
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 57 (H.397). An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response

Subjects: Internal security and public safety; emergency management; miscellaneous amendments relating to flood response and resilience

This act amends the statutes relating to public safety, municipal government, and emergency response to all-hazards events to:

- require the Division of Emergency Management to annually report to the General Assembly concerning all action items in the all-hazards mitigation plan and to consult with relevant stakeholders before adopting the State Emergency Management Plan;
- authorize the Division to provide grants from the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund for voluntary buyouts of flood-impacted or -prone properties;
- require the Division to assist municipalities with access to certain all-hazard and weather alert systems;
- require the Division to submit a needs assessment to the General Assembly on or before November 15, 2025;
- authorize municipalities to transfer unexpended dedicated funds to an unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year;
- authorize municipal legislative bodies to borrow funds in the name of the municipal corporation to respond to an all-hazard event, provided that the duration of the indebtedness shall not exceed five years or the reasonably anticipated useful life of the improvements or assets funded by the debt;
- authorize municipal legislative bodies to choose to repay bonded debt in substantially level payments;
- authorize the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, to waive applicable permits related to the drawdown of a dam with an approved drawdown plan, provided that the Director of the Division of Emergency Management has reason to believe that authorizing an advance drawdown will decrease the risk of substantial damage to persons or property within the State;
- amend the local option tax statute to increase the municipal share of revenue to 75 percent and decrease the amount dedicated to the PILOT Fund to 25 percent;
- make minor amendments to the statutes related to the Division of Emergency Management to align the official title of the Division throughout Vermont statute;
- add a section to the Administrative Procedures Act to ensure that federal regulations that are incorporated by reference in Vermont State agency rules

shall continue in effect until January 31, 2029, or an earlier date that the rules are amended;

- provide education property tax overpayment refunds to the City of Barre and the Town of Milton; and
- extend the expiration of the City of Barre authority to incur debt for the City's TIF district to March 31, 2028.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 11, 2025