

House Calendar

Thursday, May 15, 2025

128th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 396

An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award

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. 10 V.S.A. § 2614 is added to read:

§ 2614. MOLLIE BEATTIE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In commemoration of the centennial of the Vermont State Parks in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and in honor of the conservation and public land accessibility values of the late former Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Mollie Beattie, there is created the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award. Annually, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall present this award to either a current or former State employee or partner whose contributions honor the legacy of Mollie Beattie in advancing the conservation, accessibility, quality of recreational experience, or sustainability of Vermont's public lands.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

H. 461

An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave

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. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to align Vermont's family leave policies with inclusive and equitable standards, ensuring that LGBTQ+ families, workers with low income, and individuals in nontraditional family structures have equal access to caregiving leave without undue burden.

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Bereavement leave” means a leave of absence from employment or self-employment by an individual due to the death of the individual’s family member that occurs not more than one year after the family member’s death. Bereavement leave includes leave taken in relation to the administration or settlement of the deceased family member’s estate. Leave taken in relation to the administration or settlement of the deceased family member’s estate shall not occur more than one year after the family member’s death.

(2) “Domestic partner” means an individual with whom the employee has an enduring domestic relationship of a spousal nature, provided the employee and the domestic partner:

(A) have shared a residence for at least six consecutive months;

(B) are at least 18 years of age;

(C) are not married to or considered a domestic partner of another individual;

(D) are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage under State law; and

(E) have agreed between themselves to be responsible for each other’s welfare.

(3) “Domestic violence” has the same meaning as in 15 V.S.A. § 1151 and includes the definition of “abuse” in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

(4) “Employer” means an individual, organization, or governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air, or express company doing business in or operating within this State that a person who for the purposes of parental leave, bereavement leave, safe leave, and leave for a qualifying exigency employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year and for the purposes of family leave employs 15 or more individuals for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year.

(2)(5) “Employee” means a person who, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of one year for an average of at least 30 hours per week or meets the service requirement set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.801.

~~(3)~~(6) “Family leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee who works for an employer that employs 15 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year for one of the following reasons:

(A) the serious health condition of the employee; or

(B) the serious health condition of the employee’s child, ~~stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee’s spouse~~ family member.

(7) “Family member” means:

(A) regardless of age, an employee’s biological, adopted, or foster child; an employee’s stepchild or legal ward; a child of the employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner; or a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis, regardless of legal documentation; an individual to whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the individual was under 18 years of age; or any individual for whom the employee provides caregiving responsibilities similar to those of a parent-child relationship;

(B)(i) a parent of an employee or an employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner, regardless of whether the relationship to the employee or the employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner is a biological, foster, adoptive, or step relationship;

(ii) a legal guardian of an employee or employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner; or

(iii) a person who stands in loco parentis for the employee or who stood in loco parentis when the employee or employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner was under 18 years of age;

(C) a person to whom the employee is legally married under the laws of any state or a civil union or domestic partner of an employee; or

(D) a grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the employee or the employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner, regardless of whether the relationship to the employee or the employee’s spouse or civil union or domestic partner is a biological, foster, adoptive, or step relationship.

~~(4)~~(8) “Health care provider” means a licensed health care provider or a health care provider as defined pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 825.125.

(9) “In loco parentis” means a relationship in which an individual has day-to-day responsibilities to care for and support a child, regardless of biological or legal ties.

~~(5)~~(10) “Parental leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee who works for an employer that employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year for one of the following reasons:

(A) ~~the birth of the employee’s child~~ pregnancy;

(B) the employee’s recovery from childbirth or miscarriage;

(C) the birth of the employee’s child and to care for or bond with the child within one year after the child’s birth; or

~~(B)~~(D) the initial placement of a child 16 18 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care and to care for or bond with the child within one year after the placement for adoption or foster care.

(11) “Qualifying exigency” means a qualifying exigency identified pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 825.126 that is related to active duty service by a family member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(12) “Safe leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee because:

(A) the employee or the employee’s family member is a victim or alleged victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

(B) the employee is using leave for one of the following reasons related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking:

(i) to seek or obtain medical care, counseling, or social or legal services, either for themselves or for a family member;

(ii) to recover from injuries;

(iii) to participate in safety planning, either for themselves or for a family member;

(iv) to relocate or secure safe housing, either for themselves or for a family member;

(v) to respond to a fatality or near fatality related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, either for themselves or for a family member; or

(vi) to meet with a State’s Attorney or law enforcement officer, either for themselves or for a family member; and

(C) the employee is not the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

~~(6)~~(13) “Serious health condition” means:

(A) an accident, illness, injury, disease, or physical or mental condition that:

(i) poses imminent danger of death;

(ii) requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or

(iii) requires continuing treatment by a health care provider; or

(B) rehabilitation from an accident, illness, injury, disease, or physical or mental condition described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision ~~(6)~~(13), including treatment for substance use disorder.

(14) “Sexual assault” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(15) “Stalking” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(16) “U.S. Armed Forces” means:

(A) the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard;

(B) a reserve component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard; or

(C) the National Guard of any state.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 472 is amended to read:

§ 472. LEAVE

(a)(1) During any 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave for a period not to exceed 12 weeks:

~~(1)(A) for parental leave, during the employee’s pregnancy and following the birth of an employee’s child or within a year following the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption;~~

~~(2)(B) for family leave, for the serious health condition of the employee or the employee’s child, stepchild or ward of the employee who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee’s spouse;~~

(C) for safe leave; or

(D) for a qualifying exigency.

(2) During any 12-month period, an employee may use up to two weeks out of the 12 weeks of leave available pursuant to subdivision (1) of this

subsection for bereavement leave, with not more than five workdays to be taken consecutively.

(b) During the leave, at the employee's option, the employee may use accrued sick leave ~~or~~, vacation leave ~~or~~, any other accrued paid leave, ~~not to exceed six weeks~~ or short-term disability insurance. Utilization of accrued paid leave or short-term disability insurance shall not extend the leave provided pursuant to this section.

* * *

(e)(1) An employee shall give the employer reasonable written notice of intent to take leave under this ~~subchapter~~ section. Notice shall include the date the leave is expected to commence and the estimated duration of the leave. If the leave is for a family member, the employer may request documentation identifying the qualifying family relationship.

(2) In the case of the adoption or birth of a child, an employer shall not require that notice be given more than six weeks prior to the anticipated commencement of the leave.

(3) In the case of an unanticipated serious health condition, a miscarriage, an unanticipated need for safe leave, a premature birth, the death of a family member, or a short-notice qualifying exigency, the employee shall give the employer notice of the commencement of the leave as soon as practicable.

(4)(A) In the case of a serious health condition of the employee or a member of the employee's family, an employer may require certification from a health care provider to verify the condition and the amount and necessity for the leave requested.

(B) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for safe leave. An employee may provide documentation from any one of the following sources:

(i) a court or a law enforcement or other government agency;

(ii) a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking assistance program;

(iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the employee, or the employee's family member, received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

(iv) a self-attestation by the employee describing the circumstances supporting the need for safe leave; no further corroboration shall be required unless otherwise mandated by law.

(C) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for bereavement leave. An employee may provide any of the following forms of documentation:

(i) a death certificate;

(ii) a published obituary; or

(iii) a written notice or verification of death, burial, or memorial services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society, crematorium, religious organization, or governmental agency.

(D) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for leave for a qualifying exigency as set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.309.

(E) An employer shall not disclose any private medical information or information relating to a safe leave that the employer receives pursuant to this subdivision (4) except to the extent the disclosure is permitted by law and:

(i) consented to by the employee in writing;

(ii) required pursuant to a court order; or

(iii) required pursuant to State or federal law.

~~(4)~~(5) An employee may return from leave earlier than estimated upon approval of the employer.

~~(5)~~(6) An employee shall provide reasonable notice to the employer of the need to extend leave to the extent provided by this subchapter.

(f) Upon return from leave taken under this subchapter, an employee shall be offered the same or comparable job at the same level of compensation, employment benefits, seniority, or any other term or condition of the employment existing on the day leave began. This subchapter subsection shall not apply if, prior to requesting leave, the employee had been given notice or had given notice that the employment would terminate. This subsection shall not apply if the employer can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) during the period of leave the employee's job would have been terminated or the employee laid off for reasons unrelated to the leave or the condition for which the leave was granted; or

(2) the employee performed unique services and hiring a permanent replacement during the leave, after giving reasonable notice to the employee of intent to do so, was the only alternative available to the employer to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the employer's operation.

(g)(1) An employer may adopt a leave policy more generous than the leave policy provided by this subchapter.

(2)(A) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to diminish an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or any employment benefit program or plan that provides greater leave rights than the rights provided by this subchapter.

(B) A collective bargaining agreement or employment benefit program or plan may not diminish rights provided by this subchapter.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subchapter, an employee may, at the time a need for parental or family leave arises, waive some or all the rights under this subchapter provided the waiver is informed and voluntary and any changes in conditions of employment related to any waiver shall be mutually agreed upon between employer and employee.

(h) Except for the serious health condition of the employee or safe leave when the employee is the victim or alleged victim, an employee who does not return to employment with the employer who provided the leave shall return to the employer the value of any compensation that the employer paid to or on behalf of the employee during the leave, except payments for accrued ~~sick leave or vacation~~ leave.

Sec. 4. 21 V.S.A. § 472a is amended to read:

§ 472a. SHORT-TERM FAMILY LEAVE

(a) In addition to the leave provided in section 472 of this title, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave not to exceed four hours in any 30-day period and not to exceed 24 hours in any 12-month period. An employer may require that leave be taken in a minimum of two-hour segments and may be taken for any of the following purposes:

(1) To participate in preschool or school activities directly related to the academic educational advancement of the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee~~ family member, such as a parent-teacher conference.

(2) To attend or to accompany the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member to routine medical or dental appointments.

(3) To accompany the employee's ~~parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member to other appointments for professional services related to their care and well-being.

(4) To respond to a medical emergency involving the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member.

* * *

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

H. 481

An act relating to stormwater management

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. 10 V.S.A. § 1264 is amended to read:

§ 1264. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

* * *

(c) Prohibitions.

* * *

(7) In accordance with the schedule established under subdivision (g)(3) of this section, a person shall not discharge stormwater from impervious surface of three or more acres in size without first obtaining an individual permit or coverage under a general permit issued under this section if the discharge was never previously permitted or was permitted under an individual permit or general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. The Secretary shall provide notice to all owners of property subject to the permit required under this subdivision.

(d) Exemptions.

* * *

(2) No permit is required under subdivision (c)(1), (5), or (7) of this section and for which a municipality has assumed full legal responsibility as part of a permit issued to the municipality by the Secretary. As used in this subdivision, "full legal responsibility" means legal control of the stormwater system, including a legal right to access the stormwater system, a legal duty to properly maintain the stormwater system, and a legal duty to repair and replace the stormwater system when it no longer adequately protects waters of the State. Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 3254 to the contrary, when a municipality assumes or has assumed full legal responsibility for a

stormwater system, the municipality may assess municipal special assessment fees on users of the stormwater system provided that a majority of the property owners subject to the special assessment fee consented and the fee assessed is a fair apportionment to the user of the cost of the improvement in accordance with the benefits the user received.

* * *

(g) General permits.

* * *

(3) Within 120 days after the adoption by the Secretary of the rules required under subsection (f) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a general permit under this section for discharges of stormwater from impervious surface of three or more acres in size, when the stormwater discharge previously was not permitted or was permitted under an individual permit or general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. Under the general permit, the Secretary shall:

(A) Establish a schedule for implementation of the general permit by geographic area of the State. The schedule shall establish the date by which an owner of impervious surface shall apply for coverage under this subdivision (3). The schedule established by the Secretary shall require an owner of impervious surface subject to permitting under this subdivision to obtain coverage by the following dates:

(i) for impervious surface located within the Lake Champlain watershed, the Lake Memphremagog watershed, or the watershed of a stormwater-impaired water on or before October 1, ~~2023~~ 2028; and

(ii) for impervious surface located within all other watersheds of the State, ~~no~~ not later than October 1, ~~2033~~ 2038 or not later than five years after a binding stormwater-specific waste-load allocation has been established for that watershed, whichever occurs first.

(B) Establish criteria and technical standards, such as best management practices, for implementation of stormwater improvements for the retrofitting of impervious surface subject to permitting under this subdivision (3).

(C) Require that a discharge of stormwater from impervious surface subject to the requirements of this section comply with the standards of subsection (h) of this section for redevelopment of or renewal of a permit for existing impervious surface.

(D) Allow the use of stormwater impact fees, offsets, and phosphorus credit trading within the watershed of the water to which the stormwater discharges or runs off.

* * *

Sec. 2. REPEALS; SUNSET OF PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX CLEAN WATER SURCHARGE

(a) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.10 (sunset of clean water surcharge), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, is repealed.

(b) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.11(a)(5) (effective date of sunset of clean water surcharge) is repealed.

Sec. 3. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.1(b) is amended to read:

(b) Purpose and intent.

(1) The purpose of Secs. I.1–I.12 of this act is to promote the development and improvement of housing for Vermonters.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

(A) to extend the clean water surcharge to provide ~~an interim a~~ source of revenue for addressing water quality issues throughout the State; ~~and~~

(B) to continue its work on identifying a long-term funding source or sources that are sufficient in scope and targeted in design to address these water quality issues; ~~and~~

~~(C) once one or more long-term funding sources are identified and enacted, but not later than July 1, 2027, to reduce the amount of the clean water surcharge to 0.04 percent.~~

Sec. 4. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.12 is amended to read:

Sec. I.12. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. I.1–I.12 shall take effect on July 1, 2017, ~~except that Sec. I.10 (allocating clean water surcharge revenue to Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.~~

Sec. 5. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.7(d) is amended to read:

(d) To compensate for this reduction of available property transfer tax revenue, it is the intent of the General Assembly through this act to provide for the transfer of \$2,500,000.00 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, as follows:

(1) Sec. D.100 of this act appropriates \$11,304,840.00 in fiscal year 2018 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Upon the effective date of this act, \$1,500,000.00 shall revert to the Fund, resulting in a fiscal year 2018 total appropriation to the Board of \$9,804,840.00. In fiscal year 2018 only, the amount of \$1,500,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) As provided in Sec. I.9 of this act, ~~from July 1, 2017 until July 1, 2027~~, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, the first \$1,000,000.00 in revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of ~~0.2~~ 0.22 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. In fiscal year 2018 only, the Commissioner shall transfer the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the General Fund.

(3) ~~After July 1, 2027, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a as amended in Sec. I.10 of this act, \$1,000,000.00 in total revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of 0.04 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. [Repealed.]~~

(4) ~~As provided in Sec. I.11 of this act, the clean water surcharge will be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2039. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. §§ 927 and 928 are amended to read:

§ 927. DEVELOPED LANDS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Secretary shall administer a Developed Lands Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program to provide ~~grants or financing~~ financial assistance to persons who are required to obtain a permit to implement regulatory requirements that are necessary to achieve water quality standards. ~~The grant or financing program shall only be available in basins where a clean water service provider has met its annual goals or is making sufficient progress, as determined by the Secretary, towards those goals.~~ This grant program shall fund or provide financing for projects related to the permitting of impervious surface of three acres or more under subdivision 1264(g)(3) of this title and for a permit renewal under subdivision 1264(h)(2) of this title for a discharge to a stormwater-impaired water that was permitted under an individual permit or a general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. Not more than 15 percent of the total grant amount awarded shall be used for administrative costs.

§ 928. MUNICIPAL STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Secretary shall administer a Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grant Program to provide ~~grants~~ financial assistance to any municipality required under section 1264 of this title to obtain or seek coverage under the municipal roads general permit, the municipal separate storm sewer systems permit, a permit for impervious surface of three acres or more, or a permit required by the Secretary to reduce the adverse impacts to water quality of a discharge or stormwater runoff. ~~The grant program shall only be available in basins where a clean water service provider has met its annual goals or is making sufficient progress, as determined by the Secretary, towards those goals.~~ Not more than 15 percent of the total grant amount awarded shall be used for administrative costs. This program also shall be available to a municipality to comply with a permit for impervious surface of three acres or more for a residential subdivision when the municipality assumes or has assumed full legal responsibility for the stormwater system of the residential subdivision under subdivision 1264(c)(7) of this title. Municipalities may receive assistance under this program for design or engineering services necessary for the formation of a municipal stormwater utility.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 1389(e) is amended to read:

(e) Priorities. In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize as follows:

(1) As a first priority, make recommendations regarding funding for the following grants and programs, which shall each be given equal priority:

(A) grants to clean water service providers to fund the reasonable costs associated with the inspection, verification, operation, and maintenance of clean water projects in a basin;

(B) the Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant under section 925 of this title;

(C) the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' agricultural water quality programs; and

(D) the Water Quality Enhancement Grants under section 926 of this title at a funding level of at least 20 percent of the annual balance of the Clean Water Fund, provided that the maximum amount recommended under this subdivision (D) in any year shall not exceed \$5,000,000.00; and

(E) funding to partners for basin planning, basin water quality council participation, education, and outreach as provided in subdivision 1253(d)(3) of this title, provided funding shall be at least \$500,000.00.

(2) As the next priority after reviewing funding requests for programs identified under subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) funding to programs or projects that address or repair riparian conditions that increase the risk of flooding or pose a threat to life or property;

(B) funding for education and outreach regarding the implementation of water quality requirements, including funding for education, outreach, demonstration, and access to tools for the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(C) funding for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program as provided in section 928 of this title, including at least \$1,000,000.00 annually for costs of complying with permitting requirements under subdivision 1264(c)(7) of this title;

(D) funding for innovative or alternative technologies or practices designed to improve water quality or reduce sources of pollution to surface waters, including funding for innovative nutrient removal technologies and community-based methane digesters that utilize manure, wastewater, and food residuals to produce energy; and

(E) funding to purchase agricultural land in order to take that land out of practice when the State water quality requirements cannot be remediated through agricultural Best Management Practices.

(3) As the next priority after reviewing funding requests under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, funding for the Developed Lands Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program as provided in section 927 of this title.

Sec. 7a. 10 V.S.A. § 1389a is amended to read:

§ 1389a. CLEAN WATER INVESTMENT REPORT

(a) Beginning on January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Administration shall publish the Clean Water Investment Report. The Report shall summarize all investments, including their cost-effectiveness, made by the Clean Water Board and other State agencies for clean water restoration over the prior fiscal year. The Report shall include expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, and any other State expenditures for clean water restoration, regardless of funding source.

(b) The Report shall include:

* * *

(7) Beginning on January 2028 and every four years thereafter, a review of the sufficiency of the Clean Water Surcharge to the Property Transfer Tax under 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, including an assessment of whether the revenue generated by the surcharge remains necessary to fulfill the State's clean water initiatives. The review shall include an assessment of whether the Clean Water Surcharge should be continued, whether the amount of the surcharge should be adjusted, and whether the surcharge should be repealed at a specified date.

* * *

Sec. 8. RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION; PRIORITIES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Clean Water Board shall recommend \$5,000,000.00 from the Clean Water Fund in fiscal year 2027 to the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program in 10 V.S.A. § 928 for costs of complying with permitting requirements under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including for residential subdivisions when the municipality assumes full legal responsibility for the stormwater system.

(b) Before January 1, 2032, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall provide properties subject to the three-acre stormwater permit under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7) additional priority points when awarding financing under the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program and under the Developed Lands Implementation Program when residential housing used as primary residences are located on the relevant properties.

Sec. 9. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PUBLIC RESOURCE GUIDE

(a) On or before January 1, 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish a Public Resource Guide to Stormwater Management that informs persons subject to stormwater operating permits under 10 V.S.A. § 1264 with information and resources related to complying with and paying for stormwater permitting requirements. The Resource Guide shall be user friendly and designed to encourage the public to engage with the Agency of Natural Resources in finding solutions to stormwater permitting needs.

(b) The Resource Guide shall:

(1) summarize the statutory requirements for stormwater permits, with specific emphasis on the three-acre stormwater permit required under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including why the permits are required;

(2) recommend available, practical, cost-effective measures for how persons subject to stormwater permit requirements can address parcel-based issues, including:

(A) the lack of a homeowner's association to assume permitting responsibility;

(B) lack of available property to implement stormwater management, including whether and how a person subject to stormwater permits can implement an off-site offset project to comply with permitting requirements; and

(C) how to address or manage stormwater runoff from other stormwater systems entering stormwater systems subject to permitting;

(3) recommend resources where funding for compliance with stormwater permitting requirements may be accessed or applied for, including how to apply for financial assistance from the Agency of Natural Resources;

(4) provide a contact at the Agency of Natural Resources that can assist persons subject to stormwater permitting by answering questions, providing referrals to creative or alternative solutions for achieving permit compliance, and recommending available financial resources; and

(5) provide a model bylaw or ordinance for the formation of a municipal stormwater utility.

(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit a copy of the Resource Guide to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment. The Secretary shall also make the Resources available free of cost to the public from the Agency's website.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 1389(e)(2)(C) is amended to read:

~~(C) funding for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program as provided in section 928 of this title, including at least \$1,000,000.00 annually for costs of complying with permitting requirements under subdivision 1264(e)(7) of this title;~~

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 3616 is amended to read:

§ 3616. RENTS; RATES

(a) A municipal corporation, through its board may establish rates, rents, or charges to be paid as the board may prescribe. The board may establish annual charges separately for bond repayment, fixed operations and maintenance costs and variable operations and maintenance costs dependent on flow.

(b) The rates, rents, or charges may be based upon:

(1) the metered consumption of water on premises connected with the sewer system, however, the board may determine no user will be billed for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment less than the average single-family charge;

(2) the number of equivalent units connected with or served by the sewage system based upon their estimated flows compared to the estimated flows from a single-family dwelling, however, the board may determine no user will be billed less than the minimum charge determined for the single-family dwelling charge for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment;

* * *

(6) for groundwater, surface, or stormwater an equivalent residential unit based on an average or median of the area of impervious surface on residential property within the municipality; or

(7) any combination of these bases, provided the combination is equitable.

* * *

Sec. 12. STUDY COMMITTEE ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND CREATION OF REGIONAL STORMWATER UTILITY DISTRICTS

(a) Creation. There is created the Study Committee on the Creation of Regional Stormwater Utility Districts to review the feasibility and benefit of creating regional stormwater utility districts to facilitate implementation and compliance with the water quality laws of the State.

(b) Membership. The Study Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee;

(2) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) a representative of a municipality subject to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(4) a representative of a municipality with a population under 2,500 persons, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(5) a representative of the Green Mountain Water Environment Association, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(6) a commercial or industrial business owner subject to the three-acre stormwater permit or other stormwater requirements, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(7) a representative of an environmental advocacy organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(8) a representative of a regional planning commission, appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(9) a representative of a municipality with a designated downtown area served by water and sewer infrastructure that is not subject to a MS4 permit, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall review the feasibility of establishing regional stormwater utility districts in the State. The Study Committee shall:

(1) review current statutory authority for the development of regional stormwater utility districts comprised of multiple municipalities, including identifying any potential disincentives or obstacles to utility formation;

(2) propose an approach the State could use for implementing a regional stormwater utility that would allow the utilities to assume liability and responsibility for compliance with water quality laws, including how a utility could assume responsibility for:

(A) securing the permitting of properties subject to the three-acre stormwater permit; and

(B) achieving the phosphorus reduction targets for the three-acre stormwater permitted properties within the utility district;

(3) review and recommend cost-effective and equitable approaches for regional level revenue raising and distribution of project funding for the purpose of stormwater controls to meet total maximum daily load plans (TMDLs) including:

(A) consider prior revenue-raising recommendations made in the 2017 Clean Water Report from the Office of the State Treasurer;

(B) recommend whether and how to authorize a regional stormwater utility to assess fees or charges to all landowners, residents, and businesses within the regional stormwater utility district for the purpose of stormwater controls to meet TMDLs;

(C) propose how a regional stormwater utility district could be eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund awards and access State-

level financial assistance for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of regulatory and nonregulatory stormwater systems, including from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund;

(D) recommend whether and how a regional stormwater utility can allocate resources and cost-effectively and equitably achieve pollutant reduction measures that are not fully achieved by regulated sites, as might be articulated in a regional stormwater management plan; and

(E) recommend whether and how a regional stormwater utility could improve the management of parcel-based issues in a more cost-effective and equitable manner, such as how a regional utility could address regulation of stormwater systems lacking a homeowners' association or other accountable entity or how a regional utility could improve management of upstream properties that drain into stormwater systems subject to permitting;

(4) recommend whether stormwater permitting for municipalities or others could be streamlined to improve the application process, permit renewal, or fee requirements;

(5) propose how statute should be amended to implement any of the recommendations of the Study Committee, including stormwater management planning for purposes of overall regional phosphorus pollutant reductions; and

(6) estimate a cost to operate proposed regional stormwater utility districts.

(d) Assistance. The Study Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2027, the Study Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Environment and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Government Operations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee shall call the first meeting of the Study Committee.

(2) The Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee shall be the Chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Study Committee shall cease to exist on March 1, 2027.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Study Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources.

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 10 (future Clean Water Fund priorities) shall take effect October 1, 2032.

Committee of Conference Report

H. 493

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government
TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

H. 493. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

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

* * * Purpose, Definitions, Legend * * *

Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

(a) This bill may be referred to as the “BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act.”

Sec. A.101 PURPOSE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds during fiscal year 2026. It is the express intent of the General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments, divisions, boards, offices, and commissions be limited to those that can be supported by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2025. Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2026 so as to meet this condition unless otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General Assembly.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any interim budget and appropriation adjustments made in accordance with 32 V.S.A. §§ 133 and 704 prioritize supporting the health, safety, and well-being of Vermonters; a robust education system; and a strong economy.

Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the primary source and reference for appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds in fiscal year 2026.

(b) The sums herein stated are appropriated for the purposes specified in the following sections of this act. When no time is expressly stated during which any of the operating appropriations are to continue, the appropriations are single-year appropriations and only for the purpose indicated and shall be paid from funds shown as the source of funds. Capital appropriations funded from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments Special Fund shall be subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 1001b(e). If in this act there is an error in either addition or subtraction, the totals shall be adjusted accordingly. Apparent errors in referring to section numbers of statutory titles within this act may be disregarded by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

(c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026.

Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this act:

(1) “Encumbrances” means a portion of spending authority reserved for the subsequent payment of existing travel authorizations, purchase orders, grants, or contracts. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall make final decisions on the appropriateness of encumbrances.

(2) “Grants” means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to community and quasi-public agencies for providing local services, and to persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

(3) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities; office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

(4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per diems, contracted third-party services, and similar items.

(5) “Capital appropriation” means an appropriation for tangible capital investments or expenses that are eligible to be funded from general obligation debt financing and are allowed under federal laws governing the use of State bond proceeds as described in 32 V.S.A. § 309.

Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

(a) Except as specifically provided, this act shall not be construed in any way to negate or impair the full force and effect of existing laws.

Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In the absence of specific provisions to the contrary in this act, when total appropriations are offset by estimated receipts, the State appropriations shall control, notwithstanding receipts being greater or less than anticipated.

Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including block grants in lieu of, or in addition to, funds herein designated as federal. The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

(b) If, during fiscal year 2026, federal funds available to the State of Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2025 session of the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants or are abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for not more than 45 days prior to General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee approval. Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor’s request for approval.

Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary

positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during fiscal year 2026 except for new positions authorized by the General Assembly during the 2025 session. Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

Sec. A.108 LEGEND

(a) The act is organized by functions of government. The sections between B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming budget year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that relates to specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The function areas by section numbers are as follows:

<u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>	<u>General Government</u>
<u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>	<u>Protection to Persons and Property</u>
<u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>	<u>Human Services</u>
<u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>	<u>Labor</u>
<u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>	<u>General Education</u>
<u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
<u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
<u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>	<u>Commerce and Community Development</u>
<u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
<u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
<u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u>	<u>One-time and other appropriation actions</u>

(b) The C sections contain amendments to the current fiscal year; the D sections contain fund allocations, transfers, reversions, and reservations for the upcoming fiscal year; the F sections also contain amendments to the current fiscal year; and the G section contains effective dates.

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Base Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.100 Secretary of administration - secretary's office

Personal services	2,532,305
Operating expenses	255,891
Grants	755,000
Total	3,543,196

Source of funds	
General fund	1,762,509
Special funds	755,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,025,687</u>
Total	3,543,196
Sec. B.100.1 Secretary of administration - office of racial equity	
Personal services	1,687,090
Operating expenses	<u>118,323</u>
Total	1,805,413
Source of funds	
General fund	1,144,831
Internal service funds	534,462
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>126,120</u>
Total	1,805,413
Sec. B.101 Secretary of administration - finance	
Personal services	1,523,066
Operating expenses	<u>168,424</u>
Total	1,691,490
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,691,490</u>
Total	1,691,490
Sec. B.102 Secretary of administration - workers' compensation insurance	
Personal services	871,453
Operating expenses	<u>100,387</u>
Total	971,840
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>971,840</u>
Total	971,840
Sec. B.103 Secretary of administration - general liability insurance	
Personal services	406,346
Operating expenses	<u>65,072</u>
Total	471,418
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>471,418</u>
Total	471,418
Sec. B.104 Secretary of administration - all other insurance	

Personal services	278,478
Operating expenses	<u>54,925</u>
Total	333,403
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>333,403</u>
Total	333,403
Sec. B.104.1 Retired state employees pension plus funding	
Grants	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Sec. B.105 Agency of digital services - communications and information technology	
Personal services	87,034,344
Operating expenses	<u>50,695,231</u>
Total	137,729,575
Source of funds	
General fund	233,207
Special funds	1,014,199
Internal service funds	<u>136,482,169</u>
Total	137,729,575
Sec. B.106 Finance and management - budget and management	
Personal services	1,843,264
Operating expenses	<u>342,676</u>
Total	2,185,940
Source of funds	
General fund	1,254,559
Internal service funds	688,359
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>243,022</u>
Total	2,185,940
Sec. B.107 Finance and management - financial operations	
Personal services	3,416,478
Operating expenses	<u>894,620</u>
Total	4,311,098
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	3,767,171

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>543,927</u>
Total	4,311,098
Sec. B.108 Human resources - operations	
Personal services	12,091,729
Operating expenses	<u>1,609,092</u>
Total	13,700,821
Source of funds	
General fund	1,931,766
Special funds	171,235
Internal service funds	10,811,922
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>785,898</u>
Total	13,700,821
Sec. B.108.1 Human resources - VTHR operations	
Personal services	2,259,639
Operating expenses	<u>922,339</u>
Total	3,181,978
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>3,181,978</u>
Total	3,181,978
Sec. B.109 Human resources - employee benefits & wellness	
Personal services	1,443,574
Operating expenses	<u>727,231</u>
Total	2,170,805
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>2,170,805</u>
Total	2,170,805
Sec. B.110 Libraries	
Personal services	3,071,139
Operating expenses	523,300
Grants	<u>267,993</u>
Total	3,862,432
Source of funds	
General fund	2,371,969
Special funds	96,994
Federal funds	1,273,020
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>120,449</u>
Total	3,862,432
Sec. B.111 Tax - administration/collection	

Personal services	30,188,806
Operating expenses	<u>7,007,735</u>
Total	37,196,541
Source of funds	
General fund	24,668,155
Special funds	12,413,386
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>115,000</u>
Total	37,196,541
Sec. B.112 Buildings and general services - administration	
Personal services	1,132,286
Operating expenses	<u>206,653</u>
Total	1,338,939
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,338,939</u>
Total	1,338,939
Sec. B.113 Buildings and general services - engineering	
Personal services	47,165
Operating expenses	<u>1,116,280</u>
Total	1,163,445
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,163,445</u>
Total	1,163,445
Sec. B.113.1 Buildings and general services engineering - capital projects	
Personal services	3,225,944
Operating expenses	<u>500,000</u>
Total	3,725,944
Source of funds	
General fund	3,225,944
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>500,000</u>
Total	3,725,944
Sec. B.114 Buildings and general services - information centers	
Personal services	3,721,861
Operating expenses	<u>1,973,457</u>
Total	5,695,318
Source of funds	
General fund	702,146
Transportation fund	4,542,959

Special funds	<u>450,213</u>
Total	5,695,318
Sec. B.115 Buildings and general services - purchasing	
Personal services	2,860,824
Operating expenses	<u>272,026</u>
Total	3,132,850
Source of funds	
General fund	1,697,210
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,435,640</u>
Total	3,132,850
Sec. B.116 Buildings and general services - postal services	
Personal services	846,111
Operating expenses	<u>188,303</u>
Total	1,034,414
Source of funds	
General fund	93,669
Internal service funds	<u>940,745</u>
Total	1,034,414
Sec. B.117 Buildings and general services - copy center	
Personal services	951,063
Operating expenses	<u>223,405</u>
Total	1,174,468
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>1,174,468</u>
Total	1,174,468
Sec. B.118 Buildings and general services - fleet management services	
Personal services	1,020,985
Operating expenses	<u>247,895</u>
Total	1,268,880
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,201,997
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>66,883</u>
Total	1,268,880
Sec. B.119 Buildings and general services - federal surplus property	
Operating expenses	<u>4,427</u>
Total	4,427
Source of funds	

Enterprise funds	<u>4,427</u>
Total	4,427
Sec. B.120 Buildings and general services - state surplus property	
Personal services	365,056
Operating expenses	<u>175,786</u>
Total	540,842
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>540,842</u>
Total	540,842
Sec. B.121 Buildings and general services - property management	
Personal services	1,199,933
Operating expenses	<u>605,349</u>
Total	1,805,282
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>1,805,282</u>
Total	1,805,282
Sec. B.122 Buildings and general services - fee for space	
Personal services	21,826,541
Operating expenses	<u>17,638,201</u>
Total	39,464,742
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	39,360,459
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>104,283</u>
Total	39,464,742
Sec. B.124 Executive office - governor's office	
Personal services	1,957,078
Operating expenses	<u>567,607</u>
Total	2,524,685
Source of funds	
General fund	1,997,850
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>526,835</u>
Total	2,524,685
Sec. B.125 Legislative counsel	
Personal services	4,589,480
Operating expenses	<u>286,936</u>
Total	4,876,416
Source of funds	

General fund	<u>4,876,416</u>
Total	4,876,416
Sec. B.126 Legislature	
Personal services	8,457,653
Operating expenses	<u>5,329,448</u>
Total	13,787,101
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>13,787,101</u>
Total	13,787,101
Sec. B.126.1 Legislative information technology	
Personal services	1,504,560
Operating expenses	<u>912,661</u>
Total	2,417,221
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>2,417,221</u>
Total	2,417,221
Sec. B.127 Joint fiscal committee	
Personal services	2,959,862
Operating expenses	<u>197,907</u>
Total	3,157,769
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,157,769</u>
Total	3,157,769
Sec. B.128 Sergeant at arms	
Personal services	1,639,780
Operating expenses	<u>166,416</u>
Total	1,806,196
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,806,196</u>
Total	1,806,196
Sec. B.129 Lieutenant governor	
Personal services	296,158
Operating expenses	<u>51,993</u>
Total	348,151
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>348,151</u>
Total	348,151

Sec. B.130 Auditor of accounts

Personal services	4,775,026
Operating expenses	<u>143,505</u>
Total	4,918,531
Source of funds	
General fund	408,398
Special funds	53,145
Internal service funds	<u>4,456,988</u>
Total	4,918,531

Sec. B.131 State treasurer

Personal services	7,137,154
Operating expenses	<u>312,956</u>
Total	7,450,110
Source of funds	
General fund	2,729,084
Special funds	4,179,251
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>541,775</u>
Total	7,450,110

Sec. B.132 State treasurer - unclaimed property

Personal services	801,268
Operating expenses	<u>581,648</u>
Total	1,382,916
Source of funds	
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,382,916</u>
Total	1,382,916

Sec. B.133 Vermont state retirement system

Personal services	221,251
Operating expenses	<u>3,118,092</u>
Total	3,339,343
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	<u>3,339,343</u>
Total	3,339,343

Sec. B.134 Municipal employees' retirement system

Personal services	228,961
Operating expenses	<u>1,692,059</u>
Total	1,921,020
Source of funds	

Pension trust funds	<u>1,921,020</u>
Total	1,921,020
Sec. B.134.1 Vermont pension investment commission	
Personal services	2,359,198
Operating expenses	<u>303,904</u>
Total	2,663,102
Source of funds	
Special funds	2,663,102
Pension trust funds	<u>0</u>
Total	2,663,102
Sec. B.135 State labor relations board	
Personal services	295,157
Operating expenses	<u>66,136</u>
Total	361,293
Source of funds	
General fund	351,717
Special funds	6,788
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,788</u>
Total	361,293
Sec. B.136 VOSHA review board	
Personal services	109,521
Operating expenses	<u>25,734</u>
Total	135,255
Source of funds	
General fund	84,251
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>51,004</u>
Total	135,255
Sec. B.136.1 Ethics commission	
Personal services	183,787
Operating expenses	<u>39,775</u>
Total	223,562
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>223,562</u>
Total	223,562
Sec. B.137 Homeowner rebate	
Grants	<u>19,000,000</u>
Total	19,000,000

Source of funds	
General fund	<u>19,000,000</u>
Total	19,000,000
Sec. B.138 Renter rebate	
Grants	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total	9,500,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total	9,500,000
Sec. B.139 Tax department - reappraisal and listing payments	
Grants	<u>3,410,000</u>
Total	3,410,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,410,000</u>
Total	3,410,000
Sec. B.140 Municipal current use	
Grants	<u>21,350,000</u>
Total	21,350,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>21,350,000</u>
Total	21,350,000
Sec. B.142 Payments in lieu of taxes	
Grants	<u>12,200,000</u>
Total	12,200,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>12,200,000</u>
Total	12,200,000
Sec. B.144 Payments in lieu of taxes - correctional facilities	
Grants	<u>40,000</u>
Total	40,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>40,000</u>
Total	40,000
Sec. B.145 Total general government	
Source of funds	
General fund	140,473,564

Transportation fund	4,542,959
Special funds	34,043,313
Federal funds	1,273,020
Internal service funds	209,117,870
Interdepartmental transfers	9,219,740
Enterprise funds	4,427
Pension trust funds	5,260,363
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,382,916</u>
Total	405,318,172
Sec. B.200 Attorney general	
Personal services	15,528,060
Operating expenses	1,810,445
Grants	<u>20,000</u>
Total	17,358,505
Source of funds	
General fund	8,115,240
Special funds	2,468,889
Tobacco fund	434,660
Federal funds	1,809,676
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,530,040</u>
Total	17,358,505
Sec. B.201 Vermont court diversion	
Personal services	1,250
Grants	<u>4,874,343</u>
Total	4,875,593
Source of funds	
General fund	4,617,596
Special funds	<u>257,997</u>
Total	4,875,593
Sec. B.202 Defender general - public defense	
Personal services	18,955,131
Operating expenses	<u>1,650,926</u>
Total	20,606,057
Source of funds	
General fund	20,016,404
Special funds	<u>589,653</u>
Total	20,606,057
Sec. B.203 Defender general - assigned counsel	

Personal services	7,827,975
Operating expenses	<u>64,500</u>
Total	7,892,475
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>7,892,475</u>
Total	7,892,475
Sec. B.204 Judiciary	
Personal services	64,512,754
Operating expenses	13,865,672
Grants	<u>121,030</u>
Total	78,499,456
Source of funds	
General fund	72,601,728
Special funds	1,997,094
Federal funds	1,560,412
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,340,222</u>
Total	78,499,456
Sec. B.205 State's attorneys	
Personal services	19,010,284
Operating expenses	<u>2,115,052</u>
Total	21,125,336
Source of funds	
General fund	20,541,309
Federal funds	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>553,027</u>
Total	21,125,336
Sec. B.206 Special investigative unit	
Personal services	126,877
Operating expenses	27,835
Grants	<u>2,136,507</u>
Total	2,291,219
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>2,291,219</u>
Total	2,291,219
Sec. B.206.1 Crime victims advocates	
Personal services	3,221,461
Operating expenses	<u>117,870</u>
Total	3,339,331

Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,339,331</u>
Total	3,339,331
Sec. B.207 Sheriffs	
Personal services	6,092,392
Operating expenses	<u>446,237</u>
Total	6,538,629
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>6,538,629</u>
Total	6,538,629
Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration	
Personal services	6,289,651
Operating expenses	6,380,415
Grants	<u>278,285</u>
Total	12,948,351
Source of funds	
General fund	7,630,863
Special funds	4,105
Federal funds	1,089,155
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,224,228</u>
Total	12,948,351
Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police	
Personal services	83,279,417
Operating expenses	16,733,452
Grants	<u>1,813,523</u>
Total	101,826,392
Source of funds	
General fund	87,421,532
Special funds	3,223,793
Federal funds	9,734,790
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,446,277</u>
Total	101,826,392
Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services	
Personal services	5,116,729
Operating expenses	<u>2,098,944</u>
Total	7,215,673
Source of funds	
General fund	1,929,676

Special funds	4,483,740
Federal funds	<u>802,257</u>
Total	7,215,673
Sec. B.211 Public safety - emergency management	
Personal services	6,811,020
Operating expenses	1,018,043
Grants	<u>62,529,843</u>
Total	70,358,906
Source of funds	
General fund	1,645,622
Special funds	710,000
Federal funds	67,941,304
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>61,980</u>
Total	70,358,906
Sec. B.212 Public safety - fire safety	
Personal services	10,215,365
Operating expenses	3,872,954
Grants	<u>127,350</u>
Total	14,215,669
Source of funds	
General fund	2,245,530
Special funds	10,769,486
Federal funds	1,155,653
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>45,000</u>
Total	14,215,669
Sec. B.213 Public safety - forensic laboratory	
Personal services	4,388,176
Operating expenses	<u>1,356,042</u>
Total	5,744,218
Source of funds	
General fund	4,162,196
Special funds	81,774
Federal funds	951,794
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>548,454</u>
Total	5,744,218
Sec. B.215 Military - administration	
Personal services	1,142,600
Operating expenses	810,661

Grants	<u>1,219,834</u>
Total	3,173,095
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,173,095</u>
Total	3,173,095
Sec. B.216 Military - air service contract	
Personal services	11,831,181
Operating expenses	<u>1,427,093</u>
Total	13,258,274
Source of funds	
General fund	818,486
Federal funds	<u>12,439,788</u>
Total	13,258,274
Sec. B.217 Military - army service contract	
Personal services	51,243,591
Operating expenses	<u>8,227,725</u>
Total	59,471,316
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>59,471,316</u>
Total	59,471,316
Sec. B.218 Military - building maintenance	
Personal services	906,250
Operating expenses	<u>908,538</u>
Total	1,814,788
Source of funds	
General fund	1,752,288
Special funds	<u>62,500</u>
Total	1,814,788
Sec. B.219 Military - veterans' affairs	
Personal services	1,382,555
Operating expenses	193,170
Grants	<u>27,500</u>
Total	1,603,225
Source of funds	
General fund	1,259,653
Special funds	222,717
Federal funds	<u>120,855</u>
Total	1,603,225

Sec. B.220 Center for crime victim services

Personal services	2,371,733
Operating expenses	321,928
Grants	<u>8,573,370</u>
Total	11,267,031
Source of funds	
General fund	1,650,091
Special funds	4,465,489
Federal funds	<u>5,151,451</u>
Total	11,267,031

Sec. B.221 Criminal justice council

Personal services	2,508,514
Operating expenses	<u>2,142,603</u>
Total	4,651,117
Source of funds	
General fund	4,260,265
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>390,852</u>
Total	4,651,117

Sec. B.222 Agriculture, food and markets - administration

Personal services	3,384,273
Operating expenses	<u>353,580</u>
Total	3,737,853
Source of funds	
General fund	1,519,601
Special funds	1,695,613
Federal funds	<u>522,639</u>
Total	3,737,853

Sec. B.223 Agriculture, food and markets - food safety and consumer protection

Personal services	5,680,286
Operating expenses	1,109,650
Grants	<u>2,810,000</u>
Total	9,599,936
Source of funds	
General fund	3,663,441
Special funds	4,048,844
Federal funds	1,875,651

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>12,000</u>
Total	9,599,936
Sec. B.224 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural development	
Personal services	6,358,750
Operating expenses	746,926
Grants	<u>15,633,200</u>
Total	22,738,876
Source of funds	
General fund	3,157,499
Special funds	646,995
Federal funds	<u>18,934,382</u>
Total	22,738,876
Sec. B.225 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural resource management and environmental stewardship	
Personal services	3,053,693
Operating expenses	845,696
Grants	<u>247,000</u>
Total	4,146,389
Source of funds	
General fund	822,914
Special funds	2,473,045
Federal funds	482,577
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>367,853</u>
Total	4,146,389
Sec. B.225.1 Agriculture, food and markets - Vermont agriculture and environmental lab	
Personal services	2,058,524
Operating expenses	<u>1,359,556</u>
Total	3,418,080
Source of funds	
General fund	1,698,826
Special funds	1,647,441
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>71,813</u>
Total	3,418,080
Sec. B.225.2 Agriculture, food and markets - clean water	
Personal services	4,120,365
Operating expenses	857,888
Grants	<u>11,487,000</u>

Total	16,465,253
Source of funds	
General fund	1,975,832
Special funds	10,511,241
Federal funds	2,171,588
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,806,592</u>
Total	16,465,253
Sec. B.226 Financial regulation - administration	
Personal services	3,011,702
Operating expenses	103,565
Grants	<u>100,000</u>
Total	3,215,267
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>3,215,267</u>
Total	3,215,267
Sec. B.227 Financial regulation - banking	
Personal services	2,483,666
Operating expenses	<u>482,337</u>
Total	2,966,003
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>2,966,003</u>
Total	2,966,003
Sec. B.228 Financial regulation - insurance	
Personal services	5,825,682
Operating expenses	<u>578,524</u>
Total	6,404,206
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>6,404,206</u>
Total	6,404,206
Sec. B.229 Financial regulation - captive insurance	
Personal services	5,998,278
Operating expenses	<u>591,092</u>
Total	6,589,370
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>6,589,370</u>
Total	6,589,370
Sec. B.230 Financial regulation - securities	

Personal services	1,375,414
Operating expenses	<u>242,541</u>
Total	1,617,955
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>1,617,955</u>
Total	1,617,955
Sec. B.232 Secretary of state	
Personal services	21,619,186
Operating expenses	4,242,952
Grants	<u>1,350,000</u>
Total	27,212,138
Source of funds	
General fund	1,350,000
Special funds	19,155,734
Federal funds	<u>6,706,404</u>
Total	27,212,138
Sec. B.233 Public service - regulation and energy	
Personal services	12,790,401
Operating expenses	2,615,047
Grants	<u>25,000</u>
Total	15,430,448
Source of funds	
Special funds	12,152,225
Federal funds	2,439,257
ARRA funds	6,627
Interdepartmental transfers	821,491
Enterprise funds	<u>10,848</u>
Total	15,430,448
Sec. B.233.1 VT Community broadband board	
Personal services	1,978,960
Operating expenses	571,368
Grants	<u>43,000,000</u>
Total	45,550,328
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,589,990
Federal funds	<u>43,960,338</u>
Total	45,550,328

Sec. B.234 Public utility commission

Personal services	4,565,693
Operating expenses	<u>578,746</u>
Total	5,144,439
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>5,144,439</u>
Total	5,144,439

Sec. B.235 Enhanced 9-1-1 board

Personal services	4,700,016
Operating expenses	<u>697,379</u>
Total	5,397,395
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>5,397,395</u>
Total	5,397,395

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	1,243,420
Operating expenses	<u>142,164</u>
Total	1,385,584
Source of funds	
General fund	1,292,811
Federal funds	<u>92,773</u>
Total	1,385,584

Sec. B.236.1 Liquor and lottery commission

Personal services	10,866,788
Operating expenses	<u>7,415,512</u>
Total	18,282,300
Source of funds	
Special funds	125,000
Tobacco fund	250,579
Interdepartmental transfers	70,000
Enterprise funds	<u>17,836,721</u>
Total	18,282,300

Sec. B.240 Cannabis control board

Personal services	4,466,288
Operating expenses	2,053,382
Grants	<u>10,000</u>
Total	6,529,670
Source of funds	

Special funds	<u>6,529,670</u>
Total	6,529,670
Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property	
Source of funds	
General fund	279,384,152
Special funds	121,247,670
Tobacco fund	685,239
Federal funds	239,445,060
ARRA funds	6,627
Interdepartmental transfers	17,289,829
Enterprise funds	<u>17,847,569</u>
Total	675,906,146
Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office	
Personal services	17,333,398
Operating expenses	11,231,120
Grants	<u>3,795,202</u>
Total	32,359,720
Source of funds	
General fund	15,569,598
Special funds	135,517
Federal funds	14,023,964
Global Commitment fund	2,510,857
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>119,784</u>
Total	32,359,720
Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment	
Grants	<u>2,207,280,248</u>
Total	2,207,280,248
Source of funds	
General fund	712,815,861
Special funds	31,339,852
Tobacco fund	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,406,003,180
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,997,210</u>
Total	2,207,280,248
Sec. B.303 Developmental disabilities council	
Personal services	513,359
Operating expenses	96,185

Grants	<u>191,595</u>
Total	801,139
Source of funds	
Special funds	12,000
Federal funds	<u>789,139</u>
Total	801,139
Sec. B.304 Human services board	
Personal services	823,371
Operating expenses	<u>90,892</u>
Total	914,263
Source of funds	
General fund	538,324
Federal funds	<u>375,939</u>
Total	914,263
Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund	
Personal services	330,000
Operating expenses	<u>13,170,000</u>
Total	13,500,000
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>13,500,000</u>
Total	13,500,000
Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration	
Personal services	142,860,018
Operating expenses	36,310,876
Grants	<u>3,112,301</u>
Total	182,283,195
Source of funds	
General fund	43,820,359
Special funds	4,760,237
Federal funds	126,141,154
Global Commitment fund	4,382,601
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>3,178,844</u>
Total	182,283,195
Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - global commitment	
Grants	<u>979,554,012</u>
Total	979,554,012
Source of funds	

Global Commitment fund	<u>979,554,012</u>
Total	979,554,012
Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - state only	
Grants	<u>67,605,443</u>
Total	67,605,443
Source of funds	
General fund	62,133,605
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,471,838</u>
Total	67,605,443
Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched	
Grants	<u>44,034,870</u>
Total	44,034,870
Source of funds	
General fund	13,467,770
Federal funds	<u>30,567,100</u>
Total	44,034,870
Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support	
Personal services	9,163,996
Operating expenses	8,043,463
Grants	<u>7,985,727</u>
Total	25,193,186
Source of funds	
General fund	4,298,710
Special funds	2,423,587
Federal funds	10,954,085
Global Commitment fund	7,361,523
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>155,281</u>
Total	25,193,186
Sec. B.312 Health - public health	
Personal services	71,272,453
Operating expenses	10,371,654
Grants	<u>48,496,832</u>
Total	130,140,939
Source of funds	
General fund	15,160,817
Special funds	25,398,124

Tobacco fund	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,355,699
Global Commitment fund	18,457,507
Interdepartmental transfers	5,654,874
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>
Total	130,140,939
Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs	
Personal services	7,036,556
Operating expenses	381,500
Grants	<u>61,624,360</u>
Total	69,042,416
Source of funds	
General fund	4,795,744
Special funds	7,972,399
Tobacco fund	949,917
Federal funds	15,928,439
Global Commitment fund	<u>39,395,917</u>
Total	69,042,416
Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health	
Personal services	12,456,526
Operating expenses	2,420,029
Grants	<u>279,691,678</u>
Total	294,568,233
Source of funds	
General fund	13,127,716
Special funds	6,836
Federal funds	13,158,032
Global Commitment fund	266,967,840
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,307,809</u>
Total	294,568,233
Sec. B.315 Department of mental health - mental health facilities	
Personal services	40,937,117
Operating expenses	<u>3,393,946</u>
Total	44,331,063
Source of funds	
General fund	18,868,124
Special funds	1,711,256
Global Commitment fund	<u>23,751,683</u>
Total	44,331,063

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

Personal services	50,609,972
Operating expenses	17,876,453
Grants	<u>5,914,175</u>
Total	74,400,600
Source of funds	
General fund	43,680,871
Special funds	2,954,500
Federal funds	24,518,288
Global Commitment fund	2,780,636
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>466,305</u>
Total	74,400,600

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

Personal services	49,175,153
Operating expenses	5,497,038
Grants	<u>100,541,760</u>
Total	155,213,951
Source of funds	
General fund	63,680,993
Special funds	729,150
Federal funds	37,407,542
Global Commitment fund	53,381,266
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,000</u>
Total	155,213,951

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

Personal services	6,563,807
Operating expenses	783,604
Grants	<u>227,780,727</u>
Total	235,128,138
Source of funds	
General fund	61,267,870
Special funds	115,409,671
Federal funds	42,924,133
Global Commitment fund	<u>15,526,464</u>
Total	235,128,138

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

Personal services	14,186,272
Operating expenses	<u>3,738,844</u>
Total	17,925,116
Source of funds	
General fund	5,598,669
Special funds	454,219
Federal funds	11,484,628
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>387,600</u>
Total	17,925,116

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

Personal services	2,558,460
Grants	<u>10,418,567</u>
Total	12,977,027
Source of funds	
General fund	7,470,372
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,506,655</u>
Total	12,977,027

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

Personal services	15,000
Grants	<u>10,415,779</u>
Total	10,430,779
Source of funds	
General fund	10,189,157
Federal funds	11,098
Global Commitment fund	<u>230,524</u>
Total	10,430,779

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

Grants	<u>51,077,812</u>
Total	51,077,812
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>51,077,812</u>
Total	51,077,812

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

Operating expenses	23,821
Grants	<u>36,532,863</u>
Total	36,556,684

Source of funds	
General fund	24,035,417
Special funds	5,970,229
Federal funds	2,806,330
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,744,708</u>
Total	36,556,684
Sec. B.324 Department for children and families - home heating fuel assistance/LIHEAP	
Grants	<u>16,019,953</u>
Total	16,019,953
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,480,395
Federal funds	<u>14,539,558</u>
Total	16,019,953
Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity	
Personal services	1,376,425
Operating expenses	159,458
Grants	<u>39,165,356</u>
Total	40,701,239
Source of funds	
General fund	32,312,474
Special funds	83,135
Federal funds	5,118,329
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,187,301</u>
Total	40,701,239
Sec. B.326 Department for children and families - OEO - weatherization assistance	
Personal services	498,837
Operating expenses	275,322
Grants	<u>15,147,885</u>
Total	15,922,044
Source of funds	
Special funds	7,757,091
Federal funds	<u>8,164,953</u>
Total	15,922,044

Sec. B.327 Department for children and families - secure residential treatment

Personal services	258,100
Operating expenses	38,775
Grants	<u>3,476,862</u>
Total	3,773,737
Source of funds	
General fund	3,743,737
Global Commitment fund	<u>30,000</u>
Total	3,773,737

Sec. B.328 Department for children and families - disability determination services

Personal services	8,322,170
Operating expenses	<u>495,934</u>
Total	8,818,104
Source of funds	
General fund	130,556
Federal funds	<u>8,687,548</u>
Total	8,818,104

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

Personal services	48,973,454
Operating expenses	<u>6,544,338</u>
Total	55,517,792
Source of funds	
General fund	25,692,412
Special funds	1,390,457
Federal funds	27,258,639
Global Commitment fund	110,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,066,284</u>
Total	55,517,792

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

Grants	<u>24,909,492</u>
Total	24,909,492
Source of funds	
General fund	8,585,909
Federal funds	7,321,114

Global Commitment fund	<u>9,002,469</u>
Total	24,909,492
Sec. B.331 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - blind and visually impaired	
Grants	<u>3,407,604</u>
Total	3,407,604
Source of funds	
General fund	489,154
Special funds	223,450
Federal funds	2,390,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>305,000</u>
Total	3,407,604
Sec. B.332 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - vocational rehabilitation	
Grants	<u>10,179,845</u>
Total	10,179,845
Source of funds	
General fund	371,845
Federal funds	8,558,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,250,000</u>
Total	10,179,845
Sec. B.333 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - developmental services	
Grants	<u>349,987,467</u>
Total	349,987,467
Source of funds	
General fund	132,732
Special funds	15,463
Federal funds	403,573
Global Commitment fund	349,385,699
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>50,000</u>
Total	349,987,467
Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver	
Grants	<u>7,540,256</u>
Total	7,540,256
Source of funds	
Global Commitment fund	<u>7,540,256</u>
Total	7,540,256

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - long term care

Grants	<u>346,858,094</u>
Total	346,858,094
Source of funds	
General fund	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>343,909,515</u>
Total	346,858,094

Sec. B.335 Corrections - administration

Personal services	5,601,461
Operating expenses	<u>269,950</u>
Total	5,871,411
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>5,871,411</u>
Total	5,871,411

Sec. B.336 Corrections - parole board

Personal services	551,497
Operating expenses	<u>60,112</u>
Total	611,609
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>611,609</u>
Total	611,609

Sec. B.337 Corrections - correctional education

Personal services	3,900,732
Operating expenses	<u>255,399</u>
Total	4,156,131
Source of funds	
General fund	4,006,975
Federal funds	372
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>148,784</u>
Total	4,156,131

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	177,107,933
Operating expenses	25,571,966
Grants	<u>801,823</u>
Total	203,481,722
Source of funds	
General fund	198,084,766

Special funds	935,963
Federal funds	516,600
Global Commitment fund	3,548,078
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>396,315</u>
Total	203,481,722
Sec. B.338.1 Corrections - justice reinvestment II	
Grants	<u>11,055,849</u>
Total	11,055,849
Source of funds	
General fund	8,478,161
Federal funds	13,147
Global Commitment fund	<u>2,564,541</u>
Total	11,055,849
Sec. B.339 Corrections - correctional services - out of state beds	
Personal services	<u>4,130,378</u>
Total	4,130,378
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>4,130,378</u>
Total	4,130,378
Sec. B.340 Corrections - correctional facilities - recreation	
Personal services	708,510
Operating expenses	<u>457,555</u>
Total	1,166,065
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>1,166,065</u>
Total	1,166,065
Sec. B.341 Corrections - Vermont offender work program	
Personal services	243,283
Operating expenses	<u>160,570</u>
Total	403,853
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>403,853</u>
Total	403,853
Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services	
Personal services	24,048,875
Operating expenses	<u>6,913,887</u>
Total	30,962,762

Source of funds	
General fund	10,033,214
Special funds	12,799,530
Federal funds	<u>8,130,018</u>
Total	30,962,762
Sec. B.343 Commission on women	
Personal services	432,073
Operating expenses	<u>89,355</u>
Total	521,428
Source of funds	
General fund	516,773
Special funds	<u>4,655</u>
Total	521,428
Sec. B.344 Retired senior volunteer program	
Grants	<u>164,960</u>
Total	164,960
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>164,960</u>
Total	164,960
Sec. B.345 Green mountain care board	
Personal services	9,849,952
Operating expenses	<u>416,874</u>
Total	10,266,826
Source of funds	
General fund	3,970,074
Special funds	<u>6,296,752</u>
Total	10,266,826
Sec. B.346 Office of the child, youth, and family advocate	
Personal services	386,033
Operating expenses	<u>71,330</u>
Total	457,363
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>457,363</u>
Total	457,363
Sec. B.347 Total human services	
Source of funds	
General fund	1,428,803,059

Special funds	231,430,533
Tobacco fund	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,946,078,413
Global Commitment fund	2,148,606,890
Internal service funds	403,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,694,090
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,842,204,818
Sec. B.400 Labor - programs	
Personal services	39,454,824
Operating expenses	5,462,457
Grants	<u>5,870,493</u>
Total	50,787,774
Source of funds	
General fund	11,313,657
Special funds	9,710,673
Federal funds	29,640,603
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>122,841</u>
Total	50,787,774
Sec. B.401 Total labor	
Source of funds	
General fund	11,313,657
Special funds	9,710,673
Federal funds	29,640,603
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>122,841</u>
Total	50,787,774
Sec. B.500 Education - finance and administration	
Personal services	16,203,356
Operating expenses	4,699,787
Grants	<u>17,772,840</u>
Total	38,675,983
Source of funds	
General fund	7,994,162
Special funds	19,793,553
Education fund	3,606,201
Federal funds	6,217,482
Global Commitment fund	260,000

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>804,585</u>
Total	38,675,983
Sec. B.501 Education - education services	
Personal services	18,418,946
Operating expenses	1,185,388
Grants	<u>192,117,080</u>
Total	211,721,414
Source of funds	
General fund	6,894,415
Special funds	3,266,001
Tobacco fund	750,388
Federal funds	199,239,149
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,571,461</u>
Total	211,721,414
Sec. B.502 Education - special education: formula grants	
Grants	<u>270,736,200</u>
Total	270,736,200
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>270,736,200</u>
Total	270,736,200
Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students	
Grants	<u>17,200,000</u>
Total	17,200,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>17,200,000</u>
Total	17,200,000
Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy	
Grants	<u>4,899,009</u>
Total	4,899,009
Source of funds	
General fund	3,958,344
Federal funds	<u>940,665</u>
Total	4,899,009
Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways	
Grants	<u>11,481,896</u>
Total	11,481,896
Source of funds	

General fund	921,500
Education fund	<u>10,560,396</u>
Total	11,481,896
Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment	
Grants	<u>1,991,143,238</u>
Total	1,991,143,238
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>1,991,143,238</u>
Total	1,991,143,238
Sec. B.506 Education - transportation	
Grants	<u>26,115,792</u>
Total	26,115,792
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>26,115,792</u>
Total	26,115,792
Sec. B.507 Education - merger support grants	
Grants	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	1,800,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	1,800,000
Sec. B.507.1 Education - EL categorical aid	
Grants	<u>2,250,000</u>
Total	2,250,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>2,250,000</u>
Total	2,250,000
Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition	
Grants	<u>18,500,000</u>
Total	18,500,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>18,500,000</u>
Total	18,500,000
Sec. B.509 Education - afterschool grant program	
Personal services	500,000
Grants	<u>9,140,000</u>

Total	9,640,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>9,640,000</u>
Total	9,640,000
Sec. B.510 Education - essential early education grant	
Grants	<u>8,977,737</u>
Total	8,977,737
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>8,977,737</u>
Total	8,977,737
Sec. B.511 Education - technical education	
Grants	<u>18,737,850</u>
Total	18,737,850
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>18,737,850</u>
Total	18,737,850
Sec. B.511.1 State board of education	
Personal services	54,208
Operating expenses	<u>16,500</u>
Total	70,708
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>70,708</u>
Total	70,708
Sec. B.513 Retired teachers pension plus funding	
Grants	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Sec. B.514 State teachers' retirement system	
Grants	<u>199,377,627</u>
Total	199,377,627
Source of funds	
General fund	160,566,569
Education fund	<u>38,811,058</u>
Total	199,377,627

Sec. B.514.1 State teachers' retirement system administration

Personal services	345,352
Operating expenses	<u>3,519,053</u>
Total	3,864,405
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	<u>3,864,405</u>
Total	3,864,405

Sec. B.515 Retired teachers' health care and medical benefits

Grants	<u>71,052,589</u>
Total	71,052,589
Source of funds	
General fund	49,091,090
Education fund	<u>21,961,499</u>
Total	71,052,589

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds	
General fund	244,496,788
Special funds	32,699,554
Tobacco fund	750,388
Education fund	2,430,399,971
Federal funds	206,397,296
Global Commitment fund	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	2,376,046
Pension trust funds	<u>3,864,405</u>
Total	2,921,244,448

Sec. B.600 University of Vermont

Grants	<u>57,378,104</u>
Total	57,378,104
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>57,378,104</u>
Total	57,378,104

Sec. B.602 Vermont state colleges

Grants	<u>52,468,692</u>
Total	52,468,692
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>52,468,692</u>
Total	52,468,692

Sec. B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

Grants	<u>1,797,087</u>
Total	1,797,087
Source of funds	
General fund	297,087
Global Commitment fund	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	1,797,087

Sec. B.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

Grants	<u>27,084,946</u>
Total	27,084,946
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>27,084,946</u>
Total	27,084,946

Sec. B.605.1 VSAC - flexible pathways stipend

Grants	<u>82,450</u>
Total	82,450
Source of funds	
General fund	41,225
Education fund	<u>41,225</u>
Total	82,450

Sec. B.606 New England higher education compact

Grants	<u>86,520</u>
Total	86,520
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>86,520</u>
Total	86,520

Sec. B.607 University of Vermont - morgan horse farm

Grants	<u>1</u>
Total	1
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1</u>
Total	1

Sec. B.608 Total higher education

Source of funds	
General fund	137,356,575
Education fund	41,225

Global Commitment fund	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	138,897,800
Sec. B.700 Natural resources - agency of natural resources - administration	
Personal services	6,436,257
Operating expenses	<u>1,265,146</u>
Total	7,701,403
Source of funds	
General fund	5,344,094
Special funds	722,828
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,634,481</u>
Total	7,701,403
Sec. B.701 Natural resources - state land local property tax assessment	
Operating expenses	<u>2,705,834</u>
Total	2,705,834
Source of funds	
General fund	2,284,334
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>421,500</u>
Total	2,705,834
Sec. B.702 Fish and wildlife - support and field services	
Personal services	23,876,543
Operating expenses	6,738,504
Grants	<u>833,630</u>
Total	31,448,677
Source of funds	
General fund	9,532,865
Special funds	364,696
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060
Federal funds	9,927,754
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,526,302</u>
Total	31,448,677
Sec. B.703 Forests, parks and recreation - administration	
Personal services	1,564,253
Operating expenses	<u>1,796,785</u>
Total	3,361,038
Source of funds	
General fund	3,130,308
Special funds	143,765

Federal funds	<u>86,965</u>
Total	3,361,038
Sec. B.704 Forests, parks and recreation - forestry	
Personal services	11,026,473
Operating expenses	1,122,371
Grants	<u>1,408,910</u>
Total	13,557,754
Source of funds	
General fund	6,839,753
Special funds	1,204,005
Federal funds	4,326,877
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,187,119</u>
Total	13,557,754
Sec. B.705 Forests, parks and recreation - state parks	
Personal services	13,707,058
Operating expenses	4,936,482
Grants	<u>550,000</u>
Total	19,193,540
Source of fund	
General fund	2,061,995
Special funds	<u>17,131,545</u>
Total	19,193,540
Sec. B.706 Forests, parks and recreation - lands administration and recreation	
Personal services	3,818,270
Operating expenses	8,667,107
Grants	<u>6,015,019</u>
Total	18,500,396
Source of funds	
General fund	1,324,880
Special funds	2,794,948
Federal funds	13,755,832
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>624,736</u>
Total	18,500,396
Sec. B.708 Forests, parks and recreation - forest and parks access roads	
Personal services	130,000
Operating expenses	<u>99,925</u>
Total	229,925
Source of funds	

General fund	<u>229,925</u>
Total	229,925
Sec. B.709 Environmental conservation - management and support services	
Personal services	9,655,674
Operating expenses	5,226,877
Grants	<u>188,303</u>
Total	15,070,854
Source of funds	
General fund	2,462,770
Special funds	1,452,358
Federal funds	2,563,636
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>8,592,090</u>
Total	15,070,854
Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management	
Personal services	26,481,647
Operating expenses	9,958,684
Grants	<u>4,343,000</u>
Total	40,783,331
Source of funds	
General fund	305,347
Special funds	27,825,978
Federal funds	12,531,023
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>120,983</u>
Total	40,783,331
Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs	
Personal services	44,324,028
Operating expenses	8,531,648
Grants	<u>136,489,044</u>
Total	189,344,720
Source of funds	
General fund	12,980,443
Special funds	33,801,176
Federal funds	141,693,623
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>869,478</u>
Total	189,344,720
Sec. B.713 Land use review board	
Personal services	5,001,041
Operating expenses	<u>537,905</u>

Total	5,538,946
Source of funds	
General fund	4,169,020
Special funds	<u>1,369,926</u>
Total	5,538,946
Sec. B.714 Total natural resources	
Source of funds	
General fund	50,665,734
Special funds	86,811,225
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060
Federal funds	184,885,710
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>14,976,689</u>
Total	347,436,418
Sec. B.800 Commerce and community development - agency of commerce and community development - administration	
Personal services	2,515,577
Operating expenses	872,866
Grants	<u>414,320</u>
Total	3,802,763
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,802,763</u>
Total	3,802,763
Sec. B.801 Economic development	
Personal services	4,396,254
Operating expenses	1,199,682
Grants	<u>8,956,544</u>
Total	14,552,480
Source of funds	
General fund	5,937,190
Special funds	3,150,350
Federal funds	5,264,940
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>200,000</u>
Total	14,552,480
Sec. B.802 Housing and community development	
Personal services	6,519,883
Operating expenses	1,528,070
Grants	<u>23,139,431</u>
Total	31,187,384

Source of funds	
General fund	7,656,505
Special funds	10,144,339
Federal funds	10,957,973
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,428,567</u>
Total	31,187,384
Sec. B.806 Tourism and marketing	
Personal services	3,453,707
Operating expenses	4,569,290
Grants	<u>1,020,000</u>
Total	9,042,997
Source of funds	
General fund	4,960,125
Federal funds	4,007,872
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>75,000</u>
Total	9,042,997
Sec. B.808 Vermont council on the arts	
Grants	<u>1,003,063</u>
Total	1,003,063
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,003,063</u>
Total	1,003,063
Sec. B.809 Vermont symphony orchestra	
Grants	<u>154,170</u>
Total	154,170
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>154,170</u>
Total	154,170
Sec. B.810 Vermont historical society	
Grants	<u>1,202,564</u>
Total	1,202,564
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,202,564</u>
Total	1,202,564
Sec. B.811 Vermont housing and conservation board	
Grants	<u>109,284,304</u>
Total	109,284,304

Source of funds	
General fund	1,631,582
Special funds	40,490,082
Federal funds	<u>67,162,640</u>
Total	109,284,304
Sec. B.812 Vermont humanities council	
Grants	<u>318,270</u>
Total	318,270
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>318,270</u>
Total	318,270
Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development	
Source of funds	
General fund	26,666,232
Special funds	53,784,771
Federal funds	87,393,425
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,703,567</u>
Total	170,547,995
Sec. B.900 Transportation - finance and administration	
Personal services	19,914,359
Operating expenses	6,581,104
Grants	<u>50,000</u>
Total	26,545,463
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	25,152,473
Federal funds	<u>1,392,990</u>
Total	26,545,463
Sec. B.901 Transportation - aviation	
Personal services	4,770,561
Operating expenses	8,456,904
Grants	<u>190,000</u>
Total	13,417,465
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	7,474,433
Federal funds	<u>5,943,032</u>
Total	13,417,465
Sec. B.902 Transportation - buildings	

Personal services	1,000,000
Operating expenses	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	2,500,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	2,200,000
TIB fund	<u>300,000</u>
Total	2,500,000
Sec. B.903 Transportation - program development	
Personal services	83,759,860
Operating expenses	281,446,274
Grants	46,104,466
Total	411,310,600
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	62,005,434
TIB fund	15,103,017
Special funds	280,000
Federal funds	308,679,500
Interdepartmental transfers	15,722,027
Local match	<u>9,520,622</u>
Total	411,310,600
Sec. B.904 Transportation - rest areas construction	
Personal services	398,500
Operating expenses	<u>791,746</u>
Total	1,190,246
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	119,025
Federal funds	<u>1,071,221</u>
Total	1,190,246
Sec. B.905 Transportation - maintenance state system	
Personal services	48,113,208
Operating expenses	<u>69,113,835</u>
Total	117,227,043
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	110,349,507
Federal funds	932,014
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>5,945,522</u>
Total	117,227,043
Sec. B.906 Transportation - policy and planning	

Personal services	3,411,138
Operating expenses	1,290,442
Grants	<u>10,346,035</u>
Total	15,047,615
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	3,742,314
Federal funds	11,223,301
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>82,000</u>
Total	15,047,615
Sec. B.906.1 Transportation - environmental policy and sustainability	
Personal services	8,114,291
Operating expenses	67,686
Grants	<u>1,332,030</u>
Total	9,514,007
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	389,377
Federal funds	8,150,226
Interdepartmental transfers	21,860
Local match	<u>952,544</u>
Total	9,514,007
Sec. B.907 Transportation - rail	
Personal services	18,493,101
Operating expenses	<u>43,394,247</u>
Total	61,887,348
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	15,067,669
Federal funds	31,894,435
Interdepartmental transfers	8,228,363
Local match	<u>6,696,881</u>
Total	61,887,348
Sec. B.908 Transportation - public transit	
Personal services	1,026,301
Operating expenses	81,224
Grants	<u>51,587,709</u>
Total	52,695,234
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	10,007,534
Federal funds	42,547,700

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>140,000</u>
Total	52,695,234
Sec. B.909 Transportation - central garage	
Personal services	5,957,587
Operating expenses	<u>19,696,966</u>
Total	25,654,553
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>25,654,553</u>
Total	25,654,553
Sec. B.910 Department of motor vehicles	
Personal services	36,447,934
Operating expenses	<u>13,070,367</u>
Total	49,518,301
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	46,709,524
Federal funds	2,687,081
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>121,696</u>
Total	49,518,301
Sec. B.911 Transportation - town highway structures	
Grants	<u>7,200,000</u>
Total	7,200,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>7,200,000</u>
Total	7,200,000
Sec. B.912 Transportation - town highway local technical assistance program	
Personal services	449,763
Operating expenses	<u>31,689</u>
Total	481,452
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	121,452
Federal funds	<u>360,000</u>
Total	481,452
Sec. B.913 Transportation - town highway class 2 roadway	
Grants	<u>8,600,000</u>
Total	8,600,000
Source of funds	

Transportation fund	<u>8,600,000</u>
Total	8,600,000
Sec. B.914 Transportation - town highway bridges	
Personal services	10,034,000
Operating expenses	<u>27,759,406</u>
Total	37,793,406
Source of funds	
TIB fund	3,596,983
Federal funds	31,716,311
Local match	<u>2,480,112</u>
Total	37,793,406
Sec. B.915 Transportation - town highway aid program	
Grants	<u>30,418,736</u>
Total	30,418,736
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>30,418,736</u>
Total	30,418,736
Sec. B.916 Transportation - town highway class 1 supplemental grants	
Grants	<u>128,750</u>
Total	128,750
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>128,750</u>
Total	128,750
Sec. B.917 Transportation - town highway: state aid for nonfederal disasters	
Grants	<u>1,150,000</u>
Total	1,150,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	0
Special funds	<u>1,150,000</u>
Total	1,150,000
Sec. B.918 Transportation - town highway: state aid for federal disasters	
Grants	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	4,000,000
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	4,000,000

Sec. B.919 Transportation - municipal mitigation assistance program

Personal services	100,000
Operating expenses	325,500
Grants	<u>6,467,500</u>
Total	6,893,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	715,000
Special funds	4,750,000
Federal funds	<u>1,428,000</u>
Total	6,893,000

Sec. B.921 Transportation board

Personal services	181,233
Operating expenses	<u>22,938</u>
Total	204,171
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>204,171</u>
Total	204,171

Sec. B.922 Total transportation

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	330,605,399
TIB fund	19,000,000
Special funds	6,180,000
Federal funds	452,025,811
Internal service funds	25,654,553
Interdepartmental transfers	30,261,468
Local match	<u>19,650,159</u>
Total	883,377,390

Sec. B.1000 Debt service

Operating expenses	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000

Sec. B.1001 Total debt service

Source of funds	
General fund	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 One-Time Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,100,000 General Fund for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and

(2) \$110,000 General Fund for the Office of Racial Equity to continue the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Vermont program an additional year.

(b) Department of Human Resources. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,575,000 General Fund for the Classification Modernization project.

(c) Department of Taxes. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,000,000 PILOT Special Fund for the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program as established per Sec. E.142.2 of this act. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted.

(d) Department of Public Safety. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$600,000 General Fund for State match for federal cybersecurity grant funds;

(2) \$800,000 General Fund for the purchase of mobile and portable radio equipment; and

(3) \$150,000 General Fund for the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program established in Sec. E.208.2 of this act.

(e) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$4,448,520 General Fund and \$6,351,480 federal funds for the Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for the Support and Services at Home program, the Primary Care Medical Home, and Community Health Team services under the Blueprint for Health;

(2) \$6,200 General Fund for per diems and expense reimbursement for members of the Office of New Americans Study Committee; and

(3) \$514,875 General Fund and \$735,125 federal funds for the Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec. E.306.5(a) of this act.

(f) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$250,000 General Fund for the Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn Program; and

(2) \$275,000 General Fund for the purchase of a fire apparatus.

(g) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$240,000 General Fund for Polychlorinated Biphenyl testing;

(2) \$40,000 General Fund for a grant to Empty Arms Vermont;

(3) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4812, \$300,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences;

(4) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4812, \$800,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for recovery centers;

(5) \$200,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for a grant to Mentor Vermont; and

(6) \$250,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network for smoking cessation initiatives.

(h) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$2,000,000 General Fund for shelter capacity expansion;

(2) \$30,500,000 General Fund for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program;

(3) \$1,000,000 General Fund for direct aid to the Vermont Foodbank's network partner food shelves and pantries through an equitable statewide distribution of food or subgrants or both; and

(4) \$156,000 General Fund for the Child Care Apprenticeship Program.

(i) Department of Corrections. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund to retain a consultant and develop an implementation plan to transition the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility for incarcerated Vermonters.

(j) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$150,000 General Fund for administrative costs relating to home-based child care meals.

(k) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$5,000,000 General Fund for the final transformation bridge financing payment.

(l) Department of Fish and Wildlife. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$185,000 Fish and Wildlife Nondedicated Special Fund to sustain current operations as the Department undergoes a financial restructuring. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted;

(2) \$80,000 General Fund for the purchase of mobile and portable radio equipment; and

(3) \$30,000 General Fund for the Lake Champlain International Fishing Derby.

(m) Department of Environmental Conservation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$50,000 General Fund for a Municipal Wastewater Connections database;

(2) \$850,000 General Fund for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation database project and contractor support;

(3) \$9,520,000 Environmental Contingency Fund For Polychlorinated Biphenyl testing and remediation in schools. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted; and

(4) \$14,500,000 Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the State match to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in

accordance with the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b).

(n) Department of Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$7,500,000 General Fund for the Vermont Bond Bank Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund;

(2) \$16,100,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Rental Revolving Loan Fund, the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, and the First Generation Homebuyer Program. No less than \$250,000 of these funds shall be for the First Generation Homebuyer Program;

(3) \$4,000,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program 2.0;

(4) \$15,000 General Fund for the Residential Universal Design Study Committee; and

(5) \$450,000 General Fund to fund three limited service positions at the Department.

(o) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund for the Vermont Professionals of Color Network;

(2) \$150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Small Business Development Center to assist Vermonters starting, acquiring, and growing businesses;

(3) \$150,000 General Fund for the International Business Office;

(4) \$1,000,000 General Fund for the brownfields remediation and redevelopment;

(5) \$100,000 General Fund for a grant to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to support a site study focused on economic development, parking, housing, and flood mitigation for the 1.6-acre parcel at 87 State Street and parcels at 89 State Street and 42 Court Street; and

(6) \$250,000 General Fund for a competitive grant to establish a new women's recovery residence, per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan, that shall be awarded on or before September 30, 2025.

(p) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$5,000,000 General Fund to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community-based services.

(q) Office of the State Treasurer. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$148,000 General Fund for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program; and

(2) \$350,000 General Fund for financial modeling and the limited service classified position established in Sec. E.100(b)(1)(A) of this act.

(r) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$835,420 General Fund for the Payment Reform Unit;

(2) \$3,119,310 General Fund for the OneCare primary care model transition;

(3) \$10,800,000 Global Commitment for the Support and Services at Home program, the Primary Care Medical Home, and Community Health Team services under the Blueprint for Health; and

(4) \$1,250,000 Global Commitment for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Agency of Human Services' request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec. E.306.5(a) of this act.

(s) University of Vermont. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$750,000 General Fund for the Vermont Gallium Nitride Tech Hub.

(t) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$450,000 General Fund for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs;

(2) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program;

(3) \$500,000 General Fund to offer Vermont Local Food for Schools and Child Care grants within the Rozo McLaughlin Farm to School Grants Program to fund grants for the purchase and distribution of local food to schools and registered or licensed child care programs; and

(4) \$250,000 General Fund to support Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

(u) Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$235,000 General Fund for a grant to HomeShare Vermont; and

(2) \$500,000 General Fund for grants to skilled nursing facilities to increase the pipeline of employed licensed nursing assistants, including increasing the capacity of new and existing facility-based training programs, and developing or expanding collaborations with other programs, including career and technical education programs. Grants may support training program costs, paid internships, student support, and recruitment and retention bonuses.

(A) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (u)(2) of this section, \$150,000 shall be for grants of \$30,000 or less.

(B) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (u)(2) of this section, \$350,000 shall be for up to three grants.

(v) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,500,000 General Fund for Freedom and Unity grants.

(w) Military Department. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$10,000 General Fund for the USS Vermont Support Group.

(x) Vermont Council on the Arts. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$68,737 General Fund for State match for federal funds.

(y) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,400,000 Transportation Fund for transfer to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for programs to increase access to

level 1 and 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment charging ports at workplaces or multiunit dwellings, or both; and

(2) \$600,000 Transportation Fund for the purpose of providing grants to the public transit agencies to hire volunteer coordinators who shall be responsible for the identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers to provide transportation services to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(z) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$150,000 General Fund for a grant to Advance Vermont.

(aa) Office of the Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$50,000 General Fund for awards to support local civic journalism; and

(2) \$25,000 General Fund for staff and IT costs at the Office of Professional Regulation relating to the implementation of certifications of perinatal doulas and birthing centers.

(bb) Office of the Defender General. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$30,000 General Fund to enhance IT server capacity;

(2) \$50,000 General Fund for the Orleans County staff office;

(3) \$20,000 General Fund for the Addison County staff office; and

(4) \$60,000 General Fund for public defender training pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 5253.

(cc) Land Use Review Board. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$100,000 General Fund for development of digital infrastructure relating to Land Use Review Board application and mapping projects.

(dd) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$500,000 General Fund for the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Community Resource Center.

(ee) Office of the Attorney General. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$80,000 General Fund is added to the appropriation established per 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 17(b) to extend the limited service position established in subsection (a) of that section until June 30, 2026.

Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2025 CLOSEOUT; FISCAL YEAR 2026
CONTINGENT TRANSACTIONS

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2025 closeout, the Department of Finance and Management shall execute the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308. If any balance remains after meeting these requirements, then, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, the Department of Finance and Management shall designate the first \$138,970,000 as unallocated carryforward for use in meeting the requirements of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act as passed by the General Assembly. The Department of Finance and Management shall then, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, calculate the maximum number of contingent transactions that can be funded, in the order provided in subsection (b) of this section, and designate that money to remain unallocated for such purpose in fiscal year 2026. Any residual balance remaining after such designations shall be reserved in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

(b) In fiscal year 2026, the following contingent transactions shall be executed in the following order from the designated unallocated balance as determined in subsection (a) of this section:

(1) \$8,000,000 is transferred to the Communications and Information Technology Special Fund to cover the costs of transitioning billable services from a service level agreement model to a core enterprise services model.

(2) \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration to be transferred by the Emergency Board pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §133 while the General Assembly is not in session in the event of a reduction in federal funds to the State as set forth in Sec. E.127.2 of this act.

(3) \$30,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for future appropriation or transfer by the General Assembly for addressing federal funding shortfalls.

(4) \$30,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for future appropriation or transfer by the General Assembly for addressing federal funding shortfalls, Vermont Medicaid and other human services needs, property tax relief, permanent housing initiatives, or any other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public.

Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL
INVESTMENTS; FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME CAPITAL
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2026, \$13,436,099 is appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the following:

(1) Department of Buildings and General Services:

(A) \$1,506,599 for statewide major maintenance;

(B) \$250,000 for statewide planning, reuse, and contingency;

(C) \$250,000 for statewide physical security enhancements;

(D) \$219,500 for State House repointing;

(E) \$250,000 for an uninterruptable power supply system for the Middlesex print and postal facility; and

(F) \$6,900,000 for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction.

(2) Vermont Veterans' Home:

(A) \$1,500,000 for the design and construction of the American Unit. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in this subdivision (A) and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(1).

(3) Agency of Commerce and Community Development:

(A) \$2,500,000 for infrastructure improvements that are either municipally leased for a term of at least 30 years or municipally owned and that support the development of new or rehabilitated housing, provided that a grant agreement shall be in place between the State and the municipality prior to the release of funds.

(4) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(A) \$25,000 for the Lake Champlain Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the walleye rearing, restoration, and stocking infrastructure.

(5) Department of Public Safety:

(A) \$35,000 for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program.

* * * Fiscal Year 2025 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. C.100 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.209 is amended to read:

Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police

Personal services

74,755,468 76,655,468

Operating expenses	15,992,094
Grants	1,137,841
Total	91,885,403 <u>93,785,403</u>
Source of funds	
General fund	57,891,409 <u>59,791,409</u>
Transportation fund	20,250,000
Special funds	3,170,328
Federal funds	8,967,252
Interdepartmental transfers	1,606,414
Total	91,885,403 <u>93,785,403</u>

Sec. C.101 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.702 is amended to read:

Sec. B.702 Fish and wildlife - support and field services

Personal services	22,597,844 <u>22,887,844</u>
Operating expenses	6,843,095
Grants	853,066
Total	30,294,005 <u>30,584,005</u>
Source of funds	
General fund	8,267,967 <u>8,557,967</u>
Special funds	365,427
Fish and wildlife fund	10,418,331
Federal funds	9,751,683
Interdepartmental transfers	1,490,597
Total	30,294,005 <u>30,584,005</u>

Sec. C.102 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

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

(1) From the General Fund to the:

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) From the Transportation Fund to the:

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

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

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

(D) Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund (#20191): \$900,000.

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): ~~\$6,500,000~~ \$12,262,352.

(3) ~~\$66,935,000~~ \$65,060,450.50 of the net unencumbered fund balances in the Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21080) shall be transferred to the General Fund.

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

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

* * *

Sec. C.103 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

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

accordance with subdivision (b)(21) of Sec. B.1102 of this act, the remaining unallocated General Fund balance shall be reserved in the Human Services Caseload Reserve established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b up to the amount appropriated in this subdivision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

(1) ~~\$200,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities that were impacted by the August and December 2023 flooding events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT and DR-4762-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic impacts of the August and December 2023 flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal Emergency Management Agency-related projects~~ \$1,800,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4810-VT and DR-4744-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic

impacts of 2023 and 2024 flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal Emergency Management Agency-related projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) \$3,800,000 General Fund to ensure the appropriations made in Secs. B.514 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act are sufficient to meet 100 percent of the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution. Appropriations made in Secs. B.513 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(13) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether the appropriations made in Secs. B.514 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act are sufficient to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution requirement is funded at 100 percent in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively. Unexpended appropriations shall

carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose.

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

(1) \$2,800,000 General Fund to complete pilot projects identified pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186.

(x) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$800,000 General Fund to upgrade the network wiring and security systems in county court houses; and

(2) \$50,000 General Fund to upgrade or construct bathrooms in the Essex Meeting House that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

(1) \$68,407 Education Fund for a grant to the Essex North Supervisory Union to eliminate a fiscal year 2025 Transportation Grant shortfall due to a data submission error; and

(2) \$149,666 Education Fund for a grant to the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union to eliminate a fiscal year 2025 Transportation Grant shortfall due to a data submission error.

Sec. C.104 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 40, is further amended to read:

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

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

(1) \$2,300,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide language access plan;

(2) \$15,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied claims for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) federal reimbursement related to presidentially declared disasters in fiscal year 2024 or 2025, or to fund unanticipated statewide costs related to recovery efforts from declared disasters or administering programs created by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act – State Fiscal Recovery Fund, including the costs of related limited-service positions, and contracting for programs and services;-

(3) \$500,000 General Fund for community grants related to health equity. These funds shall not be released until the recommendation and report required by Sec. E.100.1 of this act, regarding the permanent administrative location for the Office of Health Equity, is provided to the committees of jurisdiction listed in Sec. E.100.1 of this act and the positions in the Office of Health Equity created by this act are filled; and

(4) \$30,000,000 General Fund to be used as ~~Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) matching funds~~ nonfederal share related to disaster spending for costs incurred due to the July 2023 flooding event federally declared disasters in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

* * *

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

(1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of Substance Use Programs for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for

Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

(o) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$2,000,000 General Fund to implement the two-year Reach Ahead Pilot Program. Funds shall be used to increase monthly food assistance benefits to Reach Ahead participants, expand the eligibility window for those leaving Reach Up, and provide incentive payments; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

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

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

* * *

Sec. C.105 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.110 is amended to read:

Sec. C.110 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;
REVERSION AND REALLOCATION

(a) The Secretary of Administration ~~shall revert~~ may reimburse up to ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$14,300,000 of prior fiscal year federal funds ~~appropriated expended~~ through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to Grant Request #3034. ~~An amount of spending authority equal to these reversions shall be provided, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511, to existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury with new General Fund appropriations transferred from existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury. These programs shall receive an amount of spending authority from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program equal to the amount of General Fund appropriation transferred.~~

Sec. C.106 BUSINESS EMERGENCY GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;
VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRANT

(a) Of the \$7,000,000 General Fund provided to the Department of Housing and Community Development by unanimous vote of the Emergency Board on August 8, 2024 for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program, \$2,000,000 shall be used for a grant to the Vermont Economic Development Authority to establish a disaster relief fund for use by businesses following a natural disaster.

Sec. C.107 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.103 is amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

* * *

(b) In fiscal year 2025, \$5,000,000 shall be reserved within the Child Care Contribution Special Fund. If in fiscal year 2026 the Child Care Contribution Special Fund is found to have an undesignated fund deficit, these funds shall be unreserved and used to the extent necessary to offset the deficit as determined by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. If these funds are used in fiscal year 2026, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, or the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, on the amount used.

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Fund Transfers and Reserve Allocations * * *

Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

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

(1) The sum of \$591,137 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of \$591,137 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of \$36,964,250 from the property transfer tax and the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2026 appropriation of \$36,964,250 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2), amounts in excess of \$10,000,705 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3), the \$10,000,705 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) \$7,740,546 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) \$1,260,089 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) \$1,000,070 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

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

(1) From the General Fund (#10000) to the:

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): \$81,155,462.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21952): \$9,647,469.

(C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): \$4,300,000.

(D) Fish and Wildlife Fund – Nondedicated (#20305): \$185,000.

(E) Education Fund (#20205): \$77,200,000.

(F) Communications and Information Technology Fund (#58100): \$7,000,000.

(G) Environmental Contingency Fund (#21275): \$9,520,000.

(i) The transfer in subdivision (a)(1)(G) of this section shall be increased by the amount reverted in Sec. D.102(b) of this act. For the purpose of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget this amount is estimated to be no less than \$2,000,000.

(H) Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund (#21926): \$450,000.

(2) From the Transportation Fund (#20105) to the:

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): \$305,825.

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

(3) From the Education Fund (#20205) to the:

(A) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): \$1,500,000.

(4) From the Clean Water Fund (#21932) to the:

(A) Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (#21933): \$11,000,000.

(B) Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (#21938): \$120,000.

(5) From the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21953) to the:

(A) Transportation Fund (#20105): \$12,500,000.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments Fund (#21952): \$1,000,000.

(6) From the Agency of Human Services Central Office Earned Federal Receipts (#22005) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$4,641,960.

(7) From the Attorney General Fees and Reimbursement Court Order Fund (#21638) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$2,000,000.

(8) From the Cannabis Regulation Fund (#21998) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): 70 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of \$4,035,000 following the close of

fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be \$8,900,000.

(B) Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund (#21995): 30 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of \$4,035,000 following the close of fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be \$3,800,000.

(b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget and do not supersede the actual year-end transfer amounts.

(1) To the General Fund (#10000) from the:

(A) 8 V.S.A. § 80(d). Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075): \$46,204,523.

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085): \$21,745,635.

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): \$7,389,063.

(2) To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$1,053,073

(c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund (#10000) shall not exceed the actual fiscal year end profits earned by the enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget only.

(1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): \$7,600,000.

(2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): \$14,849,754.

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

1100892208 AOA – VHFA

\$2,000,000.00

<u>1210892201 LEG – Pension Benefit Consul</u>	<u>\$8,821.25</u>
<u>1220891803 VT Tax Structure Comm</u>	<u>\$59,673.09</u>
<u>1220891901 Contract Services for Research</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
<u>1220892201 JFO – AAHC Task Force Consult</u>	<u>\$7,155.00</u>
<u>1220892301 JFO – Studies and Reports</u>	<u>\$21,125.50</u>
<u>1230891301 Security</u>	<u>\$39.10</u>
<u>1230892301 SAA – Capitol Police</u>	<u>\$0.99</u>
<u>1260892201 TRE – Bond Redemption</u>	<u>\$6,000,000.00</u>

(b) Any unencumbered balance remaining in the appropriation established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1103(h), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 43, at the close of fiscal year 2025 shall revert in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 703 and shall be exempt from the carryforward authority provided to the Secretary of Administration in Sec. F.182(a) of this act.

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds provided:

(1) General Fund.

(A) The General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308. For purposes of developing this budget, \$1,685,385 is expected to be unreserved in fiscal year 2026.

(B) The General Fund Human Services Caseload Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308b. For purposes of developing this budget, \$2,721,375 is expected to be unreserved in fiscal year 2026.

(C) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, \$5,700,000 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2026.

(2) Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash for Capital and Essential Investments Fund.

(A) \$12,500,000 is unreserved for transfer to the Transportation Fund for use by the Agency of Transportation in accordance with the provisions for which the funds were originally reserved in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1102(b)(17).

(B) \$14,500,000 is unreserved for use by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with the provisions for which the funds were originally reserved in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b).

(3) Transportation Fund.

(A) For the purpose of calculating the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Fund Stabilization Reserve's requirement of five percent of prior year appropriations, fiscal year 2025 Transportation Fund reversions are deducted from the fiscal year 2025 total appropriations amount.

* * * General Government * * *

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of three permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2026 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

(A) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(i) one Fish and Wildlife Specialist.

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

(A) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs:

(i) one Financial and IT Specialist; and

(ii) one Transport Deputy.

(b) The establishment of three limited service classified position is authorized in fiscal year 2026:

(1) Office of the State Treasurer:

(A) one Climate Superfund Specialist.

(2) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Pre-Charge Administrator.

(3) Office of the Secretary of State:

(A) one Administrative Coordinator IV.

(c) The establishment of one limited service exempt position is authorized in fiscal year 2026:

(1) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Solicitor General.

(d) The conversion of two limited service exempt positions to permanent classified status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

(1) Land Use Review Board:

(A) two District Coordinators.

(e) The conversion of nine limited service exempt positions to permanent exempt status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

(1) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs:

(A) six Deputy State's Attorneys;

(B) two Legal Assistants; and

(C) one Victim Advocate.

Sec. E.100.1 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 56, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

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

* * *

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

* * *

(F) Office of the State Treasurer:

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

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

* * *

(d) The establishment of 23 new exempt limited service positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

* * *

(2) ~~Agency of Administration~~ Department of Health – Health Equity Advisory Commission:

(A) one Private Secretary.

* * *

Sec. E.100.2 SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION; REPORT ON
STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July, September, and November 2025 meetings, and at other meetings as requested, on any reductions to federal revenues to the State and the status of any appropriations impacted by such reductions.

Sec. E.100.3 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT; CORONAVIRUS STATE
FISCAL RECOVERY FUND APPROPRIATIONS;
REPORTING

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of appropriations made from the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(b) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of any spending authority established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(c) Any spending authority established pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106(a) and (c) that remains unexpended and unencumbered on December 31, 2027 shall revert to the General Fund. Any unallocated balance resulting from this reversion shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve.

(d) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on or before January 15, 2028 on the amount reverted to the General Fund and reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

Sec. E.105 AGENCY OF DIGITAL SERVICES; COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND TRANSFER

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Agency of Digital Services shall utilize from the Internal Service Fund appropriation in Sec. B.105 of this act an amount of funds equal to that transferred from the General Fund to the Communications and Information Technology Fund in this act to cover the costs of transitioning billable services from a service level agreement model to a core enterprise services model. To the extent to which these funds are insufficient to complete this transition, the Agency shall, as part of its fiscal year 2026 budget adjustment presentation, request an additional appropriation or transfer of funds and shall not bill other agencies or departments to cover the costs of the transition.

Sec. E.111 32 V.S.A. § 5824 is amended to read:

§ 5824. ADOPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS

The statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax, as in effect on December 31, ~~2023~~ 2024, but without regard to federal income tax rates under 26 U.S.C. § 1, are hereby adopted for the purpose of computing the tax liability under this chapter and shall continue in effect as adopted until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

Sec. E.111.1 32 V.S.A. § 7402 is amended to read:

§ 7402. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:

* * *

(8) “Laws of the United States” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, ~~2023~~ 2024. As used in this chapter, “Internal Revenue Code” has the same meaning as “laws of the United States” as defined in this subdivision. The date through which amendments to the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are adopted under this subdivision shall continue in effect until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. E.111.2 32 V.S.A. § 5861(c) is amended to read:

(c) Spouses or a surviving spouse ~~may~~ shall file a joint Vermont personal income tax return for any taxable year for which the spouses file or the surviving spouse ~~are permitted to file~~ files a joint federal income tax return

under the laws of the United States, unless the Commissioner allows a different filing status.

Sec. E.111.3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS; TAX YEAR 2025

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of an organization, Vermont tax laws for tax year 2025 shall follow 26 U.S.C. §§ 501–506 and all other federal statutory provisions, federal regulations, and federal case law relating to the determination of an organization’s tax-exempt status for purposes of federal income taxation, as in effect on April 1, 2025, regardless of any amendments or other changes affecting implementation or interpretation of those sections between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, whether due to an act of Congress, federal regulation, federal bulletin, federal guidance, presidential executive order, federal administrative or judicial decision, or other federal source.

Sec. E.126 FISCAL YEAR 2026 INCREASED LEGISLATURE BASE FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.126 of this act, \$1,500,000 be for expenses including meetings of the General Assembly not budgeted for in prior, current, or future appropriations acts. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that the proposed fiscal year 2027 General Assembly budget exclude this \$1,500,000 from any calculation of its base appropriation amount.

Sec. E.127 32 V.S.A. § 704 is amended to read:

§ 704. INTERIM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS

(a) The General Assembly recognizes that acts of appropriations and their sources of funding reflect the priorities for expenditures of public funds enacted by the General Assembly and that major reductions or transfers, when required by reduced State revenues or other reasons, ought to be made whenever possible by an act of the General Assembly reflecting its revisions of those priorities. Nevertheless, the General Assembly also recognizes that when it is not in session, it may be necessary to reduce authorized appropriations and their sources of funding, and funds may need to be transferred, to maintain a balanced State budget. Under these limited circumstances, it is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations may be reduced and funds transferred when the General Assembly is not in session pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(b)(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f) of this section, in each instance that the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund, the

Transportation Fund, or federal funds has been reduced by one percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations, the Secretary of Administration shall prepare an expenditure reduction plan for consideration and approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reductions in the official State revenue estimate.

(2) In each instance that the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, or federal funds has been reduced by less than one percent from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations, the Secretary of Administration may prepare and implement an expenditure reduction plan without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reductions in the official State revenue estimate. The Secretary may implement an expenditure reduction plan under this subdivision if plan reductions to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection do not exceed five percent, the plan is designed to minimize any negative effects on the delivery of services to the public, and the plan does not have any unduly disproportionate effect on any single function, program, service, benefit, or county. Plans not requiring the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee shall be filed with the Joint Fiscal Office prior to implementation. If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five percent to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. E.127.1 32 V.S.A. § 308c is amended to read:

§ 308c. GENERAL FUND AND TRANSPORTATION FUND BALANCE
RESERVES

(a) There is hereby created within the General Fund a General Fund Balance Reserve, also known as the "Rainy Day Reserve." After satisfying the requirements of section 308 of this title, and after other reserve requirements have been met, any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year General Fund surplus shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve. The General Fund Balance Reserve shall not exceed ~~five~~ 10 percent of the appropriations from the General Fund for the prior fiscal year without legislative authorization.

(1), (2) [Repealed.]

(3) Of the funds that would otherwise be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve under this subsection, the following amounts shall be reserved as necessary and transferred from the General Fund as follows:

(A) 25 percent to the Vermont State Retirement Fund established by 3 V.S.A. § 473; and

(B) 25 percent to the Postretirement Adjustment Allowance Account established in 16 V.S.A. § 1949a.

(b)(1) The General Assembly may ~~specifically unreserve and appropriate the use of up to 50 percent of the amounts added in the prior fiscal year from or transfer an amount not to exceed 10 percent of~~ the General Fund Balance Reserve to fund unforeseen or emergency needs. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any General Fund Balance Reserve funds utilized in accordance with this section be replenished.

(2) If the official State revenue estimates of the Emergency Board for the General Fund, determined under section 305a of this title, have been reduced by two percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the ~~general~~ appropriations act or budget adjustment act, funds in the General Fund Balance Reserve may be unreserved and appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly to compensate for a reduction of revenues.

(c) There is hereby created within the Transportation Fund a Transportation Fund Balance Reserve. After satisfying the requirements of section 308a of this title, and after other reserve requirements have been met, any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year Transportation Fund surplus shall be reserved in the Transportation Fund Balance Reserve. Monies from this Reserve shall be available for appropriation by the General Assembly.

(d) Determination of the amounts of the General Fund and Transportation Fund Balance Reserves shall be made by the Commissioner of Finance and Management and reported, along with the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to the legislative Joint Fiscal Committee at its first meeting following September 1 of each year.

Sec. E.127.2 FEDERAL FUNDING; CALCULATION OF
APPROPRIATION REDUCTION; SECRETARY OF
ADMINISTRATION; JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Unduplicated function total” means the individual function totals set forth in this act excluding Global Commitment funds, Interdepartmental Transfer funds, and Internal Service funds. For purposes of this section, the

determination of an unduplicated function total shall not include Education Funds.

(2) "Governmental function unit" refers to the governmental function areas set forth in Sec. A.108 of this act.

(b) In each instance that a reduction in federal revenues to the State results in a decrease of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit by:

(1) Less than 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total or \$2,000,000, whichever threshold amount is greater, the Secretary of Administration shall notify the Joint Fiscal Committee and may prepare and implement a spending authority reduction plan without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reduction in the federal revenues. If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five percent to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection of any appropriations act, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in 32 V.S.A. § 704(b)(2).

(2) Greater than \$2,000,000 and 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit, but less than 25 percent or \$50,000,000, whichever threshold amount is lower:

(A) the Secretary of Administration shall prepare a spending authority reduction and transfer plan for consideration and approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to the same process established in 32 V.S.A. § 704(e), notwithstanding the reference to subdivision (b)(1) of this section, provided that the total reductions to federal spending authority are not greater than the reductions in federal revenues; and

(B) to maintain a balanced State budget, to minimize the impact to Vermonters and to abide by the legislative intent set forth by the General Assembly in this act, the Joint Fiscal Committee may make a recommendation to the Emergency Board to:

(i) utilize the appropriation in Sec. B.1101(b)(2) of this act to support impacted programs at not more than the current fiscal year funding level until the General Assembly is in session;

(ii) revert any unexpended and unobligated funds; and

(iii) make such reductions or transfers in appropriations necessary to support the priorities of the General Assembly.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for the purpose of calculating any appropriation reduction that triggers the actions set forth in this section, the baseline federal funding amounts shall be the federal funding set forth in this act. The Secretary of Administration shall monitor any changes in federal funding as the difference between the baseline federal funding amount for use in fiscal year 2026 and any updated State federal funds revenue forecast adopted by the Emergency Board and shall calculate the percent reduction of the unduplicated function totals for each governmental function unit.

Sec. E.127.3 FISCAL YEAR 2026 FEE REPORT; GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

(a) Fiscal year 2026 fee information. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices that receive appropriations in Secs. B.100-199, B.400-599, and B. 800-999 of this act shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a comprehensive fee report for each fee that is in effect in fiscal year 2026. The fee report shall contain the following information for each fee:

- (1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;
- (2) the current rate or amount of the fee and the date the fee was last set or adjusted by the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;
- (3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;
- (4) the amount of the revenues derived from the fee in each of the five fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2026;
- (5) the number of times that the fee was paid in each of the two fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2026;
- (6) a projection of the fee revenues in fiscal years 2026 and 2027;
- (7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory function performed by the agency, department, board or office supported by the fee;
- (8) the amount of the fee if adjusted for inflation from the last time the fee amount was modified using an appropriate index chosen in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office. The inflation adjustment shall be calculated as the percentage change between the value of the index in the July of the year the fee was last adjusted by the General Assembly and July 2025;
- (9) if any portion of the fee revenue is deposited into a special fund, the percentage of the special fund's revenues that the fee represents;

(10) any available information regarding comparable fees in other jurisdictions;

(11) any polices or trends that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

(12) any other relevant considerations for setting the fee amount.

(b) Reports.

(1) The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide guidance as necessary to the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section on the methodology to be used for compiling the information requested in the fee reports. On or before October 15, 2025, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a draft report of the information required in subdivisions (a)(1)–(12) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office for review. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices shall work with the Joint Fiscal Office to finalize the report before submitting the final report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) On or before December 15, 2025, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) shall submit a jointly prepared final report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

(3) If any of the information requested in this section cannot be provided for any reason, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) shall include in both the draft and final reports a written explanation for why the information cannot be provided.

(c) As used in this section, as it pertains to Executive Branch agencies, departments, boards, and offices, “fee” means any source of State revenue classified by the Department of Finance and Management Accounting System as “fees,” “business licenses,” “nonbusiness licenses,” and “fines and penalties.”

(d) Executive Branch fee report moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal year 2026, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated Executive Branch fee annual report and request to the General Assembly.

Sec. E.131 3 V.S.A. chapter 18 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 18. ~~VT~~ VERMONT SAVES

§ 531. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) “Covered employer” means a person, entity, or subsidiary engaged in a business, industry, profession, trade, or other enterprise in the State, whether for profit or not for profit, that ~~has~~ does not ~~offer~~ currently offer to an employee, or is within a control group that maintains or contributes to, ~~effective in form or operation at any time within the current calendar year or two preceding calendar years,~~ a specified tax-favored retirement plan. If an employer does not maintain a specified tax-favored retirement plan for a portion of a calendar year ending on or after the effective date of this chapter but does adopt such a plan for the remainder of that calendar year, the employer is not a covered employer for the remainder of the year. A covered employer does not include:

(A) the federal government, the State or any other state, any county or municipal corporation, or any of the State’s or any other state’s units or instrumentalities;

(B) any employer that has ~~not~~ only been in business during ~~both the current calendar year and the preceding calendar year.~~

(4) “ERISA” means the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C § 1001 et seq.

(5) “Internal Revenue Code” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(6) “IRA” means a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA.

(7) “Participant” means an individual who has an IRA under the Program.

(8) “Payroll deduction IRA or payroll deduction IRA arrangement” means an arrangement by which an employer allows employees to contribute to an IRA by means of payroll deduction.

(9) “Program” means the ~~VT~~ Vermont Saves Program established in accordance with this chapter.

* * *

§ 532. ~~VT~~ VERMONT SAVES PROGRAM; ESTABLISHMENT

(a) Establishment; purpose. There is established the ~~VT~~ Vermont Saves Program (Program), administered by the Office of the State Treasurer, for the purpose of increasing financial security for Vermonters by providing access to an IRA for Vermont employees of companies that do not currently offer a retirement savings program. The Program shall be designed to facilitate

portability of benefits through withdrawals, rollovers, and direct transfers from an IRA and achieve economies of scale and other efficiencies to minimize costs. The Program shall:

* * *

(b) Type of IRA. The type of IRA to which contributions are made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be a Roth IRA; provided, however, the State Treasurer is authorized to add an option for all participants to:

(1) affirmatively elect to contribute to a traditional IRA instead of a Roth IRA; or

(2) open both a Roth IRA and a traditional IRA.

(c) Contributions.

(1) Unless otherwise specified by the covered employee, a covered employee shall automatically initially contribute five percent of the covered employee's salary or wages to the Program. A covered employee may elect to opt out of the Program at any time or contribute at any higher or lower rate, expressed as a percentage of salary or wages, or, as permitted by the State Treasurer, expressed as a flat dollar amount, subject in all cases to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code at no additional charge.

(2) The State Treasurer shall provide for, on a uniform basis, an annual increase of each active participant's contribution rate, by not less than one percent, but not more than eight percent, of salary or wages each year. Any such increases shall apply to active participants, including participants by default with an option to opt out or participants who are initiated by affirmative participant election, provided that any increase is subject to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code.

* * *

Sec. E.131.1 29 V.S.A. chapter 61 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 61. MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE LOAN FUND

§ 1601. MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE LOAN FUND

(a) There is hereby created the Municipal Equipment and Vehicle Loan Fund for the purpose of providing loans on favorable terms to municipalities for the purchase of ~~construction, fire, emergency, or heavy equipment or~~

motorized highway building and maintenance equipment, heavy equipment, and authorized emergency vehicles as set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

(b) The Municipal Equipment and Vehicle Loan Fund shall be administered by a committee composed of the State Treasurer and the State Traffic Committee established by 19 V.S.A. § 1(24), pursuant to policies and procedures approved by the Traffic ~~this~~ Committee ~~established by 19 V.S.A. § 1(24) with administrative support from the Office of the State Treasurer.~~ The Committee shall establish criteria for distribution of available loan funds among municipalities considering at least financial need, equitable geographic distribution, and ability to repay. The Fund shall be a revolving fund and all principal and interest earned on loans and the fund balance remaining in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall ~~not revert but be carried over in the Fund~~ available for use in the succeeding fiscal year. The Committee shall meet upon request of the State Treasurer to consider applications.

§ 1602. APPLICATION; LOANS; CONDITIONS

(a) Application forms shall be furnished by the Committee on request. Upon Committee approval of an application of a municipality or two or more municipalities applying jointly for purchases as set forth in subsection 1601(a) of this title, the State Treasurer may loan money from the Fund to ~~that municipality or municipalities for the purchase of equipment. Purchases of equipment eligible for loans the applicants.~~ Loans from the Fund shall have be used on equipment and vehicles with a useful life of at least five years and a purchase price of at least \$20,000.00 ~~but shall not be eligible for loans in excess of \$150,000.00 from this Fund.~~

(b) The State Treasurer is authorized to establish terms and conditions, including repayment schedules of up to five years for loans from the Fund to ensure repayment of loans to the Fund. The amount of any loan shall be not more than 75 percent of the purchase price or \$150,000, whichever is lower. Before a municipality may receive a loan from the Fund, it shall give to the State Treasurer security for the repayment of the funds. The security shall be in such form and amount as the State Treasurer may determine and may include a lien on the equipment or emergency vehicle financed by the loan.

(c) The rates of interest shall be as established by this section to assist municipalities in purchasing equipment upon terms more favorable than in the commercial market. Such rates shall be not more than two percent per annum for a loan to a single municipality, and loans shall bear no interest charge if made to two or more municipalities purchasing equipment jointly.

(d) In any fiscal year, new loans from the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund shall not exceed an aggregate of \$1,500,000.00. ~~The Treasurer shall put forth~~

~~recommendations to the General Assembly on maximum loan amount every five years, commencing January 15, 2028, based on requests received and loans granted pursuant to this chapter.~~

(e) When a municipality suffers the destruction of more than one piece of equipment or a vehicle at or near the same time or suffers some unanticipated hardship relating to the equipment or vehicle and the Committee finds that replacement would place an undue financial hardship on the municipality, the Committee may waive one or both of the following loan limiting factors in subsection (b) of this section:

- (1) the \$150,000 annual limitation on each municipality; or
- (2) the 75 percent of the purchase price limitation.

(f) The State Treasurer shall put forth recommendations to the General Assembly on the maximum individual loan amount from the Fund every five years, commencing on January 15, 2028, based on requests received and loans granted pursuant to this chapter in the five preceding years.

* * *

Sec. E.131.2 32 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

§ 1001. CAPITAL DEBT AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) Committee estimate of a prudent amount of net State tax-supported debt; affordability considerations. On or before September 30 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly the Committee's estimate of net State tax-supported debt that prudently may be authorized for the next fiscal year, together with a report explaining the basis for the estimate. The Committee's estimate shall not take into consideration the balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the subaccounts of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments, established pursuant to section 1001b of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In developing its annual estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the Committee shall consider:

* * *

(4) The criteria that recognized bond rating agencies use to judge the quality of issues of State bonds, including:

(A) existing and projected total debt service on net tax-supported debt as a percentage of combined General and Transportation Fund revenues,

excluding surpluses in these revenues that may occur in an individual fiscal year; and

(B) existing and projected total net tax-supported debt outstanding as a percentage of total State personal income;

(C) existing and projected pension and other postemployment benefit liability metrics; and

(D) other metrics at the Committee's discretion, including long-term liabilities not covered in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (4).

(5) The principal amounts currently outstanding, and balances for the next fiscal year, and annually for the following nine fiscal years, of existing:

(A) obligations of instrumentalities of the State for which the State has a contingent or limited liability;

(B) any other long-term debt of instrumentalities of the State not secured by the full faith and credit of the State, or for which the General Assembly is permitted to replenish reserve funds; and

(C) to the maximum extent obtainable, all long-term debt of municipal governments in Vermont that is secured by general tax or user fee revenues.

(6) The impact of capital spending upon the economic conditions and outlook for the State.

(7) The cost-benefit of various levels of debt financing, types of debt, and maturity schedules.

(8) Any projections of capital needs authorized or prepared by the Agency of Transportation, the Joint Fiscal Office, or other agencies or departments.

(9) Any other factor that is relevant to:

(A) the ability of the State to meet its projected debt service requirements for the next five fiscal years; or

(B) the interest rate to be borne by the credit rating on, or other factors affecting the marketability of State bonds.

(10) The effect of authorizations of new State debt on each of the considerations of this section.

(11) The capital asset depreciation ratio reflecting unfunded capital maintenance costs.

* * *

Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;
OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the \$3,339,343 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$2,247,471 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and \$1,091,872 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT
COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the \$1,921,020 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,494,924 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and \$426,096 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.134.1 3 V.S.A. § 525 is added to read:

§ 525. VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; MARKET
FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The Department of Human Resources shall conduct and implement a market factor analysis for all classified positions within the Vermont Pension Investment Commission not later than January 15, 2026, and every three years thereafter. The market factor analysis may:

(1) follow all policies and procedures established by the Department of Human Resources for conducting market factor analyses;

(2) compare total compensation for comparable positions in relevant public labor markets, with particular attention to other public pension investment organizations of similar asset size and investment complexity;

(3) consider the specialized skills, education, certifications, and experience required for investment-related positions;

(4) evaluate recruitment and retention challenges specific to these positions;

(5) recommend appropriate market factor adjustments when warranted by the analysis; and

(6) include an assessment of the fiscal impact of any recommended market factor adjustments.

Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act, \$9,000 shall be transferred to the Attorney General and \$70,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review and used with any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list appeals regarding the reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other expenses incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in Vermont.

Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

(a) This appropriation is for State payments in lieu of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4, and the payments shall be calculated in addition to and without regard to the appropriations for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act. Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.142.1 32 V.S.A. § 3709 is amended to read:

§ 3709. PILOT SPECIAL FUND

(a) There is hereby established a PILOT Special Fund consisting of local option tax revenues paid to the State Treasurer pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. This Fund shall be managed by the Commissioner of Taxes pursuant to chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title. Notwithstanding subdivision 588(3) of this title, all interest earned on the Fund shall be retained in the Fund for use in meeting future obligations. The Fund shall be exclusively for payments required under chapter 123, ~~subchapter~~ subchapters 4 and 4C of this title, and for any additional State payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities ~~and to the City of Montpelier~~. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts.

* * *

Sec. E.142.2 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4C is added to read:

Subchapter 4C. Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program

§ 3710. MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST STABILIZATION PROGRAM

(a) There is established the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program within the Department of Taxes to reimburse municipalities for municipal property taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title for flood-prone properties acquired by a municipality through a voluntary buyout program operated by the Division of Emergency Management.

(b) On or before September 1 of each year, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall certify to the Commissioner of Taxes the properties eligible for the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program and shall submit any other information required by the Commissioner of Taxes. To be eligible for the Program under this subchapter, a municipality must have acquired an eligible property on or after July 1, 2023 and preserved the property as open space with a deed restriction or covenant prohibiting development of the property. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall first certify properties to the Commissioner of Taxes pursuant to this subsection on or before September 1, 2025.

(c) Upon notification by the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Commissioner of Taxes shall certify the payment amounts and make an annual payment to each municipality for each eligible property to compensate for the loss of municipal property tax. The payment shall be calculated using the grand list value of the acquired property for the year during which the property was either damaged by flooding or identified as flood-prone by the Commissioner of Public Safety, multiplied by the municipal tax rate, including any submunicipal tax rates, in effect each year. This payment shall be made on or before January 1 of each year for five years.

(d) A property shall not be eligible for reimbursement payments for more than 10 years. The Commissioner shall make an annual payment for the full amount calculated under subsection (c) of this section for five years. After a municipality has received payments for an eligible property for five consecutive years, the Commissioner shall make an annual payment to the municipality for any subsequent year of eligibility in an amount equal to one-half of the amount calculated under subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Payment under this section shall be calculated and issued from the PILOT Special Fund under section 3709 of this title only after all other grants under subchapter 4 of this chapter are calculated and issued. If the PILOT Special Fund balance is insufficient to pay the full amount of all payments authorized under this subchapter, then payments calculated under this section and due to each municipality for each property shall be reduced proportionately.

Sec. E.144 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

(a) Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit activities.

(b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b)(4), \$1,802,200 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

Sec. E.200.1 9 V.S.A. § 2473 is amended to read:

§ 2473. NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

* * *

(f)(1) For each calendar year in which a paid fundraiser solicits in this State on behalf of a charitable organization, the paid fundraiser shall pay a registration fee of ~~\$500.00~~ \$675.00 to the Attorney General ~~no~~ not later than ~~ten~~ 10 days prior to its first solicitation in this State.

(2) Each notice of solicitation filed in accordance with this section shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$200.00~~ \$270.00. In the case of a campaign lasting more than 12 months, an additional ~~\$200.00~~ \$270.00 fee shall be paid annually on or before the date of the anniversary of the commencement of the campaign.

(3) Fees paid under this subsection shall be deposited in a special fund managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, and shall be available to the Attorney General for the costs of administering sections 2471–2479 of this title.

Sec. E.200.2 18 V.S.A. § 4632 is amended to read:

§ 4632. DISCLOSURE OF ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES AND GIFTS
BY MANUFACTURERS OF PRESCRIBED PRODUCTS

* * *

(b)(1) Annually on or before April 1, the Office of the Attorney General shall collect a ~~\$500.00~~ \$765.00 fee from each manufacturer of prescribed products filing annual disclosures of expenditures greater than zero described in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Fees collected under this section shall fund collection and analysis of information on activities related to the marketing of prescribed products under

section 4631a of this title and under this section. The fees shall be collected in a special fund assigned to the Office.

* * *

Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Sheriff.

Sec. E.208.1 PUBLIC SAFETY; CAPITAL PLAN

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Public Safety shall submit a capital plan for the replacement of firearms and mobile and portable radio equipment to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Sec. E.208.2 VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont's seven active community radio stations currently serve over 200,000 Vermonters, many in rural and underserved areas.

(2) Community radio stations have consistently provided critical information during emergencies, including Tropical Storm Irene, recent severe flooding, and other natural disasters.

(3) These stations operate with small budgets, primarily relying on volunteer staff and listener donations, and are ineligible for federal funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting due to their size.

(4) Upcoming FCC-approved stations in Bristol, Richmond-Underhill-Jericho, and Ludlow will expand coverage to nearly all Vermont counties, increasing statewide accessibility to vital community radio services.

(5) Investment in these stations strengthens Vermont's public safety network and promotes civic engagement by providing local, hyper-focused content that commercial and statewide media cannot replicate.

(b) Intent. The intent of this section is to ensure Vermont's community radio stations remain resilient and prepared to serve as lifelines during emergencies while fostering local engagement and preserving Vermont's unique community fabric.

(c) Grant program.

(1) The Vermont Community Radio Grant Program is established to provide one-time funding to community radio stations for the purpose of:

(A) upgrading equipment and infrastructure necessary for reliable emergency broadcasting;

(B) procuring and installing backup generators; and

(C) enhancing operational sustainability through software improvements and technical training.

(2) The Program shall be administered by the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee in collaboration with the Vermont Association of Broadcasters.

(3) Grants shall be allocated as follows:

(A) up to \$25,000 per station for seven active community radio stations; and

(B) up to \$10,000 per station for three upcoming stations currently under construction.

(4) To be eligible for a grant under the Program, an applicant shall:

(A) be a nonprofit, noncommercial community radio station licensed in Vermont;

(B) demonstrate a history of providing emergency broadcasting services or show the capacity to provide those services upon funding; and

(C) submit a detailed implementation plan for the proposed use of grant funding.

(d) Report. On or before June 30, 2026, a community radio station that receives a grant under the Program shall provide to the Commissioner of Public Safety a report detailing the:

(1) use of grant funds, including itemized expenses;

(2) improvements achieved in emergency readiness and operational capacity; and

(3) impact on community service and engagement.

Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY; STATE POLICE

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209, \$35,000 shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue Team, which is composed of the State Police, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, county

sheriffs, and local law enforcement personnel in Bennington, Windham, and Windsor Counties, for snowmobile enforcement.

(b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$405,000 is allocated for grants in support of the Drug Task Force. Of this amount, \$190,000 shall be used by the Vermont Drug Task Force to fund three town task force officers. These town task force officers shall be dedicated to enforcement efforts with respect to both regulated drugs as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4201(29) and the diversion of legal prescription drugs. Any unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to fund the work of the Drug Task Force or be carried forward.

(c) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$2,100,000 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles.

Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY; FIRE SAFETY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.212 of this act, \$55,000 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the purpose of designing dry hydrants.

Sec. E.215 MILITARY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The amount of \$1,219,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

Sec. E.219 MILITARY; VETERANS' AFFAIRS

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, \$1,000 shall be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; \$2,000 shall be used for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council; \$7,500 shall be used for the Veterans' Day parade; and \$10,000 shall be granted to the American Legion for the Boys' State and Girls' State programs.

Sec. E.221 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL; POOL POSITION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.221 of this act, \$115,000 is to fund one permanent classified position taken from the position pool. The position shall be used to establish a Canine Head Trainer at the Criminal Justice Council.

Sec. E.232 SECRETARY OF STATE; VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK BUDGET

(a) The Secretary of State shall grant the \$1,350,000 General Fund appropriation, provided in Section B.232 of this act, to the Vermont Access Network to maintain current operations and programming.

Sec. E.232.1 SECRETARY OF STATE; LOCAL CIVIC JOURNALISM
AWARDS

(a) As part of its civic engagement and education activities, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, in collaboration with the University of Vermont Center for Community News, make cash awards to local civic journalism organizations or businesses with funds appropriated to it in Sec. B.1100(aa)(1) of this act. The Office of the Secretary of State shall, in collaboration with the University of Vermont Center for Community News, establish award criteria and assemble a panel of three to five journalists, academics, and industry veterans who neither work for eligible organizations nor are eligible to receive awards themselves to determine award recipients. Awards shall be made in amounts between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

Sec. E.236 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POOL POSITION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.236 of this act, \$250,000 is to fund two permanent exempt positions taken from the position pool. The positions shall be used to establish an Intake Specialist and a Staff Attorney Investigator at the Human Rights Commission.

Sec. E.236.1 LIQUOR AND LOTTERY; APPROPRIATION; BUSINESS
-TO-BUSINESS WEBSITE

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.236.1 of this act, \$1,820,000 Enterprise Fund shall be used for the business-to-business website design and implementation to improve the ordering and payment for on-premise licensees.

Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE
ADVOCATE, VERMONT LEGAL AID

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

(1) \$2,000,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the Health Care Advocate;

(2) \$1,717,994 for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty Law Project and mental health services; and

(3) \$650,000 is for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

Sec. E.300.1 REPORT; RESIDENTIAL BEDS FOR YOUTH

(a) As part of their fiscal year 2027 budget presentations to the General Assembly, the Agency of Human Services and departments within the Agency of Human Services shall provide coordinated information regarding:

(1) the basis for the projected number of beds per facility to create 41 new beds for youth in high-end facilities under the Departments for Children and Families, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for inpatient, psychiatric residential, stabilization, and treatment services, including projected reductions in out-of-state placements;

(2) the status of capacity at lower level residential and crisis facilities and their capabilities in preventing higher level needs if investments would enable full capacity use; and

(3) a projected five-year operating budget across the Agency and departments for full utilization of the new high-end system components as currently planned, including:

(A) costs to the Department of Vermont Health Access' budget; and

(B) how these costs will impact the overall budgets for lower-level, community-based, prevention, and other services needed to prevent escalation to higher levels of care.

Sec. E.300.2 SETTLEMENT FUNDS; PRIMARY CARE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPORT

(a) The Green Mountain Care Board shall report to the House Committee on Health Care; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of the determination on the distribution of the \$11,000,000 from the University of Vermont Medical Center to non-hospital primary care providers pursuant to the Settlement Agreement entered into by the University of Vermont Medical Center, Inc., University of Vermont Health Network, Inc., and the Green Mountain Care Board in April 2025.

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

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act for payment required under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment for Health Waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of \$27,887,533 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds as follows:

(1) \$24,714,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$35,286,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of \$60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established by 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(2) \$3,173,533 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

(c) Up to \$4,997,210 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act.

Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER; REPORT

(a) To facilitate fiscal year 2026 closeout, the Secretary of Human Services, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, may make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section. A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2026 meeting. The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the Global Commitment section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.2, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.300.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
(HCBS) PLAN

* * *

(f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this section obligated in fiscal years 2023, 2024, ~~and 2025,~~ and 2026 for the purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal year ~~years 2024, and fiscal year 2025, and 2026,~~ years 2024, and fiscal year 2025, and 2026, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in fiscal years 2023, 2024, ~~and 2025,~~ and 2026 in the same manner as the Global Commitment appropriations in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in September 2023, September 2024, ~~and September 2025,~~ and September 2026, respectively, on transfers of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in fiscal years 2023, 2024, ~~and 2025,~~ and 2026, respectively, and any obligated funds carried forward to be expended in fiscal year ~~years 2024, and fiscal year 2025, and 2026,~~ years 2024, and fiscal year 2025, and 2026, respectively.

Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT FUND; HOSPITAL DIRECTED
PAYMENT PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Human Services may seek a State Directed Payment model with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This payment model will be for a Hospital Directed Payment program. Upon approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency of Human Services' Department of Vermont Health Access, the University of Vermont, and the University of Vermont Medical Center may enter into a mutual agreement on the implementation of the Hospital Directed Payment program.

(b) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves a Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program within the State's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in fiscal year 2026 while the General Assembly is not in session, then, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may approve the Agency of Human Services' allocation and expenditure of excess receipts for Global Commitment Fund spending up to the amount approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program.

(c) In fiscal year 2026, the Agency of Human Services may, to the extent permitted under federal law, reasonably manage the timing of federal fiscal year 2026 Disproportionate Share Hospital payments to hospitals due to the impact the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program payments received in

fiscal year 2026 may have on hospitals' eligibility for Disproportionate Share Hospital payments.

(d) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the status of the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program, the expenditure of excess receipts, and the status of the program's potential impacts on Disproportionate Share Hospital payments at the September and November 2025 meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.306 NURSING HOMES; SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES;
EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL RELIEF

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access' Division of Rate Setting shall submit a report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare containing proactive measures and targeted interventions that may be used to reduce the use and amount of future extraordinary financial relief for nursing homes.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Departments of Vermont Health Access and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall present to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on the following:

(1) the number and name of all nursing homes in the State, including:

(A) whether a nursing home is a for-profit or nonprofit organization and the owner's contact information;

(B) the payer mix of each nursing home;

(C) the ratio of employees versus contracted traveler positions at each nursing home and the specific job titles of the contracted traveler positions; and

(D) the average length of patient stay at each nursing home;

(2) the number of skilled nursing facilities seeking extraordinary financial relief in fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025; and

(3) the number of skilled nursing facilities receiving extraordinary financial relief in fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025, including:

(A) the name of each skilled nursing facility;

(B) whether a skilled nursing facility receiving extraordinary financial relief is a for-profit or nonprofit organization;

(C) the amount of extraordinary financial relief received by each skilled nursing facility;

(D) the reason extraordinary financial relief was sought by each skilled nursing facility; and

(E) the reason extraordinary financial relief was awarded to each skilled nursing facility.

Sec. E.306.1 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.306.4 is amended to read:

Sec. E.306.4 MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS; INCOME
ELIGIBILITY

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall make the following changes to the Medicare Savings Programs:

(1) increase the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program income threshold to ~~145~~ 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

(2) increase the Qualifying Individual Program income threshold to the maximum percent of the federal poverty level allowed under federal law based on the increase to the income threshold for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. E.306.2 OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE VERMONT HEALTH
BENEFIT EXCHANGE

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall maintain open enrollment for the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange from November 1, 2025 through January 15, 2026. The Department of Vermont Health Access and registered carriers shall allow a period of one calendar month beyond the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' deadline of December 15, 2025 for 2026 plan selection in order to encourage enrollment and to allow enrollees to make plan selection changes.

Sec. E.306.3 33 V.S.A. § 1811 is amended to read:

§ 1811. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL
EMPLOYERS

* * *

(1)(1) A registered carrier shall allow for the enrollment of a pregnant individual, and of any individual who is eligible for coverage under the terms of the health benefit plan because of a relationship to the pregnant individual, at any time after the commencement of the pregnancy. Coverage shall be

effective as of the first of the month following the individual's selection of a health benefit plan.

(2) A registered carrier shall allow an individual who is eligible for advance payments of federal premium tax credits under 26 U.S.C. § 36B and whose household income for the year is expected to be not greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and any individual who is eligible for coverage because of a relationship to that individual, to enroll in a health benefit plan through the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange at any time during the plan year.

Sec. E.306.4 SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES GRANTS; REPORT

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the grants to skilled nursing facilities funded through the appropriation made in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1102(b)(11). The Department shall include in its report information on the following:

(1) facilities to which grants were distributed;

(2) amounts of each grant distributed; and

(3) any available information on direct impacts of grants, including reduction of reliance on travel nurses and workforce retention and expansion.

(b) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall, to the extent the information in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection is available, report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the grants to skilled nursing facilities funded through the appropriation made in Sec. B.1100(u)(2) of this act. The Department shall include in its report information on the following:

(1) facilities to which grants were distributed;

(2) amounts of each grant distributed; and

(3) any available information on direct impacts of grants, including reduction of reliance on travel nurses and workforce retention and expansion.

Sec. E.306.5 TEACHING HEALTH CENTER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to obtain federal matching funds for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine

Residency Program, a new Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program that will increase the number of family medicine residents practicing in rural regions of Vermont. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate funds in future fiscal years, with additional federal matching funds if available, to allow for full implementation of the Program.

(b) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not approve the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Agency shall evaluate potential opportunities to obtain federal matching funds in future fiscal years to provide greater support to the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program during its implementation stage, including matching State dollars as a Global Commitment investment, as a graduate medical education expenditure, or through another mechanism.

(c) The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting on whether the Agency was successful in receiving approval for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and, if not, its findings and recommendations regarding future federal matching fund opportunities pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. E.307 33 V.S.A. § 1902 is amended to read:

§ 1902. QUALIFICATION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

* * *

(b) Workers with disabilities whose income is less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for Medicaid. The income also must not exceed the Medicaid protected income level for one or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment level for two, whichever is higher, after disregarding the earnings of the working individual with disabilities; Social Security disability insurance benefits, including Social Security retirement benefits converted automatically from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), if applicable; any veteran's disability benefits; and, if the working individual with disabilities is married, all income of the spouse. ~~Earnings of the working individual with disabilities shall be documented by evidence of Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax payments, Self-Employment Contributions Act tax payments, or a written business plan approved and supported by a third-party investor or funding source.~~ The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules governing documentation of earnings of working individuals with disabilities. The resource limit for this program shall be \$10,000.00 for an individual and \$15,000.00 for a couple at the time of

enrollment in the program. Assets attributable to earnings made after enrollment in the program shall be disregarded.

Sec. E.307.1 MEDICAID AND EXCHANGE; EMERGENCY
RULEMAKING

(a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt or amend rules regarding Vermont's Medicaid program and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to respond to changes in State and federal law. The Agency may use the emergency rules process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844, but only in the event that the new State or federal law requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

Sec. E.311 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 109, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. ~~SUNSET OF STATE YOUTH COUNCIL~~

~~3 V.S.A. § 3097 (State Youth Council) is repealed on February 1, 2026. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2026 and as provided in this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory Group with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to a Request for Proposal process.

(2) In fiscal year 2026, and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$295,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: \$140,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: \$100,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: \$55,000.

(3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont Medication Assistance Program shall be distributed in accordance with federal

guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or services funded solely by State General Fund.

(A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in Vermont Medication Assistance Program to assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to Vermont Medication Assistance Program medications until such time as the General Assembly can take action.

(B) As provided in this section, the Secretary of Human Services shall work in collaboration with the Vermont Medication Assistance Program Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less than 50 percent of members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification to the program's eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the Committee shall make recommendations regarding the program's formulary of approved medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and eligibility for the program.

(4) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$400,000 General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services not later than September 1, 2025. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

(5) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Health shall not reduce any grants to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels below those in fiscal year 2025 without receiving prior approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.312.1 3 V.S.A. § 5003 is amended to read:

§ 5003. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY

(a) The Executive Director of Racial Equity (Director) shall work with the agencies and departments to implement a program of continuing coordination and improvement of activities in State government in order to combat systemic racial disparities and measure progress toward fair and impartial governance, including:

(1) overseeing a comprehensive organizational review to identify systemic racism in each of the three branches of State government and inventory systems in place that engender racial disparities;

(2) managing and overseeing the statewide collection of race-based data to determine the nature and scope of racial discrimination within all systems of State government; and

(3) developing a model fairness and diversity policy and reviewing and making recommendations regarding the fairness and diversity policies held by all State government systems; and

~~(4) temporarily overseeing the establishment of the Health Equity Advisory Commission established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252 until the Office of Health Equity is established.~~

* * *

Sec. E.312.2 18 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

§ 252. HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

* * *

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Commission shall:

(1) provide ~~guidance~~ advice to the Department of Health and the General Assembly on the continued development of the Office of Health Equity, ~~which shall be established based on the Advisory Commission's recommendations not later than January 1, 2023,~~ including on:

(A) the structure, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Office;

(B) ~~whether the Office shall be independent and, if not, in which State agency or department it shall be situated;~~

(C) how the Office shall be staffed;

~~(D)~~(C) the populations served and specific issues addressed by the Office; and

~~(E)~~(D) the duties of the Office, including how grant funds shall be managed and distributed; and

~~(F) the time frame and necessary steps to establish the Office;~~

(2) provide advice and make recommendations to the Office of Health Equity, Department of Health, and General Assembly once established, including input on:

(A) any rules or policies proposed by the Office of Health Equity or Department of Health;

(B) the awarding of grants and the development of programs and services;

(C) the needs, priorities, programs, and policies relating to the health of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities; and

(D) any other issue on which the Office of Health Equity, Department of Health, or General Assembly requests assistance from the Advisory Commission;

(3) review, monitor, and advise all State agencies regarding the impact of current and emerging State policies, procedures, practices, laws, and rules on the health of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities;

(4) identify and examine the limitations and problems associated with existing laws, rules, programs, and services related to the health status of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities;

(5) advise the Department of Health and the General Assembly on any funding decisions relating to eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity, including the distribution of federal monies related to COVID-19;

(6) to the extent funds are available for the purpose, distribute grants that stimulate the development of community-based and neighborhood-based projects that will improve the health outcomes of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities; and

(7) advise the General Assembly on efforts to improve cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in the health care system through training and continuing education requirements for health care providers and other clinical professionals.

(d) Assistance. The Advisory Commission shall have the administrative, legal, and technical assistance of the ~~Agency of Administration at the request of the Executive Director of Racial Equity~~ Department of Health.

* * *

(f) Meetings.

(1) ~~The Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Commission to occur on or before September 1, 2021.~~

(2) The Advisory Commission shall select a chair and vice chair at its first meeting and annually thereafter.

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

(4)(3) All meetings of the Advisory Commission and any subcommittees of the Advisory Commission shall be open to the public with opportunities for public comment provided on a regular basis.

* * *

(h) Compensation and reimbursement. Appointed members of the Advisory Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings ~~as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Commission within the appropriation provided.~~ These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the ~~Agency of Administration~~ Department of Health.

Sec. E.312.3 18 V.S.A. § 254 is added to read:

§ 254. OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

(a) There is established the Office of Health Equity within the Department of Health for the purpose of eliminating avoidable and unjust disparities in health among Vermonters. The Office shall use a systemic and comprehensive approach that addresses those social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health outcomes.

(b) The Office of Health Equity shall be managed by an Executive Director, an individual who shall be qualified by reason of education, expertise, and experience and who may have a professional degree in public health, social or environmental justice, or a related field. The Executive Director shall report to the Commissioner of Health, serve on a full-time basis, and be exempt from classified service.

Sec. E.312.4 SMOKING CESSATION GRANT REQUIREMENTS;
REPORT

(a) Prior to providing the grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network from the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(g)(6) of this act, the Department of Health shall require that information on the use of the funds be provided by grantees in an agreed-upon time frame, including the specific activities supported by the funds, a description of the number of individuals served, and information on the anticipated outcomes of this investment. On or before January 15, 2026, the Department shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with this information and information on the outcomes achieved by previous

investments, including the number of pregnant smokers who quit smoking as a result of cessation initiatives and the number of families who reported reducing tobacco usage and secondhand smoke around infants and children. Previous investments made for cessation initiatives include those made in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.110(a)(1) and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100(n)(4).

Sec. E.313 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is added to read:

§ 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund is established and managed by the Vermont Department of Health in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

(b) Thirty percent of the revenues raised by the cannabis excise tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902, not to exceed \$10,000,000 per fiscal year, shall be deposited into this fund for substance misuse prevention costs.

(c) Any unencumbered and unexpended spending authority reverted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 703 may be immediately re-established the following fiscal year in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 511.

(d) Notwithstanding any provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 to the contrary, all interest earned by this fund shall be retained by this fund.

Sec. E.313.1 SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION FUNDING; REPEAL

(a) 32 V.S.A. § 7909 (substance misuse prevention funding) is repealed.

Sec. E.313.2 PREVENTION EXPENDITURES; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Health shall, in consultation with other departments of the Agency of Human Services, provide a report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with information on total or estimated expenditures made by the State on substance use prevention efforts in fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

(1) The report shall include information on the following:

(A) all State and federal funds, including special funds, and monies that have been appropriated or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts;

(B) the total amounts appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts;

(C) the recipients of appropriations made from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts or the beneficiaries of grants or subgrants and how these monies have been used by expenditure category;

(D) the amount of monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts that have been obligated;

(E) the amount of monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts that remain unencumbered or unexpended; and

(F) the extent to which monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts are subject to reversion or any federal obligation deadlines.

Sec. E.313.3 REPEAL

(a) 2022 Acts and Resolves No.185, Sec. E.240.6 is repealed.

Sec. E.316 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.316 is amended to read:

Sec. E.316 STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

(a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall assemble a stakeholder working group to provide regular input on the planning, design, development, and implementation of the temporary stabilization facility for youth and on the development of a long-term plan for the high-end system of care.

* * *

(f) The stakeholder working group shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025
2027.

Sec. E.316.1 33 V.S.A. § 125 is added to read:

§ 125. BUDGETARY INFLATION; DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Annually, as part of its budget presentation, the Department shall inform the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare the cost of adding a one percent increase over the previous fiscal year's funding for community-contracted direct service providers.

Sec. E.316.2 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2026, the Commissioner for Children and Families and the Chief Superior Judge shall jointly submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary containing a proposal for funding supervised visitation programs. The proposal shall address and recommend sustainable funding for statewide coordination, equitable funding among supervised visitation locations, and access for residents of counties that do not currently provide supervised visitation services. The Commissioner and Chief Superior Judge shall consult the Center for Crime Victim Services, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and supervised visitation providers in the preparation of the report.

Sec. E.317 33 V.S.A. § 4922 is amended to read:

§ 4922. RULEMAKING

(a) On or before ~~September 1, 2025~~ April 1, 2026, the Commissioner shall file proposed rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 implementing the provisions of this subchapter to become effective on ~~April~~ September 1, 2026. These shall include:

- (1) rules setting forth criteria for determining whether to conduct an assessment or an investigation;
- (2) rules setting out procedures for assessment and service delivery;
- (3) rules outlining procedures for investigations;
- (4) rules for conducting the administrative review conference;
- (5) rules regarding access to and maintenance of Department records of investigations, assessments, reviews, and responses;
- (6) rules regarding the tiered Registry as required by section 4916 of this title;
- (7) rules requiring notice and appeal procedures for alternatives to substantiation; and
- (8) rules implementing subsections 4916(c) and (e) of this title.

(b) The rules shall strike an appropriate balance between protecting children and respecting the rights of a parent or guardian, including a parent or guardian with disabilities, and shall recognize that persons with a disability can be successful parents. The rules shall include the possible use of adaptive equipment and supports.

~~(c) These rules shall be adopted no later than July 1, 2009.~~

Sec. E.318 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~~ utilize up to one-half of one percent of ~~the child care family assistance program~~ funds appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in a fiscal year for extraordinary financial relief to assist child care programs that are at risk of closing or not opening 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 affected 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.

* * *

Sec. E.318.1 CHILD CARE FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 reduction of the General Fund appropriation to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in Sec. B.318 of this act shall not occur in future fiscal years and that, in future fiscal years, the appropriation from the General Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program shall be not less than the appropriation from the General Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113 as passed by the General Assembly.

Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY HOUSING

(a) To the extent emergency housing is available and within the funds appropriated, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall ensure that General Assistance Emergency Housing is provided in fiscal year 2026 to households that attest to lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and have a member who:

(1) is 65 years of age or older;

(2) has a disability that can be documented by:

(A) receipt of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance; or

(B) a form developed by the Department as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition that requires:

(i) the applicant's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number or other identifying number;

(ii) a description of the applicant's disability or health condition;

(iii) a description of the risk posed to the applicant's health, safety, or welfare if temporary emergency housing is not authorized pursuant to this section; and

(iv) a certification of a health care provider, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481, that includes the provider's credentials, credential number, address, and phone number;

(3) is a child 19 years of age or under;

(4) is pregnant;

(5) has experienced the death of a spouse, domestic partner, or minor child that caused the household to lose its housing;

(6) has experienced a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, or hurricane;

(7) is under a court-ordered eviction or constructive eviction due to circumstances over which the household has no control; or

(8) is experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a household member that caused the household to lose its housing.

(b)(1) General Assistance Emergency Housing shall be provided in a community-based shelter whenever possible. If there is inadequate community-based shelter space available within the Agency of Human

Services district in which the household presents itself, the household shall be provided emergency housing in a hotel or motel within the district, if available, until adequate community-based shelter space becomes available in the district. The utilization of hotel and motel rooms pursuant to this subdivision shall be capped at 1,100 rooms per night between July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025 and between April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

(2) The maximum number of days that an eligible household receives emergency housing in a hotel or motel under this section, per 12-month period, shall not exceed 80 days.

(3) The Department shall provide emergency winter housing to households meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection (a) of this section between December 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. Emergency housing in a hotel or motel provided pursuant to this subdivision shall not count toward the maximum days of eligibility per 12-month period provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(4)(A) Notwithstanding any rule or law to the contrary, the Department shall require all households applying for or receiving General Assistance Emergency Housing to engage in their own search for and accept any available alternative housing placements. All applicants and eligible households shall regularly provide information to the Department, not less frequently than monthly, about their efforts to secure an alternative housing placement. If the Department determines that a household, at the time of application or during the term of the household's authorization, has not made efforts to secure an alternative housing placement, or has access to an alternative housing placement, the Department shall deny the application or terminate the authorization at the end of the current authorization period.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision (4), "alternative housing placements" may include shelter beds and pods; placements with family or friends; permanent housing solutions, including tiny homes, manufactured homes, and apartments; residential treatment beds for physical health, long-term care, substance use, or mental health; nursing home beds; and recovery homes.

(c) Emergency housing provided pursuant to this section shall replace the catastrophic and noncatastrophic categories previously adopted by the Department in rule.

(d) Emergency housing required pursuant to this section may be provided through approved community-based shelters, new unit generation, open units, licensed hotels or motels, or other appropriate shelter space. The Department

shall, when available, prioritize emergency housing at housing or shelter placements other than hotels or motels.

(e) Case management services provided by case managers employed by or under contract with the Agency of Human Services or reimbursed through an Agency-funded grant shall include assisting clients with finding appropriate housing.

(f) The Commissioner for Children and Families shall apply the General Assistance Emergency Housing rules approved by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules on March 13, 2025 for the administration of this section.

(g) On or before the last day of each month from July 2025 through June 2026, the Department for Children and Families, or other relevant agency or department, shall continue submitting a similar report to that due pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6(b) to the Joint Fiscal Committee, House Committee on Human Services, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. Additionally, this report shall include the Department's monthly expenditure on General Assistance Emergency Housing.

(h) For emergency housing provided in a hotel or motel beginning on July 1, 2024 and thereafter, the Department for Children and Families shall not pay a hotel or motel establishment more than the hotel's lowest advertised room rate and not more than \$80 a day per room to shelter a household experiencing homelessness. The Department for Children and Families may shelter a household in more than one hotel or motel room depending on the household's size and composition.

(i) The Department for Children and Families shall apply the following rules to participating hotels and motels:

(1) Section 2650.1 of the Department for Children and Families' General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260);

(2) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(3) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(j)(1) The Department for Children and Families may work with either a shelter provider or a community housing agency to enter into a full or partial facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider. Any facility conversion under this section shall comply with the Office of Economic Opportunity's shelter standards.

(2) If the Department for Children and Families determines that a contractual agreement with a licensed hotel or motel operator to secure temporary emergency housing capacity is beneficial to improve the quality, cleanliness, or access to services for those households temporarily housed in the facility, the Department shall be authorized to enter into such an agreement in accordance with the per-room rate identified in subsection (h) of this section; provided, however, that in no event shall such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused. The Department for Children and Families may include provisions to address access to services or related needs within the contractual agreement.

(k) Of the amount appropriated to implement this section, not more than \$500,000 shall be used for security costs.

(l) As used in this section:

(1) “Community-based shelter” means a shelter that meets the Vermont Housing Opportunity Grant Program’s Standards of Provision of Assistance.

(2) “Household” means an individual and any dependents for whom the individual is legally responsible and who live in Vermont. “Household” includes individuals who reside together as one economic unit, including those who are married, parties to a civil union, or unmarried.

Sec. E.321.1 CONTRACTING FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

(a) In contracting with emergency shelter organizations for operations and services, the Department for Children and Families shall prioritize contracts with organizations that are in close proximity to the community served to ensure that an organization familiar with the specific needs of a community serve its population of unhoused residents.

Sec. E.324 EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it if the benefit cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the crisis fuel grants allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$29,343,655 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-recognized continuum of care programs.

Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; WEATHERIZATION
ASSISTANCE

(a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

Sec. E.329 33 V.S.A. § 506 is added to read:

§ 506. BUDGETARY INFLATION; DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Annually, as part of its budget presentation, the Department shall inform the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare the cost of adding a one percent increase over the previous fiscal year's funding for community-contracted direct service providers.

Sec. E.333 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND
INDEPENDENT LIVING; DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
PAYMENT REFORM

(a)(1) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall submit a written progress report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's July 2025 meeting regarding the Department's design of a developmental services payment reform model for potential implementation on October 1, 2025, with a final written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's September 2025 meeting. The final report shall explain the methodology and identify how the model:

(A) meets all federal conflict-free case management requirements and aligns funding mechanisms with assessed needs; and

(B) ensures that the standardized rates providers that are reasonable and adequate and reflect the cost of service delivery to achieve the required outcomes for the populations served.

(2) The final report required pursuant to this subsection shall include a summary of stakeholder input, including perspectives from providers and individuals served, the identification of any unresolved issues, including the impact on designated agency and specialized service agency staff and the financial status of the providers, and a plan for addressing those unresolved issues in the final payment model.

(b) On or before February 15, 2026, the Department shall provide a presentation update to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding its progress implementing the developmental services payment reform model.

Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS; CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special fund appropriation of \$152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.338.1 JUSTICE REINVESTMENT II; ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.338.1 of this act, \$390,000 shall be for a grant to Lund for the Kids-A-Part Program and \$100,000 shall be for a grant to Pathways Vermont for the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Team.

Sec. E.338.2 CORRECTIONS; TREATMENT-FOCUSED FACILITY

(a) The \$200,000 General Fund appropriated to the Department of Corrections in Sec. B.1100(i)(1) of this act shall be used to retain a consultant and develop an implementation plan to transition the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility for incarcerated Vermonters.

(b) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department of Corrections shall submit a written report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee concerning the consultant's findings and recommendations related to transitioning either the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility. The report shall contain the following:

(1) a detailed transition plan;

(2) expected outcomes and measures of success;

(3) an assessment of how transitioning either the Northeast Correctional Complex or Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility aligns with best practices for residential treatment programs; and

(4) input from the Department's current medical providers, including an analysis of how the program developed would impact any contract with the Department's third-party medical provider.

Sec. E.345 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h) is amended to read:

(h)(1)(A) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (1)(C) and (2) of this subsection (h), the expenses of the Board shall be borne as follows:

(i) 40.0 percent by the State from State monies;

(ii) ~~28.8~~ 36.0 percent by the hospitals;

(iii) ~~23.2~~ 24.0 percent by nonprofit hospital and medical service corporations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 123 or 125, health insurance companies licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 101, and health maintenance organizations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 139; ~~and~~

(iv) ~~8.0 percent by accountable care organizations.~~

(B) Expenses under subdivision (A)(iii) of this subdivision (1) shall be allocated to persons licensed under Title 8 based on premiums paid for health care coverage, which for the purposes of this subdivision (1) shall include major medical, comprehensive medical, hospital or surgical coverage, and comprehensive health care services plans, but shall not include long-term care, limited benefits, disability, credit or stop loss, or excess loss insurance coverage.

(C) ~~Expenses~~ Amounts assessed pursuant to the provisions of ~~section~~ sections 9441 and 9382 of this title shall not be assessed in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1).

(2) The Board may determine the scope of the incurred expenses to be allocated pursuant to the formula set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection if, in the Board's discretion, the expenses to be allocated are in the best interests of the regulated entities and of the State.

(3) If the amount of the proportional assessment to any entity calculated in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection would be less than \$150.00, the Board shall assess the entity a minimum fee of \$150.00. The Board shall apply the amounts collected based on the difference between each applicable entity's proportional assessment amount and \$150.00 to reduce the total amount assessed to the regulated entities pursuant to subdivisions (1)(A)(ii) ~~(iv)~~ (iii) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. E.500 EDUCATION; FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.500 of this act shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized Education Programs. These services are intended to increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sec. E.502 EDUCATION; SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$5,236,200 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)-(6). In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

(b) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2975. In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

Sec. E.503 EDUCATION; STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

(a) The Independence Place Program of ANEW Place shall be considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of education costs.

Sec. E.504 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$3,958,344 General Fund shall be granted to adult education and literacy providers, pursuant to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 945.

Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, of the Education Fund appropriation in Sec. B.504.1 of this act, the amount of:

(1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

(2) \$2,400,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

(3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

(4) \$4,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 947(b); and

(5) \$2,638,896 is available for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program.

(b) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f) is amended to read:

(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of the previous two completed fiscal years; ~~40~~. Forty percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.

Sec. E.504.3 ADULT EDUCATION; FUNDING; REPORT

(a) On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Education, and local adult education and literacy providers shall jointly submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development; the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; and the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations with recommendations to modernize adult education funding to ensure funds are equitably distributed across all regions of the State, including recommendations for updates to the statutes and rules that govern the adult education funding formula. The Agency of Administration shall call and facilitate not fewer than five meetings with the Agency of Education and local adult education and literacy providers to develop the recommendations in the report.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development; the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; and the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations with recommendations for any administrative changes to adult education, including which agency or department outside the Agency of Education is best suited to manage adult education grants. The report shall also include any additional recommendations from the Secretary of Administration regarding updates to the adult education funding formula should the Secretary have recommendations that differ from the recommendations contained in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) For fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f), the Agency of Education shall award the funds appropriated for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program in Secs. B.504 and B.504.1 of this act as follows:

- (1) \$3,984,607 to Vermont Adult Learning;
- (2) \$1,320,874 to Central Vermont Adult Education;
- (3) \$400,919 to The Tutorial Center; and
- (4) \$890,840 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services.

Sec. E.507.1 ENGLISH LEARNER; CATEGORICAL AID

(a) The funds appropriated in Sec. B.507.1 of this act shall be used to provide categorical aid to school districts for English Learner services, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4013.

Sec. E.511 EDUCATION; TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. 1561(c) and (d) or any other provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026 career technical center supplemental assistance grants shall be calculated using the fiscal year 2025 base education amount.

Sec. E.514 STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System shall be \$212,752,627, of which \$199,377,627 shall be the State's contribution and \$13,375,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, \$41,414,649 is the "normal contribution" and \$171,337,978 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;
OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the \$3,864,405 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,719,271 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget, and \$1,145,134 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System.

Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL
BENEFITS

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2) and 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits plan shall be \$79,952,589, of which \$71,052,589 shall be the State's contribution and \$8,900,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1944d. Of the annual contribution, \$24,712,382 is the "normal contribution" and \$55,240,207 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$380,362 shall be transferred to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.602.1 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.602.2, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 67, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.101, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113 Sec. E.602.1, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.602.2 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The Vermont State College (VSC) system shall transform itself into a fully integrated system that achieves financial stability in a responsible and sustainable way in order to meet each of these strategic priorities:

* * *

(b) VSC shall meet the following requirements during the transformation of its system required under subsection (a) of this section and shall accommodate the oversight of the General Assembly in so doing.

(1) VSC shall reduce its structural deficit by \$5,000,000.00 per year for three years and by \$3,500,000.00 ~~per year for the following two years year~~ through a combination of annual operating expense reductions and increased enrollment revenues, for a total ~~\$22,000,000.00~~ \$18,500,000.00 by the end of fiscal year 2026. These reductions shall be structural in nature and shall not be met by use of one-time funds. The VSC Board of Trustees, through the Chancellor or designee, shall report the results of these structural reductions to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations annually during the Chancellor's budget presentation.

* * *

Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; ALLIED HEALTH

(a) If Global Commitment Fund monies are unavailable, the total grant funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the General Fund or other State funding sources.

(b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

(a) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act:

(1) \$25,000 shall be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845;

(2) not more than \$300,000 may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools; and

(3) not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program established in 2022 Act and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

(b) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act that remain after accounting for the

expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent shall be used for direct student aid.

(c) After accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act or otherwise currently or previously appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or provided to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation by an agency or department of the State for the administration of a program or initiative may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for its costs of administration. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment. Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent that any of these funds are federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be consistent with federal grant requirements.

Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the \$41,225 Education Fund and \$41,225 General Fund appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605.1 of this act is for dual enrollment and need-based stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially disadvantaged students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. E.715 REPEALS; SUNSET OF PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX CLEAN WATER SURCHARGE

(a) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.10 (sunset of clean water surcharge), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, is repealed.

(b) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.11(a)(5) (effective date of sunset of clean water surcharge) is repealed.

Sec. E.715.1 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.1(b) is amended to read:

(b) Purpose and intent.

(1) The purpose of Secs. I.1–I.12 of this act is to promote the development and improvement of housing for Vermonters.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

(A) to extend the clean water surcharge to provide ~~an interim~~ a source of revenue for addressing water quality issues throughout the State; and

(B) to continue its work on identifying a long-term funding source or sources that are sufficient in scope and targeted in design to address these water quality issues; and

~~(C) once one or more long-term funding sources are identified and enacted, but not later than July 1, 2027, to reduce the amount of the clean water surcharge to 0.04 percent.~~

Sec. E.715.2 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.12 is amended to read:

Sec. I.12. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. I.1–I.12 shall take effect on July 1, 2017, ~~except that Sec. I.10 (allocating clean water surcharge revenue to Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.~~

Sec. E.715.3 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.7(d) is amended to read:

(d) To compensate for this reduction of available property transfer tax revenue, it is the intent of the General Assembly through this act to provide for the transfer of \$2,500,000.00 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, as follows:

(1) Sec. D.100 of this act appropriates \$11,304,840.00 in fiscal year 2018 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Upon the effective date of this act, \$1,500,000.00 shall revert to the Fund, resulting in a fiscal year 2018 total appropriation to the Board of \$9,804,840.00. In fiscal year 2018 only, the amount of \$1,500,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) As provided in Sec. I.9 of this act, ~~from July 1, 2017 until July 1, 2027~~, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, the first \$1,000,000.00 in revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of ~~0.2~~ 0.22 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. In fiscal year 2018 only, the Commissioner shall transfer the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the General Fund.

~~(3) After July 1, 2027, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a as amended in Sec. I.10 of this act, \$1,000,000.00 in total revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of 0.04 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. [Repealed.]~~

~~(4) As provided in Sec. I.11 of this act, the clean water surcharge will be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2039. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. E.900 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

~~§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FUND APPROPRIATIONS~~

~~(a) No transportation funds shall be appropriated for the support of government other than for the Agency, the Board, Transportation Pay Act Funds, construction of transportation capital facilities, transportation debt service, and the operation of information centers by the Department of Buildings and General Services, and the Department of Public Safety. The amount of transportation funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety shall not exceed:~~

~~(1) \$25,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2014;~~

~~(2) \$22,750,000.00 in fiscal years 2015 and 2016;~~

~~(3) \$21,150,000.00 in fiscal year 2017; and~~

~~(4) \$20,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2018 and in succeeding fiscal years.~~

~~(b) In fiscal year 2018 and in succeeding fiscal years, of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the amount of \$2,100,000.00 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles. Any unexpended and unencumbered funds remaining in this allocation at the close of a fiscal year shall revert to the Transportation Fund. The Department of Public Safety may periodically recommend to the General Assembly that this allocation be adjusted to reflect market conditions for the vehicles and equipment.~~

~~Sec. E.917 TOWN HIGHWAY NON-FEDERAL DISASTERS; PILOT
FUND~~

~~(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the amount of \$1,150,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2026 from the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709 to the Agency of Transportation for the Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters Program.~~

(b) The amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall only be spent for the purpose of providing grants in relation to non-federal disasters pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(d). Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this section that remain unused at the close of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

* * * Fiscal Year 2025 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. F.100 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.105 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.101 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.145 is amended to read:

Sec. B.145 Total general government

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

Sec. F.102 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.204 is amended to read:

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

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

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

Sec. F.103 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.205 is amended to read:

Sec. B.205 State's attorneys

Personal services	17,309,679	17,548,979
Operating expenses	<u>2,034,016</u>	<u>2,202,516</u>
Total	19,343,695	19,751,495

Source of funds

General fund	18,734,634	19,142,434
Federal funds	31,000	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>578,061</u>	<u>578,061</u>
Total	19,343,695	19,751,495

Sec. F.104 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.206.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.206.1 Crime Victims Advocates

Personal services	3,016,156	3,016,156
Operating expenses	<u>104,396</u>	<u>142,396</u>
Total	3,120,552	3,158,552

Source of funds

General fund	<u>3,120,552</u>	<u>3,158,552</u>
Total	3,120,552	3,158,552

Sec. F.105 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.208 is amended to read:

Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration

Personal services	4,620,756	5,397,783
Operating expenses	<u>6,022,923</u>	<u>6,022,923</u>
Total	10,643,679	11,420,706

Source of funds

General fund	6,179,193	8,092,770
Special funds	4,105	4,105
Federal funds	396,362	396,362
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,064,019</u>	<u>2,927,469</u>
Total	10,643,679	11,420,706

Sec. F.106 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.210 is amended to read:

Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services

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

Sec. F.107 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.236 is amended to read:

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	927,697	952,559
Operating expenses	<u>115,103</u>	<u>125,378</u>
Total	1,042,800	1,077,937
Source of funds		
General fund	953,800	988,937
Federal funds	<u>89,000</u>	<u>89,000</u>
Total	1,042,800	1,077,937

Sec. F.108 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.241 is amended to read:

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	228,238,448	233,526,438
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000
Special funds	119,824,272	118,799,873
Tobacco fund	672,579	672,579
Federal funds	162,959,452	162,959,452
Interdepartmental transfers	16,031,869	14,895,319
Enterprise funds	<u>15,070,107</u>	<u>15,070,107</u>
Total	563,046,727	566,173,768

Sec. F.109 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.300 is amended to read:

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

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

Global Commitment fund	0	4,300,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>621,635</u>	<u>111,635</u>
Total	27,235,434	28,077,234

Sec. F.110 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.111 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.305 is amended to read:

Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund

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

Sec. F.112 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

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

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

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

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program – global commitment		
Personal services	547,983	547,983
Grants	<u>899,550,794</u>	<u>964,407,046</u>
Total	<u>900,098,777</u>	<u>964,955,029</u>
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	<u>900,098,777</u>	<u>964,955,029</u>
Total	<u>900,098,777</u>	<u>964,955,029</u>
Sec. F.114 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.309 is amended to read:		
Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program – state only		
Grants	<u>63,033,948</u>	<u>67,780,595</u>
Total	<u>63,033,948</u>	<u>67,780,595</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>62,151,546</u>	<u>62,308,757</u>
Global Commitment fund	<u>882,402</u>	<u>5,471,838</u>
Total	<u>63,033,948</u>	<u>67,780,595</u>
Sec. F.115 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.310 is amended to read:		
Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched		
Grants	<u>34,994,888</u>	<u>38,232,431</u>
Total	<u>34,994,888</u>	<u>38,232,431</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>12,511,405</u>	<u>13,459,034</u>
Federal funds	<u>22,483,483</u>	<u>24,773,397</u>
Total	<u>34,994,888</u>	<u>38,232,431</u>
Sec. F.116 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.311 is amended to read:		
Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support		
Personal services	8,373,168	8,373,168
Operating expenses	<u>7,519,722</u>	<u>8,166,662</u>
Grants	<u>7,985,727</u>	<u>7,985,727</u>
Total	<u>23,878,617</u>	<u>24,525,557</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>3,189,843</u>	<u>3,513,313</u>
Special funds	<u>2,308,186</u>	<u>2,308,186</u>
Federal funds	<u>11,040,433</u>	<u>11,363,903</u>
Global Commitment fund	<u>7,173,924</u>	<u>7,173,924</u>
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>166,231</u>	<u>166,231</u>

Total	23,878,617	24,525,557
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Sec. F.117 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.312 is amended to read:

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	67,812,371	67,812,371
Operating expenses	11,025,497	11,025,497
Grants	<u>46,766,832</u>	<u>46,866,832</u>
Total	125,604,700	125,704,700
Source of funds		
General fund	12,908,892	13,008,892
Special funds	24,906,804	24,906,804
Tobacco fund	1,088,918	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,038,301	64,038,301
Global Commitment fund	17,036,150	17,036,150
Interdepartmental transfers	5,600,635	5,600,635
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	125,604,700	125,704,700

Sec. F.118 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.313 is amended to read:

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

Personal services	6,570,967	6,570,967
Operating expenses	511,500	511,500
Grants	<u>58,215,510</u>	<u>59,240,635</u>
Total	65,297,977	66,323,102
Source of funds		
General fund	6,672,061	7,697,186
Special funds	2,413,678	2,413,678
Tobacco fund	949,917	949,917
Federal funds	15,456,754	15,456,754
Global Commitment fund	<u>39,805,567</u>	<u>39,805,567</u>
Total	65,297,977	66,323,102

Sec. F.119 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.314 is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	50,191,086	50,191,086
Operating expenses	5,517,999	5,709,973
Grants	<u>270,625,138</u>	<u>272,536,080</u>
Total	326,334,223	328,437,139
Source of funds		
General fund	25,555,311	26,279,270
Special funds	1,718,092	1,718,092

Federal funds	11,436,913	12,661,803
Global Commitment fund	287,609,767	287,763,834
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>14,140</u>	<u>14,140</u>
Total	326,334,223	328,437,139

Sec. F.120 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.316 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	46,644,080	44,844,080
Operating expenses	17,560,755	19,402,705
Grants	<u>5,627,175</u>	<u>5,627,175</u>
Total	69,832,010	69,873,960
Source of funds		
General fund	39,722,724	40,113,958
Special funds	2,781,912	2,781,912
Federal funds	24,448,223	24,098,939
Global Commitment fund	2,417,024	2,417,024
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>462,127</u>	<u>462,127</u>
Total	69,832,010	69,873,960

Sec. F.121 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.317 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.122 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.318 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	5,908,038	5,908,038
Operating expenses	813,321	813,321
Grants	<u>223,329,336</u>	<u>211,815,836</u>
Total	230,050,695	218,537,195
Source of funds		

General fund	76,723,518	51,443,165
Special funds	96,312,000	109,512,000
Federal funds	43,511,414	42,902,383
Global Commitment fund	<u>13,503,763</u>	<u>14,679,647</u>
Total	230,050,695	218,537,195

Sec. F.123 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.319 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	13,157,660	13,061,794
Operating expenses	<u>3,759,992</u>	<u>3,759,992</u>
Total	16,917,652	16,821,786

Source of funds

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

Sec. F.124 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.320 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	2,252,206	2,481,741
Grants	<u>10,717,444</u>	<u>10,369,155</u>
Total	12,969,650	12,850,896

Source of funds

General fund	7,376,133	7,368,843
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,593,517</u>	<u>5,482,053</u>
Total	12,969,650	12,850,896

Sec. F.125 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.321 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	15,000	15,000
Grants	<u>11,054,252</u>	<u>10,702,625</u>
Total	11,069,252	10,717,625

Source of funds

General fund	10,811,345	10,486,987
Federal funds	11,320	11,070
Global Commitment fund	<u>246,587</u>	<u>219,568</u>
Total	11,069,252	10,717,625

Sec. F.126 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.322 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.127 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.323 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.128 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.325 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.129 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.329 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	45,217,977	46,217,977
Operating expenses	<u>6,472,558</u>	<u>6,714,680</u>
Total	51,690,535	52,932,657
Source of funds		
General fund	22,916,281	24,037,342

Special funds	1,390,457	1,390,457
Federal funds	<u>26,063,097</u>	26,184,158
Global Commitment fund	35,000	35,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,285,700</u>	<u>1,285,700</u>
Total	<u>51,690,535</u>	52,932,657

Sec. F.130 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.131 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.332 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.132 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.333 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.133 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.134 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334.1 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.135 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.338 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

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

Sec. F.136 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.342 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	17,631,222	17,595,290
Operating expenses	5,013,462	13,247,462
Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>1,583,157</u>
Total	<u>22,644,684</u>	<u>32,425,909</u>

Source of funds		
General fund	4,320,687	11,224,018
Special funds	10,051,903	12,450,095
Federal funds	<u>8,272,094</u>	<u>8,751,796</u>
Total	22,644,684	32,425,909

Sec. F.137 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	1,328,118,806	1,364,156,647
Special funds	202,800,452	218,398,644
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	28,053,557	28,053,557
ARPA State Fiscal	5,000,000	5,000,000
Federal funds	1,803,398,922	1,882,012,745
Global Commitment fund	1,980,839,553	2,108,560,133
Internal service funds	490,853	490,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,893,535	34,367,341
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,404,708,886	5,664,153,128

Sec. F.138 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.501 is amended to read:

Sec. B.501 Education - education services

Personal services	28,237,700	28,312,700
Operating expenses	1,134,912	1,134,912
Grants	<u>322,345,763</u>	<u>322,345,763</u>
Total	351,718,375	351,793,375
Source of funds		
General fund	6,387,955	6,462,955
Special funds	3,033,144	3,033,144
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Federal funds	340,584,414	340,584,414
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>962,474</u>	<u>962,474</u>
Total	351,718,375	351,793,375

Sec. F.139 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.503 is amended to read:

Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students

Grants	<u>20,000,000</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>
Total	<u>20,000,000</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>
Source of funds		
Education fund	<u>20,000,000</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>

Total	20,000,000	19,000,000
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Sec. F.140 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

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

Sec. F.141 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

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

Sec. F.142 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.505 is amended to read:

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

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

Sec. F.143 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.508 is amended to read:

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

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

Sec. F.144 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.516 is amended to read:

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds		
General fund	228,890,519	229,269,156

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

Sec. F.145 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.704 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.146 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.710 is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.147 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.711 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	50,153,806	50,153,806
Operating expenses	<u>8,362,915</u>	8,370,915
Grants	<u>92,365,140</u>	<u>92,365,140</u>
Total	<u>150,881,861</u>	150,889,861

Source of funds		
General fund	11,887,629	11,895,629
Special funds	30,967,150	30,967,150
Federal funds	107,154,542	107,154,542
Interdepartmental transfers	872,540	872,540
Total	150,881,861	150,889,861

Sec. F.148 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	42,792,800	42,863,500
Special funds	81,275,829	81,275,829
Fish and wildlife fund	10,418,331	10,418,331
Federal funds	152,068,301	152,068,301
Interdepartmental transfers	14,131,324	14,131,324
Total	300,686,585	300,757,285

Sec. F.149 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100 ALLOCATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

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

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

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

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

transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

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

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

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

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

Sec. F.150 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.102 is amended to read:

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

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

* * *

3150892104 MH – Case Management Serv	\$350,000.00	<u>\$350,199.34</u>
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* * *

<u>1100892208 AOA – VT Housing Finance Agency</u>	<u>\$3,000,000.00</u>
<u>1100892403 AOA – Health Equity Community Grants</u>	<u>\$500,000.00</u>
<u>1120020000 Tuition Assistance Program</u>	<u>\$133,877.86</u>
<u>1120892401 DHR – New Position in DHR Ops</u>	<u>\$477,769.00</u>
<u>1120892402 DHR – New Position in VTHR Ops</u>	<u>\$40,726.07</u>
<u>1140010000 Tax Operation Costs</u>	<u>\$1,267,062.22</u>
<u>1140060000 Reappraisal and Listing Payments</u>	<u>\$35,270.75</u>
<u>1140070000 Use Tax Reimbursement Program</u>	<u>\$37,864.25</u>
<u>1140330000 Renter Rebates</u>	<u>\$2,186,940.33</u>
<u>1140892403 Tax – Child Care Contr Positions</u>	<u>\$3,591,823.02</u>

<u>1260980000 Debt Service</u>	<u>\$235,445.15</u>
<u>1266892401 VPIC – Pension System Assets</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
<u>2100892201 AG – Racial Disparities</u>	<u>\$48,465.00</u>
<u>2120892203 JUD – County Court House HVAC</u>	<u>\$800,000.00</u>
<u>2120892402 JUD – Essex County Courthouse Reno</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
<u>2130400000 SIUS Parent Account</u>	<u>\$395,749.64</u>
<u>2150010000 Mil Admin/TAGO</u>	<u>\$142,789.80</u>
<u>2150050000 Mil Vet Affairs Office</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>2160892201 CCVS – VT Forensic Nursing</u>	<u>\$246.43</u>
<u>2160892304 CCVS – Kurn Hattin Survivor</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
<u>2200010000 Administration Division</u>	<u>\$167,222.00</u>
<u>3310000000 Commission on Women</u>	<u>\$25,390.43</u>
<u>3330892401 GMCB – VHCURES Database Implemen</u>	<u>\$545,782.90</u>
<u>3400892111 Supp New Americans Refugee</u>	<u>\$23,431.00</u>
<u>3400892301 AHSCO – Refugee Resettlement</u>	<u>\$1,293.00</u>
<u>3420892405 HD – Regional Emergency Med</u>	<u>\$8,295.01</u>
<u>3440050000 DCFS – AABD</u>	<u>\$35,310.73</u>
<u>3440892110 DCF – Grants to Reachup</u>	<u>\$5.10</u>
<u>3440892203 DCF – Parent Child Ctrs Cap Imp</u>	<u>\$20,708.22</u>
<u>3440892214 DCF – Child Care Provider Workfor</u>	<u>\$294.79</u>
<u>4100500000 VT Department of Labor</u>	<u>\$8,000,000.00</u>
<u>5100070000 Education Services</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>5100892101 AOE – VSC Committee Per Diem</u>	<u>\$16,295.33</u>
<u>5100892102 AOA – Advisory Group Per Diem</u>	<u>\$9,018.00</u>
<u>5100892103 AOE – ESESAG Per Diems</u>	<u>\$8,960.00</u>
<u>5100892201 AOE – Comm Pub Sch Emp Hlth Ben</u>	<u>\$29,050.00</u>
<u>5100892202 AOE – Task Force Equit Inclusive</u>	<u>\$6,150.00</u>
<u>5100892302 AOE – Ethnic&Social Equity Per D</u>	<u>\$14,386.24</u>
<u>6100010000 Administration Management and Planning</u>	<u>\$402,052.99</u>

<u>6100040000 Property Tax Assessment Approp</u>	<u>\$11,692.11</u>
<u>6140880005 152/00 State Asst Munic Poll Cont</u>	<u>\$126.26</u>
<u>7100892301 Everyone Eats</u>	<u>\$144,565.43</u>
<u>7120892304 DED – Relocated and Remote Worker</u>	<u>\$127,314.33</u>
<u>8100002100 Department of Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>\$2,482.81</u>

* * *

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

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

Sec. F.151 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

* * *

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

(1) Office of the Defender General:

(A) one Administrative Services Tech;

(B) two DG IT Specialist II's;

(C) one ODG Legal Assistant I;

(D) two Staff Attorney I's;

(E) one Financial Specialist III; and

(F) one Admin Secretary.

* * *

Sec. F.152 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

Sec. F.153 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. G.109 is amended to read:

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

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

(1) Fiscal year 2025.

* * *

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

* * *

(2) Fiscal year 2026.

* * *

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

* * *

Sec. F.154 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. TELEPHONE TAX; REPEAL; TRANSITION

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

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

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

(d) In fiscal year ~~2025~~ 2026, the Division of Property Valuation and Review of the Department of Taxes and all communications service providers with taxable communications property in Vermont shall be subject to the

inventory and valuation provisions prescribed in 32 V.S.A. § 4452, as applicable.

Sec. F.155 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

* * *

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

Sec. F.156 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION

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

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

(2) \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the Cannabis Business ~~19~~ Development Fund to the ~~Agency of Commerce and Community Development~~ Department of Economic Development to fund technical assistance and provide loans and grants pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987.

Sec. F.157 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 78 is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

Sec. F.158 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 96 is amended to read:

Sec. 96. APPROPRIATION; RENT ARREARS ASSISTANCE FUND

The sum of \$2,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Vermont State Housing Authority~~ Department of Housing and Community

Development in fiscal year 2025 for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

Sec. F.159 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 75, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.119, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 106, is further amended to read:

Sec. 3. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
REPAIR PROGRAM

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

* * *

Sec. F.160 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 113b is amended to read:

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

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

Sec. F.161 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 24a is amended to read:

Sec. 24a. COMPENSATION FOR OVERPAYMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(h) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,402.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Lemington in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Lemington for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024~~

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

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

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

~~(k) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of \$2,657.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Victory in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Victory for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Victory.~~

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a \$68,132.00 credit shall be applied to the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District's education spending, as defined per 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership.

Sec. F.162 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1102, as added by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 47, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

* * *

Sec. F.163 3 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

§ 3306. TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND

* * *

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

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

(2) any interest earned by the Fund.

* * *

Sec. F.164 WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND;
REPEAL

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

Sec. F.165 18 V.S.A. § 9502 is amended to read:

§ 9502. TOBACCO TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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

(C) contributions from any other source.

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

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

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

Sec. F.166 32 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

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

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

* * *

Sec. F.167 32 V.S.A. § 706 is amended to read:

§ 706. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

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

(1) With the approval of the Governor, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may transfer balances of appropriations not to exceed ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 made under any appropriation act for the support of the government from one component of an agency, department, or other unit of State government to any component of the same agency, department, or unit.

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

(3) For the specific purpose of balancing and closing out fund accounts at the end of a fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may adjust a balance within an account of an agency or department in an amount not to exceed ~~\$100.00~~ \$200.00.

* * *

Sec. F.168 32 V.S.A. § 902 is amended to read:

§ 902. AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW MONEY

* * *

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

Sec. F.169 32 V.S.A. § 951a is amended to read:

§ 951a. DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

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

* * *

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

* * *

Sec. F.170 32 V.S.A. § 954 is amended to read:

§ 954. PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds arising from the sale of bonds, inclusive of any premiums, shall be applied to the purposes for which they were authorized, and the purposes shall may be considered to include ~~the expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing the bonds and any notes issued under section 955 of~~

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

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

* * *

Sec. F.171 VERMONT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND; REPEAL

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

Sec. F.172 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

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

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

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

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

(i) seven years; or

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

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

* * *

Sec. F.173 32 V.S.A. § 308b is amended to read:

§ 308b. HUMAN SERVICES CASELOAD RESERVE

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

(b) The Secretary of Administration may transfer to the Human Services Caseload Reserve any General Fund ~~carry-forward~~ carryforward directly attributable to Agency of Human Services caseload reductions and the effective management of related federal receipts, with the exclusion of the Department of Corrections.

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

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

reported Medicaid expenses associated with the current Medicaid Global Commitment waiver.

* * *

Sec. F.174 CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION SPECIAL FUND;
UNALLOCATED AND UNRESERVED BALANCE

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

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

Sec. F.175 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FACILITY WORK
PROGRAMS; STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) Findings and intent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. F.176 MEDICAID PROVIDERS WITH STABILIZATION NEEDS;
GRANT ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

(2) A description of each grant recipient's financial status prior to receipt of the grant, a summary of the impact of the grant for each recipient,

and a summary of a revised long-term sustainability plan for each grant recipient.

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

Sec. F.177 ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL
COMPLETION PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 945 and any other provision of law to the contrary, a high school may award a high school diploma to any student who meets the following criteria:

(1) Prior to July 1, 2024, the student was participating in the High School Completion Program as the program existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

(2) The student has met the requirements of the student's individual graduation plan and would have been eligible to receive a diploma pursuant to the High School Completion Program as it existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

Sec. F.178 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;
DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS

(a) For the remainder of federal fiscal year 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall utilize the State's allocation of discretionary exemptions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to the extent permitted by federal regulation for the purposes of:

(1) extending benefits to Program participants who would otherwise experience a disruption of benefits; and

(2) ensuring that Program participants are not accruing any time-limited benefit work requirement countable months.

Sec. F.179 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Secs. 5 and 6 are amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 4 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

~~(b) Sec. 5 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.~~

~~(c)~~ All other sections shall take effect 30 calendar days after passage.

Sec. F.180 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 1, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 108, Sec. 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. REIMBURSEMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES OF STATE
EDUCATION PROPERTY TAXES THAT WERE ABATED DUE
TO FLOODING

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may approve an application by a municipality for reimbursement of State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, prior to November 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, a municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax, under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

(2) As used in this subsection, “eligible property” means property lost or destroyed due directly or indirectly to severe storms and flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, provided the loss or destruction resulted in one or more of the following:

(A) a 50 percent or greater loss in value to the primary structure on the property;

(B) loss of use by the property owner of the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more;

(C) loss of access by the property owner to utilities for the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more; or

(D) condemnation of the primary structure on the property under federal, State, or municipal law, as applicable.

(b) If a municipality demonstrates that, due to disruption to tax collections resulting from flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, the municipality incurred unanticipated interest expenses on funds borrowed to make State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426, the municipality may be reimbursed by an amount equal to its reasonable interest expenses under this subsection, provided the amount of reimbursed interest expenses shall not exceed eight percent.

* * *

Sec. F.181 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106 is amended to read:

Sec. E.106 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND
APPROPRIATIONS; REVERSION AND ESTABLISHMENT
OF NEW SPENDING AUTHORITY

* * *

(b) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall revert all unobligated American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority prior to December 31, 2024. The total amount of American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority reverted in accordance with this subsection shall equal the amount of new spending authority established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 for the following purposes in the following order:

* * *

(3) \$30,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of: affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units; including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.

Sec. F.182 CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, General Fund, Transportation Fund, Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund, Education Fund, Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951), Clean Water Fund (21932), and Agricultural Water Quality Fund (21933) appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Executive Branch shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, General Fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Legislative and Judicial Branches shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. B.1101, C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105, C.106, C.107, E.127.3, E.306.1, E.312.1, E.313.3, F.100, F.101, F.102,

F.103, F.104, F.105, F.106, F.107, F.108, F.109, F.110, F.111, F.112, F.113, F.114, F.115, F.116, F.117, F.118, F.119, F.120, F.121, F.122, F.123, F.124, F.125, F.126, F.127, F.128, F.129, F.130, F.131, F.132, F.133, F.134, F.135, F.136, F.137, F.138, F.139, F.140, F.141, F.142, F.143, F.144, F.145, F.146, F.147, F.148, F.149, F.150, F.151, F.152, F.153, F.156, F.157, F.158, F.159, F.160, F.162, F.163, F.164, F.165, F.166, F.167, F.168, F.169, F.170, F.171, F.172, F.173, F.174, F.175, F.176, F.177, F.178, F.179, F.181, and F.182 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. E.111 and E.111.1 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024.

(c) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. E.111.2 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

(d) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. E.111.3 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years and periods beginning on and after January 1, 2025 and ending on or before December 31, 2025.

(e) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. F.154 and F.155 shall take effect retroactively on March 31, 2025.

(f) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. F.161 shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2024.

(g) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. F.180 shall take effect retroactively on November 15, 2024.

(h) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

*ANDREW J. PERCHLIK
RICHARD A. WESTMAN
VIRGINA V. LYONS*

Committee on the part of the Senate

*ROBIN P. SCHEU
JAMES F. HARRISON
TIFFANY BLUEMLE*

Committee on the part of the House

NOTICE CALENDAR
Favorable with Amendment
S. 12

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction, 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. chapter 230 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 230. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF CRIMINAL
HISTORY RECORDS

§ 7601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Court” means the Criminal Division of the Superior Court.

(2) “Criminal history record” means all information documenting an individual’s contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(3) ~~“Predicate offense” means a criminal offense that can be used to enhance a sentence levied for a later conviction and includes operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, domestic assault in violation of section 1042 of this title, and stalking in violation of section 1062 of this title. “Predicate offense” shall not include misdemeanor possession of cannabis, a disorderly conduct offense under section 1026 of this title, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a), 4231(a), 4232(a), 4233(a), 4234(a), 4234a(a), 4234b(a), 4235(b), or 4235a(a)~~ “Criminal justice purposes” means the investigation, apprehension, detention, adjudication, or correction of persons suspected, charged, or convicted of criminal offenses. “Criminal justice purposes” also includes criminal identification activities; the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history records; and screening for criminal justice employment.

(4) “Qualifying crime” means:

~~(A) a misdemeanor offense that is not:~~

~~(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;~~

~~(ii) — an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of this title;~~

~~(iii) — an offense involving violation of a protection order in violation of section 1030 of this title;~~

~~(iv) — prostitution as defined in section 2632 of this title, or prohibited conduct under section 2601a of this title; or~~

~~(v) — a predicate offense;~~

~~(B) — a violation of subsection 3701(a) of this title related to criminal mischief;~~

~~(C) — a violation of section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;~~

~~(D) — a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title;~~

~~(E) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit;~~

~~(F) — a violation of section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;~~

~~(G) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) related to possession and cultivation of cannabis;~~

~~(H) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a) related to possession of cocaine;~~

~~(I) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a) related to possession of LSD;~~

~~(J) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a) related to possession of heroin;~~

~~(K) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a) related to possession of depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs;~~

~~(L) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a) related to possession of methamphetamine;~~

~~(M) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234b(a) related to possession of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;~~

~~(N) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b) related to possession of hallucinogenic drugs;~~

~~(O) — a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a) related to possession of ecstasy; or~~

~~(P) — any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.~~

(A) all misdemeanor offenses except:

(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(ii) a violation of chapter 64 of this title relating to sexual exploitation of children;

(iii) a violation of section 1030 of this title relating to a violation of an abuse prevention order, an order against stalking or sexual assault, or a protective order concerning contact with a child;

(iv) a violation of chapter 28 of this title related to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of a vulnerable adult;

(v) a violation of subsection 2605(b) or (c) of this title related to voyeurism;

(vi) a violation of subdivisions 352(1)–(10) of this title related to cruelty to animals;

(vii) a violation of section 5409 of this title related to failure to comply with sex offender registry requirements;

(viii) a violation of section 1455 of this title related to hate motivated crimes;

(ix) a violation of subsection 1304(a) of this title related to cruelty to a child;

(x) a violation of section 1305 of this title related to cruelty by person having custody of another;

(xi) a violation of section 1306 of this title related to mistreatment of persons with impaired cognitive function;

(xii) a violation of section 3151 of this title related to female genital mutilation;

(xiii) a violation of subsection 3258(b) of this title related to sexual exploitation of a minor;

(xiv) a violation of subdivision 4058(b)(1) of this title related to violation of an extreme risk protection order;

(xv) an offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4 by a person who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39; and

(xvi) any offense that would require registration as a sex offender pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title; and

(B) the following felonies:

(i) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, unless the person was 25 years of age or younger at the time of the offense and did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during the commission of the offense;

(ii) designated felony property offenses as defined in subdivision (5) of this section;

(iii) offenses relating to possessing, cultivating, selling, dispensing, or transporting regulated drugs, including violations of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) and (b), 4231(a) and (b), 4232(a) and (b), 4233(a) and (b), 4233a(a), 4234(a) and (b), 4234a(a) and (b), 4234b(a) and (b), 4235(b) and (c), or 4235a(a) and (b); and

(iv) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.

(5) “Designated felony property offense” means:

(A) section 1801 of this title related to forgery and counterfeiting;

(B) section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;

(C) section 1804 of this title related to counterfeiting paper money;

(D) section 1816 of this title related to possession or use of credit card skimming devices;

(E) section 2001 of this title related to false personation;

(F) section 2002 of this title related to false pretenses or tokens;

(G) section 2029 of this title related to home improvement fraud;

(H) section 2030 of this title related to identity theft;

(I) section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;

(J) section 2531 of this title related to embezzlement;

(K) section 2532 of this title related to embezzlement by officers or servants of an incorporated bank;

(L) section 2533 of this title related to embezzlement by a receiver or trustee;

(M) section 2561 of this title related to receiving stolen property;

(N) section 2575 of this title related to retail theft;

- (O) section 2582 of this title related to theft of services;
- (P) section 2591 of this title related to theft of rented property;
- (Q) section 2592 of this title related to failure to return a rented or leased motor vehicle;
- (R) section 3016 of this title related to false claims;
- (S) section 3701 of this title related to unlawful mischief;
- (T) section 3705 of this title related to unlawful trespass;
- (U) section 3733 of this title related to mills, dams, or bridges;
- (V) section 3761 of this title related to unauthorized removal of human remains;
- (W) section 3766 of this title related to grave markers and ornaments;
- (X) chapter 87 of this title related to computer crimes; and
- (Y) 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit in obtaining a regulated drug.

§ 7602. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD,
POSTCONVICTION; PROCEDURE

~~(a)(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement or sealing of the criminal history record related to the conviction if:~~

~~(A) the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence;~~

~~(B) the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense;~~

~~(C) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (g) of this section, the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) or § 1091 related to operating under the influence of alcohol or other substance, excluding a violation of those sections resulting in serious bodily injury or death to any person other than the operator, or related to operating a school bus with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more or operating a commercial vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more; or~~

~~(D) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of this section, the person was convicted under 1201(c)(3)(A) of a violation of subdivision 1201(a) of this title related to burglary when the person was~~

~~25 years of age or younger, and the person did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during commission of the offense.~~

~~(2) The State's Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in the matter.~~

~~(3) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of expungement and provide notice of the order in accordance with this section.~~

~~(4) This section shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal or expunge a record of a conviction for a felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.~~

~~(b)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least five years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least five years previously.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted for the qualifying crime.~~

~~(C) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(D) The court finds that expungement of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), and (C) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(e)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a felony arising out of a new incident or occurrence in the last seven years.~~

~~(C) The person has not been convicted of a misdemeanor during the past five years.~~

~~(D) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(E) After considering the particular nature of any subsequent offense, the court finds that expungement of the criminal history record for the qualifying crime serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(d) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged in accordance with section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.~~

~~(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(e) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section for a conviction for possession of a regulated drug under 18 V.S.A. chapter 84, subchapter 1 in an amount that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed:~~

~~(1) The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing that his or her conviction was based on possessing an amount of regulated drug that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed.~~

~~(2) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the amount of the regulated drug specified in the affidavit of probable cause associated with the petitioner's conviction was the amount possessed by the petitioner.~~

~~(f) Prior to granting an expungement or sealing under this section for petitions filed pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(D) of this title, the court shall make a finding that the conduct underlying the conviction under section 1201 of this title did not constitute a burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title. The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing this fact.~~

~~(g) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section, only petitions to seal may be considered or granted by the court. This subsection shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39. Unless the court finds that sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed in accordance with section 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 10 years previously.~~

~~(2) At the time of the filing of the petition:~~

~~(A) the person has only one conviction of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, which shall be construed in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1211; and~~

~~(B) the person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a).~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(h) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement or sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged or sealed in accordance with section 7606 or 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 15 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 15 years previously.~~

~~(2) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of subdivision 1201(c)(3)(A) of this title.~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that expungement or sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

(a) Petition.

(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense.

(2) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence.

(3) Whichever office prosecuted the offense resulting in the conviction, the State's Attorney or Attorney General, shall be the respondent in the matter unless the prosecuting office authorizes the other to act as the respondent.

(4) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of sealing and provide notice of the order to all Vermont State entities provided by the petitioner and all entities required to receive notice pursuant to subsection 7607(a) of this title.

(5) This section shall not apply to an individual who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23

V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal a record of a conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

(b) Offenses that are no longer prohibited by law. For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged if the following conditions are met:

(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(c) Qualifying misdemeanors. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least three years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(d) Qualifying felony offenses. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying felony pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least seven years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(e) Qualifying DUI misdemeanor. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying DUI misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The person is not the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39.

(4) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(f) Fish and Wildlife Offenses. Sealing a criminal history record related to a fish and wildlife offense shall not void any fish and wildlife license suspension or revocation imposed pursuant to the accumulation of points related to the sealed offense. Points accumulated by a person shall remain on the person's license and, if applicable, completion of the remedial course shall be required as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 4502.

§ 7603. ~~EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD, NO~~
CONVICTION; PROCEDURE

(a) Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order sealing the criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:

(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:

(A) the court does not make a determination of probable cause at the time of arraignment; ~~or~~

(B) the charge is dismissed before trial with or without prejudice; or

(C) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or

(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to seal the record.

(b) If a party objects to sealing ~~or expunging~~ a record pursuant to this section, the court shall schedule a hearing to determine if sealing ~~or expunging~~

the record serves the interests of justice. The defendant and the prosecuting attorney shall be the only parties in the matter.

(c), (d) [Repealed.]

~~(e) Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order expunging a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:~~

~~(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:~~

~~(A) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or~~

~~(B) the charge is dismissed with prejudice;~~

~~(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to expunge the record. [Repealed.]~~

~~(f) Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order to expunge a record sealed pursuant to subsection (a) or (g) of this section eight years after the date on which the record was sealed. [Repealed.]~~

(g) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing or expungement of a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of the person at any time. The court shall grant the petition and issue an order sealing or expunging the record if it finds that sealing or expunging the record serves the interests of justice; or if the parties stipulate to sealing or expungement of the record.

~~(h) The court may expunge any records that were sealed pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 2018 unless the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case objects. Thirty days prior to expunging a record pursuant to this subsection, the court shall provide to the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case written notice of its intent to expunge the record. [Repealed.]~~

§ 7604. NEW CHARGE

If a person is charged with a criminal offense after he or she has filed a petition for expungement pursuant to this chapter has a criminal charge pending at the time the petition for sealing or expungement is before the court, the court shall not act on the petition until disposition of the new charge.

§ 7605. DENIAL OF PETITION

If a petition for expungement or sealing is denied by the court pursuant to this chapter, no further petition shall be brought for at least two years, unless a shorter duration is authorized by the court.

§ 7606. EFFECT OF EXPUNGEMENT

(a) Order and notice. Upon finding that the requirements for expungement have been met, the court shall issue an order that shall include provisions that its effect is to annul the record of the arrest, conviction, and sentence and that such person shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense. The court shall provide notice of the expungement to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to expunge. The VCIC shall provide notice of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been expunged. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose expunged records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been expunged to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceedings for the same offense.

(c) Process.

(1) The court shall remove the expunged offense from any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket are expunged, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been expunged, the case file shall be destroyed pursuant to policies established by the Court Administrator.

(d) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged together with the expungement order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Inspection of the expungement order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

(4) ~~[Repealed].~~ [Repealed.]

(5) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.

§ 7607. EFFECT OF SEALING

(a) Order and notice. ~~Upon entry of an order to seal, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense and that its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence. The court shall provide notice of the sealing to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to seal. The VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center~~ send a copy of any order sealing a criminal history record to all of the parties and attorneys representing the parties, including to the prosecuting agency that prosecuted the offense, the Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, and any other Vermont State entity identified by the petitioner that may have a record subject to the sealing order. VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Except as provided in ~~subdivision~~ subsection (c) of this section, upon entry of a sealing order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been sealed. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose sealed records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any member of the public regarding a sealed record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been sealed to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceeding for the same offense.

(c) Exceptions. A party seeking to use a sealed criminal history record, pursuant to the exceptions established in this subsection, in a court proceeding shall, prior to any use of or reference to the record in open court or in a public filing, notify the court of the party's intent to do so. The court shall thereafter determine whether the record may be used prior to its disclosure in the proceeding. If a party submits a filing that contains a sealed record or a reference to a sealed record, that filing shall be filed under seal and remain under seal unless the court permits the use of the sealed record. This shall not apply to the use of a sealed record pursuant to subdivision (8) of this subsection. Use of a sealed record pursuant to an exception shall not change the effect of sealing under subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or a sealing order:

(1) An entity or person that possesses a sealed record, or an attorney for such entity or person, may continue to use it the record for any litigation or claim arising out of the same incident or occurrence or involving the same defendant, including use of the record in reasonable anticipation of litigation.

(2) A criminal justice agency as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a and the Attorney General may use the criminal history record sealed in accordance with section 7602 or 7603 of this title without limitation for criminal justice purposes as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a section 7601 of this title.

(3) A defendant may use a sealed criminal history record in the defendant's criminal proceeding.

(4) A sealed record of a prior violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be admissible as a predicate offense for the purpose of imposing an enhanced penalty for a subsequent violation of that section, in accordance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 1210.

(5) A person or a court in possession of an order issued by a court regarding a matter that was subsequently sealed may file or cite to that decision in any subsequent proceeding. The party or court filing or citing to that decision shall ensure that information regarding the identity of the defendant in the sealed record is redacted.

(6) The Vermont Crime Information Center and Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall have access to sealed criminal history records without limitation for the purpose of responding to queries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System regarding firearms transfers and attempted transfers.

(7) The State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the person who is the subject of a sealed record, and the attorney for the person who is the subject of the record shall disclose information contained in a sealed criminal history record when required to meet discovery obligations.

(8) The person whose criminal history records have been sealed pursuant to this chapter and the person's attorney may access and use the sealed records.

(9) A law enforcement agency may inspect and receive copies of the sealed criminal history records of any applicant who applies to the agency to be a law enforcement officer or a current employee for the purpose of internal investigation.

(10) Persons or entities conducting research shall have access to a sealed criminal history record to carry out research pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2056b.

(11) Information and materials gathered by the Department for Children and Families during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and related references to such information and materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered Department records that shall be maintained and may be utilized as statutorily prescribed by 33 V.S.A. chapter 49 and produced in response to a court order.

(12) Information and materials gathered by Adult Protective Services during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and other investigative materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered records of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, which shall be maintained and may be utilized as authorized by 33 V.S.A. chapter 69 and produced in response to a court order.

(d) Process.

(1) The court shall bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall become exempt from public access.

(4) When a sealing order is issued by the court, any person or entity, except the court, that possesses criminal history records and has been provided notice of the order shall:

(A) bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains or remove information pertaining to the sealed records from any publicly accessible database that the person or entity maintains; and

(B) clearly label the criminal history record as "SEALED" to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been sealed together with the sealing order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the sealing.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, inspection of the sealing order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

~~(4) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.~~

(f) Victims Compensation Program. Upon request, the ~~Victim's~~ Victims Compensation Program shall be provided with a copy, redacted of all information identifying the offender, of the affidavit for the sole purpose of verifying the expenses in a victim's compensation application submitted pursuant to section 5353 of this title.

(g) Restitution. The sealing of a criminal record shall not affect the authority of the Restitution Unit to enforce a restitution order in the same manner as a civil judgment pursuant to subdivision 5362(c)(2) of this title.

§ 7608. VICTIMS

(a) At the time a petition is filed pursuant to this chapter, the respondent shall give notice of the petition to any victim of the offense who is known to the respondent. The victim shall have the right to offer the respondent a statement prior to any stipulation or to offer the court a statement. The disposition of the petition shall not be unnecessarily delayed pending receipt of a victim's statement. The respondent's inability to locate a victim after a reasonable effort has been made shall not be a bar to granting a petition.

(b) As used in this section, "reasonable effort" means attempting to contact the victim by first-class mail at the victim's last known address and, by telephone at the victim's last known phone number, and by email at the victim's last known email address.

§ 7609. ~~EXPUNGEMENT OF~~ SEALING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS OF AN ~~INDIVIDUAL~~ A PERSON 18–21 YEARS OF AGE

(a) Procedure Petition. ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings for an individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime shall be expunged within 30 days after the date on which the individual successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction of the qualifying crime, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. A copy of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named in the order. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such individual. Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be expunged until restitution and surcharges have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who was 18–21 years of age at the time the person committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the person completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court

shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(A) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(B) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(2) Order, notice, and effect of sealing shall comply with the provisions of subsections 7607(a) and (b) of this title.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) A criminal history record that includes both qualifying and nonqualifying offenses shall not be eligible for ~~expungement~~ sealing pursuant to this section.

~~(2) The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the expunged files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the expungement. The special index shall be confidential and shall be accessed only by the Director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and an individual designated for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a. [Repealed.]~~

~~(c) Petitions. An individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the individual completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court shall grant the petition and issue an order sealing or expunging the record if it finds that sealing or expunging the record serves the interests of justice. [Repealed.]~~

§ 7610. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD SEALING SPECIAL FUND

There is established the Criminal History Record Sealing Special Fund, which shall be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Fees collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1431(e) for the filing of a petition to seal a criminal history record of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be deposited into and credited to this Fund. This Fund shall be available to the

Office of the Court Administrator, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Vermont Crime Information Center to offset the administrative costs of sealing such records. Balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain in the Fund.

§ 7611. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

A State or municipal employee or contractor or any agent of the court, including an attorney and an employee or contractor of the attorney, or a law enforcement officer as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2351a who knowingly accesses or discloses sealed criminal history record information without authorization shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00. Each unauthorized disclosure shall constitute a separate civil violation.

Sec. 2. RIGHT TO NOT DISCLOSE EXPUNGED OR SEALED

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall notify all State administrative entities of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

(b) The Court Administrator shall notify the Judicial Branch of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 7041 is amended to read:

§ 7041. DEFERRED SENTENCE

(a) Upon an adjudication of guilt and after the filing of a presentence investigation report, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation upon such terms and conditions as it may require if a written agreement concerning the deferring of sentence is entered into between the State's Attorney and the respondent and filed with the clerk of the court.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation without a written agreement between the State's Attorney and the respondent if the following conditions are met:

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) the crime for which the respondent is being sentenced is not a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(3) the court orders a presentence investigation in accordance with the procedures set forth in V.R.C.P. Rule 32, unless the State's Attorney agrees to waive the presentence investigation;

(4) the court permits the victim to submit a written or oral statement concerning the consideration of deferment of sentence;

(5) the court reviews the presentence investigation and the victim's impact statement with the parties; and

(6) the court determines that deferring sentence is in the interests of justice.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the court may not defer a sentence for a violation of section 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child), section 2602 (lewd and lascivious conduct with a child unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), 3252(c) (sexual assault of a child under 16 unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), 3252(d) or (e) (sexual assault of a child), 3253(a)(8) (aggravated sexual assault), or 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child) of this title.

(d) Entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute an appealable judgment for purposes of appeal in accordance with 12 V.S.A. § 2383 and V.R.A.P. Rule 3. Except as otherwise provided, entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute imposition of sentence solely for the purpose of sentence review in accordance with section 7042 of this title. The court may impose sentence at any time if the respondent violates the conditions of the deferred sentence during the period of deferment.

(e) Upon violation of the terms of probation or of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall impose sentence. Upon fulfillment of the terms of probation and of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall strike the adjudication of guilt and discharge the respondent. Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings shall be ~~expunged~~ sealed upon the discharge of the respondent from probation, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to ~~expunge~~ seal all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the deferred sentence. Copies of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named therein. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such person upon inquiry in the matter. Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be ~~expunged~~ sealed until restitution has been paid in full.

(f) A deferred sentence imposed under subsection (a) or (b) of this section may include a restitution order issued pursuant to section 7043 of this title. Nonpayment of restitution shall not constitute grounds for imposition of the underlying sentence.

(g) [Repealed.]

(h) The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of deferred sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to subchapter 3 of chapter 167 of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the ~~expunged~~ sealed files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the ~~expungement~~ sealing. The special index shall be confidential and may be accessed only by the director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and a designated clerical staffperson for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a.

Sec. 4. APPLICATION TO DEFERRED SENTENCES

Sec. 3 of this act shall apply prospectively to sentences issued on or after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 2296b is added to read:

§ 2296b. EXPUNGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL VIOLATION RECORDS

(a) Expungement. Two years following the satisfaction of a judgment resulting from an adjudication of a municipal violation, the Judicial Bureau shall make an entry of “expunged” and notify the municipality of such action, provided the person has not been adjudicated for any subsequent municipal violations during that time. The data transfer to the municipality shall include the name, date of birth, ticket number, and offense. Violations of offenses adopted pursuant to chapter 117 of this title shall not be eligible for expungement under this section.

(b) Effect of expungement.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the individual whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if the individual had never been adjudicated of the violation.

(2) Upon an entry of expunged, the case will be accessible only by the Clerk of the Court for the Judicial Bureau or the Clerk’s designee. Adjudications that have been expunged shall not appear in the results of any Judicial Bureau database search by name, date of birth, or any other data

identifying the defendant. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any documents or other records related to an expunged adjudication that are maintained outside the Judicial Bureau's case management system shall be destroyed.

(3) Upon receiving an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record, the Judicial Bureau and the municipality shall respond that "NO RECORD EXISTS."

(c) Exception for research entities. Research entities that maintain adjudication records for purposes of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating criminal justice data shall not be subject to the expungement requirements established in this section. Research entities shall abide by the policies established by the Court Administrator and shall not disclose any identifying information from the records they maintain.

(d) Policies for implementation. The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this section.

(e) Application. This section shall apply to municipal violations that occur on and after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2303 is amended to read:

§ 2303. EXPUNGEMENT OF VIOLATION RECORDS

* * *

(e) Application. This section shall apply to motor vehicle violations that occur on and after July 1, 2021.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

S. 53

An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services

Rep. Cordes of Bristol, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 7, state plan amendment, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

Not later than July 1, 2026, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall seek a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow Vermont's Medicaid program to provide coverage for doula services in accordance with 33 V.S.A. § 1901n, as added by this act.

Second: In Sec. 8, effective dates, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) Sec. 5 (33 V.S.A. § 1901n; Medicaid coverage for doula services) shall take effect on the later of July 1, 2026 or approval of the state plan amendment requested pursuant to Sec. 7 of this act.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Branagan of Georgia, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

S. 109

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington, 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. 3 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. ADULT COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

(a) Purpose.

(1) The Attorney General shall develop and administer an adult court diversion program, for both pre-charge and post-charge referrals, available in all counties.

(2) The program shall be designed to provide a restorative option for persons alleged to have caused harm in violation of a criminal statute or who have been charged with violating a criminal statute as well as for victims or those acting on a victim's behalf who have been allegedly harmed by the

~~responsible party~~ person referred to the program. The diversion program can accept referrals to the program as follows:

* * *

(c) Adult diversion program policy and referral requirements.

* * *

(3) Adult post-charge diversion requirements. Each State's Attorney, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and the adult post-charge diversion program, shall develop clear criteria for deciding what types of offenses and offenders will be eligible for diversion; however, the State's Attorney shall retain final discretion over the referral of each case for diversion. All adult post-charge diversion programs receiving financial assistance from the Attorney General shall adhere to the following:

(A) The post-charge diversion program for adults shall only accept persons against whom charges have been filed and the court has found probable cause, but are not adjudicated.

(B) A prosecutor may refer a person to diversion either before or after arraignment and shall notify in writing the diversion program and the court of the prosecutor's ~~of the~~ referral to diversion.

* * *

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 71 is amended to read:

§ 71. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SUPERIOR JUDGES

(a) ~~There shall be 34 Superior judges, whose term of office shall,~~ The number of Superior Judges shall be as determined by the General Assembly. ~~The term of office of a Superior Judge shall,~~ except in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy or unexpired term, begin on April 1 in the year of their appointment or retention and continue for six years.

* * *

Sec. 3. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(4) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 1005, relating to possession and procurement of tobacco products by a person under 21 years of age.

* * *

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 1106 is amended to read:

§ 1106. HEARING

* * *

(d) A Unless otherwise provided by law, a law enforcement officer may void or amend a complaint issued by that officer by so marking the complaint and returning it to the Bureau, regardless of whether the amended complaint is a lesser included violation. At the hearing, a law enforcement officer may, unless otherwise provided by law, void or amend a complaint issued by that officer in the discretion of that officer.

* * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 1005(c) is amended to read:

(c) A person under 21 years of age who misrepresents ~~his or her~~ the person's age by presenting false identification to purchase tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia shall be ~~fin~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$50.00 or provide up to 10 hours of community service, or both.

Sec. 6. 12 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC CASE RECORDS

(a) The Court shall not permit public access via the ~~Internet~~ internet to criminal, family, or probate case records. The Court may permit criminal justice agencies, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a, ~~Internet~~ internet access to criminal case records for criminal justice purposes, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Court shall provide licensed Vermont attorneys in good standing with access via the internet, through the Judiciary's public portal website or otherwise, to nonconfidential criminal, family, and probate case records.

(c) This section shall not be construed to prohibit the Court from providing electronic access to:

(1) court schedules of the Superior Court or opinions of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court;

(2) State agencies in accordance with data dissemination contracts entered into under Rule 12 of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records; or

(3) decisions, recordings of oral arguments, briefs, and printed cases of the Supreme Court.

Sec. 7. 12 V.S.A. § 4937 is amended to read:

§ 4937. ATTORNEY'S FEES

When a mortgage contains an agreement on the part of the mortgagor to pay the mortgagee, in the event of foreclosure, the attorney's fees incident thereto, and claim is made therefor in the complaint, ~~upon hearing~~, the court in which the complaint is brought shall allow such fee as in its judgment is just.

Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 4013 is amended to read:

§ 4013. ZIP GUNS; ~~SWITCHBLADE KNIVES~~

A person who possesses, sells, or offers for sale a weapon commonly known as a "zip" gun, ~~or a weapon commonly known as a switchblade knife, the blade of which is three inches or more in length~~, shall be imprisoned not more than 90 days or fined not more than \$100.00, or both.

Sec. 9. EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

The court shall order the expungement of criminal history records of convictions of 13 V.S.A. § 4013 for possessing, selling, or offering for sale a switchblade knife that occurred prior to July 1, 2025. The process and effect for expungement of these records shall be as provided for in 13 V.S.A. § 7606 and shall be completed by the court and all entities subject to the order not later than July 1, 2026.

Sec. 10. 13 V.S.A. § 5351(7) is amended to read:

(7) "Victim" means:

(A) a person who sustains injury or death as a direct result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime;

(B) an intervenor who is physically injured or killed in an attempt to assist the person described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7) or ~~the police~~ a protected professional as defined in subdivision 1028(d)(1) of this title;

(C) a surviving immediate family member of a homicide victim, including a spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, grandparent, or other survivor who may suffer severe emotional harm as a result of the

victim's death as determined on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the Board; or

(D) a resident of this State who is injured or killed as the result of a crime committed outside the United States.

Sec. 11. 13 V.S.A. § 7282 is amended to read:

§ 7282. SURCHARGE

* * *

(c) ~~SIU-surecharge.~~ In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the court for a criminal offense committed after July 1, 2009, the clerk of the court shall levy an additional surcharge of \$100.00 to be deposited in the General Fund, in support of the Specialized Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.

Sec. 12. 14 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEPOSIT OF WILL FOR SAFEKEEPING; DELIVERY; FINAL
DISPOSITION

(a) A will may be deposited for safekeeping in the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the district in which the testator resides on payment to the court of the applicable fee required by ~~32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(17)~~ 32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(18). The register shall give to the testator a receipt, shall safely keep each will so deposited, and shall keep an index of the wills so deposited.

* * *

Sec. 13. 14 V.S.A. § 3068 is amended to read:

§ 3068. HEARING

* * *

(e)(1) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the respondent is not a person in need of guardianship, it shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(2) If a motion to withdraw the petition is made before the final hearing, the court shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(f) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the petitioner has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is a person in need of guardianship or will be a person in need of guardianship on attaining 18 years of age, it shall enter judgment specifying

the powers of the guardian pursuant to sections 3069 and 3070 of this title and the duties of the guardian pursuant to section 3071 of this title.

(g) Any party to the proceeding before the court may appeal the court's decision in the manner provided in section 3080 of this title.

Sec. 14. 14 V.S.A. § 4051 is amended to read:

§ 4051. STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY

A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this chapter.

VERMONT STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* * *

GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)

My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED the specific authority listed below:

(CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your death. INITIAL ONLY the specific authority you WANT to give your agent.)

() An agent who is not an ancestor, spouse, or descendant may exercise authority under this power of attorney to create in the agent or in an individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of support an interest in my property whether by gift, rights of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer, or otherwise

() Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos, family, living, irrevocable, or revocable trust

() Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411

() Make a gift, subject to the limitations of 14 V.S.A. § 4047 (gifts) and any special instructions in this power of attorney

~~() Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411~~

() Create, amend, or change rights of survivorship

() Create, amend, or change a beneficiary designation

- () Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan
- () Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate
- () Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney
- () Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a power of appointment
- () Exercise authority with respect to elective share under 14 V.S.A. § 319
- () Exercise waiver rights under 14 V.S.A. § 323
- () Exercise authority over the content and catalogue of electronic communications and digital assets under 14 V.S.A. chapter 125 (Vermont Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act)
- () Exercise authority with respect to intellectual property, including, without limitation, copyrights, contracts for payment of royalties, and trademarks
- () Convey, or revoke or revise a grantee designation, by enhanced life estate deed pursuant to 27 V.S.A. chapter 6 or under common law.

* * *

Sec. 15. 14A V.S.A. § 1316 is amended to read:

§ 1316. OFFICE OF TRUST DIRECTOR

Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, the rules applicable to a trustee apply to a trust director regarding the following matters:

- (1) acceptance under section 701 of this title;
- (2) giving of bond to secure performance under section 702 of this title;
- (3) reasonable compensation under section 708 of this title;
- (4) resignation under section 705 of this title;
- (5) removal under section 706 of this title; and
- (6) vacancy and appointment of successor under section 704 of this title.

Sec. 16. 33 V.S.A. § 5204(b)(2)(A) is amended to read:

(2)(A)(i) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall hold a hearing under subsection (c) of this section to determine whether jurisdiction should be transferred to the Criminal Division under subsection (a) of this section if the delinquent act set forth in the petition is:

(I) [Repealed.]

(II) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;

(III) defacing a firearm's serial number in violation of ~~13 V.S.A. § 4024~~ 13 V.S.A. § 4026; or

(IV) straw purchasing of firearm in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 4025; and

(ii) the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred.

Sec. 17. 33 V.S.A. § 5225 is amended to read:

§ 5225. PRELIMINARY HEARING; RISK ASSESSMENT

(a) Preliminary hearing. A preliminary hearing shall be held at the time and date specified on the citation or as otherwise ordered by the court. If a child is taken into custody prior to the preliminary hearing, the preliminary hearing shall be at the time of the temporary care hearing. Counsel for the child shall be assigned prior to the preliminary hearing.

(b) Risk and needs screening.

(1) Prior to the preliminary hearing, the child shall be afforded an opportunity to undergo a risk and needs screening, which shall be conducted by the Department or by a community provider that has contracted with the Department to provide risk and need screenings for children alleged to have committed delinquent acts.

(2) If the child participates in such a screening, the Department or the community provider shall report the risk level result of the screening, the number and source of the collateral contacts made, and the recommendation for charging or other alternatives to the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney shall consider the results of the risk and needs screening in determining whether to file a charge. In lieu of filing a charge, the State's Attorney may refer a child directly to a youth-appropriate community-based provider that has been approved by the Department, which may include pre-charge diversion pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 163, a community justice center, or a balanced and restorative justice program. Referral to a community-based provider pursuant to this subsection shall not require the State's Attorney to file a charge. If the community-based provider does not accept the case or if the child fails to complete the program in a manner deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the child's case shall return to the State's Attorney for charging consideration.

* * *

Sec. 18. 27 V.S.A. § 348 is amended to read:

§ 348. INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY VALIDATED

(a) When an instrument of writing shall have been on record in the office of the clerk in the proper town for a period of 15 years, and there is a defect in the instrument because it omitted to state any consideration or was not sealed, witnessed, acknowledged, validly acknowledged, or because a license to sell was not issued or is defective, the instrument shall, from and after the expiration of 15 years from the filing thereof for record, be valid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any rights acquired by grantees, assignees, or encumbrancers under the instruments described in the preceding sentence, nor shall this section apply to conveyances or other instruments of writing, the validity of which is brought in question in any suit now pending in any courts of the State.

* * *

(d) A release, discharge, or assignment of mortgage interest executed by a commercial lender with respect to a one- to four-family residential real property, including a residential unit in a condominium or in a common interest community as defined in Title 27A, that recites authority to act on behalf of the record holder of the mortgage under a power of attorney but where the power of attorney is not of record shall have the same effect as if executed by the record holder of the mortgage unless, within three years after the instrument is recorded, an action challenging the release, discharge, or assignment is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the release, discharge, or assignment is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to releases, discharges, or assignments obtained by fraud or forgery.

(e) A power of attorney made for the purpose of conveying, leasing, mortgaging, or affecting any interest in real property that has been acknowledged and signed in the presence of at least one witness shall be valid, notwithstanding its failure to comply with 14 V.S.A. § 3503 or the requirements of the Emergency Administrative Rules for Remote Notarial Acts adopted by the Vermont Secretary of State, unless within three years after recording, an action challenging its validity is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the power of attorney is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to a power of attorney obtained by fraud or forgery.

(f) Notwithstanding section 305 of this title, a deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument executed for the purpose of conveying or encumbering real property executed by a person purporting to act as the agent or attorney-in-fact for the party named in the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument that has been recorded for at least 15 years in the land records where the real property is located shall be valid even if no power of attorney authorizing and empowering an agent or attorney-in-fact appears of record, unless, within 15 years after recording, an action challenging the validity of the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the property is located. This subsection shall not apply to an instrument obtained by fraud or forgery.

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS

* * *

(c) The officers of the Judicial Branch named in this subsection shall be entitled to annual salaries as follows:

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court	\$214,024	\$225,581
(2) Each Associate Justice	\$204,264	\$215,294
(3) Administrative Chief Superior Judge	\$204,264	\$215,294
(4) Each Superior Judge	\$194,185	\$204,671
(5) [Repealed.]		
(6) Each Magistrate	\$146,413	\$154,319
(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer	\$146,413	\$154,319

* * *

Sec. 20. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. 5 (forensic facility report) is amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 21. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. REPEALS

* * *

(c) 28 V.S.A. § 126 (Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council) is repealed on ~~July 1, 2028~~ July 1, 2025.

Sec. 22. REPEAL

2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Secs. 99 and 100 (amendments to 18 V.S.A. §§ 4810(d)–(j) and 4811 that prohibited public inebriates from being incarcerated in a Department of Corrections’ facility) are repealed.

Sec 23. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105 is amended to read:

Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(c) ~~Secs. 99 and 100 (amending 18 V.S.A. §§ 4910 and 4811) shall take effect on July 1, 2025. [Deleted.]~~

* * *

Sec. 24. FIREARM SURRENDER ORDER COMPLIANCE WORKING
GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. The Office of the Attorney General shall convene a Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court orders to surrender firearms. The Working Group shall examine the statutory or policy changes necessary to create a uniform process to monitor compliance, support entities charged with storing and returning surrendered firearms pursuant to court orders, and identify a stable and reliable funding source for any additional resources needed to monitor compliance.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Attorney General or designee, who shall be the chair;

(2) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

(3) the Defender General or designee;

(4) one State’s Attorney or designee, appointed by the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs;

(5) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(6) a member of the Vermont State Police, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

(7) a police chief, appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police; and

(8) a federal firearms licensee, appointed by the Attorney General.

(c) Consultation. The Working Group shall consult with stakeholders including:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections;

(2) family law practitioners;

(3) victim advocates;

(4) advocates from culturally specific advocacy organizations that work with domestic violence victims;

(5) the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs;

(6) the Vermont Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms;

(7) the Vermont Medical Society;

(8) the Commissioner of Mental Health;

(9) the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services; and

(10) the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence.

(d) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. The report shall include:

(1) a workable statewide compliance model that is adaptable to both the Family and Criminal Divisions of the Superior Courts and that ensures:

(A) accountability of respondents and defendants while addressing safety needs of the plaintiffs and victims; and

(B) proper storage and return of firearms surrendered pursuant to court orders; and

(2) recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to support the model.

(e) Meetings. The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State of Vermont or who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

Sec. 25. 15A V.S.A. § 3-504 is amended to read:

§ 3-504. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATING RELATIONSHIP OF PARENT
AND CHILD

(a) If a respondent answers or appears at the hearing and asserts parental rights, the court shall proceed with the hearing expeditiously. If the court finds, upon clear and convincing evidence, that any one of the following grounds exists and that termination is in the best interests of the minor, the court shall order the termination of any parental relationship of the respondent to the minor:

* * *

(2) In the case of a minor over six months of age at the time the petition is filed, the respondent did not exercise parental responsibility for a period of at least six months immediately preceding the filing of the petition. In making a determination under this subdivision, the court shall consider all relevant factors, which may include the respondent's failure to:

(A) make reasonable and consistent payments, in accordance with the respondent's financial means, for the support of the minor, although legally obligated to do so;

(B) regularly communicate or visit with the minor; or

(C) during any time the minor was not in the physical custody of the other parent, manifest an ability and willingness to assume legal and physical custody of the minor.

* * *

Sec. 26. Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

§ 202. PENALTY FOR DESERTION OR NONSUPPORT

A married person who, without just cause, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the person's spouse and children, leaving them in destitute or necessitous circumstances or a parent who, without lawful excuse, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the child ~~or an adult child possessed of sufficient pecuniary or physical ability to support his or her~~

~~parents, who unreasonably neglects or refuses to provide such support when the parent is destitute, unable to support himself or herself, and resident in this State, shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$300.00, or both. Should a fine be imposed, the court may order the same to be paid in whole or in part to the needy spouse, parent, or to the guardian, custodian, or trustee of the child. The Office of Child Support attorneys, in addition to any other duly authorized person, may prosecute cases under this section in Vermont Superior Court.~~

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 28. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

~~(b) Sec. 5 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2025. [Deleted.]~~

* * *

Sec. 29. 13 V.S.A. § 7556 is amended to read:

§ 7556. APPEAL FROM CONDITIONS OF RELEASE OR BAIL
REVOCATION DENIAL

(a) A person who is detained, or whose release on a condition requiring ~~him or her~~ the person to return to custody after specified hours is continued, after review of ~~his or her~~ the person's application pursuant to subsection 7554(d) or (e) of this title by a judicial officer, other than a judge of the court having original jurisdiction over the offense with which ~~he or she~~ the person is charged or a Justice of the Supreme Court, may move the court having original jurisdiction over the offense with which ~~he or she~~ the person is charged to amend the order. The motion shall be determined promptly.

(b) When a person is detained after a court denies a motion under subsection (a) of this section or when conditions of release have been imposed or amended by the judge of the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged, an appeal may be taken to a single Justice of the Supreme Court who may hear the matter or at ~~his or her~~ the Justice's discretion refer it to the entire Supreme Court for hearing. No further appeal may lie from the ruling of a single Justice in matters to which this subsection applies. Any order so appealed shall be affirmed if it is supported by the proceedings below. If the order is not supported, the Supreme Court or single Justice hearing the

matter may remand the case for a further hearing or may, with or without additional evidence, order the person released. The appeal shall be determined forthwith.

(c)(1) When a person is released, with or without bail or other conditions of release, an appeal may be taken by the State to a single Justice of the Supreme Court who may hear the matter or at ~~his or her~~ the Justice's discretion refer it to the entire Supreme Court for hearing. No further appeal may lie from the ruling of a single Justice in matters to which this subsection applies. Any order so appealed shall be affirmed if it is supported by the proceedings below. If the order is not supported, the Supreme Court or single Justice hearing the matter may remand the case for a further hearing or may, with or without additional evidence, modify or vacate the order. The appeal shall be determined ~~forthwith~~ promptly.

(2) When a request to revoke bail pursuant to section 7575 of this title is denied, a prosecutor may appeal the court's order in accordance with the procedure outlined in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) A person held without bail under section 7553a of this title prior to trial shall be entitled to an independent, second evidentiary hearing on the merits of the denial of bail, which shall be a hearing de novo by a single Justice of the Supreme Court forthwith. Pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 22 the Chief Justice may appoint and assign a retired justice or judge with ~~his or her~~ the retired justice's or judge's consent or a Superior judge or District judge to a special assignment on the Supreme Court to conduct that de novo hearing. Such hearing de novo shall be an entirely new evidentiary hearing without regard to the record compiled before the trial court; except, the parties may stipulate to the admission of portions of the trial court record.

(e) A person held without bail prior to trial shall be entitled to review of that determination by a panel of three Supreme Court Justices within seven business days after bail is denied.

Sec. 30. 28 V.S.A. § 818 is amended to read:

§ 818. EARNED TIME; REDUCTION OF TERM

* * *

(b) The earned time program implemented pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards:

* * *

(4) The Department shall:

(A) ensure that all victims of record are notified of the earned time program at its outset and made aware of the option to receive notifications from the Department pursuant to this subdivision;

(B) provide timely notice not less frequently than every 90 days to the offender, and to any victim who opts to receive the notice, any time the offender receives a reduction in ~~his or her~~ the offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section;

(C) maintain a system that documents and records all such reductions in each offender's permanent record; and

(D) record any reduction in an offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section on a monthly basis and ensure that victims who want information regarding changes in ~~scheduled~~ an offender's minimum release dates have access to such information.

* * *

Sec. 31. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Victim Notification System Task Force to review and improve the responsiveness of Vermont's victim notification system.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(4) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(5) the Victims Service Director of the Vermont State Police; and

(6) two persons who are either victims or survivors of crimes, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study the current state of Vermont's victim notification system, including:

(1) improving victims' accessibility to information;

(2) ensuring that the entire notification process is trauma-informed, including all notifications, communications, and informational materials;

(3) expanding the use of automated notification systems in order to increase options and maximize communication choices for victims and survivors; and

(4) recommendations for necessary training and resources.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Corrections.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit its findings and recommendations as a written report in the form of proposed legislation to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary, and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Corrections or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 15, 2026.

Sec. 32. ADULT INVOLUNTARY GUARDIANSHIP WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Adult Involuntary Guardianship Working Group to study jurisdiction of proceedings involving the involuntary guardianship of adults. The Working Group shall examine the advisability of consolidating adult involuntary guardianships under 14 V.S.A. chapter 111, subchapter 12 ("Title 14 involuntary guardianships") with guardianships for persons with developmental disabilities under 18 V.S.A. chapter 215 ("Title 18 guardianships"), or otherwise amending the statutes to ensure that respondents under Title 18 guardianships have access to voluntary guardianships that is equal to the access to voluntary guardianships available under Title 14.

(b) Membership. The Adult Involuntary Guardianship Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(2) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

(3) the Court Administrator or designee;

(4) a superior judge with experience in Title 18 guardianships, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(5) a probate judge, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(6) a guardian ad litem, appointed by the Court Administrator;

(7) an attorney with experience in adult guardianships, appointed by the Vermont Bar Association;

(8) an attorney with experience in adult guardianships, appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;

(9) an independent mental health evaluator, appointed by the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; and

(10) a member, appointed by the Vermont Center for Independent Living.

(c) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Report.

(1)(A) On or before December 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations, including any proposed legislative changes, to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(B) The report shall recommend whether:

(i) Title 14 involuntary guardianship proceedings and Title 18 guardianship proceedings should be consolidated in one division of the Superior Court; or

(ii) Title 14 involuntary guardianship proceedings and Title 18 guardianship proceedings should remain in separate divisions of the Superior Court as provided for in existing law.

(2) With respect to subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this section, the report shall address:

(A) the judicial resources and oversight that would be required;

(B) whether, notwithstanding 12 V.S.A. §2553 or 2555, the Vermont Supreme Court should have appellate jurisdiction over guardianship proceedings;

(C) the relationship between guardianships under subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this section and voluntary guardianships under 14 V.S.A. § 2671; and

(D) any other matters deemed relevant by the Working Group, including any matters not currently under the jurisdiction of Title 14 guardianships or Title 18 guardianships.

Sec. 33. 4 V.S.A. § 39 is amended to read:

§ 39. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS; COUNTY COURTHOUSES

(a) On or before October 1 each year, any county requesting capital funds for its courthouse, or court operations, shall submit a request to the Court Administrator. As used in this subsection, “court operations” does not include operating expenses.

(b) The Court Administrator shall evaluate requests based on the following criteria:

(1) whether the funding request is consistent with a capital program developed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3);

(2) whether the project that is the subject of the request has been included in the list of capital projects in the county’s budget pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(1), and, if so, the description of the project included in the budget;

(3) whether the county has established a capital reserve fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3), and, if so, the amount of annual contributions the county has made to the fund;

(4) whether the funding request relates to an emergency that will affect the court operations and the administration of justice;

~~(2)~~(5) whether there is a State-owned courthouse in the county that could absorb court activities in lieu of this capital investment;

~~(3)~~(6) whether the county consistently has invested in major maintenance in the courthouse;

~~(4)~~(7) whether the request relates to a State-mandated function;

~~(5)~~(8) whether the request diverts resources of other current Judiciary capital priorities;

~~(6)~~(9) whether the request is consistent with the long-term capital needs of the Judiciary, including providing court services adapted to modern needs and requirements; and

~~(7)~~(10) any other criteria as deemed appropriate by the Court Administrator.

(c) Based on the criteria described in subsection (b) of this section, the Court Administrator shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services regarding whether the county's request should be included as part of the Judiciary's request for capital funding in the Governor's annual proposed capital budget request.

(d) On or before January 15 of each year, the Court Administrator shall advise the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of all county requests received and the Court Administrator's recommendations for the proposed capital budget request.

Sec. 34. REPORT

On or before January 15, 2026, the Court Administrator and a representative of the Association of County Judges appointed by the President of that Association shall jointly report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the progress made to implement the provisions of Sec. 33 of this act. The report shall include a description of the steps taken and processes considered, and any proposed legislative changes necessary, to ensure that capital budget requests for county courthouses include the information required by Sec. 33 of this act.

Sec. 35. 23 V.S.A. § 1210(c) is amended to read:

(c) Second offense. A person convicted of violating section 1201 of this title who has been convicted of another violation of that section within the last 20 years shall be fined not more than \$1,500.00 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. At least ~~200~~ 80 hours of community service shall be performed, or 60 consecutive hours of the sentence of imprisonment shall be served and may not be suspended or deferred or served as a supervised sentence, except that credit for a sentence of imprisonment may be received for time served in a residential alcohol facility pursuant to sentence if the program is successfully completed.

Sec. 36. REPEAL

Sec. 35 of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2028.

Sec. 37. FAMILY FORENSIC EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) The General Assembly requests that the Chief Superior Judge, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, and the Executive Director of the Vermont Psychological Association work collaboratively to examine the following:

(1) the extent of the need for and geographic distribution of family forensic evaluators in complex parental rights and responsibilities cases heard in the Family Division;

(2) barriers to increasing the availability of family forensic evaluators in Vermont and whether protections regarding ethical complaints are warranted; and

(3) strategies for increasing the number of family forensic evaluators in Vermont.

(b) The General Assembly requests that the parties listed in subsection (a) of this section submit their recommendations to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2025.

Sec. 38. CHILD AND PARENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION; TASK
FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Child and Parent Legal Representation Task Force to study the need and viability of an improved legal representation system for children and families who are involved in judicial or administrative proceedings concerning Children in Need of Care or Supervision (CHINS), relief from abuse petitions, or substantiations of abuse or neglect.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court or designee;

(2) the Court Administrator or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families or designee;

(4) the Defender General or designee;

(5) the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of Voices for Vermont's Children or designee; and

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Parent Representation Center, Inc.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall assess and determine whether reform of Vermont's legal representation for children and families is necessary by exploring the following topics:

(1) standards recommended by the American Bar Association, U.S. Children's Bureau, and the *Study of CHINS Case Processing in Vermont* authored by the National Center for State Courts and published in May of 2021;

(2) compliance with funding and reporting requirements in order for Vermont to leverage funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act;

(3) identifying the processes and amounts of Title IV-E funds and other funding sources to support any reformed system;

(4) using an interdisciplinary model of representation, including pay scales, performance measures, supervision and evaluation processes, and recommended caseloads for attorneys, social workers, and other child and family representatives; and

(5) other topics relevant to creating a reformed child and parent representation system.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Court Administrator's Office.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report that proposes any necessary reforms to the legal representation system for children and families who are involved in CHINS proceedings, relief from abuse petitions, or substantiations of abuse or neglect, along with proposed legislation to implement such reforms to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Health and Welfare and the House Committees on Judiciary and on Human Services.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of designee shall be the chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on May 15, 2026.

Sec. 39. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 2, 2025 and Sec. 33 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 401

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

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. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Vermont enhance its food resiliency through increased supply and distribution of locally produced food products;

(2) Vermonters have more access to the local food marketplace as both producers and consumers;

(3) local food producers are able to meet the demand for Vermont-made food products from visitors to the State;

(4) small-scale food producers, new business start-ups, and sole proprietors benefit from raising the limit of the existing licensing exemption for at-home bakery products to adjust for inflationary cost changes occurring since the initial statutory enactment; and

(5) supply-chain costs and inflationary considerations be addressed to bring risk management thresholds more in line with the economic conditions at the time of initial statutory enactment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4301 is amended to read:

§ 4301. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4) “Cottage food operation” means a food manufacturing establishment where a cottage food product is produced.

(5) “Cottage food operator” means any person who produces or packages cottage food products solely in the home kitchen of the person’s private residential dwelling or a kitchen on the person’s personal property.

(6) “Cottage food product” means food sold by a cottage food operator that does not require refrigeration or time or temperature control for safety, such as:

(A) nonpotentially hazardous baked goods;

(B) candy;

(C) jams and jellies;

(D) dry herbs;

(E) trail mix;

(F) granola;

(G) cereal;

(H) mixed nuts;

(I) flavored vinegar;

(J) popcorn;

(K) coffee beans;

(L) dry tea;

(M) home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits having an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower or a water activity value of 0.85 or less that are made using recipes:

(i) approved by the National Center for Home Food Preservation;

or

(ii) reviewed by a food processing authority for safety; and

(N) any other good defined by the Commissioner in rule or policy.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Health.

(5)(8) “Establishment” means food manufacturing establishments, food service establishments, lodging establishments, children’s camps, seafood vending facilities, and shellfish reshippers and repackers.

(6)(9) “Food” means articles of food, drink, confectionery, or condiment for human consumption, whether simple, mixed, or compound, and all substances and ingredients used in the preparation thereof.

(7)(10) “Food manufacturing establishment” or “food processor” means all buildings, rooms, basements, cellars, lofts, or other premises or part thereof used, occupied, or maintained for the purpose of manufacturing, preparing, packing, canning, bottling, keeping, storing, handling, serving, or distributing food for sale. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall include~~ includes food processors, bakeries, cottage food operations, distributors, and warehouses. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall~~ does not include a place where only maple syrup or maple products, as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 481, are prepared for human consumption.

(8)(11) “Food service establishment” means entities that prepare, serve, and sell food to the public, including restaurants, temporary food vendors, caterers, mobile food units, and limited operations as defined in rule.

(9)(12) “Lodging establishment” means a place where overnight accommodations are regularly provided to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public, including hotels, motels, inns, and bed and breakfasts. “Lodging establishment” ~~shall~~ does not include short-term rentals.

(10)(13) “Salvage food” means any food product from which the label on the packaging has been lost or destroyed or that has been subjected to possible damage as the result of an accident, fire, flood, or other cause that prevents the product from meeting the specifications of the manufacturer or the packer but is otherwise suitable for human consumption.

(11)(14) “Salvage food facility” means any food vendor for which salvage food comprises 50 percent or more of gross sales.

(12)(15) “Seafood vending facility” means a store, motor vehicle, retail stand, or similar place from which a person sells seafood for human consumption.

(13)(16) “Shellfish reshipper and repacker” means an establishment engaging in interstate commerce of molluscan shellfish.

(14)(17) “Short-term rental” means a furnished house, condominium, or other dwelling room or self-contained dwelling unit rented to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days and for more than 14 days per calendar year.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4303 is amended to read:

§ 4303. RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to establish minimum standards for the safe and sanitary operation of food or lodging establishments or children's camps or any combination thereof and for their administration and enforcement. The rules shall require that an establishment be constructed, maintained, and operated with strict regard for the health of the employees and the public pursuant to the following general requirements:

* * *

(7) There shall be training requirements for food manufacturing establishment operators and employees to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and healthfulness.

(8) The Commissioner may adopt any other minimum conditions deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of a food or lodging establishment in a safe and sanitary manner.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4353 is amended to read:

§ 4353. FEES

(a) The Commissioner may establish by rule any requirement the Department needs to determine the applicable categories or exemptions for licenses. The following license fees shall be paid annually to the Department at the time of making the application according to the following schedules:

* * *

(3) Food manufacturing establishment — a fee for any person or persons that process food for resale to restaurants, stores, or individuals according to the following schedule:

(A) Food manufacturing establishments; nonbakeries

I — Gross receipts of \$10,001.00 to \$50,000.00; \$175.00

II — Gross receipts of over \$50,000.00; \$275.00

III — Gross receipts of \$10,000.00 or less are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title

(B) Food manufacturing ~~establishment~~ establishments; bakeries

I — Home bakery;	\$100.00
II — Small commercial;	\$200.00
III — Large commercial;	\$350.00

(C) Food manufacturing establishments; cottage food operations — Gross receipts of \$30,000.00 or less from the sale of cottage food products are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4358 is amended to read:

§ 4358. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(b) The provisions of obligation to obtain a license and the associated licensure fees in this subchapter shall not apply to an individual manufacturing and selling bakery products from his or her own home kitchen whose a cottage food operation or other food manufacturing establishment that is exempt due to its average gross retail sales do not exceed \$125.00 per week being below the listed thresholds in section 4353 of this title.

(c) Any Annually, a food manufacturing establishment claiming a licensing exemption pursuant to this title shall provide documentation submit to the Department a licensing exemption filing as required by rule. The licensing exemption filing shall require the food manufacturing establishment to attest to the completion of any training required by rule pursuant to section 4303 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. RULEMAKING

Pending the adoption of permanent rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this act, the Commissioner of Health shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844, which shall be deemed to meet the emergency rulemaking standard in 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Committee of Conference Report

H. 488

An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

H.488. An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate's proposals of amendment and that the bill be further amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transportation Program Adopted as Amended; Definitions * * *

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

(a) Adoption. The Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

(b) Definitions. As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) "Agency" means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) "Candidate project" means a project approved by the General Assembly that is not anticipated to have significant expenditures for preliminary engineering or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and funding for construction is not anticipated within a predictable time frame.

(3) "Development and evaluation (D&E) project" means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have preliminary engineering expenditures or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and that the Agency is committed to delivering to construction on a timeline driven by priority and available funding.

(4) "Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)" and "electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public" have the same meanings as in 30 V.S.A. § 201.

(5) “Front-of-book project” means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have construction expenditures during the budget year or the following three years, or both, with expected expenditures shown over four years.

(6) “Mileage-based user fee” or “MBUF” means a fee for vehicle use of the public road system with distance, stated in miles, as the measure of use.

(7) “Plug-in electric vehicle (PEV),” “plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV),” and “battery electric vehicle (BEV)” have the same meanings as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85).

(8) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(9) “TIB funds” means monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

(10) The table heading “As Proposed” means the Proposed Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading “As Amended” means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading “Change” means the difference obtained by subtracting the “As Proposed” figure from the “As Amended” figure; the terms “change” or “changes” in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net “Change” in the applicable table heading; and “State” in any tables amending authorizations indicates that the source of funds is State monies in the Transportation Fund, unless otherwise specified.

* * * Summary of Transportation Investments * * *

Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS INTENDED TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL USE, AND SAVE VERMONT HOUSEHOLDS MONEY

This act includes the State’s fiscal year 2026 transportation investments intended to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fossil fuel use, and save Vermont households money in furtherance of the policies articulated in 19 V.S.A. § 10b and the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Vermont Climate Action Plan and to satisfy the Executive and Legislative Branches’ commitments to the Paris Agreement climate goals. In fiscal year 2026, these efforts will include the following:

(1) Park and Ride Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of \$2,435,740.00, which will fund two construction projects to create new park-and-ride facilities, the construction of improvements to two existing park-and-ride facilities, funding for a municipal park-and-ride grant

program, and paving projects for existing park-and-ride facilities. This year's Park and Ride Program will create 60 new State-owned spaces. Specific additions and improvements include:

(A) Manchester—construction of 50 new spaces; and

(B) Sharon—design and construction of 10 new spaces.

(2) Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure, including local match, of \$21,879,965.00, which will fund 33 bike and pedestrian construction projects; 17 bike and pedestrian design, right-of-way, or design and right-of way projects for construction in future fiscal years; and 10 scoping studies. The construction projects include the creation, improvement, or rehabilitation of walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, bike paths, and cycling lanes. Projects are funded in Arlington, Bakersfield, Bennington, Bethel, Brattleboro, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Castleton, Chester, Danville, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Greensboro, Hardwick, Hartford, Highgate, Hinesburg, Huntington, Hyde Park, Irasburg, Jericho, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Moretown, Newfane, Newport City, Northfield, Pawlet, Randolph, Royalton, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Sheffield, Shelburne, Sheldon, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Swanton, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Rutland, Williston, Wilmington, and Windsor. This act also provides funding for:

(A) some of Local Motion's operation costs to run the bike ferry on the Colchester Causeway, which is part of the Island Line Trail;

(B) a small-scale municipal bicycle and pedestrian grant program for projects to be selected during the fiscal year;

(C) projects funded through the Safe Routes to School Program; and

(D) community grants along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT).

(3) Transportation Alternatives Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of \$6,471,054.00, including local funds, which will fund 17 transportation alternatives construction projects; 26 transportation alternatives design, right-of-way, or design and right-of-way projects; and eight scoping studies. Of these 51 projects, 20 involve environmental mitigation related to clean water or stormwater concerns, or both clean water and stormwater concerns, and 32 involve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects are funded in Athens, Barre City, Bennington, Brandon, Brattleboro, Bridgewater, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Castleton, Derby, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Fairlee, Ferrisburgh, Grafton, Guilford, Hartford, Hinesburg, Hyde Park, Jericho, Londonderry, Lyndon, Montgomery, Newark, Proctor, Rockingham, Rutland

City, Shoreham, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans Town, Swanton, Tinmouth, Warren, Williston, and Wilmington.

(4) Public Transit Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of \$52,695,234.00 for public transit uses throughout the State. Included in the authorization are:

(A) Go! Vermont, with an authorization of \$380,000.00. This authorization supports transportation demand management (TDM) strategies, including the State's Trip Planner and commuter services, to promote the use of carpools and vanpools.

(B) Mobility and Transportation Innovations (MTI) Grant Program, with an authorization of \$340,000.00, which includes \$315,000.00 in federal funds. This authorization continues to support projects that improve both mobility and access to services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(5) Rail Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of \$61,887,348.00, including local funds and \$31,894,436.00 in federal funds, for intercity passenger rail service, including funding for the Ethan Allen Express and Vermonter Amtrak services, and rail infrastructure that supports freight rail as well. Moving freight by rail instead of trucks lowers greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75 percent, on average.

* * * Rail Program; Technical Correction * * *

Sec. 3. RAIL PROGRAM

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail the following project is deleted: Barre–Berlin–Montpelier 04-9038–WACR Subsidy.

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail, the following project is added: Hartford HRRD(1) 25G002–White River Junction Depot Repairs.

(c) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail, spending authority for Hartford HRRD(1) 25G002–White River Junction Depot Repairs is authorized as follows:

<u>FY26</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	0	260,000	260,000
Total	0	260,000	260,000

Sources of funds

State	0	260,000	260,000
Total	0	260,000	260,000

* * * Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters * * *

Sec. 4. TOWN HIGHWAY NON-FEDERAL DISASTERS

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, spending is authorized as follows:

<u>FY26</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Grants	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0

Sources of funds

State	1,150,000	0	-1,150,000
Other	0	1,150,000	1,150,000
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, the following footnote is added: "Other funds of \$1,150,000 are amounts appropriated from the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709."

* * * State and Federal Funding Updates * * *

Sec. 5. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING; MILEAGE BASED USER FEE; UPDATES

(a) On or before September 30, 2025 and December 15, 2025, the Secretary of Transportation shall provide the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee with a briefing on the status of State Transportation Fund revenues and federal funding for the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, funding-related impacts on the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, and the Agency's progress in designing the mileage-based user fee. The briefing shall include:

(1) a summary of federal funding that has been received to date, federal funding that is anticipated later in the State fiscal year, federal funding that is delayed, and federal funding that has been reduced or subject to rescission;

(2) a summary of the Transportation Fund revenues to date in State fiscal year 2026;

(3) a summary of the impacts on the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program that are caused by changes in State Transportation Fund revenues from the consensus forecast or delays or reductions in federal funding;

(4) a summary of any legislative action that may be necessary to address reductions in State revenues or federal funding;

(5) a summary of the status of State and federal funding for the design of the mileage-based user fee pursuant to the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62, Secs. 27–29, as amended by Sec. 17 of this act; and

(6) the Agency’s progress in designing the mileage-based user fee.

(b) Upon becoming aware of a significant change in State revenues or a reduction in federal funding, rescission of federal grants, or delay of anticipated federal funding that will impact the Agency’s ability to carry out significant portions of the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, the Secretary of Transportation may request that the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee meet within 14 days to review the Agency’s plan to address the reduction in funding.

(c) In the event of a decrease in overall State or federal funding for the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program that is in excess of four percent, the Secretary shall submit to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee a written report detailing the impact of the decrease on projects that are in the 2026 Transportation Program.

* * * Relinquishment of Vermont Route 36 in the Town of St. Albans * * *

Sec. 6. RELINQUISHMENT OF VERMONT ROUTE 36 IN THE TOWN OF ST. ALBANS

Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 15(a)(2), the General Assembly authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to enter into an agreement with the Town of St. Albans to relinquish a segment of the State highway in the Town of St. Albans known as Vermont Route 36. The segment authorized to be relinquished begins at mile marker 0.00, just east of the “Black Bridge” (B2), and continues 14,963 feet (approximately 2.834 miles) easterly to mile marker 2.834, where Vermont Route 36 meets the boundary of the City of St. Albans, and includes the 0.106-mile westbound section of Vermont Route 36 and approaches at the entrance to the St. Albans Bay Town Park.

* * * State-Owned Railroads; Rail Trails * * *

Sec. 7. 5 V.S.A. chapter 58 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 58. STATE ACQUISITION OF STATE-OWNED RAILROADS
AND RAIL TRAILS

Sec. 8. 5 V.S.A. § 3408 is amended to read:

§ 3408. RAILBANKING; NOTIFICATION

(a) If the Secretary finds that the continued operation of any State-owned railroad property is not economically feasible under present conditions, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary may place the line in railbanked status after giving advance notice of ~~such~~ the planned railbanking to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session, and when the General Assembly is not in session, to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee. The Agency, on behalf of the State, shall continue to hold the right-of-way of a railbanked line for reactivation of railroad service or for other public purposes not inconsistent with future reactivation of railroad service. ~~Such~~ The railbanking shall not be treated, for purposes of any law or rule of law, as an abandonment of the use of the rights-of-way for railroad purposes.

* * *

(c)(1) The Secretary may, after consulting with municipalities, adopt rules consistent with the provisions of section 3408a of this chapter governing the interim trail use of State-owned railroad rights-of-way that have been placed in railbanked status.

(2) Signs indicating the rules shall be conspicuously posted in or near all areas affected.

(3) Any person who violates these rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$300.00.

Sec. 9. 5 V.S.A. § 3408a is added to read:

§ 3408a. USE OF RAIL TRAILS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Rail trail” means the right-of-way of a State-owned railroad line that has been authorized for railbanking and interim trail use pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) or section 3408 of this chapter.

(2) “Trail sponsor” means the Agency of Transportation in the case of a rail trail maintained by the Agency or the municipality in the case of a rail trail maintained by a municipality.

(b) Use of rail trails. The following acts are prohibited within a rail trail right-of-way:

(1) Throwing, dropping, or discarding bottles, cans, paper, garbage, rubbish, sewage, or other material of any kind.

(2) Cutting, mutilating, or removing any tree, shrub, flower, plant, top soil, or sod or attempting to do so.

(3) Injury, defacement, removal, or destruction of the surface of the rail trail or a rail trail's structures, appurtenances, recreation facilities, or property.

(4) Except as authorized by the trail sponsor, erecting, placing, or displaying any advertising materials, posters, or placards of any kind. This prohibition shall not apply to official signs erected by the trail sponsor.

(5) Except as authorized by the trail sponsor, entering or remaining on the rail trail for the purpose of:

(A) selling, hiring, or leasing any goods or services; or

(B) distributing samples, pamphlets, or advertising materials, except for official information authorized by the trail sponsor.

(6) Parades, demonstrations, picnics, games, entertainment, or organizations, except at times and locations approved by the trail sponsor.

(7) Harassing or molesting wildlife, except for fishing.

(8) Using or discharging any firearms or other weapons or fireworks, except by a person authorized by the trail sponsor or as otherwise permitted by law.

(9) Igniting fires for any purpose, except in fireplaces or firepits at locations designated by the trail sponsor or for trail maintenance purposes.

(10) Soliciting alms or contributions.

(11) Use of motorized vehicles, except for:

(A) maintenance purposes;

(B) snowmobiles, subject to applicable State rules, when the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc. has declared the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System officially open;

(C) Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) utilized by an individual with a disability as permitted by the Agency's Rail Trail Accessibility Policy;

(D) electric bicycles as permitted pursuant to applicable State rules;
and

(E) other circumstances that the trail sponsor determines are appropriate.

(12) Overnight camping, except at areas designated for that purpose by the trail sponsor.

(c) Penalty. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty pursuant to subdivision 3408(c)(3) of this chapter.

* * * Transportation Board * * *

Sec. 10. 19 V.S.A. § 3 is amended to read:

§ 3. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; CREATION; MEMBERS

~~A transportation board~~ The Transportation Board is formed to be attached to the Agency of Transportation. There shall be seven members of the Board, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall so far as is possible appoint Board members whose interests and expertise lie in various areas of the transportation field. The Governor shall appoint the ~~chair~~ Chair, and the Board may vote to appoint other officers. The members of the Board shall be appointed for terms of three years. Board members may be appointed for two additional three-year terms but shall not be eligible for further reappointment. ~~No~~ Not more than four members of the Board shall belong to the same political party. No member of the Board shall:

* * *

Sec. 11. 19 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES

* * *

(d) Specific duties and responsibilities. The Board shall:

* * *

(4) provide appellate review, when requested in writing, regarding legal disputes in the execution of contracts awarded by the Agency or by municipalities cooperating with the Agency to advance projects in the State's Transportation Program, except that the Agency shall provide appellate review relating to bids and the competitive negotiation process under 19 V.S.A. § 10a;

(5) provide appellate review, when requested in writing, of decisions of the Secretary in administering the provisions of Title 24, relating to junkyards salvage yards;

* * *

* * * Green Mountain Transit Authority * * *

Sec. 12. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 801 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 801. GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

* * *

§ 2. AREA OF OPERATION

(a) ~~The area of operation shall be the urbanized area of Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Washington Counties and the Towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown. The area of operation shall include Addison and Caledonia Counties and the Towns of Orange County other than Orange, Washington, and Williamstown, but only for the provision of commuter services. The area of operation shall include Lamoille County, but only for the provision of published scheduled services~~ County as established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Green Mountain Transit Authority may operate service outside the urbanized area of Chittenden County with approval from the Agency of Transportation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent other transit providers from offering transit connecting to the urbanized area of Chittenden County, or providing on demand services in that area, with the approval of the Agency of Transportation.

* * *

§ 10. IMPLEMENTATION

* * *

~~(e) Immediately upon joining the Authority, the municipality shall appoint two commissioners as provided herein. The initial terms of the commissioners of the initial members shall be arranged by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission so that the terms of approximately one-third of the commissioners shall expire in each year. The initial terms of commissioners from municipalities joining after March 7, 1973, shall be set by the Board of Commissioners.~~

* * *

* * * Town Highways * * *

Sec. 13. 19 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change of the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations ~~for town highways~~ under this subsection (a) and subsections (e) and (h) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

* * *

(e) State aid for town highway structures.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for maintenance (including actions to extend life expectancy) and for construction of bridges and culverts; for maintenance and construction of other structures, including causeways and retaining walls, intended to preserve the integrity of the traveled portion of class 1, 2, and 3 town highways; and for alternatives that eliminate the need for a bridge, culvert, or other structure, such as the construction or reconstruction of a highway, the purchase of parcels of land that would be landlocked by closure of a bridge, the payment of damages for loss of highway access, and the substitution of other means of access. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change in the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations under this subsection (e) and subsections (a) and (h) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

(B) the percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

(2) For purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the percentage change in the CPI-U is calculated by determining the increase or decrease, to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, in the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year one year prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made compared to the CPI-U for the month

ending on June 30 in the calendar year two years prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made.

~~(3) Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of \$7,200,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. The Agency's proposed appropriation for the Program shall take into account the estimated amount of qualifying invoices submitted to the Agency with respect to project grants approved in prior years but not yet completed as well as with respect to new project grants to be approved in the fiscal year~~
Beginning with State fiscal year 2027, the minimum total estimated State share cost for the approved grants shall increase over the prior fiscal year's minimum total estimated State share cost by the same percentage as the appropriation for State aid for town highway structures is increased pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Town Highway Structures Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects.

~~(3)(5)~~ Funds received as grants for State aid for town highway structures may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

* * *

(h) Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of paved or unpaved class 2 town highways. ~~However, municipalities~~ Municipalities that have no State highways or class 1 town highways within their borders may use the grants for such activities with respect to both class 2 and class 3 town highways. ~~Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of \$8,600,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. The Agency's proposed appropriation for the Program shall take into account the estimated amount of qualifying invoices submitted to the Agency with respect to project grants approved in prior years but not yet completed as well as with respect to new project grants to be approved in the fiscal year.~~ This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change in the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations under this subsection (h) and subsections (a) and (e) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

(B) the percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

(2) For purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the percentage change in the CPI-U is calculated by determining the increase or decrease, to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, in the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year one year prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made compared to the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year two years prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made.

(3) Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of \$8,600,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. Beginning with State fiscal year 2027, the minimum total estimated State share cost for the approved grants shall increase over the prior fiscal year's minimum total estimated State share cost by the same percentage as the appropriation for the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program is increased pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects. Funds received as grants for State aid under the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 14. CANCELLATION OF LOCALLY MANAGED PROJECTS; PROCESS; IMPROVEMENTS; REPORT

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Transportation Board, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to examine the requirements of 19 V.S.A. § 309c, cancellation of locally managed projects, to evaluate the obligations, risks, and benefits imposed by the provisions of that section on the State and the local sponsor of a locally

managed project and to identify potential changes to the provisions of that section to ensure that State and federal transportation funding resources are appropriately administered. The Agency shall, on or before January 15, 2026, submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 15. MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION ASSETS; ASSESSMENT;
FUNDING NEEDS; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to:

(1) review current municipal practices relating to planning for ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and replacement of municipal transportation assets, including roads, pavement, bridges, culverts, signals, signage, highway equipment, and highway facilities;

(2) develop a framework for a system to assess the current condition of municipal highway networks and the potential impacts of improvements to or degradation of those networks on the State's transportation system;

(3) develop a prioritization process to direct State funding to the repair, upgrade, or replacement of specific municipal transportation assets based on the need for such work in the context of the asset's role in the State and regional highway networks; and

(4) identify and recommend potential statutory changes to implement the assessment framework developed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection and the prioritization process developed pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(b) The Agency of Transportation shall, not later than January 15, 2027, submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 16. STATE TOWN HIGHWAY AID; MUNICIPAL GRANT
PROGRAMS; EFFICIENCIES; IMPROVEMENTS; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to evaluate the State's Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs administered by the Agency to identify potential efficiencies and improvements related to the administration of Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs. The consultant shall evaluate the various funding streams authorized pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306 as

well as programs administered through the Agency's Municipal Assistance Bureau, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, Municipal Mitigation Program, Municipal Park and Ride Program, Better Roads Program, Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program, and Grants in Aid.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and any recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to improve or increase the efficiency of the Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs.

* * * Mileage-Based User Fee * * *

Sec. 17. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62, Secs. 27–29 are amended to read:

Sec. 27. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State:

(1) to start collecting a mileage-based user fee from all battery-electric vehicles registered in Vermont starting on July 1, 2025, which is expected to be the first day of the first fiscal year when more than 15 percent of new pleasure car registrations in the State are plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) or before January 1, 2027 subject to sufficient funding being available for implementation;

(2) to start subjecting subject plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) that are a pleasure car to an increased annual or a biennial registration electric vehicle infrastructure fee starting on July January 1, 2025, and that PHEVs shall not be subject to a mileage-based user fee;

(3) to work towards examine collecting a fee on kWhs electricity that are is dispensed through certain electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public so as to supplant lost gas fuel tax revenue from out-of-state PEVs traveling in Vermont; and

(4) to not commence collecting a mileage-based user fee until such the General Assembly has enacted legislation that establishes the amount of the fee and codifies any necessary authorizing language is codified in statute and that legislation becomes effective.

Sec. 28. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE AUTHORIZATION

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Program for Environmental Policy and Sustainability, the Agency of Transportation, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, is authorized to apply for and accept a competitive federal Strategic Innovation

for Revenue Collection grant established pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (IIJA), Sec. 13001, with up to \$350,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies authorized for the nonfederal match in fiscal year 2024 and ~~a to-be-determined amount for the nonfederal match in subsequent fiscal years~~ up to \$350,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies authorized for the nonfederal match in fiscal year 2025.

(b) ~~As permitted under federal regulations and grant terms, the~~ The Agency shall utilize grant monies to design State or federal funding, or both, authorized to be used for the purpose of designing a mileage-based user fee that is consistent with Secs. 27 and 29 of this act.

(c) Subject to State procurement requirements and the availability of sufficient funding, the Agency may retain one or more contractors or consultants, or both, to assist with the design of a process to commence collecting a mileage-based user fee on ~~July 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2027.

Sec. 29. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE DESIGN

(a) Definitions. As used in Secs. 27–30 of this act:

(1) “Account manager” means a person under contract with the Agency of Transportation or Department of Motor Vehicles to administer and manage the mileage-based user fee.

(2) “Annual vehicle miles traveled” means the total number of miles that a BEV is driven between annual inspections as reported ~~by an inspection mechanic~~ to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(3) “Mileage-based user fee” means the total amount that an owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont owes the State and is calculated by:

(A) multiplying the mileage-based user fee rate by the annual vehicle miles traveled ~~or;~~

(B) in the case of a terminating event, by multiplying the mileage-based user fee rate by the vehicle miles traveled between the last Vermont annual inspection and the terminating event; or

(C) in the absence of a recorded odometer reading during the mileage reporting period, by multiplying the mileage-based user fee by the 98th percentile of estimated annual vehicle miles traveled for a pleasure car in Vermont.

(4) “Mileage-based user fee rate” means the per-mile usage fee charged to the owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont.

(5) “Mileage reporting period” means the time between annual inspections or the time between ~~an~~ the most recent annual inspection and a terminating event.

(6) “Pleasure car” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(28).

(7) “Plug-in electric vehicle (PEV)” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) and includes battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), which have the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85)(A) and (B).

(8) “Terminating event” means either the registering of a BEV that had been registered in Vermont in a different state or a change in ownership or lesseeship of the BEV, or both.

(b) Commencement date. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee for miles driven by a BEV registered in Vermont to commence collecting revenue on ~~July 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2027.

(c) Covered vehicles. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee based on the annual vehicle miles traveled by BEVs registered in the State.

(d) Imposition of a mileage-based user fee. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee from the owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont for each mileage reporting period ~~within 60 days after the Vermont annual inspection~~ on an annual, quarterly, or monthly basis selected by the owner or lessee and reconciled upon renewal of the vehicle registration or within 60 days after a terminating event that closes the mileage reporting period.

Sec. 18. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) the mileage-based user fee for a BEV pleasure car be approximately equivalent to the average amount collected by the State in fuel tax revenue from the use of a non-PEV pleasure car registered in Vermont and the average amount collected by the State in fuel tax revenue and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fee from the use of a PHEV pleasure car; and

(2) that the mileage-based user fee for BEV pleasure cars will be an interim step towards gradually expanding the mileage-based user fee to all motor vehicles upon elimination of the State fuel taxes for motor vehicles.

* * * Authority to Transfer Monies in State Fiscal Year 2026 * * *

Sec. 19. AUTHORIZATION TO USE MONIES TO CONTINUE
PARTNERSHIP WITH DRIVE ELECTRIC VERMONT IN STATE
FISCAL YEAR 2026

In State fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to spend up to \$325,000.00 in remaining monies appropriated to the Electrify Your Fleet Program in State Fiscal Year 2024 to continue the Agency of Transportation's partnership with Drive Electric Vermont. The monies shall be used for programs and activities that support increased ownership and use of PEVs in the State through:

(1) stakeholder coordination;

(2) consumer education and outreach;

(3) infrastructure development; and

(4) the provision of technical assistance and support to Vermont municipalities and Vermont businesses desiring to electrify their vehicle fleets.

* * * Consideration of Vehicle Miles Traveled in Project Planning * * *

Sec. 20. 19 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

§ 1. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(26) "Vehicle miles traveled" means the estimated sum of the miles traveled by all motor vehicle trips within a specific area during a calendar year.

Sec. 21. 19 V.S.A. § 10b is amended to read:

§ 10b. STATEMENT OF POLICY; GENERAL

(a) The Agency shall be the responsible agency of the State for the development of transportation policy. It shall develop a mission statement to reflect:

(1) that State transportation policy shall be to encompass, coordinate, and integrate all modes of transportation and to consider complete streets, as defined in section 2401 of this title, principles; and

(2) the need for transportation projects that will improve the State's economic infrastructure; ~~as well as the use of resources in efficient, coordinated, integrated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound ways;~~ reduce vehicle miles traveled within the State when feasible; and that will be

consistent with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) issued under 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

* * *

Sec. 22. 19 V.S.A. § 10c is amended to read:

§ 10c. STATEMENT OF POLICY; HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

* * *

(c) In choosing between the improvement of an existing highway and complete reconstruction, the Agency shall weigh the following factors:

* * *

(9) the impact on the historic, scenic, and aesthetic values of the municipality, as interpreted by the municipality, in which the highway is located; ~~and~~

(10) if it is a forest highway under federal jurisdiction; and

(11) opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled or otherwise reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the highway.

* * *

Sec. 23. 19 V.S.A. § 10i is amended to read:

§ 10i. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

* * *

(c) Transportation Program. The Transportation Program shall be developed in a fiscally responsible manner to accomplish the following objectives:

* * *

(3) strengthening the economy, protecting the quality of the natural environment, and improving Vermonters' quality of life; ~~and~~

(4) achieving the recommendations of the CEP; and

(5) striving to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

* * *

* * * Medical Transports * * *

Sec. 24. PUBLIC TRANSIT DEMAND RESPONSE VOLUNTEER
COORDINATORS; GRANTS; APPROPRIATION

(a) The Agency of Transportation is authorized to utilize up to \$600,000.00 in one-time funds appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Agency of Transportation in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of providing grants to public transit agencies to hire volunteer coordinators. Volunteer coordinators hired with grants provided pursuant to this section shall be responsible for the identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers to provide transportation services to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(b) The Agency shall, to the extent possible, seek to provide grants to public transit providers in a manner that is geographically balanced and ensures the distribution of volunteer coordinators throughout the State.

(c) Not later than December 15, 2026, the Agency, in consultation with public transit agencies that receive grants pursuant to this section, shall submit a written report the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the extent to which grants issued pursuant to this section resulted in an increase in volunteer capacity in the State.

Sec. 25. MEDICAID NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

(a) In fiscal year 2026, prior to executing a contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide to the Joint Fiscal Committee a detailed analysis outlining:

(1) any potential degradation or expansion of service to eligible individuals under a new contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services;

(2) any federal requirements contained in the request for proposals for the new contract; and

(3) the outcome of the consultation between the Department and the Agency of Transportation pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Transportation prior to developing the request for proposals for a new contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services.

Sec. 26. VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES;
BACKGROUND CHECKS; EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEER
POOL; REPORT

(a) On or before July 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall commence meeting with the Vermont Public Transit Association, the Agency of Transportation, and, in the discretion of the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, other stakeholders to identify potential, federally permissible opportunities to expand the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program's pool of volunteer drivers. As part of this work, the Department and Association shall collaborate to determine if there are specific classes of offenses that currently prevent volunteer drivers from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program.

(1) The Vermont Public Transit Association shall, to the extent possible, gather and provide to the Department anonymized information from its members regarding:

(A) the number of potential volunteers who were barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program due to a background check during the past year;

(B) which of the background checks currently required by the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program resulted in potential volunteers being barred from providing transportation services, broken out by percentage; and

(C) a summary of the offenses that resulted in potential volunteers being barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program, broken out by:

(i) the type of offense;

(ii) whether the offense was a felony or misdemeanor;

(iii) whether the offense was under State or federal law;

(iv) the percentage of potential volunteers who were barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program for each type of offense; and

(v) to the extent that it is possible to determine, the number of rides that could have been provided by the individuals barred under each type of offense.

(2) The Department shall utilize the information provided by the Association pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to determine, to the extent possible, whether the identified offenses are:

(A) fraud-based or otherwise implicate potential Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse;

(B) an offense that otherwise bars an individual from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program; or

(C) an offense that caused harm to an individual other than the offender, or otherwise negatively impacted the safety of the general public.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access and the Vermont Public Transit Association shall, on or before January 30, 2026, make themselves available to provide an update to the House Committees on Transportation and on Health Care and to the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Health and Welfare regarding the work performed pursuant to this section and opportunities that were identified to expand the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program's pool of volunteer drivers.

Sec. 27. VOLUNTEER DRIVERS; PUBLICITY; OUTREACH

(a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Vermont Public Transit Association, shall identify and pursue opportunities to communicate with the Vermont driving public regarding volunteer and community driver participation in the State's demand response transportation programs, including the Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities program and the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program. Outreach conducted pursuant to this section may include:

(1) invitations for individuals to voluntarily indicate their interest through the operator licensing and vehicle registration processes, subject to any data privacy requirements under State or federal law;

(2) notices or other public outreach placed on the Department's website or other internet-based platforms; and

(3) messaging by the Agency of Transportation on social media platforms, including providing links to informational resources provided by the Vermont Public Transit Association.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop informational materials related to eligibility for the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program. The Department shall, in consultation with the Agency of Transportation and other relevant stakeholders, make the materials available to the public on the Department's website and other internet-based platforms.

Sec. 28. COORDINATION OF HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, shall convene a working group to improve the

coordination of health care and transportation services in relation to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs. The working group shall be composed of stakeholders identified by the Secretary in consultation with the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, including representatives of the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, independent dialysis and methadone facilities, and the Vermont Public Transportation Association.

(b) The working group shall examine various options for improving the coordination of health care and transportation services, including:

(1) opportunities to coordinate the scheduling of health care appointments and treatments to maximize the use of shared rides; and

(2) opportunities to improve communication between the public transit agencies and health care providers to facilitate coordination of health care and transportation services for individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary and Commissioner shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Transportation and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Health and Welfare with the working group's findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

* * * Vehicle Identification Numbers for Certain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 29. ULTRA-LOW VOLUME VEHICLE MANUFACTURING; KIT-CARS; HOMEBUILT MOTOR VEHICLES; VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; REPORT

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and representatives of the ultra-low volume vehicle manufacturing industry in Vermont, shall examine processes for issuing vehicle identification numbers to ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles and opportunities to facilitate the registration of such vehicles.

(2) As used in this section:

(A) "Homebuilt motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is constructed or assembled by an individual from new or used parts, or both, and is not a kit-car.

(B) "Kit-car" means a motor vehicle that is constructed by an individual from a manufactured kit that includes some or all parts and components necessary to construct the motor vehicle.

(C) “Ultra-low volume motor vehicle” means a vehicle that is manufactured for sale by a manufacturer whose annual worldwide production is not more than 325 motor vehicles.

(b) In preparing the report, the Commissioner shall:

(1) examine how other states address motor vehicle emissions requirements for ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles;

(2) identify a cost-effective process for certifying the safety of ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles; and

(3) develop a streamlined process to provide State Vehicle Identification Numbers to ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Commissioner shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the Commissioner’s findings and identifying any legislative action necessary to enable the issuance of vehicle identification numbers to and registration of ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles.

* * * Railroad Rights-of-Way * * *

Sec. 30. 5 V.S.A. § 3410 is added to read:

§ 3410. RAILROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY; COMMUNICATIONS LEASES;
ANNUAL REPORT

Annually, on or before December 15, the Secretary shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the most recent fiscal year’s lease revenues for State-owned railroad rights-of-way related to:

(1) wired or wireless telephone infrastructure located in the rights-of-way;

(2) broadband infrastructure located in the rights-of-way; and

(3) leases of the rights-of-way for purposes other than the operation of the railroads within the rights-of-way.

Sec. 31. AVAILABILITY OF STATE-OWNED RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR COMMUNICATIONS LEASES

In order to expand the use of State-owned railroad rights-of-way, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public

Service, shall provide information to communications companies regarding the availability for lease of property located in State-owned railroad rights-of-way.

* * * Dig Safe * * *

Sec. 32. 30 V.S.A. § 7006 is amended to read:

§ 7006. MARKING OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES

A company notified in accordance with section 7005 of this title shall, within 48 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, ~~of~~ after the receipt of the notice, mark the approximate location of its underground utility facilities in the area of the proposed excavation activities; provided, however, if the company advises the person that the proposed excavation area is of such length or size that the company cannot reasonably mark all of the underground utility facilities within 48 72 hours, the person shall notify the company of the specific locations in which the excavation activities will first occur and the company shall mark facilities in those locations within 48 72 hours and the remaining facilities within a reasonable time thereafter. A company and an excavator may by agreement fix a later time for the company's marking of the facilities, provided the marking is made prior to excavation activities. For the purposes of this chapter, the approximate location of underground facilities shall be marked with stakes, paint, or other physical means as designated by the Commission.

Sec. 33. 30 V.S.A. § 7006a is amended to read:

§ 7006a. MAINTENANCE OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITY
MARKINGS

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

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 34. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 32 and 33 (dig safe) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

RICHARD A. WESTMAN

ANDREW J. PERCHLIK

REBECCA E. WHITE

Committee on the part of the Senate

MATTHEW E. WALKER

TIMOTHY R. CORCORAN

MOLLIE SULLIVAN BURKE

Committee on the part of the House

H. 494

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

H.494. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

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

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the \$111,965,288.44 authorized in this act, not more than \$61,969,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

(a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services, and the Commissioner is authorized to direct funds

appropriated in this section to the projects contained in this section; however, no project shall be canceled unless the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions are notified before that action is taken.

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

- (1) Statewide, major maintenance: \$6,493,401.00
- (2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,500,000.00
- (3) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: \$75,000.00
- (4) Rutland, Asa Bloomer Building roof repair and sewage system upgrades: \$1,500,000.00
- (5) Rutland, multimodal garage renovation: \$600,000.00
- (6) Middlesex, Print and Postal uninterruptable power supply upgrade: \$58,279.44
- (7) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement: \$2,000,000.00
- (8) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: \$1,500,000.00

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

- (1) Statewide, major maintenance: \$8,500,000.00
- (2) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency: \$250,000.00
- (3) Statewide, physical security enhancements: \$250,000.00
- (4) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,100,000.00
- (5) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: \$75,000.00
- (6) Pittsford, Academy firing range upgrades \$200,000.00
- (7) Montpelier, State House replacement of historic interior finishes: \$50,000.00
- (8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation: \$2,000,000.00
- (9) Middlesex, Vermont State Archives roof replacement, main building: \$1,000,000.00
- (10) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement: \$2,000,000.00
- (11) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:

	<u>\$500,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$13,726,680.44</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$15,925,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 2</u>	<u>\$28,951,680.44</u>

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$4,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, accessibility upgrades at correctional facilities: \$2,000,000.00

(3) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: \$225,000.00

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: \$1,000,000.00

(5) St. Albans, Northwest State Regional Correctional Facility (NWSRF) roof replacement: \$1,000,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$1,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: \$200,000.00

(3) Rutland, Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility (MVRCF) door control system replacements: \$500,000.00

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: \$2,600,000.00

(5) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00

(c) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(5) of this

section and the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(1), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (NWSCF, booking expansion, planning, design, and construction), and the Commissioner of Finance and Management may release the amount notwithstanding 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 27(a) (NWSCF; funding request for federal detainees).

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$8,225,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$4,800,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 3</u>	<u>\$13,025,000.00</u>

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

<u>(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:</u>	<u>\$550,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves:</u>	<u>\$46,000.00</u>
<u>(3) Roadside historic site markers:</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$1,046,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$621,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 4</u>	<u>\$1,667,000.00</u>

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

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

<u>(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program:</u>	<u>\$300,000.00</u>
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(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$300,000.00

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

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

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

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

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$300,000.00

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

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

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$2,100,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$2,100,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 5 \$4,200,000.00

Sec. 6. VETERANS' HOME

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the following projects:

(1) Replacement of air handlers: \$710,000.00

(2) Expansion of laundry facilities: \$340,000.00

(b) The Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(1)–(2) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$1,050,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 6 \$1,050,000.00

Sec. 7. UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the University of Vermont for construction, renovations, and major maintenance.

(b) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the University of Vermont for the projects described in subsection (a) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$1,500,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$1,500,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 7 \$3,000,000.00

Sec. 8. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

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

(1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance:
\$1,500,000.00

(2) Johnson, the central heating plant replacement: \$1,500,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Vermont State Colleges for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance:
\$1,500,000.00

(2) Johnson, central heating plant replacement: \$3,500,000.00

(c) For the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(2) and (b)(2) of this section, the Vermont State Colleges shall work with Efficiency Vermont to develop a central heating plant replacement.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$3,000,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$5,000,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 8 \$8,000,000.00

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for dam safety and hydrology projects.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$3,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: \$700,000.00

(c) The sum of \$1,105,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

(d) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the following projects:

(1) State match, drinking water supply, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$590,000.00

(2) Dam safety and hydrology projects: \$500,000.00

(e) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$2,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: \$700,000.00

(f) The sum of \$1,029,360.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$5,805,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$5,319,360.00

Total Appropriation – Section 9 \$11,124,360.00

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

(a) The sum of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(b) The sum of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for municipal pollution control grants.

(c) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for water quality improvements to forest access roads.

(d)(1) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the following projects:

(A) Agricultural water quality projects: \$800,000.00

(B) Land conservation and water quality projects: \$2,000,000.00

(2) A grant issued under subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

(A) shall not be considered a State grant under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 3 for purposes of calculating the maximum amount of a State water quality assistance award under 6 V.S.A. § 4824 or 4826; and

(B) may be used to satisfy a grant recipient's cost-share requirements.

(e) The sum of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for clean water implementation projects.

(f) In FY 2026 and FY 2027, any agency that receives funding from this section shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure that the projects are capital eligible.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$10,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$10,000,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 10</u>	<u>\$20,000,000.00</u>

Sec. 11. MILITARY

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

- (1) Major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories: \$1,272,838.00
- (2) Northwest Regional Readiness Center, planning and design: \$1,343,333.00

(b) The sum of \$1,310,167.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Military Department for major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$2,616,171.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$1,310,167.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 11</u>	<u>\$3,926,338.00</u>

Sec. 12. AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the following projects:

- (1) Renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition: \$1,500,000.00
- (2) Upgrades to the heat systems serving the Vermont State University Randolph Campus and the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory: \$3,500,000.00

(b) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition.

(c) For the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall negotiate the maintenance of propane summer boilers and update the memorandum of understanding with Vermont State University. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is additionally authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this

section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory Heat Plant, construction).

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$5,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$1,500,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 12</u>	<u>\$6,500,000.00</u>

Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

(a) The sum of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for Rutland Field Station.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the following projects:

(1) Shaftsbury Field Station, land acquisition, planning, and design:
\$150,000.00

(2) Rutland Field Station:
\$1,645,000.00

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$1,795,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 13</u>	<u>\$3,795,000.00</u>

Sec. 14. JUDICIARY

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

(1) Woodstock Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:
\$100,000.00

(2) Essex County Courthouse, connector and security upgrades:
\$3,685,910.00

(3) Lamoille County Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:
\$190,000.00

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

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$5,075,910.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 14</u>	<u>\$5,075,910.00</u>

Sec. 15. VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

(a) The sum of \$125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program.

(b) The sum of \$125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 15</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>

Sec. 16. VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The sum of \$700,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Historical Society to mitigate water infiltration at the roof, foundation, and basement of the Spaulding Building in Barre.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 16</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>

* * * Funding * * *

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c)(5), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 1 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): \$399,803.36

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c)(18), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): \$37,519.86

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 13(a), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 9 (Middlesex Field Station): \$371.89

(4) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(a)(2) (Middlesex Field Station): \$18,309.45

(5) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(c), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 10, as further

amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 35 (Williston Public Safety Field Station): \$2,220,099.10

(6) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(3) (statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency): \$425,000.00

(7) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c)(7) (Northern State Correctional Facility, planning and construction for the boiler replacement): \$1,000,000.00

(8) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(5), as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (South Burlington, justice-involved men, feasibility study for reentry facility): \$125,000.00

(9) of the amounts appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$58,279.44

(10) of the amounts appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$23,237.47

(11) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$73,784.44

(b) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 5(c)(3), as amended by 2020 Acts & Resolves No. 139, Sec. 3 (Highgate Native American Cemetery): \$12,042.00

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts & Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(m), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Downtown Transportation Fund pilot project): \$67,000.00

(c) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Transportation from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail): \$112.31

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program): \$19,342.69

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Better Roads Grant Program): \$41,238.46

(d) Of the amount appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(4) (Bennington, Battle Monument, construction of safety fencing), \$419,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 4 of this act.

(e) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment), \$115,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(f) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Education in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 6(a) (funding emergency projects), \$19,549.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(g) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(b)(2) (ecosystem restoration and protection), \$249.01 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(h) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(7) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(7) (design for the renovation of the Brandon and Cardinal units), \$1,500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(i) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(9) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(10) (111 State Street; renovation of the stack area), \$200,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(j) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Buildings and General Services may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (East Cottage); and

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects).

(k) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amount not reallocated in this act appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84,

Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment).

(l) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Environmental Conservation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(f)(2)(A), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Standard EcoSystem Restoration and Protection programs);

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(b) (pollution control); and

(3) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 10(a)(2) (dam safety and hydrology projects).

(m) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Transportation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program); and

(2) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Municipal Mitigation Program).

Bonded Dollars \$5,074,938.48

Cash \$1,700,000.00

Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 17 \$6,774,938.48

Sec. 18. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$100,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations made in Secs. 2–16 of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded.

(b) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue additional general obligation bonds in the amount of \$6,890,350.00 that were previously appropriated but unissued under 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, for the purpose of funding the appropriations in this act.

Total Revenues – Section 18 \$106,890,350.00

Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026
APPROPRIATIONS ACT; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that in addition to the issuance of general obligation bonds, eligible capital projects may be funded from the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize certain capital projects eligible for funding by 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in this act but appropriate the funds for these projects in the FY 2026 Appropriations Act. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 Appropriations Act appropriate funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2027.

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

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: \$1,506,599.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

(8) to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for infrastructure improvements that are either municipally leased for a term of at least 30 years or municipally owned and that support the development of new or rehabilitated housing, provided that a grant agreement shall be in place between the State and the municipality prior to the release of funds: \$2,500,000.00

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

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

(d) Authorizations; Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority is authorized from the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in accordance with the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b), in the amount of \$14,500,000.00.

(e) Transfer. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(7) of this section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(1) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement).

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Capital Budgeting Process * * *

Sec. 20. 32 V.S.A. § 701a is amended to read:

§ 701a. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BILL

* * *

(d)(1) On or before November 15 each year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall require each entity to which spending authority has been authorized by a capital construction act enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session to submit a report on the current fund balances of each authorized project with unexpended funds. The report shall include plans for the unexpended funds, any projects or contracts the funds are assigned to, and an anticipated timeline for expending the funds.

(2) On or before ~~December 15 each year~~ the third Tuesday of every annual session, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall submit in a consolidated format the reports required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

* * *

Sec. 21. 32 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. FORM OF ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET AND 10-YEAR
CAPITAL PROGRAM PLAN

* * *

(b) The capital budget request for the following biennium shall be presented as the next increment of the 10-year plan. Elements of the plan shall include:

* * *

(2) Comprehensive cost and financing assessment.

(A) Amounts appropriated and expended for the current fiscal year and for the preceding fiscal year shall be indicated for capital programs and for individual projects. For the five fiscal years preceding these, the assessment shall include the aggregate amounts appropriated and expended for individual projects, which amounts shall be categorized by funding type and presented in a format that concisely displays the funding stream and project phases for each individual project over time. The assessment shall indicate further the source of funds for any project that required additional funding and a description of any authorized projects that were delayed.

* * *

Sec. 22. 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

§ 1001b. CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

* * *

(e) Spending authority. Any entity authorized to make expenditures from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount shall have not more than ~~two~~ three years from the end of the legislative session in which the act authorizing the expenditure was enacted to encumber the funds. Any remaining unencumbered funds shall remain part of the Fund account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) the sources of funds; and

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

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

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 23. TRANSFER OF RANDALL MEADOW PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF WATERBURY

Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to survey, subdivide, and transfer to the Town of Waterbury the portion of land in the Waterbury State Office Complex (Parcel ID # 69622111909 as designated on the Town of Waterbury's Tax Parcel Maps) that is commonly referred to as the "Randall Meadow," provided that the Commissioner may transfer the Randall Meadow property only once:

(1) the parcel has been subdivided to reflect stormwater management needs of the Waterbury State Office Complex to the satisfaction of the Commissioner;

(2) any permits required for transfer have been obtained; and

(3) the Commissioner and the Town of Waterbury have created a plan to align the transfer with the current lease for the parcel.

Sec. 24. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 27 is amended to read:

Sec. 27. CAPITOL COMPLEX FLOOD RECOVERY; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide quarterly updates to the Special Committee on the planning process for Capitol Complex flood recovery and shall provide timely notification to the City of

Montpelier and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience of alterations to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

* * *

* * * Human Services * * *

Sec. 25. REPEAL

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 31 (potential reuse of Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility Site; feasibility; report) is repealed.

* * * Vermont Veterans' Home * * *

Sec. 26. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS; EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND BOILER REPLACEMENT; ELEVATOR UPGRADE

If the Commissioner of Finance and Management offsets any capital funds appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15 (b)(1)–(2) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement; elevator upgrade) with federal funds, then any offset amounts shall be reused for future capital construction projects as part of the capital budget process.

* * * Sergeant at Arms * * *

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b, as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 8, is amended to read:

Sec. 15b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Sergeant at Arms for the following projects:

(1) the replacement of State House cafeteria furnishings; and

(2) the purchase and installation at the State House of an X-ray machine designed to screen baggage.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 28. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

WENDY K. HARRISON

ROBERT PLUNKETT

RUSSELL H. INGALLS

Committee on the part of the Senate

ALICE M. EMMONS

JAMES A.R. GREGOIRE

TROY HEADRICK

Committee on the part of the House

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR NOTICE

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar.

H.C.R. 141

House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway

H.C.R. 142

House concurrent resolution honoring Steven D. Faccio of Strafford for his inspiring leadership as a conservation biologist

H.C.R. 143

House concurrent resolution honoring former Pawlet First Constable David Ricard Sr. for his outstanding municipal public service

H.C.R. 144

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps

H.C.R. 145

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program

H.C.R. 146

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities

H.C.R. 147

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy

H.C.R. 148

House concurrent resolution in memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington

H.C.R. 149

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department

H.C.R. 150

House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship

For Informational Purposes

H.C.R. Approval Deadline

To guarantee that any 2025 House Concurrent Resolution that has been drafted is printed in a 2025 House Calendar and Addendum, the sponsor of the H.C.R. must return approval of the draft, along with the final list of any cosponsors, to Michael Chernick in the Office of Legislative Counsel by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 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]*
- JFO #3253:** \$20,000.00 to the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Vermont State Police. Funds will be used by the Vermont Boating Law Administrator, with the support of the Vermont Department of Health, to create a comprehensive boating injury data tracking system. *[Received May 6, 2025]*
- JFO #3254:** \$994,435.00 to the Vermont Department Public Safety, Vermont Emergency Management from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Funds for emergency work and repair/replacement of disaster damaged facilities during the severe storm and flooding event in Lamoille County from June 22-24, 2024. *[Received May 6, 2025]*
- JFO #3255:** \$41,000.00 to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development. Funds will be used to restore the Baldwin Model K piano, once played by First Lady Grace Coolidge, which now resides in the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth, VT. *[Received May 6, 2025]*