

Senate proposal of amendment

H. 494

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, legislative intent, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the \$111,965,288.44 authorized in this act, not more than \$62,314,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, State buildings, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

(a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services, and the Commissioner is authorized to direct funds appropriated in this section to the projects contained in this section; however, no project shall be canceled unless the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions are notified before that action is taken.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026:

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| <u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u> | <u>\$7,138,401.00</u> |
| <u>(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u> | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| <u>(3) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u> | <u>\$75,000.00</u> |
| <u>(4) Rutland, Asa Bloomer Building roof repair and sewage system upgrades:</u> | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| <u>(5) Rutland, multimodal garage renovation:</u> | <u>\$600,000.00</u> |
| <u>(6) Middlesex, Print and Postal uninterruptable power supply upgrade:</u> | <u>\$58,279.44</u> |
| <u>(7) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u> | <u>\$2,000,000.00</u> |
| <u>(8) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u> | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:

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|---|-----------------------|
| <u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u> | <u>\$8,500,000.00</u> |
| <u>(2) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency:</u> | <u>\$250,000.00</u> |

(3) <u>Statewide, physical security enhancements:</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
(4) <u>Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u>	<u>\$850,000.00</u>
(5) <u>Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
(6) <u>Montpelier, State House replacement of historic interior finishes:</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
(7) <u>Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation:</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
(8) <u>Middlesex, Vermont State Archives roof replacement, main building:</u>	<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>
(9) <u>Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
(10) <u>Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$14,371,680.44</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$15,225,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 2</u>	<u>\$29,596,680.44</u>

Third: By striking out Sec. 4, commerce and community development, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

(1) <u>Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:</u>	<u>\$550,000.00</u>
(2) <u>Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves:</u>	<u>\$46,000.00</u>
(3) <u>Roadside historic site markers:</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
(4) <u>Bennington, Battle Monument, maintenance of safety fencing, restoration, planning, and design:</u>	<u>\$425,000.00</u>

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

(1) <u>Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:</u>	<u>\$550,000.00</u>
(2) <u>Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves:</u>	<u>\$46,000.00</u>
(3) <u>Roadside historic site markers:</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$1,046,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$621,000.00</u>

Total Appropriation – Section 4

\$1,667,000.00

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 5, grant programs, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 for the Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$250,000.00

(7) To the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 for the Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital

funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(7) To the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the sums appropriated in subdivisions (a)(5) and (b)(5) of this section be equally allocated between grants for human services and grants for educational facilities.

Appropriation – FY 2026

\$1,800,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027

\$2,100,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 5

\$3,900,000.00

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 14, judiciary, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 14 to read as follows:

Sec. 14. JUDICIARY

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Judiciary for the following projects:

(1) Woodstock Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:

\$100,000.00

(2) Essex County Courthouse, connector and security upgrades:

\$3,685,910.00

(3) Lamoille County Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:

\$190,000.00

(b) The sum of \$1,100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction.

Appropriation – FY 2026

\$5,075,910.00

Total Appropriation – Section 14

\$5,075,910.00

Sixth: In Sec. 19, FY 2026 and 2027; capital projects; FY 2026 appropriations act; intent; authorizations, by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: \$861,599.00

(2) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide planning, reuse, and contingency: \$250,000.00

(3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide physical security enhancements: \$250,000.00

(4) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for State House repointing: \$219,500.00

(5) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for an uninterruptable power supply system for the Middlesex print and postal facility: \$250,000.00

(6) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction: \$6,900,000.00

(7) to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the design and construction of the American unit: \$1,500,000.00

(8) to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Bennington Veterans Incubator Farm at the Vermont Veterans' Home: \$45,000.00

(9) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for Bennington, high school redevelopment housing infrastructure: \$1,100,000.00

(10) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for Barre, Prospect Heights housing infrastructure: \$1,000,000.00

(11) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for Brattleboro, Winston Prouty Center housing infrastructure: \$1,000,000.00

(12) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a grant to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to support a site study focused on economic development, parking, housing, and flood mitigation for the 1.6-acre parcel at 87 State Street and parcels at 89 State Street and 42 Court Street: \$100,000.00

(13) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for Hope Grove Recovery to establish a new recovery residence in St. Albans: \$250,000.00

(14) to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purchase of a fire apparatus: \$275,000.00

(15) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lake Champlain Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the Walleye rearing, restoration, and stocking infrastructure: \$25,000.00

(16) to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program: \$35,000.00

Seventh: By adding a new section to be Sec. 22a to read as follows:

Sec. 22a. CASH FUND; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; REPORT

On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions on considerations for use of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments under 32 V.S.A. § 1001b that:

(1) provides the historical context, including the economic rationale, for the Cash Fund;

(2) compares financial management practices for expenditures made through cash and through bonded dollars, including long-term financial impacts;

(3) distinguishes between the intended uses of the Capital Infrastructure subaccount and the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount;

(4) describes, for each year since the Cash Fund's inception:

(A) the sources of funds; and

(B) the annual expenditures from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount; and

(5) outlines the current legislative process by which appropriations are made from the Cash Fund.