantage Program

### OTHER

- Provides \$1M GF to the Secretary of State to support the Vermont Access Network
- Provides \$300K GF, and balance of Act 84 (2024) appropriation, to the Secretary of State for 2024 elections
- Provides \$450K GF to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
- Provides \$1M GF to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the pilot expansion of the Water Quality Assistance Program for financial assistance to logging contractors
- Provides \$550K GF to the Department of Fish & Wildlife to support the Salisbury Fish Hatchery
- Provides \$1.8M TF for grants to e-incentive grant programs

### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

- Provides \$1.1M GF to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

### CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

- Appropriates \$9.55M in fiscal year 2025 from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments

