

1 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 * * *

4 (j) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated
5 for the following:

6 (1) \$1,000,000 Transportation Fund for a grant to Green Mountain
7 Transit as one-time bridge funding while Green Mountain Transit stabilizes its
8 finances, adjusts its service levels, and transitions to a sustainable funding
9 model; and

10 (2) \$900,000 Transportation Fund to increase Vermonters' access to
11 electric vehicle supply equipment charging ports. These funds shall be derived
12 from the revenue generated by the electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle road
13 usage surcharge; provided, however, that if the revenue generated by the
14 surcharge in fiscal year 2025 is less than \$900,000, the amount to be
15 appropriated pursuant to this subdivision shall be limited to the actual amount
16 of revenue generated by the surcharge in fiscal year 2025.

17 * * *

18 (n) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2025,
19 funds are appropriated for the following:

20 (1) \$3,913,200 General Fund and \$5,366,383 federal funds to be used
21 for Global Commitment match for the Medicaid Global Commitment Payment
22 Program. To the extent that at a future date the Global Payment Program
23 ceases to operate as a program or changes methodology to a retrospective
24 payment program, any resulting one-time General Fund spending authority

1 creating at that time shall be reserved in the Human Services Caseload Reserve
2 established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b up to the amount appropriated in this
3 subdivision.

4 (o) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2025, funds are
5 appropriated for the following:

6 (1) \$9,279,583 Global Commitment for the Medicaid Global Payment
7 Program.

1 Sec. C.116 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.1 is amended to read:

2 Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS;

3 TRANSFER; REPORT

4 (a) To facilitate the end-of-year closeout for fiscal year 2024, the Secretary
5 of Human Services, with approval from the Secretary of Administration, may
6 make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and
7 Medicaid-waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment
8 appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business
9 days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the
10 Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section.

11 A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint
12 Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2024 meeting.

13 The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to
14 modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the
15 Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the
16 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social
17 Security Act.

18 (b) To address the disruption to cash flow caused by the Change Healthcare
19 cybersecurity incident, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Sec. 308b(a), funds shall be
20 unreserved from the Human Services Caseload Reserve for appropriation to
21 Sec. B.301 Secretary's Office Global Commitment for net-neutral transfers
22 made under the authority granted to the Secretary of Administration in
23 subsection (a) of this section. Once the cash flows are restored, the

- 1 Commissioner of Finance and Management Shall reserve in the Human
- 2 Services Caseload Reserve the amount previously unreserved, as part of the
- 3 fiscal year 2025 budget adjustment.

1 Sec. C.117 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1101 is amended to read:

2 Sec. B.1101 WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT –

3 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

4 * * *

5 (a) Education workforce.

6 * * *

7 (2) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated from
8 the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the
9 Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program to provide forgivable
10 loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who meet the eligibility
11 requirements in subdivision (A) of this subsection. The goal of the program is
12 to encourage students to enter into teaching professions, with an emphasis on
13 encouraging Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, New Americans, and
14 other historically underrepresented communities.

15 * * *

16 (D) The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
17 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including maximum
18 forgivable loan amounts. The Corporation shall not use more than seven
19 percent of the funds appropriated for the program for its costs of administration
20 and may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in
21 repayment.

22 (E) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis , provided funds
23 are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall roll over

- 1 and shall be available to the Corporation in the following fiscal year to award
- 2 additional forgivable loans as set forth in this section.

1 Sec. D.103 RESERVES

2 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, in fiscal year
3 2025, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds
4 provided:

5 (1) General Fund.

6 (A) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 308, an estimated amount of
7 \$15,195,975 shall be added to the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve.

8 (B) \$5,480,000 shall be added to the 27/53 reserve in fiscal year
9 2025. This action is the fiscal year 2025 contribution to the reserve for the
10 53rd week of Medicaid as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e and the 27th payroll
11 reserve as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e.

12 (C) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308b, \$3,913,200 shall be
13 unreserved from the Human Services Caseload Reserve established within the
14 General Fund in 32 V.S.A. § 308b.

1 Sec D.104 FISCAL YEARS 2025 and 2026 STATE EMPLOYEE

2 CONTRACT FUNDING

3 (a) As part of the fiscal year appropriations and revenue decisions, this act
4 reserves sufficient monies to fully fund the Vermont State Employees'
5 Association contract obligations and related appropriations. It is the intention
6 that specific appropriations and statutory language, once developed, will be
7 incorporated in a specific pay act bill or, if necessary, be added to this act.

8 (b) In order to fund the estimated \$58,948,151 fiscal year 2025 total
9 contract cost, \$25,813,043 in federal funds and special funds or excess receipt
10 authority will be combined with the following amounts reserved for
11 appropriation:

12 (1) General Fund: \$30,635,108.

13 (2) Transportation Fund: \$2,500,000.

14 (c) In order to fund the estimated \$58,838,492 fiscal year 2026, total
15 contract cost, \$28,048,654 in federal funds and special funds appropriation or
16 excess receipt authority will be combined with the following amounts to be
17 appropriated in fiscal year 2026:

18 (1) General Fund: \$27,789,838.

19 (2) Transportation Fund: \$3,000,000.

1 Sec. E.306 DR. DYNASAUR; PREMIUM INVOICING SUSPENSION AND
2 AMNESTY

3 (a) The Agency of Human Services is authorized under 33 V.S.A.
4 § 1901(c) and Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115
5 Medicaid demonstration to charge a monthly premium for certain Dr.
6 Dynasaur enrollees whose family income exceeds 195 percent of the federal
7 poverty level. The Agency suspended premium invoicing for this population
8 as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and that premium
9 suspension has continued following the end of the public health emergency.

10 (b)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall not attempt to collect or take
11 adverse action against a Dr. Dynasaur enrollee or the enrollee's family as a
12 result of any unpaid premium balance that was incurred prior to the public
13 health emergency or during the period of the invoicing suspension.

14 (2) At such time as the Agency reinstates premium invoicing, no Dr.
15 Dynasaur applicant or enrollee shall carry any outstanding premium balance.

1 Sec. E.204 JUDICIARY; SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE POSITION

2 (a) Of the three Superior Court Judge positions established in Sec.
3 E.100(a)(2)(B)(i) of this act, one shall be funded with the Tobacco Litigation
4 Settlement Fund dollars appropriated to the Judiciary in 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts
5 and Resolves No. 11, Sec. C.106(a).

6 Sec. E.204.1 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. C.106, is
7 amended to read:

8 Sec. C.106 CHINS CASES SYSTEM-WIDE REFORM

9 (a) The sum of ~~\$7,000,000~~ \$4,000,000 is appropriated from the Tobacco
10 Litigation Settlement Fund to the Judiciary in fiscal year 2018 and shall carry
11 forward for the uses and based on the allocations set forth in subsections (b)
12 and (c) of this section. The purpose of the funds is to make strategic
13 investments to transform the adjudication of CHINS cases in Vermont.

14 (b) The sum appropriated from the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund in
15 subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated as follows:

16 (1) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2019, which shall not be distributed until
17 the group defined in subsection (c) of this section provides proposed
18 expenditures as part of its fiscal year 2019 budget adjustment request;

19 (2) ~~\$2,500,000~~ \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2020, for which the group
20 shall provide proposed expenditures as part of its fiscal year 2020 budget
21 request or budget adjustment request, or both;

1 Sec. E.311.1 18 V.S.A. chapter 1, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

2 Subchapter 2. Health Care Professions; Educational Assistance

3 * * *

4 § 32. EDUCATIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE

5 ~~PROVIDERS~~ PROFESSIONALS AND HEALTH CARE

6 EDUCATIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT FUND

7 (a) There is hereby established a special fund to be known as the Vermont
8 Health Care Educational Loan Repayment Fund, that shall be used for the
9 purpose of ensuring a stable and adequate supply of health care ~~providers~~
10 professionals and health care educators to meet the health care needs of
11 Vermonters, with a focus on recruiting and retaining ~~providers~~ professionals
12 and health care educators in underserved geographic and specialty areas.

13 (b) The fund shall be established and held separate and apart from any
14 other funds or monies of the State and shall be used and administered
15 exclusively for the purpose of this section. The money in the Fund shall be
16 invested in the same manner as permitted for investment of funds belonging to
17 the State of held in the Treasury. The Fund shall consist of the following:

18 (1) such sums as may be appropriated or transferred from time to time
19 by the General Assembly, the state Emergency Board, or the Joint Fiscal
20 Committee during such times as the General Assembly is not in session;

21 (2) interest earned from the investment of fund balances;

22 (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of
23 the Fund.

1 (c) The Fund shall be administered by the Department of Health, which
2 shall make funds available to the University of Vermont College of Medicine
3 area health education centers (AHEC) program for loan repayment awards.
4 The Commissioner may require certification of compliance with this section
5 prior to the making of an award.

6 * * *

7 (e) AHEC shall make loan repayment awards in exchange for service
8 commitment by health care ~~providers~~ professionals and health care educators
9 and shall define the service obligation in a contract with the health care
10 ~~provider~~ professional or health care educator. Payment awards shall be made
11 directly to the educational loan creditor or lender of the health care ~~provider~~
12 professional or health care educator.

13 (f) Loan repayment awards shall only be available for a health care
14 ~~provider~~ professional or health care educator who:

15 * * *

16 (i) As used in this section:

17 * * *

18 (2) “Health care ~~provider~~ professional” shall mean an individual
19 licensed, certified, or authorized by law to provide professional health care
20 service in this ~~State~~ state to an individual during that individual’s medical,
21 mental health, or dental care, treatment or confinement, or via a public health
22 role.

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 * * *

5 (5) have completed the Program’s application form, ~~the Free~~
 6 ~~Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant~~
 7 ~~application each academic year of enrollment~~ and such financial aid forms as
 8 the Corporation deems necessary, in accordance with a schedule determined by
 9 the Corporation; and

10 * * *

11 (j) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis , provided funds are
 12 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
 13 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation
 14 in the following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in
 15 this section.

16 * * *

17 § 35. VERMONT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT
 18 PROGRAM

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 * * *

21 (4) “Loan repayment” means the ~~cancellation and~~ repayment of loans
 22 under this section.

23 * * *

1 (b) The Vermont Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program is
2 created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration
3 with AHEC. The Program provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals
4 who live and work in this State as a nurse, physician assistant, medical lab
5 technician, medical lab technologist, clinical laboratory scientist, child
6 psychiatrist, or primary care provider and who meet the eligibility
7 requirements in subsection (d) of this section.

8 (c) The loan repayment benefits provided under the Program shall be paid
9 on behalf of the eligible individual by AHEC, subject to the appropriation of
10 funds by the General Assembly for this purpose.

11 (d) To be eligible for loan repayment under the Program, an individual
12 shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

13 (1) have graduated from an eligible school where the individual was
14 awarded a degree in nursing, physician assistant studies, medicine, osteopathic
15 medicine, or naturopathic medicine, or a two- or four-year degree that qualifies
16 the individual to be a medical lab technician, medical lab technologist or
17 clinical laboratory scientist;

18 (2) work in this State as a nurse, physician assistant, medical lab
19 technician, medical lab technologist or clinical laboratory scientist, child
20 psychiatrist, or primary care provider; and

21 (3) be a resident of Vermont.

22 (e)(1) An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan
23 ~~cancellation and~~ repayment under this section ~~equal to one year of loans for~~

1 ~~each year of service as a nurse, physician assistant, medical technician, child~~
 2 ~~psychiatrist, or primary care provider in this State~~ for a defined service
 3 obligation in Vermont of no less than one year. Employment as a traveling
 4 nurse shall not be construed to satisfy the service commitment required ~~for~~
 5 ~~loan repayment~~ under this section.

6 (2) AHEC shall award loan repayments in amounts that are sufficient to
 7 attract high-quality candidates while also making a meaningful increase in
 8 Vermont's health care professional workforce.

9 (f) Loan repayment shall be awarded on a rolling basis , provided funds are
 10 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
 11 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and AHEC in the
 12 following fiscal year to award additional loan repayment as set forth in this
 13 section.

14 * * *

15 § 36. NURSE FACULTY FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

16 * * *

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 * * *

21 (5) have completed the Program's application form and ~~the Free~~
 22 ~~Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)~~ such financial aid forms as the

1 Corporation deems necessary, in accordance with a schedule determined by the
2 Corporation; and

3 * * *

4 (g) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis, provided funds are
5 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
6 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation
7 in the following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in
8 this section.

9 * * *

10 § 37. NURSE FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

11 (a) As used in this section:

12 * * *

13 (4) “Loan repayment” means the ~~cancellation and~~ repayment of loans
14 under this section.

15 * * *

16 (e) An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan ~~cancellation~~
17 ~~and~~ repayment under this section ~~equal to one year of loans for each year of~~
18 ~~service as a member of the nurse faculty at a nursing school in this state for a~~
19 defined service obligation of no less than one year at a Vermont nursing
20 school.

21 (f) Loan repayment shall be awarded on a rolling basis , provided funds are
22 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
23 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and AHEC in the

1 following fiscal year to award additional loan repayment as set forth in this
2 section.

3 * * *

4 § 38. VERMONT MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FORGIVABLE
5 LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

6 * * *

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

10 * * *

11 (5) have completed the Program’s application form and ~~the Free~~
12 ~~Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)~~ such financial aid forms as the
13 Corporation deems necessary, in accordance with a schedule determined by the
14 Corporation; and

15 * * *

16 (h) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis, provided funds are
17 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
18 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation
19 in the following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in
20 this section.

21 * * *

22 § 39. VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
23 PRACTITIONER FORGIVABLE LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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* * *

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

* * *

(4) have executed a credit agreement or promissory note that will reduce the individual’s forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, pursuant to subsection ~~(f)~~(e) of this section, if the individual fails to complete the period of service required in subdivision (3) of this subsection;

(5) have completed the Program’s application form and ~~the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)~~ such financial aid forms as the Corporation deems necessary, in accordance with a schedule determined by the Corporation; and

* * *

(g) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis, provided funds are available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation in the following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in this section.

* * *

§ 40. VERMONT DENTAL HYGIENIST FORGIVABLE LOAN
INCENTIVE PROGRAM

* * *

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 * * *

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)~~(e) 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~~ and such financial aid forms as
12 the Corporation deems necessary, in accordance with a schedule determined by
13 the Corporation; and

14 * * *

15 (h) Forgivable loans shall be awarded on a rolling basis, provided funds are
16 available, and any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall carry
17 forward and shall be available to the Department of Health and the Corporation
18 in the following fiscal year to award additional forgivable loans as set forth in
19 this section.

20 * * *

1 Sec. E.313 PLAN; PUBLIC INEBRIATE AND SOBER BED PROGRAMS

2 (a)(1) On or before July 15, 2024, the Department of Health shall initiate
3 the first of as many as five stakeholder meetings for the purpose of identifying
4 and discussing improvements to public inebriate and sober bed programs.
5 Data from the report produced in accordance with 2022 Acts and Resolves No.
6 185, Sec. E.313 shall inform the work of this stakeholder group.

7 (2) Participating stakeholders shall include:

8 (A) the Commissioner of Public Safety, or designee;

9 (B) a representative, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

10 (C) a representative, appointed by the Turning Point Center; and

11 (D) substance misuse service providers, appointed by the

12 Commissioner of Health.

13 (b) As part of its fiscal year 2026 budget presentation, the Department of
14 Health, in consultation with the stakeholder group described in subsection (a)
15 of this section, shall submit a plan to the Senate Committees on Appropriations
16 and on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Appropriations
17 and on Human Services reorganizing public inebriate and sober bed programs
18 in a manner that accounts for increased client acuity and decreased bed
19 availability throughout the State. The proposed reorganization shall include a
20 spending plan that prioritizes staff support and public safety.

1 Sec. E.318.3 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

2 § 3512. Child Care Financial Assistance Program; eligibility

3 (a)(1) The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is established to
4 subsidize, ~~to the extent that funds permit,~~ the costs of child care for families
5 that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain
6 employment, or to obtain training leading to employment. Families seeking
7 employment shall be entitled to participate in the Program for up to three
8 months and the Commissioner may further extend that period.

9 * * *

1 Sec. E.329 33 V.S.A. § 1602 is amended to read:

2 § 1602. VERMONT DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, AND DEAFBLIND

3 ADVISORY COUNCIL

4 * * *

5 (b) Membership. The Advisory Council shall consist of the following
6 members:

7 * * *

8 (9) a superintendent, selected by the Vermont Superintendents

9 Association; ~~and~~

10 (10) a special education administrator, selected by the Vermont Council
11 of Special Education Administrators; and

12 (11) a representative of the Vermont chapter of Hands and Voices.

13 * * *

1 Sec. E.345.1 18 V.S.A. § 9405b is amended to read:

2 § 9405b

3 * * *

4 (e) The Green Mountain Care Board may assess and collect from general
5 hospitals licensed under chapter 43 of this title expenses incurred by the
6 Commissioner of Health in administering Hospital Community Reports and
7 Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reports under this section.

8 * * *