

# House Calendar

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

63rd DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 10:00 A.M.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 96**

An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need

**Rep. Cordes of Bristol**, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9434 is amended to read:

§ 9434. CERTIFICATE OF NEED; GENERAL RULES

(a) A health care facility other than a hospital shall not develop or have developed on its behalf a new health care project without issuance of a certificate of need by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, a “new health care project” ~~includes~~ means any of the following:

(1) The construction, development, purchase, renovation, or other establishment of a health care facility, or any capital expenditure by or on behalf of a health care facility, for which the capital cost exceeds ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(2) A change from one licensing period to the next in the number of licensed beds of a health care facility through addition or conversion, or through relocation from one physical facility or site to another.

(3) The offering of any home health service, or the transfer or conveyance of more than a 50 percent ownership interest in a health care facility other than a hospital or nursing home.

(4) The purchase, lease, or other comparable arrangement of a single piece of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for which the cost, or in the case of a donation the value, is in excess of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00. For purposes of this subdivision, the purchase or lease of one or more articles of diagnostic or therapeutic equipment that are necessarily interdependent in the performance of their ordinary functions or that would constitute any health care facility included under subdivision 9432(8)(B) of this title, as determined by the Board, shall be considered together in calculating the amount of an expenditure. The Board’s determination of functional interdependence of items of equipment under this subdivision shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(5) The offering of a health care service or technology having an annual operating expense that exceeds ~~\$500,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00 for either of the next two budgeted fiscal years, if the service or technology was not offered or employed, either on a fixed or a mobile basis, by the health care facility within the previous three fiscal years.

(6) The construction, development, purchase, lease, or other establishment or expansion of an ambulatory surgical center for which the cost exceeds \$10,000,000.00.

(b) A hospital shall not develop or have developed on its behalf a new health care project without issuance of a certificate of need by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, a “new health care project” ~~includes~~ means any of the following:

(1) The construction, development, purchase, renovation, or other establishment of a health care facility, or any capital expenditure by or on behalf of a hospital, for which the capital cost exceeds ~~\$3,000,000.00~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(2) The purchase, lease, or other comparable arrangement of a single piece of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for which the cost, or in the case of a donation the value, is in excess of ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00. For purposes of this subdivision, the purchase or lease of one or more articles of diagnostic or therapeutic equipment that are necessarily interdependent in the performance of their ordinary functions or that would constitute any health care facility included under subdivision 9432(8)(B) of this title, as determined by the Board, shall be considered together in calculating the amount of an expenditure. The Board’s determination of functional interdependence of items of equipment under this subdivision shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(3) The offering of a health care service or technology having an annual operating expense that exceeds ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00 for either of the next two budgeted fiscal years, if the service or technology was not offered or employed, either on a fixed or a mobile basis, by the hospital within the previous three fiscal years.

(4) A change from one licensing period to the next in the number of licensed beds of a health care facility through addition or conversion, or through relocation from one physical facility or site to another.

(5) The offering of any home health service.

(c) In the case of a project that requires a certificate of need under this section, expenditures for which are anticipated to be in excess of

~~\$30,000,000.00~~ \$50,000,000.00, the applicant first shall secure a conceptual development phase certificate of need, in accordance with the standards and procedures established in this subchapter, that permits the applicant to make expenditures for architectural services, engineering design services, or any other planning services, as defined by the Board, needed in connection with the project. Upon completion of the conceptual development phase of the project, and before offering or further developing the project, the applicant shall secure a final certificate of need in accordance with the standards and procedures established in this subchapter. Applicants shall not be subject to sanctions for failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection if such failure is solely the result of good faith reliance on verified project cost estimates issued by qualified persons, which cost estimates would have led a reasonable person to conclude the project was not anticipated to be in excess of ~~\$30,000,000.00~~ \$50,000,000.00 and therefore not subject to this subsection. The provisions of this subsection notwithstanding, expenditures may be made in preparation for obtaining a conceptual development phase certificate of need, which expenditures shall not exceed ~~\$1,500,000.00 for non-hospitals or \$3,000,000.00 for hospitals~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(d) If the Board determines that a person required to obtain a certificate of need under this subchapter has separated a single project into components in order to avoid cost thresholds or other requirements under this subchapter, the person shall be required to submit an application for a certificate of need for the entire project, and the Board may proceed under section 9445 of this title. The Board's determination under this subsection shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(e) The Board may periodically adjust the monetary jurisdictional thresholds contained in this section. In doing so, the Board shall reflect the same categories of health care facilities, services, and programs recognized in this section. Any adjustment by the Board shall not exceed an amount calculated using the cumulative Consumer Price Index rate of inflation.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9435 is amended to read:

§ 9435. EXCLUSIONS

\* \* \*

(f)(1) Excluded from this subchapter are routine replacements of:

(A) medical equipment that is fully depreciated; and

(B) nonmedical equipment and fixtures, including furnaces, boilers, refrigeration units, kitchen equipment, heating and cooling units, and similar items, regardless of their remaining useful life.

(2) These The replacements described in subdivision (1) of this subsection and purchased by a hospital shall be included in the hospital's budget and may be reviewed in the budget process set forth in subchapter 7 of this chapter.

\* \* \*

(i) Excluded from this subchapter are emergency and nonemergency ground ambulance services, affiliated agencies, and equipment and supplies used by emergency medical personnel, as those terms are defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025 and shall apply to all new health care projects initiated on or after that date. For applications for a certificate of need that are already in process on July 1, 2025 for which one or more persons have been granted interested party status, the jurisdictional thresholds and exclusions in place at the time the application was filed shall continue to apply until a final decision is made on the application. For applications for a certificate of need that are already in process on July 1, 2025 for which no person has been granted interested party status, the applicant may withdraw the application in accordance with Board rules.

**(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)**

**Rep. Branagan of Georgia**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

**(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)**

## NOTICE CALENDAR

### Favorable with Amendment

#### H. 2

An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings

**Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington**, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Family Division Delinquency Jurisdiction \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5102 is amended to read:

§ 5102. DEFINITIONS AND PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

As used in the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters:

\* \* \*

(2) “Child” means any of the following:

\* \* \*

(C) an individual who has been alleged to have committed or has committed an act of delinquency after becoming ~~10~~ 12 years of age and prior to becoming 22 years of age, unless otherwise provided in chapter 52 or 52A of this title; provided, however:

~~(i) that an individual who is alleged to have committed an act before attaining 10 years of age that would be murder as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2301 if committed by an adult may be subject to delinquency proceedings; and~~

~~(ii),~~ that an individual may be considered a child for the period of time the court retains jurisdiction under section 5104 of this title.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 5103(c) is amended to read:

(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided by this title and by subdivision (2) of this subsection, jurisdiction over a child shall not be extended beyond the child’s 18th birthday.

(2)(A) Jurisdiction over a child with a delinquency may be extended until six months beyond the child’s:

(i) ~~19th~~ 20th birthday if the child was 16 or 17 years of age when ~~he or she~~ the child committed the offense; or

(ii) ~~20th~~ 21st birthday if the child was 18 years of age when ~~he or she~~ the child committed the offense.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Raise the Age \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 125, Secs. 7–11 are amended to read:

Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

Sec. 9. [Deleted.]

Sec. 10. [Deleted.]

Sec. 11. [Deleted.]

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 125, Sec. 21 is amended to read:

Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

\* \* \*

(b) ~~Secs. 7-11 shall take effect on April 1, 2025.~~ [Deleted.]

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 5201(d) is amended to read:

(d) Any proceeding concerning a child who is alleged to have committed any offense other than those specified in subsection 5204(a) of this title or subdivision (c)(2) or (3) of this section before attaining ~~19~~ 20 years of age shall originate in the Family Division of the Superior Court, provided that jurisdiction may be transferred in accordance with this chapter.

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 5203 is amended to read:

§ 5203. TRANSFER FROM OTHER COURTS

(a) If it appears to a Criminal Division of the Superior Court that the defendant was under ~~19~~ 20 years of age at the time the offense charged was alleged to have been committed and the offense charged is an offense not specified in subsection 5204(a) or subdivision 5201(c)(2) or (3) of this title, that court shall forthwith transfer the proceeding to the Family Division of the Superior Court under the authority of this chapter, and the minor shall then be considered to be subject to this chapter as a child charged with a delinquent act.

\* \* \*

(c) If it appears to the State's Attorney that the defendant was under ~~19~~ 20 years of age at the time the felony offense charged was alleged to have been committed and the felony charged is not an offense specified in subsection 5204(a) or subdivision 5201(c)(2) or (3) of this title, the State's Attorney shall file charges in the Family Division of the Superior Court, pursuant to section 5201 of this title. The Family Division may transfer the proceeding to the Criminal Division pursuant to section 5204 of this title.

\* \* \*

Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 5204 is amended to read:

§ 5204. TRANSFER FROM FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SUPERIOR  
COURT

(a) After a petition has been filed alleging delinquency, upon motion of the State's Attorney and after hearing, the Family Division of the Superior Court may transfer jurisdiction of the proceeding to the Criminal Division of the

Superior Court if the child had attained 16 years of age but not ~~19~~ 20 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred and the delinquent act set forth in the petition is a felony not specified in subdivisions (1)–(11) of this subsection or if the child had attained 12 years of age but not 14 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred, and if the delinquent act set forth in the petition was any of the following:

\* \* \*

Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 5103(c) is amended to read:

(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided by this title and by subdivision (2) of this subsection, jurisdiction over a child shall not be extended beyond the child's 18th birthday.

(2)(A) Jurisdiction over a child with a delinquency may be extended:

(i) until six months beyond the child's:

~~(i)(I)~~ (I) 20th birthday if the child was 16 or 17 years of age when the child committed the offense; or

~~(ii)(II)~~ (II) 21st birthday if the child was 18 years of age when the child committed the offense; or

(ii) until the child's 22nd birthday if the child was 19 years of age when the child committed the offense.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 5206 is amended to read:

§ 5206. CITATION OF ~~16- TO 18-YEAR-OLDS~~ 19-YEAR-OLDS

(a)(1) If a child was over 16 years of age and under ~~19~~ 20 years of age at the time the offense was alleged to have been committed and the offense is not specified in subsection (b) of this section, law enforcement shall cite the child to the Family Division of the Superior Court.

\* \* \*

Sec. 10. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) On or before July 1, 2026 and December 1, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on its progress toward implementing the requirement of this act that the Raise the Age initiative take effect on July 1,



2027. The progress reports required by this section shall describe progress toward implementation of the Raise the Age initiative, as measured by qualitative and quantitative data related to the following priorities:

- (1) establishing a secure residential facility;
- (2) expanding capacity for nonresidential treatment programs to provide community-based services;
- (3) ensuring that residential treatment programs are used appropriately and to their full potential;
- (4) expanding capacity for Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) contracts;
- (5) expanding capacity for the provision of services to children with developmental disabilities;
- (6) establishing a stabilization program for children who are experiencing a mental health crisis;
- (7) enhancing long-term treatment for children;
- (8) programming to help children, particularly 18- and 19-year-olds, transition to adulthood;
- (9) developing district-specific data and information on family services workforce development, including turnover, retention, and vacancy rates; times needed to fill open positions; training opportunities and needs; and instituting a positive culture for employees;
- (10) installation of a comprehensive child welfare information system; and
- (11) plans for and measures taken to secure funding for the goals listed in this section.

(b) The report required by this section shall provide utilization data for the Red Clover Treatment Facility, including how many youths utilize the Facility on a monthly and annual basis, the length of stay, the treatment needs of the youths who are placed at the Facility, racial and gender demographic data for youths who are placed at the Facility, and any other data deemed relevant by the Department.

(c) Failure to meet one or more of the progress report elements listed in subsection (a) of this section shall not be a basis for extending the implementation of the Raise the Age initiative beyond July 1, 2027.

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICABILITY

(a) Secs. 1, 2, and 10 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b) Secs. 3 and 4 and this section shall take effect on March 31, 2025.

(c) Secs. 5-9 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

**(Committee Vote: 7-2-2)**

**H. 21**

An act relating to service of writs of possession

**Rep. Malay of Pittsford**, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 4854 is amended to read:

§ 4854. JUDGMENT FOR PLAINTIFF; WRIT OF POSSESSION

If the court finds that the plaintiff is entitled to possession of the premises, the plaintiff shall have judgment for possession and rents due, damages, and costs, and when a written rental agreement so provides, the court may award reasonable attorney's fees. A writ of possession shall issue on the date judgment is entered, unless the court for good cause orders a stay. The writ shall direct the any sheriff of the county in which the property or a portion thereof is located to serve the writ upon the defendant and, not earlier than 14 days after the writ is served, to put the plaintiff into possession.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)**

**H. 50**

An act relating to identifying State real property suitable for conversion into affordable housing

**Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield**, for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

§ 165. SPACE ALLOCATION, INVENTORY, AND USE; LEASING

PROPERTY; COMMISSIONER'S PREAPPROVAL REQUIRED

\* \* \*

(e) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall maintain an inventory of all State-owned buildings and land and shall biannually compile and update the information received under subsection (g) of this section, which shall be considered once available in making spacing allocations and designating uses under subsection (c) of this section.

\* \* \*

(g) The head of each agency shall prepare and forward to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services ~~when requested by the Commissioner~~ annually in a format prescribed by the Commissioner an inventory of: square footage available for use; square footage in actual use; square footage not in use; square footage used for storage; square footage that is unfinished; cost per square foot for rent; cost per square foot for operation and maintenance; and the source of funds for rent, operation, and maintenance, including the act and section numbers of a legislative directive if applicable. The head of each agency shall additionally indicate in its inventory in a format prescribed by the Commissioner whether any building is vacant and whether any land is unnecessary for State purposes.

\* \* \*

(j) On or before January 15 of each new legislative biennium, the Commissioner shall submit to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions the inventory maintained under subsection (e) of this section.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land”

**(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)**

## H. 105

An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program

**Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro**, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 656 is amended to read:

§ 656. PERSON ~~16~~ 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE MISREPRESENTING AGE, PROCURING, POSSESSING, OR CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; IMPAIRED DRIVING; CIVIL VIOLATION

(a) Prohibited conduct; ~~offense~~ offenses.

(1) Prohibited conduct. A person ~~16~~ 12 years of age or older and under 21 years of age shall not:

(A) Falsely represent the person's age for the purpose of procuring or attempting to procure malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines from any licensee, State liquor agency, or other person or persons.

(B) Possess malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines for the purpose of consumption by the person or other minors, except in the regular performance of duties as an employee of a licensee licensed to sell alcoholic liquor.

(C) Consume malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines. A violation of this subdivision may be prosecuted in a jurisdiction where the ~~minor~~ person has consumed malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines or in a jurisdiction where the indicators of consumption are observed.

(D) Operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control on a highway of a vehicle when the person's blood alcohol concentration is 0.02 or more.

(2) Offense Procurement, possession, or consumption penalties. A person who knowingly violates ~~subdivision~~ any of subdivisions (1)(A)-(C) of this subsection commits a civil violation and shall be referred to the Court Diversion Program for the purpose of enrollment in the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. A person who fails to complete the program successfully commits a civil violation under the jurisdiction of the Juridical Bureau and shall be subject to the following:

(A) a civil penalty of \$300.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 30 days, for a first offense; and

(B) a civil penalty of not more than \$600.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 90 days, for a second or subsequent offense.

(3) Impaired driver penalties.

(A) A person who violates subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection (a) commits a civil violation, shall be referred to the Court Diversion Program for the purpose of enrollment in the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program, and shall serve a suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle in accordance with subdivision (B) of this subdivision (3). A person who fails to complete the Program successfully commits a civil violation under the jurisdiction of the Juridical Bureau and shall be subject to the following:

(i) For a first offense, a civil penalty of \$300.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 180 days and compliance with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a)(1).

(ii) For a second or subsequent offense, a civil penalty of \$600.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license for a period of one year or until the person reaches 21 years of age, whichever is longer, and compliance with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a)(2).

(iii) A person who violates subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection (a) may also be subject to recall of the person's provisional license under 23 V.S.A. § 607a.

(iv) If a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is violating subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection (a), the officer may request the person to submit to a breath test using a preliminary screening device approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. A refusal to submit to the breath test shall be considered a violation of subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection (a). Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in 23 V.S.A. §§ 1202 and 1203 of this title:

(I) the results of the test shall be admissible evidence in a proceeding under this section; and

(II) there shall be no statutory right to counsel prior to the administration of the test.

(v) In a proceeding under this section, if there was at any time within two hours after operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle on a highway a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's blood

alcohol concentration was 0.02 or more at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

(vi) No points shall be assessed for a violation of subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection (a).

(vii) The Alcohol and Driving Program required under this section shall be administered by the Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs and shall take into consideration any particular treatment needs of operators under 21 years of age.

(viii) An alleged violation of this section shall not bar prosecution for any crime, including a prosecution under 23 V.S.A. § 1201.

(ix) Suspensions imposed under this subdivision (3)(A) or any comparable statute of any other jurisdiction shall run concurrently with suspensions imposed under 23 V.S.A. §§ 1205, 1206, and 1208 or any comparable statutes of any other jurisdiction or with any suspension resulting from a conviction for a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1091 from the same incident.

(B)(i) For a first offense, a person shall serve suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 90 days and shall be automatically reinstated after the 90-day period.

(ii) For a second or subsequent offense, a person shall serve a suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period 145 days and shall be automatically reinstated after the 145-day period.

(iii) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue a notice of reinstatement to the person serving a suspension under this subdivision (a)(3)(B) upon successful completion of the suspension.

(iv) If a person fails to complete the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program, the person shall receive credit for any elapsed period of a suspension served pursuant to this subdivision (3)(B) against any suspension imposed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3).

(C) During a suspension issued pursuant to subdivisions (A) or (B) of this subdivision (3), a person may operate a motor vehicle if issued an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or certificate in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

(i) A person subject to penalties under subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (3) and who elects to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate shall be reinstated only if the person operates with

an ignition interlock RDL or certificate for a period of 180 days, in addition to any extension of this period arising from a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

(ii) A person subject to penalties under subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (3) and who elects to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate shall be reinstated only if the person operates with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate for a period of one year or until the person reaches 21 years of age, whichever is longer, in addition to any extension of this period arising from a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

(b) Issuance of notice of violation. A law enforcement officer shall issue a person who violates this section a notice of violation, in a form approved by the Court Administrator. A person shall not be cited for more than one violation of subsection (a) of this section arising out of the same incident. The notice of violation shall require the person to provide the person's name and address and shall explain procedures under this section, including that:

(1) the person shall contact the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred within 15 days;

(2) failure to contact the Diversion Program within 15 days will result in the case being referred to the Judicial Bureau, where the person, if found liable for the violation, will be subject to a civil penalty and a suspension of the person's operator's license and may face substantially increased insurance rates;

(3) no money should be submitted to pay any penalty until after adjudication; and

(4) the person shall notify the Diversion Program if the person's address changes.

(c) Issuance of Notice of Suspension.

(1) On behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a law enforcement officer issuing a notice of violation in accordance with subsection (b) of this section shall also serve a notice of suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle in a form prescribed by the Court Administrator. The form shall include the following:

(A) the effective date of the suspension;

(B) the suspension's duration;

(C) an explanation of the consequences of the suspension;

(D) an explanation of the process to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or certificate in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1213; and

(E) the projected date of reinstatement upon successful completion of the suspension.

(2) A suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(3)(B) of this section shall become effective on the 11th day after the person receives notice in accordance with this subsection (c).

(3) A copy of the notice of suspension shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

(d) Summons and complaint. When a person is issued a notice of violation under this section, the law enforcement officer shall complete a summons and complaint for the offense and send it to the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred. The summons and complaint shall not be filed with the Judicial Bureau at that time.

~~(d)~~(e) Registration in Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. Within 15 days after receiving a notice of violation, the person shall contact the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred and register for the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. If the person fails to do so, the Diversion Program shall file the summons and complaint with the Judicial Bureau for adjudication under 4 V.S.A. chapter 29. The Diversion Program shall provide a copy of the summons and complaint to the law enforcement officer who issued the notice of violation and shall provide two copies to the person ~~charged with~~ subject to the violation.

~~(e)~~(f) Notice to report to Diversion. Upon receipt from a law enforcement officer of a summons and complaint completed under this section, the Diversion Program shall send the person a notice to report to the Diversion Program. The notice to report shall provide that:

(1) The person is required to complete all conditions related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, including substance abuse screening and, if deemed appropriate following the screening, substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, or both.

(2) If the person does not satisfactorily complete the substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, or any other condition related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, the case will be referred to the Judicial Bureau, where the person, if found liable for the violation, shall be assessed a civil penalty, the



person's driver's license will be suspended, and the person's automobile insurance rates may increase substantially.

(3) If the person satisfactorily completes the substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, and any other condition related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, no penalty shall be imposed and the person's operator's license shall not be suspended.

~~(f)~~(g) Diversion Program requirements.

(1) Upon being contacted by a person who has been issued a notice of violation, the Diversion Program shall register the person in the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. Pursuant to the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program, the Diversion Program shall impose conditions on the person. The conditions imposed shall include only conditions related to the offense and in every case shall include a condition requiring satisfactory completion of substance abuse screening using an evidence-based tool and, if deemed appropriate following the screening, substance abuse assessment and substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, or both. If the screener recommends substance abuse counseling, the person shall choose a State-certified or State-licensed substance abuse counselor or substance abuse treatment provider to provide the services.

(2) Substance abuse screening required under this subsection shall be completed within 60 days after the Diversion Program receives a summons and complaint. The person shall complete all conditions at the person's own expense.

(3) When a person has satisfactorily completed substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, and any other condition related to the offense that the Diversion Program has imposed, the Diversion Program shall:

(A) Void the summons and complaint with no penalty due.

(B) Send copies of the voided summons and complaint to the Judicial Bureau and to the law enforcement officer who completed them. Before sending copies of the voided summons and complaint to the Judicial Bureau under this subdivision, the Diversion Program shall redact all language containing the person's name, address, Social Security number, and any other information that identifies the person.

(4) If a person does not satisfactorily complete substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, or any other condition related to the offense imposed by the

Diversion Program, the Diversion Program shall file the summons and complaint with the Judicial Bureau for adjudication under 4 V.S.A. chapter 29. The Diversion Program shall provide a copy of the summons and complaint to the law enforcement officer who issued the notice of violation and shall provide two copies to the person charged with the violation.

(5) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Diversion Program or alcohol counselor may seek review of that decision pursuant to Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(6) Notwithstanding ~~3 V.S.A. §§ 163(a)(2)(C) and 164 (a)(2)(C)~~ any law to the contrary, the adult or juvenile diversion programs shall accept cases from the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program pursuant to this section. The confidentiality provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 163 or 164 shall become effective when a notice of violation is issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and shall remain in effect unless the person fails to register with or complete the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

~~(g) [Repealed.]~~

(h) Record of adjudications; confidentiality; public records exemption.

(1) Upon adjudicating a person in violation of this section, the Judicial Bureau shall notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who shall maintain a record of all such adjudications that shall be separate from the registry maintained by the Department for motor vehicle driving records. The identity of a person in the registry shall be revealed only to the following:

(A) a law enforcement officer determining whether the person has previously violated this section; or

(B) an insurance company or its third-party contractor only for the purposes of recording a license suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section.

(2) Except as provided in this subsection (h):

(A) All information related to a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be held strictly confidential and not released without the participant's prior consent.

(B) Any records or information produced or acquired pursuant to a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be exempt from public inspection or copying under Vermont's Public Records Act.

(i) Reporting. Annually, beginning on October 1, 2026, the Office of the Attorney General, and other entities as needed, shall submit a written report to

the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary related to impaired driver violations under this section, containing the following:

(1) the number of persons referred to the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program;

(2) the ages of the persons referred to the Program;

(3) the number of persons who successfully complete the Program;

(4) the number of persons who fail the Program; and

(5) the number of persons who serve suspensions imposed by the Judicial Bureau after failing the Program.

#### Sec. 2. IMPAIRED DRIVING; OUTCOME MEASURES; REPORT

For the first report submitted pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 656(i), the Office of the Attorney General, in collaboration with the Vermont Statistical Analysis Center and others as needed, shall propose outcome measures to assess the effectiveness of any suspensions imposed for impaired driver violations and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program as a whole.

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a) is amended to read:

(a) Conditions of reinstatement. No license or privilege to operate suspended or revoked under this subchapter, ~~except a license or privilege to operate suspended under section 1216 of this title,~~ shall be reinstated except as follows:

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 4. REPEALS

(a) 7 V.S.A. § 657a (person under 16 years of age misrepresenting age or procuring or possessing alcoholic beverages; delinquency) is repealed.

(b) 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (persons under 21 years of age; alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more) is repealed.

#### Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

**(Committee Vote: 8-1-2)**

## H. 137

An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services

**Rep. White of Bethel**, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 23 is amended to read:

### § 23. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INVESTIGATION AND EXAMINATION REPORTS

(a) This section shall apply to all persons licensed, authorized, or registered, or required to be licensed, authorized, or registered, ~~under this title or under 9 V.S.A. chapter 150~~ by the Commissioner.

(b) Regardless of source, all records of investigations, including information pertaining to a complaint by or for a consumer, and all records and reports of examinations by the Commissioner, whether in the possession of a supervisory agency or another person, shall be confidential and privileged, shall not be made public, and shall not be subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any private civil action. No person who participated on behalf of the Commissioner in an investigation or examination shall be permitted or required to testify in any such civil action as to any findings, recommendations, opinions, results, or other actions relating to the investigation or examination.

(c) The Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, disclose or publish or authorize the disclosure or publication of any such record or report or any part thereof in the furtherance of legal or regulatory proceedings brought as a part of the Commissioner's official duties. The Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, disclose or publish or authorize the disclosure or publication of any such record or report or any part thereof, to civil or criminal law enforcement authorities for use in the exercise of such authority's duties, in such manner as the Commissioner may deem proper.

(d) For the purposes of this section, records of investigations and records and reports of examinations shall include joint examinations by the Commissioner and any other supervisory agency. Records of investigations and reports of examinations shall also include records of examinations and investigations conducted by:

- (1) any agency with supervisory jurisdiction over the person; and

(2) any agency of any foreign government with supervisory jurisdiction over any person subject to the jurisdiction of the Department, when such records are considered confidential by such agency or foreign government and the records are in the possession of the Commissioner.

Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. § 3303 is amended to read:

§ 3303. MUTUAL COMPANIES; DIRECTORS, CHARTER PROVISIONS  
AS TO

The articles of association or bylaws of a mutual insurer shall set forth the manner in which its board of directors or other governing body shall be elected, and in which meetings of policyholders shall be called, held, and conducted, subject to such procedures as may be required by the Commissioner under ~~section 75~~ subsection 15(a) of this title.

Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 4688(a) is amended to read:

(a) Filings as to competitive markets. Except with respect to filings submitted pursuant to section 4687 of this title, in a competitive market, every insurer shall file with the Commissioner all rates and supplementary rate information, and supporting information that are to be used in this State, provided that such rates and information need not be filed for specifically rated inland marine risks or such other risks that are designated by regulation of the Commissioner as not requiring a filing. Such rates, supplementary rate information, and supporting information shall be provided to the Commissioner not later than ~~15 days after~~ 30 days prior to the effective date. An insurer may adopt by reference, with or without deviation or modification, provided that said deviation or modification is readily identifiable, the rates, supplementary rate information, and supporting information filed by another insurer or an advisory or service organization with which it is affiliated; provided, however, such an adoption shall not relieve an insurer from any other requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 4724 is amended to read:

§ 4724. UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION OR UNFAIR OR  
DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES DEFINED

\* \* \*

(23) Affordable housing; unfair discrimination.

(A) An insurer that issues or delivers in this State a policy of insurance covering loss of or damage to real property containing units for residential purposes or legal liability of an owner or renter of such real

property shall not cancel, refuse to issue, refuse to renew, or increase the premium of a policy, or exclude, limit, restrict, or reduce coverage under a policy, based on the following:

(i) whether the residential building contains dwelling units that are required to be affordable to residents at a specific income level pursuant to a statute, regulation, restrictive declaration, or regulatory agreement with a local, State, or federal government entity;

(ii) whether the real property owner or tenants of such residential building or the shareholders of a cooperative housing corporation receive rental assistance provided by a local, State, or federal government entity, including the receipt of federal vouchers issued under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, 42 U.S.C. § 1437f;

(iii) the level or source of income of the tenants of the residential building or the shareholders of a cooperative housing corporation; or

(iv) whether the residential building is owned by a limited-equity cooperative, public housing agency, or cooperative housing corporation.

(B) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from cancelling, refusing to issue, refusing to renew, or increasing the premium of an insurance policy, or excluding, limiting, restricting, or reducing coverage under a policy, due to other factors that are permitted or not prohibited by any other section of this chapter.

Sec. 5. 8 V.S.A. § 6002(a) is amended to read:

(a) Any captive insurance company, when permitted by its articles of association, charter, or other organizational document, may apply to the Commissioner for a license to ~~do any and all~~ conduct insurance business comprised in ~~subdivisions 3301(a)(1), (2), (3)(A)-(C), (E)-(Q), and (4)-(9)~~ section 3301 of this title and may grant annuity contracts as defined in section 3717 of this title and may accept or transfer risk by means of a parametric contract; provided, however, that:

(1) No pure captive insurance company may insure any risks other than those of its parent and affiliated companies or controlled unaffiliated business.

(2) No agency captive insurance company may do any insurance business in this State unless:

(A) an insurance agency or brokerage that owns or controls the agency captive insurance company remains in regulatory good standing in all states in which it is licensed;

(B) it insures only the risks of the commercial policies that are placed by or through an insurance agency or brokerage that owns or directly or indirectly controls the agency captive insurance company and, if required by the Commissioner in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, it provides the Commissioner the form of such commercial policies;

(C) it discloses to the original policyholder or policyholders, in a form or manner approved by the Commissioner, that the agency captive insurance company as a result of its affiliation with an insurance agency or brokerage may enter into a reinsurance or other risk-sharing agreement with the agency or brokerage; and

(D) if required by the Commissioner in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, the business written by an agency captive insurance company is:

(i) Fronted by an insurance company licensed under the laws of any state.

(ii) Reinsured by a reinsurer authorized or approved by the State of Vermont.

(iii) Secured by a trust fund in the United States for the benefit of policyholders and claimants or funded by an irrevocable letter of credit or other arrangement that is acceptable to the Commissioner. The Commissioner may require the agency captive insurance company to increase the funding of any security arrangement established under this subdivision. If the form of security is a letter of credit, the letter of credit shall be issued or confirmed by a bank approved by the Commissioner. A trust maintained pursuant to this subdivision shall be established in a form and upon terms approved by the Commissioner.

(3) No association captive insurance company may insure any risks other than those of its association, those of the member organizations of its association, and those of a member organization's affiliated companies.

(4) No industrial insured captive insurance company may insure any risks other than those of the industrial insureds that comprise the industrial insured group, those of their affiliated companies, and those of the controlled unaffiliated business of an industrial insured or its affiliated companies.

(5) No risk retention group may insure any risks other than those of its members and owners.

(6) No captive insurance company may provide personal motor vehicle or homeowner's insurance coverage or any component thereof.

(7) No captive insurance company may accept or cede reinsurance except as provided in section 6011 of this title.

(8) Any captive insurance company may provide excess workers' compensation insurance to its parent and affiliated companies, unless prohibited by the federal law or laws of the state having jurisdiction over the transaction. Any captive insurance company, unless prohibited by federal law, may reinsure workers' compensation of a qualified self-insured plan of its parent and affiliated companies.

(9) Any captive insurance company that insures risks described in subdivisions 3301(a)(1) and (2) of this title shall comply with all applicable State and federal laws.

(10) Any captive insurance company that transfers risk by means of a parametric contract shall comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations.

Sec. 6. 8 V.S.A. § 6004(d) is amended to read:

(d) Within 30 days after commencing business, each captive insurance company shall file with the Commissioner a statement under oath of its president and secretary or, in the case of a captive insurance company formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, of two individuals authorized by the governing board certifying that the captive insurance company possessed the requisite unimpaired, paid-in capital and surplus prior to commencing business.

Sec. 7. 8 V.S.A. § 6006 is amended to read:

§ 6006. FORMATION OF CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THIS STATE

\* \* \*

(h) Other than captive insurance companies formed as limited liability companies under 11 V.S.A. ~~chapter 21~~ chapter 25 or as nonprofit corporations under Title 11B, captive insurance companies formed as corporations under the provisions of this chapter shall have the privileges and be subject to the provisions of Title 11A as well as the applicable provisions contained in this chapter. In the event of conflict between the provisions of said general corporation law and the provisions of this chapter, the latter shall control.

(i) Captive insurance companies formed under the provisions of this chapter:



(1) As limited liability companies shall have the privileges and be subject to the provisions of 11 V.S.A. ~~chapter 21~~ chapter 25 as well as the applicable provisions contained in this chapter. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of 11 V.S.A. ~~chapter 21~~ chapter 25 and the provisions of this chapter, the latter shall control.

(2) As nonprofit corporations shall have the privileges and be subject to the provisions of Title 11B as well as the applicable provisions contained in this chapter. In the event of conflict between the provisions of Title 11B and the provisions of this chapter, the latter shall control.

(3) As mutual insurers shall have the privileges and be subject to the provisions of sections 3303 and 3311 of this title as well as the applicable provisions contained in this chapter. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of sections 3303 and 3311 of this title and the provisions of this chapter, the latter shall control.

\* \* \*

Sec. 8. 8 V.S.A. § 6006a(a) is amended to read:

(a) Any captive insurance company meeting the qualifications set forth in subdivision 6006(j)(1) of this title may merge with any other insurer, whether licensed in this State or elsewhere, in the following manner:

(1) The board of directors of each insurer shall, by a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of such board, approve a joint agreement of merger setting forth:

(A) the names of the insurers proposed to merge, and the name of the insurer into which they propose to merge, which is hereafter designated as the surviving company;

(B) the terms and conditions of the proposed merger and the mode of carrying the same into effect;

(C) the manner and basis of converting the ownership interests, if applicable, in other than the surviving insurer into ownership interests or other consideration, securities, or obligations of the surviving insurer;

(D) a restatement of such provisions of the articles of incorporation of the surviving insurer as may be deemed necessary or advisable to give effect to the proposed merger; and

(E) any other provisions with respect to the proposed merger as are deemed necessary or desirable.

(2) The resolution of the board of directors of each insurer approving the agreement shall direct that the agreement be submitted to a vote of the shareholders, members, or policyholders, as the case may be, of each insurer entitled to vote in respect thereof at a designated meeting thereof, or via unanimous written consent of such shareholders, members, or policyholders in lieu of a meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given as provided in the bylaws, charter, or articles of association, or other governance document, as the case may be, of each insurer and shall specifically reflect the agreement as a matter to be considered at the meeting.

(3) The agreement of merger so approved shall be submitted to a vote of the shareholders, members, or policyholders, as the case may be, of each insurer entitled to vote in respect thereof at the meeting directed by the resolution of the board of directors of such company approving the agreement, and the agreement shall be unanimously adopted by the shareholders, members, or policyholders, as the case may be.

(4) Following the adoption of the agreement by any insurer, articles of merger shall be adopted in the following manner:

(A) Upon the execution of the agreement of merger by all of the insurers parties thereto, there shall be executed and filed, in the manner hereafter provided, articles of merger setting forth the agreement of merger, the signatures of the several insurers parties thereto, the manner of its adoption, and the vote by which adopted by each insurer.

(B) The articles of merger shall be signed on behalf of each insurer by a duly authorized officer or, in the case of an insurer formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, by an individual authorized by the governing board, in such multiple copies as shall be required to enable the insurers to comply with the provisions of this subchapter with respect to filing and recording the articles of merger, and shall then be presented to the Commissioner.

(C) The Commissioner shall approve the articles of merger if ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner finds that the merger will promote the general good of the State in conformity with those standards set forth in section 3305 of this title. If ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner approves the articles of merger, ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner shall issue a certificate of approval of merger.

(5) The insurer shall file the articles of merger, accompanied by the agreement of merger and the certificate of approval of merger, with the Secretary of State and pay all fees as required by law. If the Secretary of State finds that they conform to law, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall issue a certificate of merger and return it to the surviving insurer or its representatives. The

merger shall take effect upon the filing of articles of merger with the Secretary of State, unless a later effective date is specified therein.

(6) The surviving insurer shall file a copy of the certificate of merger from the Secretary of State with the Commissioner.

Sec. 9. 8 V.S.A. § 6007(b) is amended to read:

(b) Prior to March 1 of each year, and prior to March 15 of each year in the case of pure captive insurance companies, association captive insurance companies, sponsored captive insurance companies, industrial insured captive insurance companies, or agency captive insurance companies, each captive insurance company shall submit to the Commissioner a report of its financial condition, verified by oath of two of its executive officers or, in the case of a captive insurance company formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, of two individuals authorized by the governing board. Each captive insurance company shall report using generally accepted accounting principles, statutory accounting principles, or international financial reporting standards unless the Commissioner requires, approves, or accepts the use of any other comprehensive basis of accounting, in each case with any appropriate or necessary modifications or adaptations thereof required or approved or accepted by the Commissioner for the type of insurance and kinds of insurers to be reported upon, and as supplemented by additional information required by the Commissioner. As used in this section, statutory accounting principles shall mean the accounting principles codified in the NAIC Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual. Upon application for admission, a captive insurance company shall select, with explanation, an accounting method for reporting. Any change in a captive insurance company's accounting method shall require prior approval. Except as otherwise provided, each risk retention group shall file its report in the form required by subsection 3561(a) of this title, and each risk retention group shall comply with the requirements set forth in section 3569 of this title. The Commissioner shall by rule propose the forms in which pure captive insurance companies, association captive insurance companies, sponsored captive insurance companies, and industrial insured captive insurance companies shall report. Subdivision 6002(c)(3) of this title shall apply to each report filed pursuant to this section, except that such subdivision shall not apply to reports filed by risk retention groups.

Sec. 10. 8 V.S.A. § 6011(a) is amended to read:

(a) Any captive insurance company may provide reinsurance, of policies approved by the Commissioner comprised in subsection 3301(a) section 3301 of this title, on risks of its parent, affiliated companies, and controlled

unaffiliated business ceded by any other insurer, and may provide reinsurance of annuity contracts as defined in section 3717 of this title that are granted by any other insurer.

Sec. 11. 8 V.S.A. § 6024(c) is amended to read:

(c) A dormant captive insurance company that has been issued a certificate of dormancy shall:

(1) possess and thereafter maintain unimpaired, paid-in capital and surplus of not less than \$25,000.00; provided, however, that if the dormant captive insurance company had never capitalized, it shall not be required to add capital upon entering dormancy;

(2) prior to March 15 of each year, submit to the Commissioner a report of its financial condition, verified by oath of two of its executive officers or, in the case of a captive insurance company formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, of two individuals authorized by its governing board, in a form as may be prescribed by the Commissioner; and

(3) pay a license renewal fee of \$500.00.

Sec. 12. 8 V.S.A. § 6045 is amended to read:

#### § 6045. BRANCH CAPTIVE REPORTS

Prior to March 15 of each year, or with the approval of the Commissioner within 75 days after its fiscal year-end, a branch captive insurance company shall file with the Commissioner a copy of all reports and statements required to be filed under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the alien captive insurance company is formed, verified by oath of two of its executive officers or, in the case of a branch captive insurance company formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, of two individuals authorized by the governing board. If the Commissioner is satisfied that the annual report filed by the alien captive insurance company in its domiciliary jurisdiction provides adequate information concerning the financial condition of the alien captive insurance company, the Commissioner may waive the requirement for completion of the captive annual statement for business written in the alien jurisdiction.

Sec. 13. 8 V.S.A. § 6048d(c)(2) is amended to read:

(2) The special purpose financial insurance company shall submit an affidavit of its president, a vice president, the treasurer, or the chief financial officer or, in the case of a special purpose financial insurance company formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, of an individual

authorized by the governing board that includes the following statements, to the best of such person's knowledge and belief after reasonable inquiry:

(A) the proposed organization and operation of the special purpose financial insurance company comply with all applicable provisions of this chapter;

(B) the special purpose financial insurance company's investment policy reflects and takes into account the liquidity of assets and the reasonable preservation, administration, and management of such assets with respect to the risks associated with the reinsurance contract and the insurance securitization transaction; and

(C) the reinsurance contract and any arrangement for securing the special purpose financial insurance company's obligations under such reinsurance contract, including any agreements or other documentation to implement such arrangement, comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. 14. 8 V.S.A. § 6052(g) is amended to read:

(g) This subsection establishes governance standards for a risk retention group.

(1) As used in this subsection:

(A) "Board of directors" or "board" means the governing body of a risk retention group elected by risk retention group members to establish policy, elect or appoint officers and committees, and make other governing decisions.

(B) "Director" means a natural person designated in the articles of the risk retention group or designated, elected, or appointed by any other manner, name, or title to act as a member of the governing body of the risk retention group.

(C)(i) "Independent director" means a director who does not have a material relationship with the risk retention group. A director has a material relationship with a risk retention group if ~~he or she~~ the director, or a member of ~~his or her~~ the director's immediate family:

~~(i)~~(i) In any 12-month period, receives from the risk retention group, or from a consultant or service provider to the risk retention group, compensation or other item or items of value in an amount equal to or greater than five percent of the risk retention group's gross written premium or two percent of the risk retention group's surplus, as measured at the end of any fiscal quarter falling in such 12-month period, whichever is greater. This provision also applies to compensation or items of value received by any

business with which the director is affiliated. Such material relationship shall continue for one year after receipt of the item or items of value or the compensation falls below the threshold established in this subdivision.

~~(H)(ii)~~ Has a relationship with an auditor as follows: Is affiliated with or employed in a professional capacity by a current or former internal or external auditor of the risk retention group. Such material relationship shall continue for one year after the affiliation or employment ends.

~~(aa)(iii)~~ Is employed as an executive officer of another business entity that is affiliated with the risk retention group by virtue of common ownership and control, if such entity meets all of the following criteria:

~~(AA)(I)~~ the entity is not an insured of the risk retention group;

~~(BB)(II)~~ the entity has a contractual relationship with the risk retention group; and

~~(CC)(III)~~ the governing board of the entity includes executive officers of the risk retention group, unless a majority of the membership of such entity's governing board is composed of individuals who are members of the governing board of the risk retention group.

~~(bb)(IV)~~ Such material relationship shall continue until the employment or service ends.

~~(ii)(iv)~~ Notwithstanding ~~subdivision (i)~~ subdivisions ~~(i)-(iii)~~ of this subdivision (g)(1)(C), a director who is a direct or indirect owner of the risk retention group is deemed to be independent; and an officer, director, or employee of an insured of the risk retention group is deemed to be independent, unless some other relationship of such officer, director, or employee qualifies as a material relationship.

(D) "Material service provider" includes a captive manager, auditor, accountant, actuary, investment advisor, attorney, managing general underwriter, or other person responsible for underwriting, determination of rates, premium collection, claims adjustment or settlement, or preparation of financial statements, whose aggregate annual contract fees are equal to or greater than five percent of the risk retention group's annual gross written premium or two percent of its surplus, whichever is greater. It does not mean defense counsel retained by a risk retention group, unless ~~his or her~~ the defense counsel's annual fees have been equal to or greater than five percent of a risk retention group's annual gross premium or two percent of its surplus, whichever is greater, during three or more of the previous five years.

\* \* \*

(9) The president or chief executive officer or, in the case of a risk retention group formed as a limited liability company or as a reciprocal insurer, an individual authorized by the board of directors of a risk retention group shall promptly notify the Commissioner in writing of any known material noncompliance with the governance standards established in this subsection.

Sec. 15. 8 V.S.A. § 2504 is amended to read:

§ 2504. EXEMPTIONS

This chapter does not apply to:

\* \* \*

(18) A person that performs payroll calculations, prepares payroll instructions, prepares and files State or federal income withholding tax reports and unemployment insurance compensation reports, or provides other payroll-related services, but that does not engage in the business of payroll processing services or otherwise engage in the business of money transmission in this State or other acts requiring a license under this chapter.

(19) A person that does not provide payroll processing services to any employer that has its principal place of business in this State and that does not otherwise engage in the business of money transmission in this State or other acts requiring a license under this chapter.

(20) A person that:

(A) provides payroll processing services to 25 or fewer employers that have their principal place of business in this State;

(B) provides payroll processing services to 500 or fewer employers, regardless of where the principal place of business of each employer is located;

(C) provides payroll processing services involving transmission to less than 300 Vermont resident employees, regardless of where the principal place of business of their employer is located;

(D) has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony in a domestic, foreign, or military court, and no key individual or person in control of such person has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony in a domestic, foreign, or military court;

(E) has never had a financial services license or professional license revoked in any jurisdiction and no key individual or person in control of such person has ever had a financial services license or professional license revoked in any jurisdiction, except that a subsequent formal vacation of such revocation shall not be deemed a revocation;

(F) does not otherwise engage in the business of money transmission in this State or other acts requiring a license under this chapter; and

(G) receives and holds all money or monetary value received for transmission exclusively in:

(i) segregated trust accounts with federally insured financial institutions or credit unions for the benefit of its employer customers or applicable governmental authorities, such that the funds in such accounts are not subject to claims or liens of its creditors; or

(ii) deposit accounts at federally insured financial institutions or credit unions that are both titled in the name and tax identification number of the financial institution or credit union and for the benefit of the person's customers.

Sec. 16. 9 V.S.A. § 42 is amended to read:

#### § 42. PERMITTED CHARGES

(a) Except for interest as provided in this chapter, a lender shall make no charges against a borrower for the use or forbearance of money other than:

\* \* \*

(7) the reasonable cost of private mortgage guaranty insurance subject to such limitation as the Commissioner of Financial Regulation has approved; and

(8) the reasonable fees associated with a credit card, agreed upon by the lender and borrower, including late charges and over-limit charges; and

(9) discount points, at the request of the borrower for the purpose of reducing, and which in fact result in a bona fide reduction of, the interest rate or time-price differential applicable to the loan.

(b) A borrower may procure an opinion and abstract of title from an attorney of ~~his or her~~ the borrower's choice acceptable to the lender, or hazard insurance in a company or in companies of ~~his or her~~ the borrower's choice acceptable to the lender, and in such cases the lender's acceptance shall not be unreasonably withheld.

#### Sec. 17. STUDY; BANKS; SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY; TRANSACTION

##### HOLD

(a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee shall study regulatory models that would allow a financial institution to take measures to protect account holders from fraudulent transactions and shall recommend a model for legislative consideration. The study shall include a review of regulatory models enacted or proposed in other jurisdictions.



(b) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall consult with a representative from the Vermont Bankers Association, the Association of Vermont Credit Unions, AARP Vermont, the Office of the Attorney General, Vermont Legal Aid, and any other person deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

(c) Among other things, the study shall include recommendations regarding the following:

(1) the financial institutions subject to the proposed model;

(2) whether specific account holders, such as seniors or vulnerable populations, should receive heightened protection;

(3) notification and consultation requirements available to an account holder suspected to be the victim of fraudulent activity;

(4) a reasonable time period for imposing a transaction hold pending the outcome of an internal investigation;

(5) notification to the Department of Financial Regulation and, if appropriate, law enforcement or other third parties if fraudulent activity is suspected;

(6) continued account holder access to funds for transactions not suspected of being associated with fraudulent activity;

(7) immunity from civil liability for any financial institution that acts in good faith for the purpose of protecting account holders from fraudulent activity and that otherwise complies with applicable legal requirements; and

(8) any other provision deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

(d) On or before November 15, 2025, the Commissioner shall provide a status report on the Commissioner's preliminary findings and recommendations to the Chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and, on or before January 15, 2026, shall submit a final report in draft form to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Finance.

#### Sec. 18. STUDY; PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF COERCED DEBT

(a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee shall study regulatory models for providing protections and remedies for victims of coerced debt and shall recommend a model appropriate for Vermont. In particular, the Commissioner shall review the Model State Coerced Debt Law

prepared by the National Consumer Law Center in May of 2024, as well as laws enacted or proposed in other jurisdictions.

(b) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall consult with a representative from the Vermont Network, the Vermont Bankers Association, the Association of Vermont Credit Unions, the Office of the Attorney General, Vermont Legal Aid, and any other person deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

(c) Among other things, the study shall include recommendations regarding the following:

(1) a definition of coerced debt;

(2) whether coerced debt should include both secured and unsecured debt;

(3) the requisite information a debtor must provide a creditor when alleging coerced debt;

(4) procedures a creditor must follow regarding the investigation of an allegation of coerced debt, including ceasing collection efforts and notifying the Department of Financial Regulation, the Office of the Attorney General, and other law enforcement personnel, if appropriate;

(5) whether a credit reporting agency should remove coerced debt from a credit report and, if so, the process for doing so;

(6) whether Vermont's identity theft law, 13 V.S.A. § 2030, should be expanded to more specifically reference instances of coerced debt; and

(7) any other provision deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

(d) On or before January 15, 2026, the Commissioner shall report the Commissioner's findings and recommendations in draft form to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Finance.

## Sec. 19. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INSURANCE AND GENETIC PRIVACY

On or before November 15, 2025, and for the purpose of preventing unfair genetic discrimination and safeguarding an individual's genetic privacy, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall provide a recommendation to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Finance on whether Vermont should enact a law prohibiting or limiting an insurance company's access to a consumer's personalized genetic report that is not part of the consumer's medical record. Among other things,

the Commissioner shall consider whether to require that an insurance company obtain consumer consent prior to the disclosure of genetic information obtained from a direct-to-consumer entity to an insurance company, including any company that offers health, long-term care, life, or disability insurance.

Sec. 20. 8 V.S.A. § 4062b is amended to read:

§ 4062b. MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH SUPPLEMENT  
INSURANCE RATE REVIEW

(a) Within five business days after receiving any request to increase the premium rate for a Medicare supplement insurance policy from the health insurance company, hospital or medical service organization, or health maintenance organization issuing the policy, the Department shall post information about the rate filing on the Department's website, including:

(1) the name of the health insurance company, hospital or medical service organization, or health maintenance organization requesting the rate increase;

(2) the overall composite average rate increase requested;

(3) the increase requested by plan type;

(4) the date on which the proposed increase would take effect;

(5) the System for Electronic Rate and Form Filing (SERFF) tracking number associated with the filing and a web address for accessing the filing electronically; and

(6) instructions for submitting public comments and the deadline for doing so.

(b) Within five business days ~~of~~ after receiving a request for approval of any composite average rate increase in excess of ~~three~~ 10 percent, or any other coverage changes ~~which~~ that the Commissioner determines will have a comparable impact on cost or availability of coverage for a Medicare ~~supplemental supplement~~ supplement insurance policy issued by any ~~group or nongroup~~ health insurance company, hospital or medical service organization, or health maintenance organization, with 5,000 or more total lives in the Vermont Medicare supplement insurance market, the Commissioner shall notify the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Office of the Health Care Advocate of the proposed premium increase. A composite average rate is the enrollment-weighted average rate increase of all plans offered by a carrier.

~~(b)~~(c) Within five business days after receiving notification pursuant to subsection ~~(a)~~(b) of this section, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall inform the members of the Advisory Board established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 505 of the proposed premium increase.

~~(e)~~(d)(1) The Commissioner shall not approve any request to increase Medicare ~~supplemental~~ supplement insurance premium rates unless the amount of the rate increase complies with the statutory standards for approval under sections 4062, 4513, 4584, and 5104 of this title. Any approved rate increase shall not be based on an unreasonable change in loss ratio from the previous year, unless the Commissioner makes written findings that such change is necessary to prevent a substantial adverse impact on the financial condition of the insurer. In acting on such rate increase requests, the Commissioner may deny the request, approve the rate increase as requested, or approve a rate increase in an amount different from the increase requested. A decision by the Commissioner other than an approval of the rate requested may be appealed by the insurer, provided that the burden of proof shall be on the insurer to show that the approved rate does not meet the statutory standards established under this subsection.

(2) Before acting on the rate increase requested, the Commissioner may make such examination or investigation as ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner deems necessary, ~~including where applicable the review process set forth in subdivision (3) of this subsection.~~

~~(3) In reviewing any Medicare supplement rate increase for which an independent analysis has been performed pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 6706 and wherein the carrier's requested composite average increase, the independent expert's recommended composite average rate increase, or the Department actuary's recommended composite average rate increase differ by two percentage points or more, the Commissioner shall hold a public hearing where the insurer, the Department's actuary, the independent expert, any intervenor, and the public will have the opportunity to present written and oral testimony and will be available to answer questions of the Commissioner and those present. The hearing shall be noticed and held at a time and place so as to facilitate public participation, and shall be recorded and become part of the record before the Commissioner. In the Commissioner's discretion, the hearing may be conducted through interactive. If the carrier's requested composite average increase, the independent expert's recommended composite average increase, or the Department actuary's recommended composite average increase differs by less than two percentage points, the Department and the parties shall confer by conference call, or by any other available~~

~~media, to review the rate requests and recommendations. However, a public hearing may be held at the Commissioner's discretion for good cause shown.~~

(A) For any filing by a health insurance company, hospital or medical service organization, or health maintenance organization with 5,000 or more total lives in the Vermont Medicare supplement insurance market in which the requested composite average rate increase exceeds 10 percent, the Commissioner shall:

(i) solicit public comment; and

(ii) hold a public hearing in accordance with the Department of Financial Regulation's applicable rules regarding administrative procedures if, not later than 30 days after the rate filing information is posted on the Department's website pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a hearing is requested by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; by the Office of the Health Care Advocate; or by not fewer than 25 policyholders whose premium rates would be affected by the requested rate increase.

(B) For any filing that does not meet the criteria specified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), a public hearing may be held in the Commissioner's discretion.

(C) In the Commissioner's discretion, a hearing held pursuant to this subdivision (3) may be conducted through a designated electronic meeting platform.

~~(4) In any review held in accordance with this subsection, the Commissioner shall permit intervention by any person that the Commissioner determines will materially advance the interests of the insured individuals. The intervenor shall have access to, and may use the information of the independent expert appointed under 33 V.S.A. § 6706. The reasonable and necessary cost of intervention as determined by the Commissioner shall be paid by the affected policyholders or certificate holders. The maximum payment shall be \$2,500.00 except when waived by the Commissioner for good cause shown. The \$2,500.00 maximum amount may be adjusted to reflect, at the Commissioner's discretion, appropriate inflation factors. In any review held in accordance with this section, the Commissioner shall permit intervention by any person whom the Commissioner determines will materially advance the interests of the individuals insured under the policy.~~

~~(5) Nonproprietary, relevant information in any Medicare supplement rate filing, including any analysis by the Department's actuary and the independent expert, shall be made available to the public upon request.~~

(d) For a Medicare supplement insurance policy with an effective date of January 1, the insurer shall file its premium rate request pursuant to this section not later than July 1 of the preceding year. For a Medicare supplement insurance policy with an effective date other than January 1, the insurer shall file its rate request pursuant to this section not later than six months prior to the effective date of the policy.

Sec. 21. REPEAL

33 V.S.A. § 6706 (Medicare supplement insurance; independent analysis) is repealed.

Sec. 22. 8 V.S.A. § 2577(f) is amended to read:

(f) Moratorium. To protect the public safety and welfare and safeguard the rights of consumers, virtual-currency kiosks shall not be permitted to operate in Vermont prior to July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. This moratorium shall not apply to a virtual-currency kiosk that was operational in Vermont on or before June 30, 2024.

Sec. 23. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Secs. 20 and 21 (Medicare supplement insurance) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

**(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)**

**H. 218**

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

**Rep. Maguire of Rutland City**, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the following sums shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

(1)(A) \$1,976,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the provision of services that increase motivation of and engagement with individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks, shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that these positions shall be funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(2) \$76,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform to fund an outreach worker position.

(3)(A) \$1,400,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(4)(A) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Health for syringe services.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(5) \$800,000.00 for distribution as follows:

(A) not more than \$35,000.00 to the Department of Corrections for distribution to Pathways Vermont to implement a contingency management pilot program in Chittenden County for individuals under the supervision of the Department of Corrections; and

(B) the remainder to the Department of Health for grants to providers for ongoing support for contingency management.

(6) \$32,157.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Brattleboro Fire Department to establish community training programs on the administration of opioid antagonists, CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed protocols.

(7) \$44,229.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Champlain Housing Trust to continue a pilot program providing access to wound care and preventative health care in three low-barrier shelters within Chittenden County.

(8) \$800,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports and clinical nursing programs.

(9) \$309,000.00 to the Department of Health for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont's Project Connectionworks to

reduce opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in Windham County through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

(10) \$50,000.00 to the Judicial Branch to train Vermont's judges on issues related to opioid use disorder and strategies for use in dockets statewide.

(11) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate Youth Services to establish Healthy Youth Program counselors at the Basement Teen Center at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Washington County.

(12) \$100,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Friends for Change's Youth Center in Bellows Falls for the purpose of delivering intervention strategies and harm reduction supports to youth and young adults.

(13) \$170,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Spectrum Youth and Family Services for two new positions to expand opioid use disorder screening, treatment, and case management services to youth in Chittenden and Franklin Counties.

(14) \$80,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for the purpose of teaching parenting skills and providing social and emotional parenting supports for individuals with opioid use disorder.

(15) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for distribution to HireAbility Vermont to provide specialized employment services for individuals with opioid use disorder in Burlington, Newport, Rutland, and Bennington.

(16) \$550,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Northeast Kingdom Community Action to hire four peer support specialists to assist individuals with opioid use disorder who are transitioning out of homelessness into safe, permanent housing.

(17) \$150,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Connecticut Valley Addiction Services, Inc. to expand opioid use treatment in rural Windsor County.

(18) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and the Johnson Health Center to continue and improve the Managed Medical Response Partnership.

(19) \$30,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Treatment Associates of Washington County Mental Health to hire an embedded recovery coach.



(20) \$20,824.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Umbrella to provide integrated services between domestic and sexual violence providers and partners in recovery in northeastern Vermont.

(b) The Department of Health shall carry forward \$1,100,000.00 appropriated from the Opioid Settlement Special Fund in fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for establishing an overdose prevention center upon submission of a grant proposal that has been approved by the Burlington City Council and meets the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 4256, including the guidelines developed by the Department of Health. Any unmet need in fiscal year 2026, up to \$550,000.00, shall be addressed in the Department’s budget adjustment proposal.

(c) All grant agreements associated with funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall require outcome and measurements data to be collected and reported to the department issuing the grant and to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 93 is amended to read:

#### CHAPTER 93. OPIOID USE DISORDER

##### Subchapter 1. Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

\* \* \*

#### § 4754. LIMITATION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for prescription drugs for a patient who is receiving ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder if the dosage prescribed is within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s dosing recommendations.

(b) A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for all counseling and behavioral therapies associated with ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder for a patient who is receiving medication-assisted treatment.

##### Subchapter 2. Opioid Settlement

\* \* \*

#### § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

\* \* \*

##### (b) Membership.

(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following members and shall reflect the diversity of Vermont in terms of gender, race,

age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and socioeconomic status and ensure inclusion of individuals with lived experience of opioid use disorder and their family members whenever possible:

\* \* \*

(E) a primary care prescriber with experience providing ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder within the Blueprint for Health hub and spoke model, appointed by the Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health, to provide a statewide perspective on the provision of ~~providing medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder services;

\* \* \*

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about their direct experience with related systems, including ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services, overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory Council, and other stakeholders to identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:

(1) the impact of the opioid crisis on communities throughout Vermont, including communities' abatement needs and proposals for abatement strategies and responses;

(2) the perspectives of and proposals from opioid use disorder prevention coalitions, recovery centers, and ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder providers; and

(3) the ongoing challenges of the opioid crisis on marginalized populations, including individuals who have a lived experience of opioid use disorder.

\* \* \*

(e) Presentation. Annually, the Advisory Committee shall vote on its recommendations. Recommendations shall be informed by outcomes and

measurements reported by previous grantees. If the recommendations are supported by an affirmative vote of the majority, the Advisory Committee shall present its recommendations for expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established pursuant to this subchapter to the Department of Health and concurrently submit its recommendations in writing to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. The Advisory Committee's written recommendations shall address how each recommendation meets one or more of the criteria listed in subsections 4774(b) and (c) of this subchapter. The Advisory Committee shall give priority consideration to services requiring funding on an ongoing basis.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Health shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to occur on or before June 30, 2022.

(2) Annually, the Advisory Committee shall elect a voting vice chair from among its nongovernmental members.

(3) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly but not more than 12 times per calendar year.

(3)(4) The Advisory Committee shall adopt procedures to govern its proceedings and organization, including voting procedures and how the staggered terms shall be apportioned among members.

(4)(5) All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be consistent with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

\* \* \*

#### § 4774. OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

\* \* \*

(c) Priority for expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund shall be aimed at reducing overdose deaths, including the following:

\* \* \*

(2) increasing access to ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder and other opioid-related treatment, specifically:

(A) increasing distribution of ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder to individuals who are uninsured or whose health insurance does not cover the needed goods and services;

(B) providing education to school-based and youth-focused programs that discourage or prevent misuse, including how to access opioid use disorder treatment;

(C) providing ~~medication-assisted~~ education and awareness training on medication for opioid use disorder to health care providers, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, and other first responders; and

\* \* \*

(3) assisting pregnant and postpartum individuals, specifically:

(A) enhancing services for expanding screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) services to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured pregnant individuals;

(B) expanding comprehensive evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment and recovery services, including ~~medication-assisted-treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder, for individuals with co-occurring opioid use disorder and other substance or mental health disorders for up to 12 months postpartum; and

\* \* \*

(5) expanding the availability of warm handoff programs and recovery services, specifically:

(A) expanding services such as navigators and on-call teams to begin ~~medication-assisted-treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder in hospital emergency departments;

\* \* \*

(6) treating incarcerated populations, specifically:

(A) providing evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment and recovery support, including ~~medication-assisted-treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder for individuals with opioid use disorder or co-occurring substance use or mental health disorders while transitioning out of the criminal justice system; and

\* \* \*

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

**(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)**

**H. 219**

An act relating to creating a family support pilot program for incarcerated parents and guardians

**Rep. Sweeney of Shelburne**, for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Corrections ensures gender parity in the access to services and programs that strengthen family connections.

(b) It is the further intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Corrections develop a phased plan to expand the application of 28 V.S.A. § 128 to all Vermont correctional facilities by 2028.

Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 102(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Commissioner is charged with the following responsibilities:

\* \* \*

(24) To include funding to sufficiently provide and sustain trauma-informed family support services and programming pursuant to section 128 of this title in the Department's annual proposed budget for the next subsequent fiscal year for the purposes of developing the State budget required to be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 306.

Sec. 3. 28 V.S.A. § 128 is added to read:

§ 128. INCARCERATED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS; FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

(a) Family Support Program. The Department of Corrections shall establish the Family Support Program to provide free parenting and family support to all incarcerated individuals who are parents and guardians. The Program shall include individualized services and programming intended to provide:

(1) increased knowledge and skill for incarcerated parents and guardians to address the specific needs of their children;

(2) resources to incarcerated parents and guardians to engage in needs-specific planning and communication strategies with their children and their children's caregivers;

(3) child-friendly visitation spaces, in consultation with the Department, for in-person and virtual visits between parents or guardians and their children, including establishing safety protocol;

(4) outreach and coordination with appropriate services for the children of incarcerated parents and guardians and the children's caregivers;

(5) improved cross-system coordination and collaboration to deliver necessary services to the families of incarcerated parents and guardians; and

(6) reentry support and preparation for incarcerated parents and guardians.

(b) Program support. The Department may support the operation of the Family Support Program established pursuant to this section through grants of financial assistance to, or contracts for services with, any nonprofit entity that meets the Department's requirements.

(c) Contingent on funding. The Family Support Program established pursuant this section shall operate only to the extent funds are appropriated for its operation.

(d) Annual report. Annually, on or before July 1, the Department shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary, concerning:

(1) the funding, participation, and outcomes of the services and programming established pursuant to this section; and

(2) considerations and any progress towards sustained statewide programming and gender parity.

#### Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Corrections shall first implement the Family Support Program established under 28 V.S.A. § 128 at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility and Northern State Correctional Facility.

#### Sec. 5. APPROPRIATION

(a) The sum of \$115,424.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of supporting the Family Support Program at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in accordance with 28 V.S.A. § 128.

(b) The sum of \$268,155.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of establishing and supporting the Family Support Program at the Northern State Correctional Facility in accordance with 28 V.S.A. § 128.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections’ Family Support Program”

**(Committee Vote: 9-1-1)**

**Committee of Conference Report**

**H. 141**

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

**H.141. An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.**

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.105 is amended to read:

Sec. B.105 Agency of digital services - communications and information technology

Personal services	82,994,362	82,994,362
Operating expenses	<u>62,547,212</u>	<u>61,761,212</u>
Total	<u>145,541,574</u>	<u>144,755,574</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	209,808	209,808
Special funds	511,723	511,723
Internal service funds	<u>144,820,043</u>	<u>144,034,043</u>
Total	<u>145,541,574</u>	<u>144,755,574</u>

Sec. 2. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.145 is amended to read:

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds

General fund	117,405,610	117,405,610
Transportation fund	4,292,149	4,292,149
Special funds	31,882,209	31,882,209
Federal funds	1,467,374	1,467,374
Internal service funds	214,635,950	213,849,950
Interdepartmental transfers	7,053,789	7,053,789
Enterprise funds	4,298	4,298
Pension trust funds	4,800,305	4,800,305
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,329,205</u>	<u>1,329,205</u>
Total	382,870,889	382,084,889

Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.200 is amended to read:

Sec. B.200 Attorney general

Personal services	14,435,517	14,463,317
Operating expenses	2,015,028	2,015,028
Grants	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total	16,470,545	16,498,345

Source of funds

General fund	<del>7,391,661</del>	7,419,461
Special funds	2,355,424	2,355,424
Tobacco fund	422,000	422,000
Federal funds	1,743,215	1,743,215
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,558,245</u>	<u>4,558,245</u>
Total	<del>16,470,545</del>	16,498,345

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.204 is amended to read:

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

Personal services	58,439,095	58,827,799
Operating expenses	12,479,384	14,640,960
Grants	<u>121,030</u>	<u>121,030</u>
Total	71,039,509	73,589,789

Source of funds

General fund	63,414,698	65,964,978
Special funds	4,503,401	4,503,401
Federal funds	953,928	953,928
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,167,482</u>	<u>2,167,482</u>
Total	71,039,509	73,589,789

Sec. 5. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.205 is amended to read:

Sec. B.205 State's attorneys

Personal services	17,309,679	17,548,979
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Operating expenses	<u>2,034,016</u>	<u>2,202,516</u>
Total	<u>19,343,695</u>	<u>19,751,495</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	18,734,634	19,142,434
Federal funds	31,000	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>578,061</u>	<u>578,061</u>
Total	<u>19,343,695</u>	<u>19,751,495</u>

Sec. 6. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.206.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.206.1 Crime Victims Advocates

Personal services	3,016,156	3,016,156
Operating expenses	<u>104,396</u>	<u>142,396</u>
Total	<u>3,120,552</u>	<u>3,158,552</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>3,120,552</u>	<u>3,158,552</u>
Total	<u>3,120,552</u>	<u>3,158,552</u>

Sec. 7. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.208 is amended to read:

Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration

Personal services	4,620,756	5,397,783
Operating expenses	<u>6,022,923</u>	<u>6,022,923</u>
Total	<u>10,643,679</u>	<u>11,420,706</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	6,179,193	8,092,770
Special funds	4,105	4,105
Federal funds	396,362	396,362
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,064,019</u>	<u>2,927,469</u>
Total	<u>10,643,679</u>	<u>11,420,706</u>

Sec. 8. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.210 is amended to read:

Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services

Personal services	5,387,100	4,705,897
Operating expenses	<u>2,152,467</u>	<u>2,152,467</u>
Total	<u>7,539,567</u>	<u>6,858,364</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	1,829,099	2,172,295
Special funds	4,975,847	3,951,448
Federal funds	<u>734,621</u>	<u>734,621</u>
Total	<u>7,539,567</u>	<u>6,858,364</u>

Sec. 9. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.236 is amended to read:

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	927,697	992,259
Operating expenses	<u>115,103</u>	<u>125,378</u>
Total	<u>1,042,800</u>	<u>1,117,637</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	953,800	1,028,637
Federal funds	<u>89,000</u>	<u>89,000</u>
Total	<u>1,042,800</u>	<u>1,117,637</u>

Sec. 10. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.241 is amended to read:

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	228,238,448	233,593,938
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000
Special funds	<u>119,824,272</u>	<u>118,799,873</u>
Tobacco fund	672,579	672,579
Federal funds	162,959,452	162,959,452
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>16,031,869</u>	<u>14,895,319</u>
Enterprise funds	<u>15,070,107</u>	<u>15,070,107</u>
Total	<u>563,046,727</u>	<u>566,241,268</u>

Sec. 11. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.300 is amended to read:

Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office

Personal services	16,219,746	18,219,746
Operating expenses	<u>7,220,486</u>	<u>6,062,286</u>
Grants	<u>3,795,202</u>	<u>3,795,202</u>
Total	<u>27,235,434</u>	<u>28,077,234</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	12,913,202	11,923,905
Special funds	135,517	135,517
Federal funds	<u>13,565,080</u>	<u>11,606,177</u>
Global Commitment fund	0	4,300,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>621,635</u>	<u>111,635</u>
Total	<u>27,235,434</u>	<u>28,077,234</u>

Sec. 12. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Grants	<u>2,039,512,911</u>	<u>2,164,607,988</u>
Total	<u>2,039,512,911</u>	<u>2,164,607,988</u>
Source of funds		

General fund	<del>668,380,623</del>	716,109,638
Special funds	32,047,905	32,047,905
Tobacco fund	21,049,373	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	28,053,557	28,053,557
Federal funds	<del>1,285,494,243</del>	1,363,223,270
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,487,210</u>	<u>4,124,245</u>
Total	<del>2,039,512,911</del>	2,164,607,988

Sec. 13. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.305 is amended to read:

Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund

Personal services	330,000	330,000
Operating expenses	<u>13,170,000</u>	<u>16,870,000</u>
Total	<del>13,500,000</del>	17,200,000
Source of funds		
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>13,500,000</u>	<u>17,200,000</u>
Total	<del>13,500,000</del>	17,200,000

Sec. 14. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	<del>134,929,148</del>	136,693,560
Operating expenses	44,171,193	39,250,661
Grants	<u>3,112,301</u>	<u>3,112,301</u>
Total	<del>182,212,642</del>	179,056,522
Source of funds		
General fund	<del>39,872,315</del>	42,023,781
Special funds	4,733,015	4,733,015
Federal funds	<del>128,790,580</del>	124,836,223
Global Commitment fund	4,308,574	4,308,574
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,508,158</u>	<u>3,154,929</u>
Total	<del>182,212,642</del>	179,056,522

Sec. 15. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.307 is amended to read:

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program –  
global commitment

Personal services	547,983	547,983
Grants	<u>899,550,794</u>	<u>964,407,046</u>
Total	<del>900,098,777</del>	964,955,029
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	<u>900,098,777</u>	<u>964,955,029</u>
Total	<del>900,098,777</del>	964,955,029

Sec. 16. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.309 is amended to read:

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program – state only

Grants	<u>63,033,948</u>	<u>67,780,595</u>
Total	63,033,948	67,780,595
Source of funds		
General fund	62,151,546	62,308,757
Global Commitment fund	<u>882,402</u>	<u>5,471,838</u>
Total	63,033,948	67,780,595

Sec. 17. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.310 is amended to read:

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	<u>34,994,888</u>	<u>38,232,431</u>
Total	34,994,888	38,232,431
Source of funds		
General fund	12,511,405	13,459,034
Federal funds	<u>22,483,483</u>	<u>24,773,397</u>
Total	34,994,888	38,232,431

Sec. 18. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.311 is amended to read:

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	8,373,168	8,373,168
Operating expenses	<u>7,519,722</u>	8,166,662
Grants	<u>7,985,727</u>	<u>7,985,727</u>
Total	23,878,617	24,525,557
Source of funds		
General fund	3,189,843	3,513,313
Special funds	2,308,186	2,308,186
Federal funds	11,040,433	11,363,903
Global Commitment fund	7,173,924	7,173,924
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>166,231</u>	<u>166,231</u>
Total	23,878,617	24,525,557

Sec. 19. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.312 is amended to read:

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	67,812,371	67,812,371
Operating expenses	11,025,497	11,025,497
Grants	<u>46,766,832</u>	<u>46,866,832</u>
Total	125,604,700	125,704,700
Source of funds		
General fund	12,908,892	13,008,892

Special funds	24,906,804	24,906,804
Tobacco fund	1,088,918	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,038,301	64,038,301
Global Commitment fund	17,036,150	17,036,150
Interdepartmental transfers	5,600,635	5,600,635
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	125,604,700	125,704,700

Sec. 20. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.313 is amended to read:

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

Personal services	6,570,967	6,570,967
Operating expenses	511,500	511,500
Grants	<u>58,215,510</u>	<u>59,240,635</u>
Total	65,297,977	66,323,102

Source of funds

General fund	<del>6,672,061</del>	7,697,186
Special funds	2,413,678	2,413,678
Tobacco fund	949,917	949,917
Federal funds	15,456,754	15,456,754
Global Commitment fund	<u>39,805,567</u>	<u>39,805,567</u>
Total	65,297,977	66,323,102

Sec. 21. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.314 is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	50,191,086	50,191,086
Operating expenses	5,517,999	5,709,973
Grants	<u>270,625,138</u>	<u>272,536,080</u>
Total	326,334,223	328,437,139

Source of funds

General fund	<del>25,555,311</del>	26,279,270
Special funds	1,718,092	1,718,092
Federal funds	11,436,913	12,661,803
Global Commitment fund	<del>287,609,767</del>	287,763,834
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>14,140</u>	<u>14,140</u>
Total	326,334,223	328,437,139

Sec. 22. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.316 is amended to read:

Sec. B.316 Department for children and families - administration & support services

Personal services	46,644,080	44,844,080
Operating expenses	17,560,755	19,402,705

Grants	<u>5,627,175</u>	<u>5,627,175</u>
Total	69,832,010	69,873,960
Source of funds		
General fund	39,722,724	40,113,958
Special funds	2,781,912	2,781,912
Federal funds	24,448,223	24,098,939
Global Commitment fund	2,417,024	2,417,024
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>462,127</u>	<u>462,127</u>
Total	69,832,010	69,873,960

Sec. 23. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.317 is amended to read:

Sec. B.317 Department for children and families - family services

Personal services	45,197,694	45,286,553
Operating expenses	5,315,309	5,315,309
Grants	<u>98,251,027</u>	<u>97,732,465</u>
Total	148,764,030	148,334,327
Source of funds		
General fund	58,838,741	59,984,059
Special funds	729,587	729,587
Federal funds	34,666,196	36,180,206
Global Commitment fund	54,514,506	51,425,475
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total	148,764,030	148,334,327

Sec. 24. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.318 is amended to read:

Sec. B.318 Department for children and families - child development

Personal services	5,908,038	5,908,038
Operating expenses	813,321	813,321
Grants	<u>223,329,336</u>	<u>211,815,836</u>
Total	230,050,695	218,537,195
Source of funds		
General fund	76,723,518	51,443,165
Special funds	96,312,000	109,512,000
Federal funds	43,511,414	42,902,383
Global Commitment fund	<u>13,503,763</u>	<u>14,679,647</u>
Total	230,050,695	218,537,195

Sec. 25. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.319 is amended to read:

Sec. B.319 Department for children and families - office of child support

Personal services	13,157,660	13,061,794
Operating expenses	<u>3,759,992</u>	<u>3,759,992</u>

Total	16,917,652	16,821,786
Source of funds		
General fund	5,200,064	5,163,429
Special funds	455,719	455,719
Federal funds	10,874,269	10,815,038
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>387,600</u>	<u>387,600</u>
Total	16,917,652	16,821,786

Sec. 26. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.320 is amended to read:

Sec. B.320 Department for children and families - aid to aged, blind and disabled

Personal services	2,252,206	2,481,741
Grants	<u>10,717,444</u>	<u>10,369,155</u>
Total	12,969,650	12,850,896
Source of funds		
General fund	7,376,133	7,368,843
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,593,517</u>	<u>5,482,053</u>
Total	12,969,650	12,850,896

Sec. 27. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.321 is amended to read:

Sec. B.321 Department for children and families - general assistance

Personal services	15,000	15,000
Grants	<u>11,054,252</u>	<u>10,702,625</u>
Total	11,069,252	10,717,625
Source of funds		
General fund	10,811,345	10,486,987
Federal funds	11,320	11,070
Global Commitment fund	<u>246,587</u>	<u>219,568</u>
Total	11,069,252	10,717,625

Sec. 28. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.322 is amended to read:

Sec. B.322 Department for children and families - 3SquaresVT

Grants	<u>44,377,812</u>	<u>45,677,812</u>
Total	44,377,812	45,677,812
Source of funds		
Federal funds	<u>44,377,812</u>	<u>45,677,812</u>
Total	44,377,812	45,677,812

Sec. 29. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.323 is amended to read:

Sec. B.323 Department for children and families - reach up

Operating expenses	23,821	23,821
Grants	<u>37,230,488</u>	<u>36,730,493</u>
Total	<u>37,254,309</u>	<u>36,754,314</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	24,733,042	24,233,047
Special funds	5,970,229	5,970,229
Federal funds	2,806,330	2,806,330
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,744,708</u>	<u>3,744,708</u>
Total	<u>37,254,309</u>	<u>36,754,314</u>

Sec. 30. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.325 is amended to read:

Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity

Personal services	817,029	1,042,639
Operating expenses	100,407	100,407
Grants	<u>35,466,283</u>	<u>35,812,536</u>
Total	<u>36,383,719</u>	<u>36,955,582</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	28,178,010	28,687,068
Special funds	83,135	83,135
Federal funds	4,935,273	4,998,078
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,187,301</u>	<u>3,187,301</u>
Total	<u>36,383,719</u>	<u>36,955,582</u>

Sec. 31. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.329 is amended to read:

Sec. B.329 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - administration & support

Personal services	45,217,977	46,217,977
Operating expenses	<u>6,472,558</u>	<u>6,714,680</u>
Total	<u>51,690,535</u>	<u>52,932,657</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	22,916,281	24,037,342
Special funds	1,390,457	1,390,457
Federal funds	26,063,097	26,184,158
Global Commitment fund	35,000	35,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,285,700</u>	<u>1,285,700</u>
Total	<u>51,690,535</u>	<u>52,932,657</u>

Sec. 32. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants



Grants	<u>24,571,060</u>	<u>24,781,798</u>
Total	24,571,060	24,781,798
Source of funds		
General fund	<del>8,392,303</del>	8,504,605
Federal funds	7,321,114	7,321,114
Global Commitment fund	<u>8,857,643</u>	<u>8,956,079</u>
Total	24,571,060	24,781,798

Sec. 33. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.332 is amended to read:

Sec. B.332 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - vocational rehabilitation

Grants	<u>10,179,845</u>	<u>9,179,845</u>
Total	10,179,845	9,179,845
Source of funds		
General fund	<del>1,371,845</del>	371,845
Federal funds	7,558,000	7,558,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,250,000</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>
Total	10,179,845	9,179,845

Sec. 34. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.333 is amended to read:

Sec. B.333 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - developmental services

Grants	<u>329,299,344</u>	<u>331,262,271</u>
Total	329,299,344	331,262,271
Source of funds		
General fund	132,732	132,732
Special funds	15,463	15,463
Federal funds	403,573	403,573
Global Commitment fund	<del>328,697,576</del>	330,660,503
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total	329,299,344	331,262,271

Sec. 35. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver

Grants	<u>6,845,005</u>	<u>6,864,520</u>
Total	6,845,005	6,864,520
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	<u>6,845,005</u>	<u>6,864,520</u>
Total	6,845,005	6,864,520

Sec. 36. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - Long Term Care

Grants	<u>293,584,545</u>	<u>347,376,122</u>
Total	<u>293,584,545</u>	<u>347,376,122</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	498,579	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>290,635,966</u>	<u>344,427,543</u>
Total	<u>293,584,545</u>	<u>347,376,122</u>

Sec. 37. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.338 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	<u>147,472,104</u>	<u>148,472,104</u>
Operating expenses	<u>24,914,205</u>	<u>25,249,795</u>
Total	<u>172,386,309</u>	<u>173,721,899</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	162,807,888	163,643,478
Special funds	935,963	935,963
ARPA State Fiscal	5,000,000	5,000,000
Federal funds	499,888	999,888
Global Commitment fund	2,746,255	2,746,255
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>396,315</u>	<u>396,315</u>
Total	<u>172,386,309</u>	<u>173,721,899</u>

Sec. 38. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.342 is amended to read:

Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services

Personal services	<u>17,631,222</u>	<u>17,595,290</u>
Operating expenses	<u>5,013,462</u>	<u>13,247,462</u>
Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>1,583,157</u>
Total	<u>22,644,684</u>	<u>32,425,909</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	4,320,687	11,224,018
Special funds	<u>10,051,903</u>	<u>12,450,095</u>
Federal funds	<u>8,272,094</u>	<u>8,751,796</u>
Total	<u>22,644,684</u>	<u>32,425,909</u>

Sec. 39. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	<u>1,328,118,806</u>	<u>1,364,156,647</u>

Special funds	202,800,452	218,398,644
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	28,053,557	28,053,557
ARPA State Fiscal	5,000,000	5,000,000
Federal funds	1,803,398,922	1,882,012,745
Global Commitment fund	1,980,839,553	2,108,560,133
Internal service funds	490,853	490,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,893,535	34,367,341
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,404,708,886	5,664,153,128

Sec. 40. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.501 is amended to read:

Sec. B.501 Education - education services

Personal services	28,237,700	28,312,700
Operating expenses	1,134,912	1,134,912
Grants	<u>322,345,763</u>	<u>322,345,763</u>
Total	351,718,375	351,793,375

Source of funds

General fund	6,387,955	6,462,955
Special funds	3,033,144	3,033,144
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Federal funds	340,584,414	340,584,414
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>962,474</u>	<u>962,474</u>
Total	351,718,375	351,793,375

Sec. 41. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.503 is amended to read:

Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students

Grants	<u>20,000,000</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>
Total	20,000,000	19,000,000

Source of funds

Education fund	<u>20,000,000</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>
Total	20,000,000	19,000,000

Sec. 42. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

Grants	<u>4,694,183</u>	<u>4,997,820</u>
Total	4,694,183	4,997,820

Source of funds

General fund	3,778,133	4,081,770
Federal funds	<u>916,050</u>	<u>916,050</u>
Total	4,694,183	4,997,820

Sec. 43. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

Grants	<u>11,361,755</u>	<u>11,564,179</u>
Total	11,361,755	11,564,179
Source of funds		
General fund	921,500	921,500
Education fund	<u>10,440,255</u>	<u>10,642,679</u>
Total	11,361,755	11,564,179

Sec. 44. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.505 is amended to read:

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

Grants	<u>1,893,267,394</u>	<u>1,882,267,394</u>
Total	1,893,267,394	1,882,267,394
Source of funds		
Education fund	<u>1,893,267,394</u>	<u>1,882,267,394</u>
Total	1,893,267,394	1,882,267,394

Sec. 45. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.508 is amended to read:

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

Grants	<u>20,400,000</u>	<u>17,500,000</u>
Total	20,400,000	17,500,000
Source of funds		
Education fund	<u>20,400,000</u>	<u>17,500,000</u>
Total	20,400,000	17,500,000

Sec. 46. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.516 is amended to read:

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds		
General fund	<u>228,890,519</u>	<u>229,269,156</u>
Special funds	23,651,687	23,651,687
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Education fund	<u>2,323,283,242</u>	<u>2,308,585,666</u>
Federal funds	354,654,849	354,654,849
Global Commitment fund	260,000	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,467,771	1,467,771
Pension trust funds	<u>3,572,780</u>	<u>3,572,780</u>
Total	2,936,531,236	2,922,212,297

Sec. 47. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.704 is amended to read:

Sec. B.704 Forests, parks and recreation - forestry

Personal services	7,880,566	7,913,766
Operating expenses	1,005,046	1,005,046
Grants	<u>1,712,423</u>	<u>1,713,923</u>
Total	10,598,035	10,632,735
Source of funds		
General fund	6,299,512	6,334,212
Special funds	547,215	547,215
Federal funds	3,394,931	3,394,931
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>356,377</u>	<u>356,377</u>
Total	10,598,035	10,632,735

Sec. 48. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.710 is amended to read:

Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management

Personal services	27,995,328	27,995,328
Operating expenses	10,788,954	10,816,954
Grants	<u>4,943,000</u>	<u>4,943,000</u>
Total	43,727,282	43,755,282
Source of funds		
General fund	199,372	227,372
Special funds	24,643,580	24,643,580
Federal funds	18,800,064	18,800,064
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>84,266</u>	<u>84,266</u>
Total	43,727,282	43,755,282

Sec. 49. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.711 is amended to read:

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services	50,153,806	50,153,806
Operating expenses	8,362,915	8,370,915
Grants	<u>92,365,140</u>	<u>92,365,140</u>
Total	150,881,861	150,889,861
Source of funds		
General fund	11,887,629	11,895,629
Special funds	30,967,150	30,967,150
Federal funds	107,154,542	107,154,542
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>872,540</u>	<u>872,540</u>
Total	150,881,861	150,889,861

Sec. 50. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	42,792,800	42,863,500

Special funds	81,275,829	81,275,829
Fish and wildlife fund	10,418,331	10,418,331
Federal funds	152,068,301	152,068,301
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>14,131,324</u>	<u>14,131,324</u>
Total	<del>300,686,585</del>	300,757,285

Sec. 51. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

\* \* \*

(d) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

\* \* \*

(8) \$835,073 General Fund for the Bridges to Health Program; ~~and~~

(9) ~~\$400,000~~ \$550,000 General Fund for the Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey; ~~and~~

(10) \$500,000 General Fund for community grants related to health equity.

(e) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~\$16,500,000~~ \$18,340,304 General Fund for the General Assistance Emergency Housing program;

(2) \$1,034,065 General Fund to extend 10 Economic Services Division limited service positions, including associated operating costs, in support of the General Assistance Emergency Housing program; ~~and~~

(3) \$332,000 General Fund for a 2-1-1 service line contract to operate 24 hours seven days per week;

(4) \$340,000 General Fund and \$660,000 federal funds for the Office of Child Support mainframe transition planning. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 703, unless otherwise reverted by a future act of the General Assembly, these appropriations shall carry forward until fully expended; and

(5) \$1,800,000 General Fund shall be added to the appropriation made in Sec. B.1102(b)(4) of this act for the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System.

\* \* \*

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

(1) ~~\$3,913,200~~ \$5,586,324 General Fund and ~~\$5,366,383~~ \$7,713,259 federal funds to be used for Global Commitment match for the Medicaid Global Payment Program. To the extent that at a future date the Global Payment Program ceases to operate as a program or changes methodology to a retrospective payment program, any resulting one-time General Fund spending authority remaining at that time shall be reverted. If the Human Services Caseload Reserve established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b has not been replenished in accordance with subdivision (b)(21) of Sec. B.1102 of this act, the remaining unallocated General Fund balance shall be reserved in the Human Services Caseload Reserve established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b up to the amount appropriated in this subdivision.

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

(1) ~~\$9,279,583~~ \$13,299,583 Global Commitment for the Medicaid Global Payment Program;

(2) \$150,000 General Fund to conduct a technical analysis of Vermont's health insurance markets; ~~and~~

(3) \$100,000 General Fund to implement the expansion of Medicare Savings Programs eligibility;

(4) \$10,000,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants; and

(5) \$11,000,000 General Fund for an alternative payment model reconciliation payment to Brattleboro Retreat. All or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match. If funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match, the commensurate amount of Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to Sec. E.301.1 of this act.

\* \* \*

(v) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~\$200,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities that were impacted by the August and December 2023 flooding events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT and DR-4762-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic impacts of the August and December 2023~~

~~flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal Emergency Management Agency related projects~~

\$1,800,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4810-VT and DR-4744-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic impacts of 2023 and 2024 flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on FEMA-related projects.

(A) The funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) for local economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

(i) \$75,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has at least \$5,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(ii) \$50,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than \$5,000,000 and at least \$2,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(iii) \$30,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than \$2,000,000 and at least \$1,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(iv) \$20,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than \$1,000,000 and at least \$250,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(v) \$10,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than \$250,000 and at least \$100,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(B) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) have not been granted on or before June 30, 2025, they shall revert to the General Fund and be transferred to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund.

(C) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) are insufficient to distribute grants to all eligible municipalities in their full amount, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511, utilize excess receipt authority to expend funds from the PILOT Special Fund for this purpose.



(w) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$8,600,000 General Fund to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of: affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services; and

(2) \$2,800,000 General Fund to complete pilot projects identified pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186.

Sec. 52. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100 ALLOCATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

(a) This act contains the following amounts allocated to special funds that receive revenue from the property transfer tax. These allocations shall not exceed available revenues.

(1) The sum of \$575,662 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of \$575,662 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of ~~\$22,106,740~~ \$28,238,050 from the property transfer tax and surcharge established in 32 V.S.A. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established in 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2025 appropriation of ~~\$22,106,740~~ \$28,238,050 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts in excess of ~~\$7,772,373~~ \$9,052,113 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. The ~~\$7,772,373~~ \$9,052,113 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) ~~\$6,404,540~~ \$7,300,358 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) ~~\$931,773~~ \$1,187,721 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) ~~\$436,060~~ \$564,034 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. 53. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts are transferred from the funds indicated:

(1) From the General Fund to the:

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): ~~\$73,212,880~~ \$78,235,088.34.

\* \* \*

(J) Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (#21555): ~~\$830,000~~ \$6,500,000.

(K) Education Fund (#20205): \$25,000,000.

(L) Medical Insurance Fund (#55100): \$18,500,000.

(M) Correctional Industries Fund (#59100): \$3,135,443.

(N) Act 250 Permit Fund (#21260): \$900,000.

(O) State Liability Self-Insurance Fund (#56200): \$3,000,000.

(P) Emergency Personnel Survivor's Benefit Fund (#21884): \$220,000.

(Q) Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Fund (#21953): \$133,700,000.

(2) From the Transportation Fund to the:

(A) ~~Vermont Recreational Trails Fund (#21455): \$370,000.~~

(B) Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvements Fund (#21575): \$523,966.

~~(C)~~(B) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): \$316,745.

~~(D)~~(C) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c), the Transportation Fund transfer to the Central Garage fund in fiscal year 2025 shall be \$0.

\* \* \*

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025:

(1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from the funds indicated:

(A) Cannabis Regulation Fund (#21998): ~~\$12,000,000~~  
\$15,417,084.32.

(B) AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts (#22005): \$4,641,960.

(C) Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): ~~\$7,000,000~~  
\$6,139,162.

(D) Liquor Control Fund (#50300): ~~\$21,100,000~~ \$9,543,353.

(E) ~~Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund (#21370):~~ ~~\$3,000,000.~~

~~(F)~~ Financial Institutions Supervision Fund (#21065): \$1,100,000.

(F) Workforce Education and Training Fund (#21913):  
\$2,598,921.75.

(G) Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Fund (#21994): the balance of the fund at the close of fiscal year 2025.

(2) The following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of unencumbered fund balances, shall be transferred from the following funds to the General Fund. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

(A) AG-Fees & Reimbursements-Court Order Fund (#21638): \$2,000,000.

(B) Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): ~~\$6,500,000~~ \$10,995,595.

(3) ~~\$66,935,000~~ \$63,560,450.50 of the net unencumbered fund balances in the Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085), and the Securities

Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21080) shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.3 of the Rules for State Matching Funds under the Federal Public Assistance Program, in fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration may provide funding from the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund that was transferred pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(J) of this section to subgrantees prior to the completion of a project. In fiscal year years 2025 and 2026, up to 70 percent of the State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project for municipalities that were impacted by ~~the August and December 2023 and 2024~~ flooding events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT and, DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT, DR-4816-VT, and DR-4826-VT may be advanced at the request of a municipality.

(2) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.1 of the Rules for State Matching Funds Under the Federal Public Assistance Program, the Secretary of Administration shall increase the standard State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project to the highest percentage possible given available funding for municipalities in counties that were impacted by ~~the August and December 2023 and 2024~~ flooding events and are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT and, DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT, DR-4816-VT, and DR-4826-VT.

Sec. 54. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.102 is amended to read:

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

	* * *	
3150892104 MH – Case Management Serv	\$350,000.00	<u>\$350,199.34</u>
	* * *	
<u>1100892208 AOA – VT Housing Finance Agency</u>		<u>\$3,000,000.00</u>
<u>1100892403 AOA – Health Equity Community Grants</u>		<u>\$500,000.00</u>
<u>1120020000 Tuition Assistance Program</u>		<u>\$133,877.86</u>
<u>1120892401 DHR – New Position in DHR Ops</u>		<u>\$477,769.00</u>
<u>1120892402 DHR – New Position in VTHR Ops</u>		<u>\$40,726.07</u>

<u>1140010000 Tax Operation Costs</u>	<u>\$1,267,062.22</u>
<u>1140060000 Reappraisal and Listing Payments</u>	<u>\$35,270.75</u>
<u>1140070000 Use Tax Reimbursement Program</u>	<u>\$37,864.25</u>
<u>1140330000 Renter Rebates</u>	<u>\$2,186,940.33</u>
<u>1140892403 Tax – Child Care Contr Positions</u>	<u>\$3,591,823.02</u>
<u>1260892201 TRE – Bond Redemption</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>1260980000 Debt Service</u>	<u>\$235,445.15</u>
<u>1266892401 VPIC – Pension System Assets</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
<u>2100892201 AG – Racial Disparities</u>	<u>\$48,465.00</u>
<u>2130400000 SIUS Parent Account</u>	<u>\$395,749.64</u>
<u>2150010000 Mil Admin/TAGO</u>	<u>\$142,789.80</u>
<u>2150050000 Mil Vet Affairs Office</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>2160892201 CCVS – VT Forensic Nursing</u>	<u>\$246.43</u>
<u>2160892304 CCVS – Kurn Hattin Survivor</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
<u>2200010000 Administration Division</u>	<u>\$167,222.00</u>
<u>3310000000 Commission on Women</u>	<u>\$25,390.43</u>
<u>3330892401 GMCB – VHCURES Database Implemen</u>	<u>\$545,782.90</u>
<u>3400892111 Supp New Americans Refugee</u>	<u>\$23,431.00</u>
<u>3400892301 AHSCO – Refugee Resettlement</u>	<u>\$1,293.00</u>
<u>3420892405 HD – Regional Emergency Med</u>	<u>\$8,295.01</u>
<u>3440050000 DCFS – AABD</u>	<u>\$35,310.73</u>
<u>3440892110 DCF – Grants to Reachup</u>	<u>\$5.10</u>
<u>3440892203 DCF – Parent Child Ctrs Cap Imp</u>	<u>\$20,708.22</u>
<u>3440892214 DCF – Child Care Provider Workfor</u>	<u>\$294.79</u>
<u>4100500000 VT Department of Labor</u>	<u>\$8,000,000.00</u>
<u>5100070000 Education Services</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>5100892101 AOE – VSC Committee Per Diem</u>	<u>\$16,295.33</u>
<u>5100892102 AOA – Advisory Group Per Diem</u>	<u>\$9,018.00</u>
<u>5100892103 AOE – ESESAG Per Diems</u>	<u>\$8,960.00</u>

<u>5100892201 AOE – Comm Pub Sch Emp Hlth Ben</u>	<u>\$29,050.00</u>
<u>5100892202 AOE – Task Force Equit Inclusive</u>	<u>\$6,150.00</u>
<u>5100892302 AOE – Ethnic&amp;Social Equity Per D</u>	<u>\$14,386.24</u>
<u>6100010000 Administration Management and Planning</u>	<u>\$402,052.99</u>
<u>6100040000 Property Tax Assessment Approp</u>	<u>\$11,692.11</u>
<u>6140880005 152/00 State Asst Munic Poll Cont</u>	<u>\$126.26</u>
<u>7100892301 Everyone Eats</u>	<u>\$144,565.43</u>
<u>7120892304 DED – Relocated and Remote Worker</u>	<u>\$127,314.33</u>
<u>8100002100 Department of Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>\$2,482.81</u>

\* \* \*

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025, the following amounts shall revert to the Education Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>5100010000 Administration</u>	<u>\$301,041.03</u>
<u>5100050000 State-Placed Students</u>	<u>\$13,687,528.41</u>
<u>5100090000 Education Grant</u>	<u>\$359,570.31</u>
<u>5100110000 Small School Grant</u>	<u>\$593,700.00</u>
<u>5100200000 Education – Technical Education</u>	<u>\$1,802,347.44</u>
<u>5100210000 Education – Flexible Pathways</u>	<u>\$1,312,334.72</u>
<u>5100892405 AOE – Universal School Meals</u>	<u>\$6,201,479.69</u>

Sec. 55. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.103 is amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

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

(1) General Fund.

(A) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 308, an estimated amount of ~~\$15,168,663~~ \$15,168,660.85 shall be added to the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve.

(B) \$5,480,000 shall be added to the 27/53 reserve in fiscal year 2025. This action is the fiscal year 2025 contribution to the reserve for the

53rd week of Medicaid as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e and the 27th payroll reserve as required by 32 V.S.A. § 308e.

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

\* \* \*

Sec. 56. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of ~~43~~ 47 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2025 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

\* \* \*

(H) Office of the Attorney General:

(i) one Court Diversion Assistant Director.

\* \* \*

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

\* \* \*

(G) Human Rights Commission:

(i) one Intake Specialist; and

(ii) one Staff Attorney Investigator.

(H) Office of the Attorney General:

(i) one Assistant Attorney General.

\* \* \*

(d) The conversion of eight limited service positions to exempt permanent status is authorized in fiscal year 2025 as follows:

(1) Office of the Defender General:

(A) one Administrative Services Tech;

(B) two DG IT Specialist II's;

(C) one ODG Legal Assistant I;

(D) two Staff Attorney I's;

(E) one Financial Specialist III; and

(F) one Admin Secretary.

\* \* \*

Sec. 57 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 56, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of 75 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 for the following:

\* \* \*

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

\* \* \*

(F) Office of the State Treasurer:

(i) one Director – ~~VT Saves~~ Economic Empowerment Division;  
and

(ii) one Communications and Outreach Manager – ~~VT Saves~~ Economic Empowerment Division;

\* \* \*

Sec. 58. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

\* \* \*

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of ~~\$24,301,185~~ \$28,307,335 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under Global Commitment as follows:

(1) ~~\$21,295,850~~ \$25,302,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with ~~\$29,204,150~~ \$34,698,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of ~~\$50,500,000~~ \$60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(2) \$3,005,335 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.



(c) Up to ~~\$4,487,210~~ \$3,614,245 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act.

Sec. 59. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. G.109 is amended to read:

Sec. G.109 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026

(a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:

(1) Fiscal year 2025.

\* \* \*

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control ~~Board~~ Fund such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

\* \* \*

(2) Fiscal year 2026.

\* \* \*

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control ~~Board~~ Fund such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

\* \* \*

Sec. 60. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. TELEPHONE TAX; REPEAL; TRANSITION

(a) 32 V.S.A. § 8521 (telephone personal property tax) is repealed on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. The final monthly installment payment of the telephone personal property tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8521 levied on the net book value of the taxpayer's personal property as of December 31, ~~2024~~ 2025 shall be due on or before July 25, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(b) 32 V.S.A. § 8522 (alternative telephone gross revenues tax) is repealed on January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027. The final quarterly payment of the alternative tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8522 shall be due on or before January 25, ~~2026~~ 2027.

(c) Any taxpayer who paid the alternative tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. § 8522 prior to the repeal of the tax on January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 shall become subject to the income tax imposed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 151 beginning with the taxpayer's first income tax year starting on or after January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. No alternative tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8522 shall be due for any period included in the taxpayer's income tax filing for tax years starting on or after January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(d) In fiscal year ~~2025~~ 2026, the Division of Property Valuation and Review of the Department of Taxes and all communications service providers with taxable communications property in Vermont shall be subject to the inventory and valuation provisions prescribed in 32 V.S.A. § 4452, as applicable.

Sec. 61. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

\* \* \*

(3) Secs. 8–12 (communications property tax) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 and shall apply to grand lists lodged on or after April 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

Sec. 62. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION

Notwithstanding 7 V.S.A. § 845(c), in fiscal year 2025:

(1) \$500,000.00 is transferred from the Cannabis Regulation Fund established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 845 to the Cannabis Business Development Fund established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987; and

(2) \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the Cannabis Business ~~49~~ Development Fund to the ~~Agency of Commerce and Community Development~~

Department of Economic Development to fund technical assistance and provide loans and grants pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987.

Sec. 63. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 78 is amended to read:

Sec. 78. ~~TRANSFERS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX~~

~~Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), or any other provision of law to the contrary, amounts in excess of \$32,954,775.00 from the property transfer tax shall be transferred into the General Fund. Of this amount:~~

~~(1) \$6,106,335.00 shall be transferred from the General Fund into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.~~

~~(2) \$1,279,740.00 shall be transferred from the General Fund into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 64. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 96 is amended to read:

Sec. 96. APPROPRIATION; RENT ARREARS ASSISTANCE FUND

The sum of \$2,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Vermont State Housing Authority~~ Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

Sec. 65. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 75, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.119, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 106, is further amended to read:

Sec. 3. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) Amounts Of the amounts available from the American Rescue Plan Act – State Fiscal Recovery funds, \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program and shall be used for one or more of the following purposes:

\* \* \*

Sec. 66. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 113b is amended to read:

Sec. 113b. APPROPRIATION; NATURAL RESOURCES LAND USE REVIEW BOARD

The sum of ~~\$1,300,000.00~~ \$400,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Natural Resources~~ Land Use Review Board in fiscal year 2025.

Sec. 67. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 24a is amended to read:

Sec. 24a. COMPENSATION FOR OVERPAYMENT

~~(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$29,224.00 a \$29,224 credit shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of applied to the Canaan Town School District's education spending, as defined per 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Canaan Town School District for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Canaan.~~

~~(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$5,924.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Bloomfield in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Bloomfield for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Bloomfield.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,575.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Brunswick in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Brunswick for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Brunswick.~~

~~(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$6,145.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of East Haven in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of East Haven for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of East Haven.~~

~~(e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,046.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Granby in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Granby for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Granby.~~

~~(f) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$10,034.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Guildhall in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Guildhall for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Guildhall.~~

~~(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$20,536.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Kirby in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Kirby for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Kirby.~~

~~(h) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,402.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Lemington in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Lemington for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Lemington.~~

~~(i) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$11,464.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Maidstone in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Maidstone for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Maidstone.~~

~~(j) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$4,349.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Norton in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Norton for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Norton.~~

~~(k) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,657.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Victory in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Victory for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to~~

~~erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Victory.~~

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a \$68,132 credit shall be applied to the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District's education spending, as defined per 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership.

Sec. 68. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 40 and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.101, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

- (1) \$2,300,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide language access plan;
- (2) \$15,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied claims for ~~Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) federal reimbursement related to presidentially declared disasters in fiscal year 2024 or 2025, or to fund unanticipated statewide costs related to recovery efforts from declared disasters or administering programs created by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act – State Fiscal Recovery Fund, including the costs of related limited-service positions, and contracting for programs and services.~~
- (3) \$500,000 General Fund for community grants related to health equity. These funds shall not be released until the recommendation and report required by Sec. E.100.1 of this act, regarding the permanent administrative location for the Office of Health Equity, is provided to the committees of jurisdiction listed in Sec. E.100.1 of this act and the positions in the Office of Health Equity created by this act are filled.

\* \* \*

(l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

\* \* \*

(2) \$8,834,000 General Fund and \$11,483,302 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic investments with community partners; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

\* \* \*

(m) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$366,066 General Fund and \$372,048 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

(2) \$15,583,352 Global Commitment Fund #20405 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose; and

\* \* \*

(n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of Substance Use Programs for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

\* \* \*

(x) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1)(A) \$4,680,000 General Fund for the Judiciary network replacement project.

(B) Judiciary shall update the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee on the status of this project on or before December 1, 2023.

(2) \$300,000 General Fund for the Essex County Courthouse renovation planning. Of this amount, \$50,000 may be used to construct bathrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Essex Meeting House.

\* \* \*

(ee) Joint Fiscal Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$250,000 for ~~per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Task Force on Economic Development Incentives and for consulting services approved by the Task Force~~ consulting services related to legislative needs identified in the 2025-2026 biennium, including analysis of legislative staff compensation and organizational structure and implementation of adjustments in accordance with policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

\* \* \*

Sec. 69. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1102, as added by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 47, is amended to read:

Sec. B.1102 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME TECHNOLOGY  
MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2023, funds are appropriated from the Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951) for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(1) \$40,010,000 to the Agency of Digital Services to be used as follows:

(A) \$11,800,000 for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system upgrade of Human Capital Management and core statewide financial accounting system and integration with the Department of Labor and Agency of Transportation financial systems;

\* \* \*

Sec. 70. 3 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

§ 3306. TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND

\* \* \*

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred ~~or appropriated~~ to it by the General Assembly; and

(2) any interest earned by the Fund.

\* \* \*

Sec. 71. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND; REPEAL

(a) 10 V.S.A. § 543 (Workforce Education and Training Fund) is repealed.

Sec. 72. 18 V.S.A. § 9502 is amended to read:



§ 9502. TOBACCO TRUST FUND

(a)(1) The Tobacco Trust Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer for the purposes of creating a self-sustaining, perpetual fund for tobacco cessation and prevention that is not dependent upon tobacco sales volume.

(2) The Trust Fund shall ~~comprise~~ be composed of:

(A) ~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly; and

(B) ~~transfers from the Litigation Settlement Fund pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section; and~~

(C) contributions from any other source.

(3) The State Treasurer shall not disburse monies from the Trust Fund, except upon appropriation by the General Assembly. In any fiscal year, total appropriations from the Trust Fund shall not exceed seven percent of the fair market value of the Fund at the end of the prior fiscal year.

(4) The Trust Fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer. The Treasurer may invest monies in the Fund in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 434. All balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned shall remain in the Fund. The Treasurer's annual financial report to the Governor and the General Assembly shall contain an accounting of receipts, disbursements, and earnings of the Fund.

~~(b) Unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2000, and on June 30 of each subsequent fiscal year, any unencumbered balance in the Litigation Settlement Fund shall be transferred to the Trust Fund. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 73. 30 V.S.A. chapter 86 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 86. UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION  
SYSTEM

\* \* \*

§ 7006. MARKING OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES

A company notified in accordance with section 7005 of this title shall, within ~~48~~ 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, of the receipt of the notice, mark the approximate location of its underground utility facilities in the area of the proposed excavation activities; provided, however, if the company advises the person that the proposed excavation area is of such length or size that the company cannot reasonably mark all of the underground utility facilities within ~~48~~ 72 hours, the person shall notify the company of the

specific locations in which the excavation activities will first occur and the company shall mark facilities in those locations within 48 72 hours and the remaining facilities within a reasonable time thereafter. A company and an excavator may by agreement fix a later time for the company's marking of the facilities, provided the marking is made prior to excavation activities. For the purposes of this chapter, the approximate location of underground facilities shall be marked with stakes, paint, or other physical means as designated by the Commission.

§ 7006a. MAINTENANCE OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITY  
MARKINGS

After a company has marked its underground facilities in accordance with section 7006 of this title, the excavator shall be responsible for maintenance of the designated markings. In the event said markings are obliterated, destroyed, or removed, the person engaged in excavation activities shall notify the System referred to in section 7002 of this title that remarking is needed. The System shall then notify all member companies whose facilities may be affected. The company shall within 48 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, following receipt of the notice, remark the location of its underground utility facilities.

\* \* \*

Sec. 74. 32 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Loan" means a loan that is interest free or below market value.

(2) "State agency" means an Executive Branch agency, department, commission, office, or board.

\* \* \*

Sec. 75. 32 V.S.A. § 706 is amended to read:

§ 706. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

Notwithstanding any authority granted elsewhere, all transfers of appropriations shall be made pursuant to this section upon the initiative of the Governor or upon the request of a secretary or commissioner.

(1) With the approval of the Governor, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may transfer balances of appropriations not to exceed ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$100,000 made under any appropriation act for the support of the

government from one component of an agency, department, or other unit of State government to any component of the same agency, department, or unit.

(2) Except as specified in ~~subdivisions~~ subdivision (1) ~~and (4)~~ of this section, the transfer of balances of appropriations may be made only with the approval of the Emergency Board.

(3) For the specific purpose of balancing and closing out fund accounts at the end of a fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may adjust a balance within an account of an agency or department in an amount not to exceed ~~\$100.00~~ \$200.

\* \* \*

Sec. 76. 32 V.S.A. § 902 is amended to read:

§ 902. AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW MONEY

\* \* \*

(b) The State Treasurer shall pay the interest on, principal of and expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing of such notes as the same fall due without further order or authority from the ~~General Fund or from the Transportation or other applicable funds or from the proceeds of bonds or notes~~ governmental debt service funds established in section 951a of this chapter. The authority hereby granted is in addition to and not in limitation of any other authority. Such notes shall be sold at public or private sale with or without published notice, as the State Treasurer may determine to be in the best interests of the State.

Sec. 77. 32 V.S.A. § 951a is amended to read:

§ 951a. DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

(a) Three governmental debt service funds are hereby established:

\* \* \*

(b) Financial resources in each fund shall consist of ~~appropriations by the General Assembly to fulfill debt service obligations~~, the transfer of funding sources by the General Assembly to fulfill future debt service obligations, bond proceeds raised to fund a permanent reserve required by a trust agreement entered into to secure bonds, transfers of appropriations effected pursuant to section 706 of this title, investment income earned on balances held in trust agreement accounts as required by a trust agreement, and such other amounts as directed by the General Assembly or that are specifically authorized by provisions of this title. Each debt service fund shall account for the accumulation of resources and the fulfillment of debt service obligations

within the current fiscal year and the accumulation of resources for debt service obligations maturing in future fiscal years.

\* \* \*

Sec. 78. 32 V.S.A. § 954 is amended to read:

§ 954. PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds arising from the sale of bonds, inclusive of any premiums, shall be applied to the purposes for which they were authorized, and the purposes shall may be considered to include ~~the expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing the bonds and any notes issued under section 955 of this title, and underwriters' fees and~~ amounts for reserves, but no purchasers of the bonds shall be in any way bound to see to the proper application of the proceeds. The State Treasurer shall pay the interest on, principal of, investment return on, and maturity value of the bonds and notes as the same fall due or accrue without further order or authority. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, may establish sinking funds, reserve funds, or other special funds of the State as the State Treasurer may deem for the best interests of the State. To the extent not otherwise provided, the amount necessary each year to fulfill the maturing principal and interest of, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on all the bonds then outstanding shall be included in and made a part of the annual appropriation bill for the expense of State government, and the principal and interest on, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on the bonds as may come due before appropriations for their fulfillment have been made shall be fulfilled from the applicable debt service fund.

(b) ~~The State Treasurer is authorized to allocate the estimated cost of bond issuance or issuances to the entities to which funds are appropriated by a capital construction act and for which bonding is required as the source of funds. If estimated receipts are insufficient, the State Treasurer shall allocate additional costs to the entities. Any remaining receipts shall not be expended, but carried forward to be available for future capital construction acts. If the source of funds appropriated by a capital construction act is other than by issuance of bonds, the State Treasurer is authorized to allocate the estimated cost of ongoing debt management services to the entities to which those funds are appropriated~~ shall be appropriated annually from the funds from which transfers are made to fund debt service costs.

\* \* \*

Sec. 79. VERMONT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND; REPEAL

(a) 33 V.S.A. chapter 78 (Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Fund) is repealed.

Sec. 80. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

\* \* \*

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

\* \* \*

Sec. 81. 32 V.S.A. § 308b is amended to read:

§ 308b. HUMAN SERVICES CASELOAD RESERVE

(a) There is created within the General Fund a Human Services Caseload Reserve. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly or approval by the Emergency Board. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be limited to Agency of Human Services caseload-related needs primarily in the Departments for Children and Families, of Health, of Mental Health, of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, of Vermont Health Access, and settlement costs associated with managing the Global Commitment waiver.

(b) The Secretary of Administration may transfer to the Human Services Caseload Reserve any General Fund ~~carry-forward~~ carryforward directly attributable to Agency of Human Services caseload reductions and the

effective management of related federal receipts, with the exclusion of the Department of Corrections.

(c) The Human Services Caseload Reserve shall contain two ~~sub-accounts~~ subaccounts:

(1) A ~~sub-account~~ subaccount for incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses. Each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2020, the Department of Finance and Management shall adjust the amount reserved for incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses to equal the amount specified in the Comprehensive Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year occurring two years prior for the estimated amount of incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses associated with the current Medicaid Global Commitment waiver.

\* \* \*

Sec. 82. CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION SPECIAL FUND;  
UNALLOCATED AND UNRESERVED BALANCE

(a) In fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration shall unreserve and transfer funds from the Human Services Caseload Reserve to the Child Care Contribution Special Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 10554 as necessary to maintain a balance that appropriately supports the State's statutory obligations under the Child Care Financial Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. §§ 3512 and 3513.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any unreserved and unallocated balance in the Child Care Contribution Special Fund shall remain in the Fund to support the future establishment of a reserve for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

Sec. 83. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FACILITY WORK  
PROGRAMS; STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) Findings and intent.

(1) The General Assembly finds that a significant budget deficit has developed within previously existing programs despite a wage structure that pays incarcerated individuals in Vermont at rates ranging from \$0.25 to \$1.35 per hour, significantly below the federal minimum wage.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that all Department of Corrections facility work programs operate in a manner that is fiscally sustainable to the extent possible within current statutory limitations and effective in preparing offenders for meaningful employment upon release.

(b) Strategic plan. On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Corrections shall, in consultation with the Department of Labor, submit a strategic plan with proposed benchmarks for improvement to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Judiciary. The strategic plan shall include:

(1) A business plan to improve program efficiency and self-sustainability to ensure all facility work programs, including Vermont Correctional Industries, vocational training programs, and other paid facility duties, operate without recurring deficits or to clearly identify funding sources to address the deficits.

(2) A comprehensive evaluation of the skills provided through facility work programs to determine if those skills are transferable to employment opportunities post-incarceration. The evaluation shall include consideration of expanding technical training and certification opportunities that carry recognized value in the labor market.

(3) An analysis of facility work programs to determine if each program serves a sufficient portion of the incarcerated population to justify its administration. The analysis shall also consider whether participants gain meaningful and valuable work experiences.

(4) A review of wages paid to facility work program participants, the implications of wage structures on program outcomes, and the appropriate use of funds in relation to program objectives.

(c) In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the Department of Corrections shall submit timely reports to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Judiciary, or the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, on the development of facility work program deficits. The Department shall include in these reports any financial or operational actions taken to address deficits, increase oversight, and prevent future deficits.

Sec. 84. MEDICAID PROVIDERS WITH STABILIZATION NEEDS;  
GRANT ELIGIBILITY

(a) All Vermont Medicaid participating providers with demonstrated stabilization needs and a plan to achieve sustainability shall be eligible to apply for funds appropriated pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100(o)(4), including substance use residential treatment facilities, federally

qualified health centers, residential mental health providers, and other providers of health care and human services.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall submit a report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations. The report shall include:

(1) A detailed account of grants distributed pursuant to the appropriation made in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100(o)(4), as added by this act. This shall include the dollar amount and recipient of each grant.

(2) A description of each grant recipient's financial status prior to receipt of the grant, a summary of the impact of the grant for each recipient, and a summary of a revised long-term sustainability plan for each grant recipient.

(3) An analysis of grant outcomes and any recommendations for enhancing the financial stability of Vermont Medicaid providers.

Sec. 85. ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL  
COMPLETION PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 945 and any other provision of law to the contrary, a high school may award a high school diploma to any student who meets the following criteria:

(1) Prior to July 1, 2024, the student was participating in the High School Completion Program as the program existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

(2) The student has met the requirements of the student's individual graduation plan and would have been eligible to receive a diploma pursuant to the High School Completion Program as it existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

(b) This section is repealed on July 1, 2025.

Sec. 86. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;  
DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS

(a) For the remainder of federal fiscal year 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall utilize the State's allocation of discretionary exemptions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to the extent permitted by federal regulation for the purposes of:



(1) extending benefits to Program participants who would otherwise experience a disruption of benefits; and

(2) ensuring that Program participants are not accruing any time-limited benefit work requirement countable months.

Sec. 87. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Secs. 5 and 6 are amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 4 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

~~(b) Sec. 5 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.~~

~~(c)~~ (e) All other sections shall take effect 30 calendar days after passage.

Sec. 88. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 53, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.102 is further amended to read:

Sec. 53. FISCAL YEAR 2022 UNALLOCATED RESERVE

\* \* \*

(b) After meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, but prior to satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c, the remaining unreserved and undesignated funds at the close of fiscal year 2022 shall be allocated to the extent available as follows:

\* \* \*

(7) \$9,600,000 is appropriated to the Judiciary, of which \$3,880,000 is for the reopening of the courts ~~and \$5,720,000~~, \$4,920,000 is to replace HVAC in county court houses, and \$800,000 is to upgrade the network wiring and security systems in county court houses.

\* \* \*

Sec. 89. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b, as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, is amended to read:

Sec. 15b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

(a) The sum of ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$100,000 is appropriated in FY fiscal year 2025 to the Sergeant at Arms for the following projects:

(1) the replacement of State House cafeteria furnishings; and

(2) the purchase and installation at the State House of an X-ray machine designed to screen baggage.

Sec. 90. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.321 is amended to read:

Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY HOUSING

\* \* \*

(b)(1) General Assistance Emergency Housing shall be provided in a community-based shelter whenever possible. If there is inadequate community-based shelter space available within the Agency of Human Services district in which the household presents itself, the household shall be provided emergency housing in a hotel or motel within the district, if available, until adequate community-based shelter space becomes available in the district. The utilization of hotel and motel rooms pursuant to this subdivision shall be capped at 1,100 rooms per night between September 15, 2024 through November 30, 2024 ~~and between April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.~~

\* \* \*

(3) The Department shall provide emergency winter housing to households meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection (a) of this section between December 1, 2024 and ~~March 31,~~ June 30, 2025. Emergency housing in a hotel or motel provided pursuant to this subdivision shall not count toward the maximum days of eligibility per 12-month period provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

\* \* \*

Sec. 91. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 1, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 108, Sec. 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. REIMBURSEMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES OF STATE  
EDUCATION PROPERTY TAXES THAT WERE ABATED DUE  
TO FLOODING

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may approve an application by a municipality for reimbursement of State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, prior to November 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, a municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax, under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

(2) As used in this subsection, “eligible property” means property lost or destroyed due directly or indirectly to severe storms and flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, provided the loss or destruction resulted in one or more of the following:

(A) a 50 percent or greater loss in value to the primary structure on the property;

(B) loss of use by the property owner of the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more;

(C) loss of access by the property owner to utilities for the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more; or

(D) condemnation of the primary structure on the property under federal, State, or municipal law, as applicable.

(b) If a municipality demonstrates that, due to disruption to tax collections resulting from flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, the municipality incurred unanticipated interest expenses on funds borrowed to make State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426, the municipality may be reimbursed by an amount equal to its reasonable interest expenses under this subsection, provided the amount of reimbursed interest expenses shall not exceed eight percent.

\* \* \*

Sec. 92. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106 is amended to read:

Sec. E.106 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND  
APPROPRIATIONS; REVERSION AND ESTABLISHMENT  
OF NEW SPENDING AUTHORITY

\* \* \*

(b) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall revert all unobligated American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority prior to December 31, 2024. The total amount of American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority reverted in accordance with this subsection shall equal the amount of new spending authority established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 for the following purposes in the following order:

\* \* \*

(3) \$30,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of: affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.

#### Sec. 93. CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, General Fund, Transportation Fund, Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund, Education Fund, Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951), Clean Water Fund (21932), and Agricultural Water Quality Fund (21933) appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Executive Branch shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, General Fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Legislative and Judicial Branches shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

#### Sec. 94. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This act shall take effect on passage, except that, notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214:

(1) Sec. 67 shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2024; and

(2) Sec. 91 shall take effect retroactively on November 15, 2024.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

*ANDREW J. PERCHLIK  
VIRGINIA V. LYONS*

*Committee on the part of the Senate*

*ROBIN P. SCHEU  
TIFFANY BLUEMLE  
TREVOR J. SQUIRRELL*

*Committee on the part of the House*

## **For Informational Purposes**

### **CROSSOVER DATES**

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover dates:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 14, 2025**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill, and the Fee/Revenue bills).**

### **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (H.C.R.) PROCESS**

Joint Rules 16a–16d provide the procedure for the General Assembly to adopt concurrent resolutions pursuant to the Consent Calendar. Here are the steps for Representatives to introduce an H.C.R. and to have it ceremonially read during a House session:

1. Meet with Legislative Counselor Michael Chernick regarding your H.C.R. draft request. Come prepared with an idea and any relevant supporting documents.
2. Have a date in mind if you want a ceremonial reading. You should meet with Counselor Chernick at least two weeks prior to the week you want your ceremonial reading to happen.
3. Counselor Chernick will draft your H.C.R., and Resolutions Editor and Coordinator Jill Pralle will edit it. Upon completion of this process, a paper or electronic copy will be released to you. If a paper copy is released to you, a sponsor signout sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit the sponsor list to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.

5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted to Counselor Chernick not later than 12:00 noon the Thursday of the week prior to the H.C.R.'s appearance on the Consent Calendar.
6. The Office of Legislative Counsel will then send your H.C.R. to the House Clerk's Office for incorporation into the Consent Calendar and House Calendar Addendum for the following week.
7. The week that your H.C.R. is on the Consent Calendar, any presentation copies that you requested will be mailed or available for pickup on Friday, after the House and Senate adjourn, which is when your H.C.R. is adopted pursuant to Joint Rules.
8. Your H.C.R. can be ceremonially read during a House session once it is adopted. If you would like to schedule a ceremonial reading, contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.

#### **JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE NOTICES**

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)(D):

**JFO #3244:** \$2,335,401.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Funds support continued crisis counseling assistance and training in response to the July 2024 flood event. *[Received February 7, 2025]*

**JFO #3245:** \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Funds used to provide trainings for crisis staff and to make improvements to the State's crisis system dispatch platform. *[Received February 7, 2025]*