House Calendar

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

120th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 504

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland

S. 51

An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit

S. 56

An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans

Favorable with Amendment

S. 87

An act relating to extradition procedures

Rep. Goslant of Northfield, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4955 is amended to read:

§ 4955. COMMITMENT TO AWAIT EXTRADITION; BAIL

If upon examination it appears that the person held is the person charged with having committed the crime alleged and that the person probably committed the crime, and, except in cases arising under section 4946 of this title, that the person has fled from justice, the judge or magistrate shall commit the person to jail by a warrant, reciting the accusation, for such a time, not exceeding ~~30~~ 90 days, to be specified in the warrant as will enable the arrest of the accused to be made under a warrant of the Governor on a requisition of the executive authority of the state having jurisdiction of the offense, unless the accused give bail as provided in section 4956 of this title, or until the person shall be legally discharged. On request of the state, the hearing may be continued for up to three ~~working~~ business days, only for the purpose of determining whether the person probably committed the crime. Findings under this section may be based upon hearsay evidence or upon copies of affidavits, whether certified or not, made outside this State. It shall be sufficient for a finding that a person probably committed the crime that there is a current grand jury indictment from another state.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 4957 is amended to read:

§ 4957. EXTENDING TIME OF COMMITMENT

If the accused is not arrested under warrant of the Governor by the expiration of the time specified in the warrant, bond, or undertaking, such judge may discharge ~~him or her~~ or ~~may~~ recommit ~~him or her~~ the accused for a further period not to exceed ~~60~~ 30 days, or may again take bail for ~~his or her~~ the accused's appearance and surrender as provided in section 4956 of this title, but within a period not to exceed ~~60~~ 30 days after the date of such new bond.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 4967 is amended to read:

§ 4967. WRITTEN WAIVER OF EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS

(a)(1) Any person arrested in this State charged with having committed any crime in another state or alleged to have escaped from confinement~~,~~ or broken the terms of ~~his or her~~ bail, probation, or parole may waive the issuance and service of the warrant provided for in sections 4947 and 4948 of this title and all other procedure incidental to extradition proceedings, by executing or subscribing in the presence of a judge of any court of record within this State a writing that states that ~~he or she~~ the person consents to return to the demanding state; provided, however, before ~~such~~ the waiver ~~shall be~~ is executed or subscribed by ~~such~~ the person ~~it shall be the duty of such~~, the judge ~~to~~ shall inform ~~such~~ the person of ~~his or her~~ the ~~rights~~ right to ~~the~~ issuance and service of a warrant of extradition and the right to obtain a writ of habeas corpus as provided for in section 4950 of this title.

(2) If the person previously signed an authenticated waiver of extradition to the demanding state, the waiver shall be presumed valid. If the person contests the validity of the previously signed waiver, the person bears the burden of proving that the waiver is not valid. If the court finds that the waiver is valid, it may proceed as if the person had consented to return to the demanding state in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) If and when such consent has been duly executed, it shall forthwith be forwarded to the office of the Governor of this State and filed therein. The judge shall direct the officer having such person in custody to deliver forthwith such person to the duly accredited agent or agents of the demanding state~~,~~ and shall deliver or cause to be delivered to such agent or agents a copy of such consent; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the rights of the accused person to return voluntarily and without formality to the demanding state, nor shall this waiver procedure be deemed to

be an exclusive procedure or to limit the powers, rights, or duties of the officers of the demanding state or of this State.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 5043 is amended to read:

§ 5043. HEARING, COMMITMENT, DISCHARGE

(a) If an arrest is made in this State by an officer of another state in accordance with the provisions of section 5042 of this title, ~~he or she shall~~ the officer, without unnecessary delay, shall take the person arrested before a Superior judge of the unit in which the arrest was made, who shall conduct a hearing for the purpose of determining the lawfulness of the arrest.

(b) If the judge determines that the arrest was lawful, ~~he or she~~ the judge shall commit the person arrested to await for ~~a reasonable time~~ the issuance of an extradition warrant by the Governor of this State within 90 days or admit such person to bail pending the issuance of such warrant. The judge shall consider the issuance of a judicial warrant for the arrest of the person who has fled justice to Vermont from another state when determining the risk of flight from prosecution.

(c) If the judge determines that the arrest was unlawful, ~~he or she~~ the judge shall discharge the person arrested.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage and shall apply prospectively and not affect extraditions in process at the time of enactment.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

Favorable

S. 44

An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements

Rep. Arsenault of Williston, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Action Postponed Until May 8, 2025

Favorable with Amendment

H. 248

An act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program

Rep. Cole of Hartford, 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. 33 V.S.A. § 3505 is amended to read:

§ 3505. SUPPLEMENTAL CHILD CARE GRANTS

(a)(1)(A) The Commissioner for Children and Families may reserve up to one-half of one percent of the ~~child care family assistance program~~ Child Care Financial Assistance Program funds for extraordinary financial relief to assist child care programs that are at risk of closing due to experiencing financial hardship. The Commissioner may provide extraordinary financial relief under this subdivision (A) to both licensed and registered child care programs and to child care programs that are in the process of becoming licensed or registered. The Commissioner shall develop guidelines for providing assistance and shall prioritize extraordinary financial relief to child care programs in areas of the State with high poverty and low access to high quality child care.

(B) ~~If the Commissioner determines a child care program is at risk of closure because its operations are not fiscally sustainable, he or she may provide assistance to~~ In order to transition children who are currently served by ~~the a~~ child care ~~operator~~ program that is closing to a new child care program in an orderly fashion ~~and to help secure other child care opportunities for children served by the program in an effort to minimize the disruption of services~~, the Commissioner may provide assistance to the existing or new program to minimize the disruption of services to the effected children.

(C) ~~The~~ As needed to implement this subdivision (1), the Commissioner has the authority to request tax returns and other financial documents to verify ~~the~~ a child care program's financial hardship and its ability to sustain or increase operations.

(2) Annually on or before January 15, the Commissioner shall report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Human Services regarding any funds distributed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. Specifically, the report shall address how funds were distributed and used. It shall also address results related to any distribution of funds.

* * *

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

§ 3512. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; ELIGIBILITY

(a)(1) The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is established to subsidize the costs of child care for families that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain employment, or to obtain training leading to employment. Families seeking employment shall be entitled to participate in the Program for up to three months and the Commissioner may further extend that period. The Program shall support eligible families by either:

(A) establishing services with a child care provider with whom the Division has contracted or issued a grant for child care services; or

(B) providing a subsidy issued pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection (a).

(2) The subsidy authorized by this subsection and the corresponding family contribution shall be established by the Commissioner, by rule, and shall bear a reasonable relationship to income and family size. The Commissioner may adjust the subsidy and family contribution by rule to account for increasing child care costs not to exceed 1.5 times the most recent annual increase in the NAICS code 611, Educational Services. Families shall be found eligible using an income eligibility scale based on the current federal poverty level and adjusted for the size of the family. Co-payments shall be assigned to the whole family and shall not increase if more than one eligible child is enrolled in child care. Families with an annual gross income of less than or equal to 175 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines shall not have a family co-payment. Families with an annual gross income up to and including 575 percent of current federal poverty guidelines, adjusted for family size, shall be eligible for a subsidy authorized by this subsection. The scale shall be structured so that it encourages employment. If the federal poverty guidelines decrease in a given year, the Division shall maintain the previous year's federal poverty guidelines for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit amount under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 3514 is amended to read:

§ 3514. PAYMENT TO PROVIDERS

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall establish a payment schedule for purposes of ~~reimbursing~~ paying providers for full- or part-time child care services rendered to families who participate in the programs established under section 3512 or 3513 of this title. The payment schedule shall ensure timely payment to child care providers by requiring payment in advance of or at the beginning of the delivery of child care services. The payment schedule shall account for

the age of the children served, and all providers in the same child care setting category shall receive ~~a reimbursement~~ payment in accordance with a rate ~~payment~~ established by the Commissioner, which shall be dependent upon whether the provider operates a child care center and preschool program, family child care home, or afterschool or summer care program. The ~~reimbursement~~ payment rate shall then be adjusted to reduce the differential between family child care homes and center-based child care and preschool programs by 50 percent.

(2) Payments shall be based on a child's authorized enrollment. The Department, in consultation with the Office of Racial Equity and stakeholders, shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 that define "enrollment" and the total number of allowable absences to continue participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. The Department shall minimize itemization of absence categories.

* * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the report of the Committee on Human Services be amended in Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. § 3505, in subdivision (a)(1)(A), in the first sentence, after "at risk of closing" by inserting the phrase "or not opening"

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Holcombe of Norwich to the report of the Committee on Human Services on H. 248

That report of the Committee on Human Services be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Education Generally * * *

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

§ 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Prekindergarten child" means a child who, as of the date established by the district of residence for kindergarten eligibility, is three or four years of age or is five years of age but is not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

(2) "Prekindergarten education" means services designed to provide to prekindergarten children developmentally appropriate early development and learning experiences based on Vermont's early learning standards.

(3) "Prequalified private provider" means a private provider of prekindergarten education that is qualified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(4) "Prequalified public provider" means a school district that provides prekindergarten education and is qualified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Access to publicly funded prekindergarten education.

(1) ~~No fewer~~ Not less than ~~ten~~ 10 hours per week of publicly funded prekindergarten education shall be available for 35 weeks annually to each prekindergarten child whom a parent or guardian wishes to enroll in an available, prequalified program operated by a public school or a private provider.

(2)(A) If a parent or guardian chooses to enroll a prekindergarten child in an available, prequalified public program, then, pursuant to the parent or guardian's choice, the school district of residence shall:

~~(A)~~(i) pay tuition pursuant to ~~subsections~~ subsection (d) ~~and (h)~~ of this section upon the request of the parent or guardian to~~:~~

~~(i) a prequalified private provider; or~~

~~(ii)~~ a public school located outside the district that operates a prekindergarten program that has been prequalified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; or

~~(B)~~(ii) enroll the child in the prekindergarten education program that it operates.

(B) If a parent or guardian chooses to enroll a prekindergarten child in an available, prequalified private program, then, pursuant to the parent or guardian's choice, the Department for Children and Families shall pay tuition to the prequalified private provider pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3551.

(3) ~~If requested by the parent or guardian of a prekindergarten child, the school district of residence shall pay tuition to a prequalified program operated by a private provider or a public school in another district even if the district of residence operates a prekindergarten education program.~~ [Repealed.]

(4) If the supply of prequalified private and public providers is insufficient to meet the demand for publicly funded prekindergarten education

in any region of the State, nothing in this section shall be construed to require a district to begin or expand a program to satisfy that demand; but rather, in collaboration with the Agencies of Education and of Human Services, the local Building Bright Futures Council shall meet with school districts and private providers in the region to develop a regional plan to expand capacity.

(c) Prequalification. Pursuant to rules jointly developed and overseen by the Secretaries of Education and of Human Services and adopted by the State Board pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Agencies jointly may determine that a private or public provider of prekindergarten education is qualified for purposes of this section and include the provider in a publicly accessible database of prequalified providers. At a minimum, the rules shall define the process by which a provider applies for and maintains prequalification status, shall identify the minimum quality standards for prequalification, and shall include the following requirements:

(1) A program of prekindergarten education, whether provided by a school district or a private provider, shall have received:

(A) National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation;

(B) at least four stars in the Department for Children and Families' STARS system; or

(C) three stars in the STARS system if the provider has developed a plan, approved by the Commissioner for Children and Families and the Secretary of Education, to achieve four or more stars.

(2) A licensed provider shall employ or contract for the services of at least one teacher who is licensed and endorsed in early childhood education or in early childhood special education under chapter 51 of this title.

(3) A registered home provider that is not licensed and endorsed in early childhood education or early childhood special education shall receive regular, active supervision and training from a teacher who is licensed and endorsed in early childhood education or in early childhood special education under chapter 51 of this title.

(d) Tuition, budgets, and average daily membership.

(1) On behalf of a resident prekindergarten child, a district shall pay tuition for prekindergarten education for ~~ten~~ 10 hours per week for 35 weeks annually to a prequalified private provider or to a public school outside the district that is prequalified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; provided, however, that the district shall pay tuition for weeks that are within the district's academic year. Tuition paid under this section shall be at a statewide

rate, which may be adjusted regionally, that is established annually through a process jointly developed and implemented by the Agencies of Education and of Human Services. A district shall pay tuition to a prequalified public prekindergarten provider located outside the district upon:

(A) receiving notice from the child's parent or guardian that the child is or will be admitted to the prekindergarten education program operated by the ~~prequalified private provider or~~ the other district; and

(B) concurrent enrollment of the prekindergarten child in the district of residence for purposes of budgeting and determining average daily membership.

(2) In addition to any direct costs of operating a prekindergarten education program, a district of residence shall include anticipated tuition payments and any administrative, quality assurance, quality improvement, transition planning, or other prekindergarten-related costs in its annual budget presented to the voters.

(3) Pursuant to subdivision 4001(1)(C) of this title, the district of residence may include within its average daily membership any prekindergarten child for whom it has provided prekindergarten education or on whose behalf it has paid tuition to a prequalified public provider located outside the district, pursuant to this section.

(4) ~~A prequalified private provider may receive additional payment directly from the parent or guardian only for prekindergarten education in excess of the hours paid for by the district pursuant to this section or for child care services, or both. The provider is not bound by the statewide rate established in this subsection when determining the rates it will charge the parent or guardian.~~ [Repealed.]

(e) Rules. The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for Children and Families shall jointly develop and agree to rules and present them to the State Board for adoption under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as follows:

(1) To permit private providers that are not prequalified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to create new or continue existing partnerships with school districts through which the school district provides supports that enable the provider to fulfill the requirements of subdivision (c)(2) or (3) of this section, and through which the district may or may not make in-kind payments as a component of the statewide tuition established under this section.

(2) To authorize a district to begin or expand a school-based prekindergarten education program only upon prior approval obtained through

a process jointly overseen by the Secretaries of Education and of Human Services, which shall be based upon analysis of the number of prekindergarten children residing in the district and the availability of enrollment opportunities with prequalified private providers in the region. Where the data are not clear or there are other complex considerations, the Secretaries may choose to conduct a community needs assessment.

(3) To require that the school district provides opportunities for effective parental participation in the prekindergarten education program.

(4) To establish a process by which:

(A) a parent or guardian notifies the district that the prekindergarten child is or will be admitted to a prequalified public prekindergarten education program not operated by the district and concurrently enrolls the child in the district pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of this section; and

(B) ~~a district:~~

~~(i) pays tuition pursuant to a schedule that does not inhibit the ability of a parent or guardian to enroll a prekindergarten child in a prekindergarten education program or the ability of a prequalified private provider to maintain financial stability; and~~

~~(ii) enters into an agreement with any provider to which it will pay tuition regarding quality assurance, transition, and any other matters; and~~

~~(C)~~ a provider that has received tuition payments under this section on behalf of a prekindergarten child notifies a district that the child is no longer enrolled.

(5) To establish a process to calculate an annual statewide tuition rate that is based upon the actual cost of delivering ~~ten~~ 10 hours per week of prekindergarten education that meets all established quality standards and to allow for regional adjustments to the rate.

(6) [Repealed.]

(7) To require a district to include identifiable costs for prekindergarten programs and essential early education services in its annual budgets and reports to the community.

(8) To require a district to report to the Agency of Education annual expenditures made in support of prekindergarten education, with distinct figures provided for expenditures made from the General Fund, from the Education Fund, and from all other sources, which shall be specified.

(9) To provide an administrative process for:

(A) a parent~~,~~ or guardian~~, or provider~~ to challenge an action of a school district or the State when the complainant believes that the district or State is in violation of State statute or rules regarding prekindergarten education; ~~and~~

(B) a school district to challenge an action of ~~a provider or~~ the State when the district believes that ~~the provider or~~ the State is in violation of State statute or rules regarding prekindergarten education;

(C) a parent or guardian to challenge the action of a prequalified private provider or prequalified private provider, respectively, when the complainant believes that the provider is in violation of State statute or rules regarding prekindergarten education; and

(D) a prequalified private provider to challenge an action of the State when the complainant believes the State is in violation of State statute or rules regarding prekindergarten education.

(10) To establish a system by which the Agency of Education and Department for Children and Families shall jointly monitor and evaluate prekindergarten education programs to promote optimal results for children that support the relevant population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 and to collect data that will inform future decisions. The Agency and Department shall be required to report annually to the General Assembly in January. At a minimum, the system shall monitor and evaluate:

(A) programmatic details, including the number of children served, the number of private and public prekindergarten programs operated, and the public financial investment made to ensure access to quality prekindergarten education;

(B) the quality of public and private prekindergarten education programs and efforts to ensure continuous quality improvements through mentoring, training, technical assistance, and otherwise; and

(C) the results for children, including school readiness and proficiency in numeracy and literacy.

(11) To establish a process for documenting the progress of children enrolled in prekindergarten education programs and to require public and private providers to use the process to:

(A) help individualize instruction and improve program practice; and

(B) collect and report child progress data to the Secretary of Education on an annual basis.

(f) ~~Other provisions of law. Section 836 of this title shall not apply to this section.~~ [Repealed.]

(g) ~~Limitations. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit or require payment of public funds to a private provider of prekindergarten education in violation of Chapter I, Article 3 of the Vermont Constitution or in violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.~~ [Repealed.]

(h) ~~Geographic limitations.~~

~~(1) Notwithstanding the requirement that a district pay tuition to any prequalified public or private provider in the State, a school board may choose to limit the geographic boundaries within which the district shall pay tuition by paying tuition solely to those prequalified providers in which parents and guardians choose to enroll resident prekindergarten children that are located within the district's "prekindergarten region" as determined in subdivision (2) of this subsection.~~

~~(2) For purposes of this subsection, upon application from the school board, a district's prekindergarten region shall be determined jointly by the Agencies of Education and of Human Services in consultation with the school board, private providers of prekindergarten education, parents and guardians of prekindergarten children, and other interested parties pursuant to a process adopted by rule under subsection (e) of this section. A prekindergarten region:~~

~~(A) shall not be smaller than the geographic boundaries of the school district;~~

~~(B) shall be based in part upon the estimated number of prekindergarten children residing in the district and in surrounding districts, the availability of prequalified private and public providers of prekindergarten education, commuting patterns, and other region-specific criteria; and~~

~~(C) shall be designed to support existing partnerships between the school district and private providers of prekindergarten education.~~

~~(3) If a school board chooses to pay tuition to providers solely within its prekindergarten region, and if a resident prekindergarten child is unable to access publicly funded prekindergarten education within that region, then the child's parent or guardian may request and in its discretion the district may pay tuition at the statewide rate for a prekindergarten education program operated by a prequalified provider located outside the prekindergarten region.~~

~~(4) Except for the narrow exception permitting a school board to limit geographic boundaries under subdivision (1) of this subsection, all other provisions of this section and related rules shall continue to apply.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Average daily membership" of a school district or, if needed in order to calculate the appropriate homestead tax rate, of the municipality as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(9), in any year means:

* * *

(C) The full-time equivalent enrollment for each prekindergarten child as follows: If a child is enrolled in 10 or more hours of prekindergarten education per week in a public school or receives 10 or more hours of essential early education services per week, the child shall be counted as one full-time equivalent pupil. If a child is enrolled in six or more but ~~fewer~~ less than 10 hours of prekindergarten education per week in a public school or if a child receives ~~fewer~~ less than 10 hours of essential early education services per week, the child shall be counted as a percentage of one full-time equivalent pupil, calculated as one multiplied by the number of hours per week divided by ~~ten~~ 10. A child enrolled in prekindergarten education for ~~fewer~~ less than six hours per week in a public school or for any number of hours in a prequalified private provider shall not be included in the district's average daily membership. There is no limit on the total number of children who may be enrolled in public school prekindergarten education program or who receive essential early education services.

* * *

(15) "Prekindergarten child" means a ~~three- or four-year-old~~ child three or four years of age who is enrolled in a prekindergarten program offered by ~~or through~~ a school district pursuant to rules adopted under section 829 of this title or who is receiving essential early education services offered pursuant to section 2956 of this title. Prekindergarten child also means a ~~five-year-old~~ child five years of age who otherwise meets the terms of this definition if that child is not yet eligible for or enrolled in kindergarten.

* * * Child Care Financial Assistance Program, Supplemental Child Care Grants, and Prequalified Private Prekindergarten Education * * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 3505 is amended to read:

§ 3505. SUPPLEMENTAL CHILD CARE GRANTS

(a)(1)(A) The Commissioner for Children and Families may reserve up to one-half of one percent of the ~~child care family assistance program~~ Child Care Financial Assistance Program funds for extraordinary financial relief to assist

child care programs that are at risk of closing due to experiencing financial hardship. The Commissioner may provide extraordinary financial relief under this subdivision (A) to both licensed and registered child care programs and to child care programs that are in the process of becoming licensed or registered. The Commissioner shall develop guidelines for providing assistance and shall prioritize extraordinary financial relief to child care programs in areas of the State with high poverty and low access to high quality child care.

(B) ~~If the Commissioner determines a child care program is at risk of closure because its operations are not fiscally sustainable, he or she may provide assistance to~~ In order to transition children who are currently served by ~~the~~ a child care ~~operator~~ program that is closing to a new child care program in an orderly fashion ~~and to help secure other child care opportunities for children served by the program in an effort to minimize the disruption of services~~, the Commissioner may provide assistance to the existing or new program to minimize the disruption of services to the effected children.

(C) ~~The~~ As needed to implement this subdivision (1), the Commissioner has the authority to request tax returns and other financial documents to verify ~~the~~ a child care program's financial hardship and its ability to sustain or increase operations.

(2) Annually on or before January 15, the Commissioner shall report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Human Services regarding any funds distributed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. Specifically, the report shall address how funds were distributed and used. It shall also address results related to any distribution of funds.

* * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

§ 3512. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; ELIGIBILITY

(a)(1) The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is established to subsidize the costs of child care for families that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain employment, or to obtain training leading to employment. Families seeking employment shall be entitled to participate in the Program for up to three months and the Commissioner may further extend that period. The Program shall support eligible families by either:

(A) establishing services with a child care provider with whom the Division has contracted or issued a grant for child care services; or

(B) providing a subsidy issued pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection (a).

(2) The subsidy authorized by this subsection and the corresponding family contribution shall be established by the Commissioner, by rule, and shall bear a reasonable relationship to income and family size. The Commissioner may adjust the subsidy and family contribution by rule to account for increasing child care costs not to exceed 1.5 times the most recent annual increase in the NAICS code 611, Educational Services. Families shall be found eligible using an income eligibility scale based on the current federal poverty level and adjusted for the size of the family. Co-payments shall be assigned to the whole family and shall not increase if more than one eligible child is enrolled in child care. Families with an annual gross income of less than or equal to 175 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines shall not have a family co-payment. Families with an annual gross income up to and including 575 percent of current federal poverty guidelines, adjusted for family size, shall be eligible for a subsidy authorized by this subsection. The scale shall be structured so that it encourages employment. If the federal poverty guidelines decrease in a given year, the Division shall maintain the previous year's federal poverty guidelines for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit amount under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 3514 is amended to read:

§ 3514. PAYMENT TO PROVIDERS

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall establish a payment schedule for purposes of ~~reimbursing~~ paying providers for full- or part-time child care services rendered to families who participate in the programs established under section 3512 or 3513 of this title. The payment schedule shall ensure timely payment to child care providers by requiring payment in advance or at the beginning of the delivery of child care services. The payment schedule shall account for the age of the children served, and all providers in the same child care setting category shall receive ~~a reimbursement~~ payment in accordance with a rate ~~payment~~ established by the Commissioner, which shall be dependent upon whether the provider operates a child care center and preschool program, family child care home, or afterschool or summer care program. The ~~reimbursement~~ payment rate shall then be adjusted to reduce the differential between family child care homes and center-based child care and preschool programs by 50 percent.

(2) Payments shall be based on a child's authorized enrollment. The Department, in consultation with the Office of Racial Equity and stakeholders,

shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 that define "enrollment" and the total number of allowable absences to continue participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. The Department shall minimize itemization of absence categories.

* * *

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. chapter 35 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 35. CHILD CARE

* * *

Subchapter 6. Prekindergarten Education

§ 3551. PREQUALIFIED PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

(a) A parent or guardian may choose to enroll a prekindergarten child in a publicly funded prekindergarten education program operated by an available, prequalified private provider of the parent or guardian's choice pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 by providing written notice to the Department for Children and Families, on a form created by the Department for this purpose, that the child is or will be admitted to the prekindergarten education program operated by a prequalified private provider.

(b)(1) Upon receiving written notice, the Department shall pay tuition to the prequalified private provider for not more than 10 hours per week of publicly funded prekindergarten education for 35 weeks annually from the State portion of funding appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

(2) The Department shall pay tuition on a schedule that does not inhibit the ability of a parent or guardian to enroll a prekindergarten child in a private prekindergarten education program or the ability of a prequalified private provider to maintain financial stability.

(3) Prior to making an initial tuition payment, the Department shall enter into an agreement with a prequalified private provider to which it will pay tuition on behalf of a child regarding quality assurance, compliance with 16 V.S.A. § 829, and any other matters. The agreement shall require a prequalified private provider to notify the Department if a prekindergarten child for which it previously received a prekindergarten tuition payment is no longer enrolled.

(c) A prequalified private provider may receive additional payment directly from the parent or guardian only for prekindergarten education in excess of the hours paid for by the Department pursuant to this section or for child care services, or both.

(d) As used in this section, "prekindergarten child," "prekindergarten education," and "prequalified private provider" have the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 829.

* * * Reporting Requirement * * *

Sec. 7. REPORT; STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESSES

On or before December 15, 2026, the Department for Children and Families' Child Development Division shall submit a proposal to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare for streamlining the application process for families seeking receive both a benefit for prekindergarten education provided at a prequalified private provider pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and a Child Care Financial Assistance Program subsidy pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3512. The proposal shall include any necessary legislative language.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

This section and Secs. 3 (supplemental child care grants), 4 (Child Care Financial Assistance Program; eligibility), and 5 (payment to providers) shall take effect on passage. All other sections shall take effect on September 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to Child Care Financial Assistance Program, supplemental child care grants, and prequalified private prekindergarten education"

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 230

An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife

Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph, for the Committee on Environment, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4251 is amended to read:

§ 4251. TAKING WILD ANIMALS AND FISH; LICENSE

(a) Except as provided in sections 4253 and 4254b of this title, a person shall not take wild animals or fish without first having procured a license therefor; provided, however, that a person under 15 years of age may take fish

in accordance with this part and regulations of the Board, without first having procured a license therefor.

(b) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife may designate two days each calendar year as "free fishing days" for which no license shall be required. One day shall occur in the open water fishing season and one day shall occur during the ice fishing season.

(c) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife may designate Labor Day weekend each year as "free mentored fishing weekend," during which one unlicensed angler can fish with one licensed angler throughout this three-day period.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4613 is amended to read:

§ 4613. FISHING TOURNAMENTS

(a) No person or organization shall hold a fishing tournament on the waters of the State without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Tournaments held on the Connecticut River, excluding Moore and Comerford Reservoirs, that do not utilize an access area in Vermont are not required to obtain a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(b) A fishing tournament means a contest in which anglers pay a fee to enter and in which the entrants compete for a prize based on the quality or size of the fish they catch. A contest may run multiple days, but the days must be consecutive for that contest to be considered a single event. A tournament that limits the entrants to people below 15 years of age or a tournament held as part of a Special Olympics program shall be exempt from paying the fee required under subsection (d) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules that establish the procedure for implementation of this section. The rules shall include a provision that an angler may not enter a fish that was caught and confined to an enclosed area prior to the beginning of the tournament.

(d) The Commissioner shall charge a fee ~~of $50.00~~ based on the number of participants for each permit issued under this section and shall deposit the fee collected into the Fish and Wildlife Fund. Tournaments with up to 25 participants shall pay a fee of $10.00; tournaments with 26 to 50 participants shall pay a fee of $30.00; and tournaments with more than 50 participants shall pay a fee of $100.00.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4518 is amended to read:

§ 4518. BIG GAME VIOLATIONS; THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES; SUSPENSION; VIOLATIONS

(a) Whoever violates a provision of this part or orders or rules of the Board ~~relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game; relating to threatened or endangered species; or relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products~~ that constitutes a big game violation shall be fined not more than ~~$1,000.00~~ $2,000.00 nor less than ~~$400.00~~ $500.00 or imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or both. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions or any conviction while under license suspension related to the requirements of part 4 of this title, the violator shall be fined not more than ~~$4,000.00~~ $5,000.00 nor less than $2,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than ~~60~~ 180 days, or both.

(b) As used in this section, "big game violation" means:

(1) violations relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game;

(2) violations of chapter 123 of this title and the rules related to threatened and endangered species;

(3) violation of section 4280 of this title relating to criminal suspensions;

(4) violations of chapter 124 of this title relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products;

(5) interference with hunting, fishing, or trapping in violation of section 4708 of this title; or

(6) illegal commercial importation or possession of wild animals in violation of section 4709 of this title.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4552 is amended to read:

§ 4552. JURISDICTION; VENUE

The Vermont Criminal Division of the Superior Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over fish and wildlife violations with the exception of violations related to section 4572 and chapters 123 and 124 of this title. Venue for adjudicating fish and wildlife violations shall be the unit of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court having jurisdiction over the geographical area where the offense is stated to have occurred.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4572 is amended to read:

§ 4572. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this subchapter, a minor fish and wildlife violation means:

(1) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4145 (violation of access and landing area rules);

(2) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4251 (taking wild animals and fish without a license);

(3) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4266 (failure to carry a license on person or failure to exhibit license);

(4) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4267 (false statements in license application; altering license; transferring license to another person; using another person's license; or guiding an unlicensed person);

(5) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4713 (tree or ground stands or blinds); ~~or~~

(6) [Repealed.]

(7) a violation of a biological collection rule adopted by the Board under part 4 of this title; or

(8) except for big game offenses and under revocation offenses, any fish and wildlife violation as defined by 10 V.S.A § 4551 and not otherwise listed in this section shall be charged as a minor violation, provided that:

(A) the offender has no prior history of fish and wildlife violations;

(B) no evidence was seized in relation to the violation;

(C) a criminal warrant was not used in relation to the violation; and

(D) there is no possibility of forfeiture.

(b) "Bureau" means the Judicial Bureau as created in 4 V.S.A. § 1102.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:

§ 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS; TAKING; POSSESSION

(a) A person shall not intentionally take a reptile or amphibian in the State unless authorized by rules adopted under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Commissioner may establish requirements for the following by rule:

(1) the collection or possession for commercial use, export, or sale of reptiles and amphibians specified by the Commissioner;

(2) the taking of reptiles or amphibians that have been classified as common, widespread, and abundant, known as S5 ranked species, with stable

or increasing populations indicated by data collected or compiled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(3) the taking of a reptile or amphibian that due to population, risk to other native species, or risk to ecosystems has been identified as requiring a reduction in population; or

(4) under specified criteria, the taking, collection, or possession of a specified reptile or amphibian for scientific, educational, or noncommercial cultural or ceremonial purposes.

(c) Rules adopted by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under this section shall be designed to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of the regulated reptile or amphibian.

Sec. 7. IMPORT, POSSESSION, AND SALE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS; ENDORSEMENTS

(a)(1) A person shall not import, possess, or sell in the State a pond slider turtle (Trachemys scripta), unless the turtle was legally acquired as a pet prior to July 1, 2025.

(2) A person is prohibited from releasing to the wild a pond slider retained as a pet under this subsection. A violation of the prohibition under this section shall be subject to enforcement as a fish and wildlife violation under Title 10 part 4.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall be repealed on the effective date of a rule adopted by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under 10 V.S.A. § 4085 regulating the import, possession, or sale of the pond slider turtle (Trachemys scripta).

(c) When the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under 10 V.S.A. § 4085(b) authorizes the taking of a reptile or amphibian by hunting, a hunting license issued under 10 V.S.A. part 4 that authorizes the taking of reptiles and amphibians under the license shall include an endorsement indicating the authorized taking.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 4709 is amended to read:

§ 4709. TRANSPORT, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND STOCKING OF WILD ANIMALS; POSSESSION OF WILD BOAR OR FERAL SWINE

(a) A person shall not bring into, transport into, transport within, transport through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any kind,

including reptiles, amphibians, or any manner of feral swine, without authorization from the Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's designee. The importation permit may be granted under ~~such regulations therefor as~~ rules, requirements, or conditions that the Commissioner shall prescribe and only after the Commissioner has made such investigation and inspection of the birds or animals as ~~she or he~~ the Commissioner may deem necessary. The Department may dispose of unlawfully possessed or imported wildlife as it may judge best, and the State may collect treble damages from the violator of this subsection for all expenses incurred.

(b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or province wildlife illegally taken, transported, or possessed contrary to the laws governing the country, state, or province from which the wildlife originated.

(c) No person shall place a Vermont-issued tag on wildlife taken outside the State. No person shall report big game in Vermont when the wildlife is taken outside the State.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner or duly authorized agents of the Department of Fish and Wildlife from bringing into the State for the purpose of planting, introducing, or stocking or from planting, introducing, or stocking in the State any wild bird or animal.

(e) A person shall not take, collect, possess, sell, import, or export any wild bird or animal, or parts thereof, dead or alive, for commercial purposes unless authorized by statute, the rules of the Board, rules of the Commissioner, or a permit from the Commissioner.

(f) Any person who violates this section may be subject to the penalties set forth in section 4518 of this title and also may be required to pay additional penalties based on reasonable mitigation and potential economic benefit associated with commercial trade.

(g) The Commissioner may bring an action in the unit of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court having jurisdiction over the geographical area where the offense is stated to have occurred, or the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, to compel reasonable mitigation and recover economic benefits for commercial collection and trade violations under this subsection.

(h) Applicants shall pay a permit fee of $100.00.

~~(f)~~(i)(1) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit under this section for the importation or possession of the following live species, a hybrid or genetic variant of the following species, offspring of the following species, or offspring or a hybrid of a genetically engineered variant of the following species: feral swine, including wild boar, wild hog, wild swine, feral pig, feral

hog, old world swine, razorback, Eurasian wild boar, or Russian wild boar (Sus scrofo Linnaeus). A feral swine is:

* * *

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 5403(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as authorized under this chapter, a person shall not:

(1) take, possess, or transport wildlife or wild plants that are members of a threatened or endangered species; ~~or~~

(2) destroy or adversely impact critical habitat;

(3) sell or offer for sale in intrastate commerce a threatened or endangered species;

(4) deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship a threatened or endangered species in intrastate commerce; or

(5) import a threatened or endangered species into or export a threatened or endangered species from Vermont.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 5408 is amended to read:

§ 5408. AUTHORIZED TAKINGS; INCIDENTAL TAKINGS; DESTRUCTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT

(a) Authorized taking. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, after obtaining the advice of the Endangered Species Committee, the Secretary may permit, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the taking of a threatened or endangered species, the destruction of or adverse impact on critical habitat, or any act otherwise prohibited by this chapter if done for any of the following purposes:

(1) scientific purposes;

(2) to enhance the propagation or survival of a threatened or endangered species;

(3) zoological exhibition;

(4) educational purposes;

(5) noncommercial cultural or ceremonial purposes; or

(6) special purposes consistent with the purposes of the federal Endangered Species Act.

(b) Incidental taking. After obtaining the advice of the Endangered Species Committee, the Secretary may permit, under such terms and conditions as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the incidental taking of a threatened or endangered species or the destruction of or adverse impact on critical habitat if:

(1) the taking is necessary to conduct an otherwise lawful activity;

(2) the taking is attendant or secondary to, and not the purpose of, the lawful activity;

(3) the impact of the permitted incidental take is minimized; and

(4) the incidental taking will not impair the conservation or recovery of any endangered species or threatened species.

* * *

(k) Public notice. ~~Prior~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, prior to issuing a permit for an incidental taking and prior to the initial issuance or amendment of a general permit under this section, the Secretary shall provide for public notice of ~~no~~ not fewer than 30 days~~,~~ opportunity for written comment~~,~~ and opportunity to request a public informational hearing. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary shall post permit applications, permit decisions, and the initial or amended general permits on the website of the Agency of Natural Resources. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary also shall provide notice to interested persons who request notice of permit applications, permit decisions, and proposed general permits or proposed amendments to general permits.

(l) General permits.

(1) The Secretary may issue general permits for activities that will not affect the continued survival or recovery of a threatened or endangered species.

* * *

(6) ~~Prior~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, prior to issuing an initial or amended general permit under this subsection, the Secretary shall:

(A) post a draft of the general permit on the Agency website;

(B) provide public notice of at least 30 days; and

(C) provide for written comments or a public hearing, or both.

(7) For applications for coverage under the terms of an issued general permit, the applicant shall provide notice on a form provided by the Secretary. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary shall post notice of the application on the Agency website and shall provide an opportunity for written comment, regarding whether the application complies with the terms and conditions of the general permit, for ~~ten~~ 10 days following receipt of the application.

* * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 5410 is amended to read:

§ 5410. LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL

(a) The Secretary shall not disclose information regarding the specific location of threatened or endangered species sites or habitats except ~~that the Secretary shall disclose information regarding the location of the threatened or endangered species to~~:

(1) to the owner of land upon which the species is located;

(2) to a potential buyer of land upon which the species is located who has a bona fide contract to buy the land and applies to the Secretary for disclosure of threatened or endangered species information; ~~or~~

(3) to qualified individuals or organizations, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations for scientific research or for preservation and planning purposes when the Secretary determines that the preservation of the species is not further endangered by the disclosure; or

(4) during regulatory processes with the exception of threatened or endangered species listed under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain a subset list of threatened and endangered species whose specific names shall not be included in regulatory planning. The subset list shall include threatened or endangered species for which the species names and locations shall not be disclosed because of the risk that the species will be significantly harmed by unauthorized take, such as illegal collection, commercial trade, human-caused mortality, or destruction of habitat. The list shall be based on the rarity of the species, known collection and commercial trade activities in Vermont and other states or countries, incidents of human-caused mortality or destruction of habitat, and other factors that present a threat to the continued existence of the species.

(c) When the Secretary issues a permit under this chapter to take a threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely impact critical habitat and when the Secretary designates critical habitat by rule under section 5402a of this title, the Secretary shall disclose only the municipality and general location where the threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat is located. When the Secretary designates critical habitat under section 5402a of this title, the Secretary shall notify the municipality in which the critical habitat is located and shall disclose the general location of the designated critical habitat.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4829 is amended to read:

§ 4829. ~~PERSON SUFFERING DAMAGE BY DEER OR BLACK BEAR~~

~~(a) A person engaged in the business of farming who suffers damage by deer to the person's crops, fruit trees, or crop-bearing plants on land not posted against the hunting of deer, or a person engaged in the business of farming who suffers damage by black bear to the person's cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, or bees or bee hives on land not posted against hunting or trapping of black bear is entitled to reimbursement for the damage up to an amount not to exceed $5,000.00 per year, and may apply to the Department of Fish and Wildlife within 72 hours of the occurrence of the damage for reimbursement for the damage. As used in this section, "post" means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land.~~

~~(b) As used in this section, a person is "engaged in the business of farming" if he or she earns at least one-half of the farmer's annual gross income from the business of farming, as that term is defined in the Internal Revenue Code, 26 C.F.R. § 1.175-3.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that in Sec. 6, 10 V.S.A. § 4085(a) (related to the taking of reptiles and amphibians) shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

(Committee Vote: 9-1-1)

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Environment.

(Committee Vote: 7-3-1)

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Environment.

(Committee Vote: 9-2-0)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 41

An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 3761a is added to read:

§ 3761a. ABUSE OF THE DEAD BODY OF A PERSON

(a) No person shall, knowingly without legal authorization, intentionally burn, mutilate, disfigure, dismember, or destroy the dead body of a person.

(b) No person shall violate subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of concealing a crime or avoiding apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime.

(c) No person shall commit sexual conduct upon the dead body of a person.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than $5,000.00, or both.

(2) A person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years or fined not more than $10,000.00, or both.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Dead body of a person" does not include the cremated remains of a person.

(2) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following committed against the dead body of a person:

(A) any conduct involving contact between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the penis, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the anus, the vulva and the vulva, or the mouth and the vulva;

(B) any intrusion, however slight, by any part of an individual's body or any object into any part of a dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(C) any touching of the dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(D) masturbation; or

(E) bestiality.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 5211 is amended to read:

§ 5211. UNAUTHORIZED BURIAL OR REMOVAL; PENALTY

A person who buries, entombs, transports, or removes the dead body of a person without a burial-transit permit so to do, or in any other manner or at any other time or place than as specified in such permit, shall be ~~imprisoned not more than five years or fined~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.00~~, or both~~.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

H. 137

An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 22, virtual currency kiosk moratorium, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof four new sections to be Secs. 22–25 to read as follows:

Sec. 22. 8 V.S.A. § 2571 is amended to read:

§ 2571. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Blockchain" has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 1913(a)(1).

(2) "Blockchain analytics" means a software service that uses data from various virtual currencies and their applicable blockchains to provide a risk rating specific to digital wallet addresses from users of virtual-currency kiosks.

(3) "Digital wallet" means hardware or software that enables individuals to store and use virtual currency.

(4) "Digital wallet address" means an alphanumeric identifier representing a destination on a blockchain for a virtual currency transfer that is associated with a digital wallet.

(5) "Exchange," used as a verb, means to assume or exercise control of virtual currency from or on behalf of a person, including momentarily, to buy, sell, trade, or convert:

(A) virtual currency for money, monetary value, bank credit, or one or more forms of virtual currency, or other consideration; or

(B) money, monetary value, bank credit, or other consideration for one or more forms of virtual currency.

(6) "Existing customer" means a consumer who:

(A) is engaging in a transaction at a virtual-currency kiosk in Vermont; and

(B) whose first transaction with the virtual-currency kiosk operator occurred more than 30 days prior.

(7) "New customer" means a consumer who:

(A) is engaging in a transaction at a virtual-currency kiosk in Vermont; and

(B) whose first transaction with the virtual-currency kiosk operator occurred not more than 30 days prior.

~~(2)~~(8) "Transfer" means to assume or exercise control of virtual currency from or on behalf of a person and to:

(A) credit the virtual currency to the account or digital wallet of another person;

(B) move the virtual currency from one account or digital wallet of a person to another account or digital wallet of the same person; or

(C) relinquish or transfer control or ownership of virtual currency to another person, digital wallet, distributed ledger address, or smart contract.

Sec. 23. 8 V.S.A. § 2574 is amended to read:

§ 2574. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

(a) Licensee disclosures, generally. A person licensed under subchapter 2 of this chapter to engage in virtual-currency business activity shall provide the disclosures required by this section and any additional disclosure the Commissioner determines reasonably necessary for the protection of the public.

(1) A disclosure required by this section must be made separately from any other information provided by the licensee and in a clear and conspicuous manner in a record the person may keep.

(2) The Commissioner may waive one or more requirements in subsections (b)–(d) of this section and approve alternative disclosures proposed by a licensee if the Commissioner determines that the alternative disclosure is more appropriate for the virtual-currency business activity and provides the same or equivalent information and protection to the public.

(b) Licensee disclosures prior to business activity. Before engaging in virtual-currency business activity with a person, a licensee shall disclose, to the extent applicable to the virtual-currency business activity the licensee will undertake with the person:

(1) a schedule of fees and charges the licensee may assess, the manner by which fees and charges will be calculated if they are not set in advance and disclosed, and the timing of the fees and charges, including general disclosure regarding mark-ups and mark-downs on purchases, sales, or exchanges of virtual currency in which the licensee or any affiliate thereof is acting in a principal capacity;

(2) whether the product or service provided by the licensee is covered by:

(A) a form of insurance or is otherwise guaranteed against loss by an agency of the United States:

(i) up to the full U.S. dollar equivalent of virtual currency purchased from the licensee or for control of virtual currency by the licensee as of the date of the placement or purchase, including the maximum amount provided by insurance under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or otherwise available from the Securities Investor Protection Corporation; or

(ii) if not provided at the full U.S. dollar equivalent of virtual currency purchased from the licensee or for control of virtual currency by the licensee, the maximum amount of coverage for each person expressed in the U.S. dollar equivalent of the virtual currency; or

(B) private insurance against theft or loss, including cyber theft or theft by other means;

(3) the irrevocability of a transfer or exchange and any exception to irrevocability;

(4) a description of:

(A) liability for an unauthorized, mistaken, or accidental transfer or exchange;

(B) the person's responsibility to provide notice to the licensee of the transfer or exchange;

(C) the basis for any recovery by the person from the licensee;

(D) general error-resolution rights applicable to the transfer or exchange; and

(E) the method for the person to update the person's contact information with the licensee;

(5) that the date or time when the transfer or exchange is made and the person's account is debited may differ from the date or time when the person initiates the instruction to make the transfer or exchange;

(6) whether the person has a right to stop a preauthorized payment or revoke authorization for a transfer and the procedure to initiate a stop-payment order or revoke authorization for a subsequent transfer;

(7) the person's right to receive a receipt, trade ticket, or other evidence of the transfer or exchange;

(8) the person's right to at least 30 days' prior notice of a change in the licensee's fee schedule, other terms and conditions of operating its virtual-currency business activity with the person, and the policies applicable to the person's account; and

(9) that virtual currency is not money.

(c) Disclosures.

(1) Disclosures prior to each virtual-currency transaction. In connection with any virtual-currency transaction effected through a ~~money transmission~~ virtual-currency kiosk in this State, or in any transaction where the licensee or any affiliate thereof is acting in a principal capacity in a sale of virtual currency to, or purchase of virtual currency from, a customer, then immediately prior to effecting such a purchase or sale transaction with or on behalf of a customer, a licensee shall prominently disclose and shall require the customer to acknowledge and confirm the terms and conditions of the virtual-currency transaction, which shall include the following:

~~(1)~~(A) the type, value, date, precise time, and amount of the transaction; ~~and~~

~~(2)~~(B) the consideration charged for the transaction, including:

~~(A)~~(i) any charge, fee, commission, or other consideration for any trade, exchange, conversion, or transfer involving virtual currency; and

~~(B)~~(ii) any difference between the price paid by the customer for any virtual currency and the prevailing market price of such virtual currency, if any;

(C) for a customer of a virtual-currency kiosk, a description of the virtual-currency kiosk operator's refund policy, which shall be consistent with the requirements specified in subsections 2577(k) and (l) of this subchapter;

(D) for a customer of a virtual-currency kiosk, the customer warning described in subdivision (g)(1) of this section; and

(E) the daily transaction limit, if applicable.

(2) Disclosures for new kiosk accounts. When opening an account for a new customer, and prior to entering into an initial transaction for, on behalf of, or with such customer, each virtual-currency kiosk operator shall disclose relevant terms and conditions associated with its products, services, and activities and with virtual currency, generally, including disclosures substantially similar to the following:

(A) the customer's liability for unauthorized virtual-currency transactions;

(B) under what circumstances the virtual-currency kiosk operator will, absent a court or government order, disclose information concerning the customer's account to third parties;

(C) the customer's right to receive periodic account statements and valuations from the virtual-currency kiosk operator;

(D) the customer's right to receive a receipt, trade ticket, or other evidence of a transaction;

(E) the customer's right to prior notice of a change in the virtual-currency kiosk operator's rules or policies;

(F) a statement of the material risks associated with virtual-currency transactions, generally, as described in subsection (h) of this section;

(G) the name and telephone number of the Department of Financial Regulation and a statement disclosing that a customer may contact the Department with questions or complaints about a licensee; and

(H) such other disclosures as are customarily given in connection with the opening of customer accounts.

(d) Licensee receipt requirements. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e) of this section, at the conclusion of a virtual-currency transaction with or on behalf of a person, a licensee shall provide the person with a receipt that contains:

(1) the name and contact information of the licensee, including information the person may need to ask a question or file a complaint;

(2) the type, value, date, precise time, and amount of the transaction expressed in U.S. currency;

(3) the consideration charged for the transaction, including:

(A) any charge, fee, commission, or other consideration for any trade, exchange, conversion, or transfer involving virtual currency; or

(B) the amount of any difference between the price paid by the customer for any virtual currency and the prevailing market price of such virtual currency, if any; and

(4) any other information required pursuant to section 2562 of this title.

(e) Licensee daily confirmation. If a licensee discloses that it will provide a daily confirmation in the initial disclosure under subsection ~~(c)~~(b) of this section, the licensee may elect to provide a single, daily confirmation for all transactions with or on behalf of a person on that day instead of a per-transaction confirmation.

(f) Kiosk transaction receipt. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a virtual-currency kiosk operator shall provide a customer with both a paper and an electronic receipt in a retainable form for each virtual-currency transaction completed at a virtual-currency kiosk. In addition to the information required to be included in a receipt under subsection (d) of this section or under section 2562 of this title, each receipt for virtual-currency transaction completed at a virtual-currency kiosk shall include:

(1) the identification of any applicable digital wallet address to which virtual currency is transmitted;

(2) the full name of the account owner;

(3) any unique transaction identifiers;

(4) a prominent statement of the virtual-currency kiosk operator's refund obligations under this section, in a form approved by the Commissioner;

(5) a statement of the operator's liability for nondelivery or delayed delivery of virtual currency; and

(6) the name and telephone number of the Department of Financial Regulation and a statement disclosing that a customer may contact the Department with questions or complaints about an operator.

(g) Customer warning.

(1) Prior to entering into a virtual-currency transaction with a customer at a virtual-currency kiosk, and as required by subdivision (c)(1)(D) of this section, each virtual-currency kiosk operator shall ensure a warning is disclosed to the customer substantially similar to the following:

Customer Notice. Please Read Carefully.

Did you receive a phone call from your bank, software provider, the police, or were you directed to make a payment for Social Security, a utility bill, an investment, warrants, or bail money at this kiosk? STOP

Is anyone on the phone pressuring you to make a payment of any kind? STOP

I understand that the purchase and sale of cryptocurrency may be a final, irreversible, and nonrefundable transaction.

I confirm I am sending funds to a digital wallet I own or directly have control over. I confirm that I am using funds gained from my own initiative to make my transaction.

(2) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall ensure a customer has a readily accessible opportunity to end a transaction for any reason prior to its completion.

(h) Statement of material risks. As used in subdivision (c)(2)(F) of this section, a statement of material risks associated with virtual-currency transactions, generally, shall include disclosures substantially similar to the following:

(1) Virtual currency is not legal tender, is not backed by the government, and accounts and value balances are not subject to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Securities Investor Protection Corporation protections.

(2) Legislative and regulatory changes or actions at the State, federal, or international level may adversely affect the use, transfer, exchange, and value of virtual currency.

(3) Transactions in virtual currency may be irreversible and, accordingly, losses due to fraudulent or accidental transactions may not be recoverable.

(4) Some virtual-currency transactions shall be deemed to be made when recorded on a public ledger, which is not necessarily the date or time that the customer initiates the transaction.

(5) The value of virtual currency may be derived from the continued willingness of market participants to exchange fiat currency for virtual currency, which may result in the potential for permanent and total loss of value of a particular virtual currency should the market for that virtual currency disappear.

(6) There is no assurance that a person who accepts a virtual currency as payment today will continue to do so in the future.

(7) The volatility and unpredictability of the price of virtual currency relative to fiat currency may result in significant loss over a short period of time.

(8) The nature of virtual currency may lead to an increased risk of fraud or cyber attack.

(9) The nature of virtual currency means that any technological difficulties experienced by the virtual-currency kiosk operator may prevent the access or use of a customer's virtual currency.

(10) Any bond or trust account maintained by the virtual-currency kiosk operator for the benefit of its customers may not be sufficient to cover all losses incurred by customers.

Sec. 24. 8 V.S.A. § 2577 is amended to read:

§ 2577. VIRTUAL-CURRENCY KIOSK OPERATORS

(a) Daily transaction limit.

(1) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall not accept or dispense more than ~~$1,000.00~~ $2,000.00 of cash in a day in connection with virtual-currency transactions with a single, new customer in this State via one or more ~~money transmission~~ virtual-currency kiosks.

(2) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall not accept or dispense more than $5,000.00 of cash in a day in connection with virtual-currency transactions with a single, existing customer in this State via one or more virtual-currency kiosks.

(b) Fee cap. The aggregate fees and charges, directly or indirectly, charged to a customer related to a single transaction or series of related transactions involving virtual currency effected through a money transmission kiosk in this State, including any difference between the price charged to a customer to buy, sell, exchange, swap, or convert virtual currency and the prevailing market value of such virtual currency at the time of such transaction, shall not exceed the greater of the following:

(1) $5.00; or

(2) ~~three~~ 15 percent of the U.S. dollar equivalent of virtual currency involved in the transaction or transactions.

(c) Single transaction. The purchase, sale, exchange, swap, or conversion of virtual currency, or the subsequent transfer of virtual currency, in a series of

transactions shall be deemed to be a single transaction for purposes of ~~subsection (b)~~ subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) Licensing requirement. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall comply with the licensing requirements of this subchapter to the extent that the virtual-currency kiosk operator engages in virtual-currency business activity.

(e) Operator accountability. If a virtual-currency kiosk operator allows or facilitates another person to engage in virtual-currency business activity via a ~~money transmission~~ virtual-currency kiosk in this State that is owned, operated, or managed by the virtual-currency kiosk operator, the virtual-currency kiosk operator shall do all of the following:

(1) ensure that the person engaging in virtual-currency business activity is licensed under subchapter 2 of this chapter to engage in virtual-currency business activity and complies with all other applicable provisions of this chapter;

(2) ensure that any charges collected from a customer via the ~~money transmission~~ virtual-currency kiosk comply with the ~~limits provided by~~ fee cap established in subsection (b) of this section; and

(3) comply with all other applicable provisions of this chapter.

(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 duly licensed and operational in Vermont on or before June 30, 2024.

(g) ~~Report. On or before January 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Finance on whether the requirements of this section coupled with relevant federal requirements are sufficient to protect customers in Vermont from fraudulent activity. If deemed necessary and appropriate by the Commissioner, the Commissioner may make recommendations for additional statutory or regulatory safeguards. In addition, the Commissioner shall make recommendations for enhanced oversight and monitoring of virtual-currency kiosks for the purpose of minimizing their use for illicit activities as described in the U.S. Government Accountability Office report on virtual currencies, GAO-22-105462, dated December 2021.~~ Customer identification. For each virtual-currency transaction occurring at a virtual-currency kiosk in this State, the virtual-currency kiosk operator shall verify the identity of the customer prior to accepting payment from the customer. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall

not allow a customer to engage in any transaction at a virtual-currency kiosk under any name, account, or identity other than the customer's own true name and identity. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall obtain a copy of a government-issued identification card that identifies the customer and shall collect additional customer information, including the customer's name, date of birth, telephone number, address, and email address prior to accepting any payment from a customer at a virtual-currency kiosk in this State. In addition, a virtual-currency kiosk operator shall take a photograph of the customer in a retainable format at the virtual-currency kiosk for each transaction. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall be strictly liable for any violation of this subsection.

(h) Customer support. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall offer live, toll-free, telephone customer support during the hours of operation of a virtual-currency kiosk. The customer support telephone number shall be displayed on the virtual-currency kiosk or on the virtual-currency kiosk screen.

(i) Mandatory live screening.

(1) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall identify and speak by telephone with:

(A) a new customer over 60 years of age prior to such customer's first virtual-currency transaction with the virtual-currency kiosk operator; or

(B) a customer attempting to conduct more than $5,000.00 in virtual-currency transactions during any consecutive 10-day period.

(2) The virtual-currency kiosk operator's approval of a transaction subject to a mandatory live screening under this subsection shall be dependent upon its assessment of its communication with the customer during the screening.

(3) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall record and retain a copy of each mandatory live screening.

(4) During the mandatory live screening, the virtual-currency kiosk operator shall:

(A) positively identify the customer;

(B) reconfirm any attestations made by the customer at the virtual-currency kiosk;

(C) discuss the purpose of the transaction; and

(D) discuss types of fraudulent schemes relating to virtual currency.

(j) Blockchain analytics. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall use blockchain analytics software and retain an established third party that specializes in performing blockchain analytics to assist in the prevention of sending purchased virtual currency from a virtual-currency kiosk operator to a digital wallet known to be affiliated with fraudulent activity at the time of a transaction. The Commissioner may request evidence from any virtual-currency kiosk operator of its current use of blockchain analytics.

(k) Full refund for new customers. The virtual-currency kiosk operator shall provide a full refund to a customer who was fraudulently induced to engage in a virtual-currency kiosk transaction, provided the fraudulently induced transaction occurred while the customer was a new customer and further provided the customer contacts the virtual-currency kiosk operator and a law enforcement or government agency to inform the operator and the agency of the fraudulent nature of the transaction within 90 days after the customer's last virtual-currency transaction with the virtual-currency kiosk operator. The refund shall include any fees charged in association with the fraudulently induced transaction.

(l) Fee refund for existing customers. The virtual-currency kiosk operator shall provide a fee refund to an existing customer who has been fraudulently induced to engage in a virtual-currency kiosk transaction, provided the customer contacts the virtual-currency kiosk operator and a law enforcement or government agency to inform the operator and the agency of the fraudulent nature of the transaction within 90 days after the last fraudulently induced transaction. The refund shall include all fees charged in association with the fraudulently induced transaction.

(m) Fraud prevention. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall take reasonable steps to detect and prevent fraud, including establishing and maintaining a written antifraud policy. The antifraud policy shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(1) the identification and assessment of fraud-related risk areas;

(2) procedures and controls to protect against identified risks;

(3) allocation of responsibility for monitoring risks;

(4) procedures for the periodic evaluation and revision of the antifraud procedures, controls, and monitoring mechanisms;

(5) procedures and controls that prevent more than one customer from using the same digital wallet;

(6) procedures and controls that enable the virtual-currency kiosk operator to prevent a digital wallet from being used at a virtual-currency kiosk

it operates if the operator knows or reasonably should know the digital wallet is affiliated with fraudulent activities; and

(7) policies and procedures for using a risk-based method for monitoring customers on a post transaction basis.

(n) Due diligence policy. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall maintain, implement, and enforce a written Enhanced Due Diligence Policy. The Policy shall be reviewed and approved by the virtual-currency kiosk operator's board of directors or an equivalent governing body of the virtual-currency kiosk operator. The Policy shall identify, at a minimum, individuals who are at risk of fraud based on age or mental capacity.

(o) Compliance policies. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall maintain, implement, and enforce written compliance policies and procedures. Such policies and procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the virtual-currency kiosk operator's board of directors or an equivalent governing body of the virtual-currency kiosk operator.

(p) Compliance officer.

(1) A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall designate and employ a compliance officer who meets the following requirements:

(A) is qualified to coordinate and monitor compliance with this section and all other applicable federal and State laws and regulations;

(B) is employed full-time by the virtual-currency kiosk operator; and

(C) is not an individual who owns more than 20 percent of the virtual-currency kiosk operator by whom the individual is employed.

(2) Compliance responsibilities required under federal and State law and regulation shall be completed by one or more full-time employees of the virtual-currency kiosk operator.

(q) Consumer protection officer. A virtual-currency kiosk operator shall designate and employ a consumer protection officer who meets the following requirements:

(1) is qualified to coordinate and monitor compliance with this section and all other applicable federal and State laws and regulations;

(2) is employed full-time by the virtual-currency kiosk operator; and

(3) is not an individual who owns more than 20 percent of the virtual-currency kiosk operator by whom the individual is employed.

(r) The Commissioner may adopt rules the Commissioner deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this section, including with respect to what constitutes fraudulent activity or a fraudulently induced transaction in the context of customer transactions at a virtual-currency kiosk.

Sec. 25. 8 V.S.A. § 13301 is amended to read:

§ 13301. CORPORATORS OF MUTUAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

(a) Persons named in the organizational documents constitute the original board of corporators of a mutual financial institution. Membership on this board continues until terminated by death, resignation, or disqualification as provided in this section.

(b) All corporators shall be residents of the geographic area that the financial institution serves or an area proximate to this geographic area. A person ~~may~~ shall not continue as a corporator after ceasing to be a resident of the financial institution's geographic area or an area proximate to this geographic area.

(c) Any corporator failing to attend the annual meeting of the board of corporators for two successive years ceases to be a member of the board unless reelected by a vote of the remaining corporators.

(d) The number of corporators may be fixed or altered by the internal governance documents of the financial institution, and vacancies may be filled by election at any annual meeting.

(e) More than 50 percent of all corporators shall be depositors of the financial institution.

(f) At least two-thirds of all corporators shall be independent. As used in this subsection, an "independent corporator" means an individual who is not an employee, director, or officer of the financial institution, its subsidiaries, or its affiliates.

(g) Corporators shall be fiduciaries of the depositor base and shall exercise their authority in the best interests of the depositors with a duty of loyalty and care. In exercising their duties as corporators, corporators shall consider the interests of the depositors, the borrowers, and other customers of the financial institution; the general benefit and economic well-being of the communities served by the financial institution; and the safety, soundness, and general business needs of the financial institution.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

For Informational Purposes

H.C.R. REQUEST DEADLINE

All requests for a 2025 House Concurrent Resolution should be submitted to Michael Chernick in the Office of Legislative Counsel by noon on **Friday, April 25, 2025.**

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]*

JFO #3246: 125+ acre land donation valued at $184,830.00 from Pieter Van Schaik of Cavendish, VT to the Agency of Natural Resources,

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The acreage will become part of the Lord State Forest. *[Received March 24, 2025]*

JFO #3247: $2,875,419.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families to support families affected by the July 2024 flood event. The request includes three (3) limited-service positions. Two (2) Emergency Management Specialists to the AHS central office and one (1) Grants and Contract Manager to the Department of Children and Families Positions funded through June 30, 2027. *[Received 04/10/2025, expedited review requested 04/10/2025]*

JFO #3248: $35,603.00 to the Vermont Department of Libraries from the Vermont Community Foundation and the dissolution of the VT Public Library Foundation. The grant will provide modest grants to VT libraries with a preference for smaller libraries and for programs and projects that support children and diversity. *[Received April 10, 2025]*

JFO #3249: $22.117.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Corrections to ensure compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). *[Received April 10, 2025]*

JFO #3250: $391,666.00 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from the Northern Border Regional Commission. Funds will support the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaboration (VOREC) Program Director as well as VOREC initiatives. *[Received April 11, 2025]*

JFO #3251: $50,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Central Office from the National Governor's Association. The funds will support state-side improvements of service-to-career pathways, with a focus on emergency responders. *[Received April 11, 2025]*

JFO #3252: $10,000,000.00 to the Vermont Department of Libraries from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Public Facilities Preservation Initiative grant will provide smaller grants to rural libraries for the completion of necessary capital improvement projects. *[Received April 11, 2025]*