

House Calendar

Thursday, May 28, 2026

143rd DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

Unfinished Business of Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 931

An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education law

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:

* * * Approved Independent School Moratorium * * *

Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.511.1, as amended by 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. 16, is amended to read:

Sec. E.511.1 MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW APPROVED
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Board of Education shall be prohibited from approving an application for initial approval of an approved independent school until further direction by the General Assembly.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a change in either tax status or conversion to a nonprofit organization by a therapeutic approved independent school, absent any other changes, shall not affect the approval status of the school.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the moratorium on approval of new approved independent schools shall not apply to changes in ownership of therapeutic approved independent schools as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 828(d). If submission of an application for initial approval of an approved independent school is required as the result of a change in ownership of a therapeutic approved independent school that at the time of the change in ownership is approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 166, and the school will remain a therapeutic approved independent school after the change in ownership is complete, the moratorium created pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not apply and the Agency of Education and State Board of Education shall process the application according to applicable State and federal law.

* * * Interstate Compact for Education * * *

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. chapter 35 is added to read:

CHAPTER 35. INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR EDUCATION

§ 1501. PURPOSE AND POLICY—ARTICLE I

(a) It is the purpose of this compact to:

(1) establish and maintain close cooperation and understanding among executive, legislative, professional educational, and lay leadership on a nationwide basis at the state and local levels;

(2) provide a forum for the discussion, development, crystallization, and recommendation of public policy alternatives in the field of education;

(3) provide a clearinghouse of information on matters relating to education problems and how they are being met in different places throughout the nation, so that the executive and legislative branches of state government and of local communities may have ready access to the experience and record of the entire country, and so that both lay and professional groups in the field of education may have additional avenues for the sharing of experience and the interchange of ideas in the formation of public policy in education;

(4) facilitate the improvement of state and local education systems so that all of them will be able to meet adequate and desirable goals in a society that requires continuous qualitative and quantitative advance in educational opportunities, methods, and facilities.

(b) It is the policy of this compact to encourage and promote local and state initiative in the development, maintenance, improvement, and administration of education systems and institutions in a manner that will accord with the needs and advantages of diversity among localities and states.

(c) The party states recognize that each of them has an interest in the quality and quantity of education furnished in each of the other states, as well as in the excellence of its own education systems and institutions, because of the highly mobile character of individuals within the nation, and because the products and services contributing to the health, welfare, and economic advancement of each state are supplied in significant part by persons educated in other states.

§ 1502. STATE DEFINED—ARTICLE II

As used in this compact, “state” means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

§ 1503. THE COMMISSION—ARTICLE III

(a) The Education Commission of the States, hereinafter called “the Commission,” is hereby established. The Commission shall consist of seven

members representing each party state. One of such members shall be the governor; two shall be members of the state legislature selected by its respective houses and serving in such manner as the legislature may determine; and four shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor, unless the laws of the state otherwise provide. If the laws of a state prevent legislators from serving on the Commission, six members shall be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the governor, unless the laws of the state otherwise provide. In addition to any other principles or requirements which a state may establish for the appointment and service of its members of the Commission, the guiding principle for the composition of the membership on the Commission from each party state shall be that the members representing such state shall, by virtue of their training, experience, knowledge, or affiliations, be in a position collectively to reflect broadly the interests of the state government, higher education, the state education system, local education, and lay and professional, public and nonpublic educational leadership. Of those appointees, one shall be the head of a state agency or institution, designated by the governor, having responsibility for one or more programs of public education. In addition to the members of the Commission representing the party states, there may be not to exceed 10 nonvoting commissioners selected by the Steering Committee for terms of one year. Such commissioners shall represent leading national organizations of professional educators or persons concerned with educational administration.

(b) The members of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote each on the Commission. No action of the Commission shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of votes on the Commission are cast in favor thereof. Action of the Commission shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the commissioners are present. The Commission shall meet at least once a year. In its bylaws, and subject to such directions and limitations as may be contained therein, the Commission may delegate the exercise of any of its powers to the Steering Committee or the Executive Director, except for the power to approve budgets or requests for appropriations, the power to make policy recommendations pursuant to section 1504 of this chapter, and adoption of the annual report pursuant to subsection (j) of this section.

(c) The Commission shall have a seal.

(d) The Commission shall elect annually, from among its members, a chairman, who shall be a governor; a vice chairman; and a treasurer. The Commission shall provide for the appointment of an Executive Director. Such Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission, and together with the Treasurer and such other personnel as the Commission may deem

appropriate shall be bonded in such amount as the Commission shall determine. The Executive Director shall be Secretary.

(e) Irrespective of the civil service, personnel, or other merit system laws of any of the party states, the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Steering Committee, shall appoint, remove, or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the Commission and shall fix the duties and compensation of such personnel. The Commission in its bylaws shall provide for the personnel policies and programs of the Commission.

(f) The Commission may borrow, accept, or contract for the services of personnel from any party jurisdiction, the United States or any subdivision or agency of the aforementioned governments, or from any agency of two or more of the party jurisdictions or their subdivisions.

(g) The Commission may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm, association, foundation or corporation, and may receive, utilize, and dispose of the same. Any donation or grant accepted by the Commission pursuant to this subsection or services borrowed pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be reported in the annual report of the Commission. Such report shall include the nature, amount, and conditions, if any, of the donation, grant, or services borrowed, and the identity of the donor or lender.

(h) The Commission may establish and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its business. The Commission may acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property and any interest therein.

(i) The Commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind these bylaws. The Commission shall publish its bylaws in convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.

(j) The Commission annually shall make to the governor and legislature of each party state a report covering the activities of the Commission for the preceding year. The Commission may make such additional reports as it may deem desirable.

§ 1504. POWERS—ARTICLE IV

In addition to authority conferred on the Commission by other provisions of the Compact, the Commission shall have authority to:

(1) collect, correlate, analyze, and interpret information and data concerning educational needs and resources;

(2) encourage and foster research in all aspects of education, but with special reference to the desirable scope of instruction, organization, administration, and instructional methods and standards employed or suitable for employment in public education systems;

(3) develop proposals for adequate financing of education as a whole and at each of its many levels;

(4) conduct or participate in research of the types referred to in this section in any instance where the Commission finds that such research is necessary for the advancement of the purposes and policies of this compact, using fully the resources of national associations, regional compact organizations for higher education, and other agencies and institutions, both public and private;

(5) formulate suggested policies and plans for the improvement of public education as a whole, or for any segment thereof, and make recommendations with respect thereto available to the appropriate governmental units, agencies, and public officials;

(6) do such other things as may be necessary or incidental to the administration of any of its authority or functions pursuant to this compact.

§ 1505. COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—ARTICLE V

(a) If the laws of the United States specifically so provide, or if administrative provision is made therefore within the federal government, the United States may be represented on the Commission by not to exceed 10 representatives. Any such representative or representatives of the United States shall be appointed and serve in such manner as may be provided by or pursuant to federal law, and may be drawn from any one or more branches of the federal government, but no such representative shall have a vote on the Commission.

(b) The Commission may provide information and make recommendations to any executive or legislative agency or officer of the federal government concerning the common education policies of the states, and may advise with any such agencies or officers concerning any matter of mutual interest.

§ 1506. COMMITTEES—ARTICLE VI

(a) To assist in the expeditious conduct of its business when the full Commission is not meeting, the Commission shall elect a Steering Committee of 32 members which, subject to the provisions of this compact and consistent

with the policies of the Commission, shall be constituted and function as provided in the bylaws of the Commission. One-fourth of the voting membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of governors, one-fourth shall consist of legislators, and the remainder shall consist of other members of the Commission. A federal representative on the Commission may serve with the Steering Committee, but without vote. The voting members of the Steering Committee shall serve for terms of two years, except that members elected to the first Steering Committee of the Commission shall be elected as follows: 16 for one year and 16 for two years. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer of the Commission shall be members of the Steering Committee and, anything in this subsection to the contrary notwithstanding, shall serve during their continuance in these offices. Vacancies in the Steering Committee shall not affect its authority to act, but the Commission at its next regularly ensuing meeting following the occurrence of any vacancy shall fill it for the unexpired term. No person shall serve more than two terms as a member of the Steering Committee, provided that service for a partial term of one year or less shall not be counted toward the two-term limitation.

(b) The Commission may establish advisory and technical committees composed of state, local and federal officials, and private persons to advise it with respect to any one or more of its functions. Any advisory or technical committee may, on request of the states concerned, be established to consider any matter of special concern to two or more of the party states.

(c) The Commission may establish such additional committees as its bylaws may provide.

§ 1507. FINANCE—ARTICLE VII

(a) The Commission shall advise the governor or designated officer or officers of each party state of its budget and estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that party state. Each of the Commission's budgets of estimated expenditures shall contain specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be appropriated by each of the party states.

(b) The total amount of appropriation requests under any budget shall be apportioned among the party states. In making such apportionment, the Commission shall devise and employ a formula which takes equitable account of the populations and per capita income levels of the party states.

(c) The Commission shall not pledge the credit of any party states. The Commission may meet any of its obligations in whole or in part with funds available to it pursuant to subsection 1503(g) of this chapter of this compact, provided that the Commission takes specific action setting aside such funds

prior to incurring an obligation to be met in whole or in part in such manner. Except where the Commission makes funds available to it pursuant to subsection 1503(g) of this chapter thereof, the Commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the same.

(d) The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established by its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a qualified public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual reports of the Commission.

(e) The accounts of the Commission shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly constituted officers of the party states and by any persons authorized by the Commission.

(f) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent Commission compliance with laws relating to audit or inspection of accounts by or on behalf of any government contributing to the support of the Commission.

§ 1508. ELIGIBLE PARTIES; ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL—
ARTICLE VIII

(a) This compact shall have as eligible parties all states, territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In respect of any such jurisdiction not having a governor, the term “governor,” as used in this compact, shall mean the closest equivalent official of such jurisdiction.

(b) Any state or other eligible jurisdiction may enter into this compact, and it shall become binding thereon when it has adopted the same, provided that in order to enter into initial effect, adoption by at least 10 eligible party jurisdictions shall be required.

(c) Adoption of the Compact may be either by enactment thereof or by adherence thereto by the governor; provided that in the absence of enactment, adherence by the governor shall be sufficient to make his state a party only until December 31, 1967. During any period when a state is participating in this compact through gubernatorial action, the governor shall appoint those persons who, in addition to himself, shall serve as the members of the Commission from his state, and shall provide to the Commission an equitable share of the financial support of the Commission from any source available to him.

(d) Except for a withdrawal effective on December 31, 1967, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until one year after the governor of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the governors of all other party states. No withdrawal shall affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

§ 1509. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT—ARTICLE IX

This Compact may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Commission present and voting when ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the party states.

§ 1510. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY—ARTICLE X

This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United States, or the application thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating therein, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

* * * Background Checks * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 254a is added to read:

§ 254a. AGENCY OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

(a) The Agency of Education shall request criminal record information for a person the Secretary of Education is prepared to recommend for any full-time, part-time, or temporary employment or contractual relationship with the Agency if such person will have or has the potential to have unsupervised contact with students (the applicant).

(b) After signing a user agreement, the Secretary shall make a request for criminal records directly to the Vermont Crime Information Center.

(c) A request made under subsection (b) of this section shall be accompanied by a release signed by the applicant on a form provided by the Vermont Crime Information Center and a set of the applicant's fingerprints. The Agency shall pay the fingerprinting fee required pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2062 and shall pay any fee required by the FBI associated with a fingerprint-

supported criminal record check. The release form to be signed by the applicant shall include a statement informing the applicant of:

(1) the right to challenge the accuracy of the record by appealing to the Vermont Crime Information Center pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner of Public Safety; and

(2) the Secretary of Education's policy regarding maintenance and destruction of records and the applicant's right to request that the record or notice be maintained for purposes of using it to comply with future criminal record check requests made pursuant to section 256 of this title.

(d) Upon completion of a criminal record check, the Vermont Crime Information Center shall send to the Secretary a notice that no record exists or, if a record exists, a copy of any criminal record. If a copy of a criminal record is received, the Secretary shall forward it to the applicant and shall inform the applicant in writing of:

(1) the right to challenge the accuracy of the record by appealing to the Vermont Crime Information Center pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner of Public Safety; and

(2) the Secretary of Education's policy regarding maintenance and destruction of records and the applicant's right to request that the record or notice be maintained for purposes of using it to comply with future criminal record check requests made pursuant to section 256 of this title.

(e) The Secretary shall request and obtain information from the Child Protection Registry maintained by the Department for Children and Families and from the Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Registry maintained by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (collectively, the Registries) for any applicant for whom a criminal record check is required under subsection (a) of this section. The Departments for Children and Families and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 governing the process for obtaining information from the Registries and for disseminating and maintaining records of that information under this subsection.

(f) An applicant convicted of a sex offense that requires registration pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 3 shall not be eligible for employment with the Agency.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 256 is amended to read:

§ 256. CONTINUED VALIDITY OF CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK;
MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

(a)(1) Anyone required to request a criminal record check under this subchapter about a person who previously has undergone a check, regardless of whether the check was for student teaching, licensure, or employment purposes, shall comply with that requirement by acquiring the results of the previous criminal record check unless:

(A) the person refuses to authorize release of the information;

(B) the record no longer exists;

(C) since the record check, there has been a period of one year or more during which the person has not worked for a Vermont school district ~~or~~, a recognized or an approved independent school, or the Agency of Education; or

(D) as otherwise required by this chapter.

(2) Anyone required to request a criminal record check under this subchapter about a person who has previously undergone a check may request a name and date of birth or fingerprint-supported recheck of the criminal record at any time during the course of the record subject's employment in the capacity for which the original check was required. Rechecking criminal records may be accomplished through a subscription service.

* * *

* * * Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council * * *

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 183 is amended to read:

§ 183. INTERCOLLEGIATE SEXUAL HARM PREVENTION COUNCIL

(a) Creation. There is created the Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council to ~~create a coordinated~~ advance best practices for prevention of and response to campus sexual harm across institutions of higher learning in Vermont.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

(A)(1) a the Title IX coordinator ~~and a campus-based sexual harm prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning, appointed by the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges or designee from each postsecondary school chartered in Vermont with a physical campus located within Vermont;~~

(B)(2) a ~~Title IX coordinator and a campus-based sexual harm prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning,~~

~~appointed by the President of the University of Vermont a peer educator or advocate appointed by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs of the University of Vermont;~~

~~(C)(3) a Title IX coordinator and a campus-based sexual harm prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning, appointed by the President of the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges the Executive Director of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;~~

~~(D)(4) two community-based sexual violence advocates, appointed by the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence the Program Coordinator of the Vermont Forensic Nursing Program or designee; and~~

~~(E)(5) two law enforcement or public safety representatives with experience responding to and investigating campus sexual violence, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety; the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee.~~

~~(F) three college students, at least one of whom has lived experience as a sexual violence survivor and one who represents a campus-based racial justice organization, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services;~~

~~(G) a person with expertise in sexual violence responses within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services;~~

~~(H) a sexual assault nurse examiner, appointed by the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;~~

~~(I) a prosecutor with experience in prosecuting sexual violence cases from either the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or the Office of the Attorney General, appointed by the Attorney General; and~~

~~(J) an attorney with experience in sexual violence cases, appointed by the Defender General.~~

~~(2) To ensure a council that is reflective of Vermont's college campuses, appointing authorities shall consider diversity when making appointments to the Council.~~

(c) Duties. The Council shall:

(1) review the recommendations from the Report of the Vermont Campus Sexual Harm Task Force and develop prevention solutions to sexual harm based on those recommendations; [Repealed.]

~~(2) implement interdisciplinary planning and information sharing to support sexual violence prevention programs on every college campus in Vermont; [Repealed.]~~

~~(3) undertake an annual review of trends in aggregate data collected by institutions of higher learning regarding sexual violence on college campuses in Vermont; [Repealed.]~~

~~(4) identify and share information about effective practices on regarding sexual violence prevention and response, sexual health education, and strategies for mitigating sexual harm and secondary impacts of sexual harm on college campuses in Vermont;~~

~~(5) identify share information about campus-wide activities, publications, and services that promote a campus culture of respect to support the prevention of sexual harm;~~

~~(6) recommend statutory protections to the General Assembly not later than November 1, 2021 to ensure that survivors of sexual harm are not punished for reporting an incident of sexual violence due to alcohol, drug use, or other minor conduct violations occurring at or around the time of an assault; and [Repealed.]~~

~~(7) create or promote annual share information about training opportunities addressing prevention and sexual assault response processes open to representatives from all Vermont postsecondary schools for college populations.~~

~~(d) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative and technical assistance of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. [Repealed.]~~

~~(e) Report. On or before December 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with a summary of activities and any recommendations for legislative action. [Repealed.]~~

~~(f) Meetings.~~

~~(1) The Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence shall call the first meeting of the Council to occur on or before July 15, 2021 November 15, 2026.~~

~~(2) The Council shall select a chair co-chairs from among its members at the first meeting, with one chair representing a public postsecondary school and one chair representing a private postsecondary school.~~

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

~~(4) The Council shall meet quarterly twice per year.~~

~~(5) Members who are not otherwise compensated by the member's employer for attendance at meetings shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for such purposes. The co-chairs shall provide the Council with administrative support.~~

(6) The Council may invite or consult other community representatives as it deems appropriate.

* * * Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying Advisory Council * * *

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 570 is amended to read:

§ 570. HARASSMENT, HAZING, AND BULLYING PREVENTION
POLICIES

* * *

(d) Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

(1) ~~develop and, from time to time, update model harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention policies; and~~

~~(2) establish an Advisory Council to review and coordinate school and statewide activities relating to the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying. The Council shall report annually in January to the State Board and the House and Senate Committees on Education. The Council shall include:~~

~~(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or designee;~~

~~(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;~~

~~(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association or designee;~~

~~(D) the President of the Vermont National Education Association or designee;~~

~~(E) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission or designee;~~

~~(F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee; and~~

~~(G) other members selected by the Secretary, at least one of whom shall be a current secondary student who has witnessed or experienced harassment, hazing, or bullying in the school environment; and~~

(3) provide the Advisory Council with administrative support.

(e) Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools.

(1) Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the following members:

(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or designee;

(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association or designee;

(D) the President of the Vermont-National Education Association or designee;

(E) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission or designee;

(F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee;

(G) two members who serve as designated employees under the hazing, harassment, and bullying prevention policy, appointed by the Secretary of Education;

(H) a member, appointed by the Vermont Educational Equity Collective;

(I) a school social worker, appointed by the National Association of Social Workers-Vermont Chapter;

(J) a member, appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights;

(K) a student member, appointed by the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network;

(L) a student member, appointed by Outright Vermont;

(M) a member, appointed by the Office of Racial Equity;

(N) a member, appointed by the Commission on Women;

(O) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; and

(P) a parent or caregiver member, appointed by the Vermont Family Network.

(2) Duties. The Advisory Council shall:

(A) meet at least four and not more than 12 times per year;

(B) review and advise on coordination of school and statewide activities relating to the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying;

(C) review the model harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention policies developed by the Secretary every three years, beginning in 2026, and recommend updates to the policies as necessary;

(D) review and advise on resources on harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention and response for school professionals;

(E) annually solicit input from students, parents, and schools on harassment, hazing, and bullying; and

(F) notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before January 15, submit a written report to House and Senate Committees on Education, which shall hold a joint legislative hearing each legislative session to review the report. The Advisory Council shall also submit the report to the State Board of Education at the same time.

(3) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings of the Advisory Council per year from funds appropriated to the Agency of Education.

(e)(f) Definitions. In this subchapter:

(1) “Educational institution” and “school” mean a public school or an approved or recognized independent school as defined in section 11 of this title.

(2) “Organization,” “pledging,” and “student” have the same meanings as in section 570i of this title.

(3) “Harassment,” “hazing,” and “bullying” have the same meanings as in subdivisions 11(a)(26), (30), and (32) of this title.

(4) “School board” means the board of directors or other governing body of an educational institution when referring to an independent school.

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION

The sum of \$21,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention as authorized pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 570(e)(3).

* * * Energy Performance Contracting * * *

Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 3448f(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) “Cost-saving measure” means any facility improvement, repair, addition, or alteration or any equipment, fixture, or furnishing to be constructed or installed in any facility that is designed to reduce energy consumption and operating costs or to increase the operating efficiency of facilities for their appointed functions, that is cost effective, and that is further defined by State Board rule.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

New Business

Action Under Rule 52

J.R.H. 12

Joint resolution authorizing remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2026 and the application of the ADA thereto

(For text, see House Journal of May 27, 2026)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable

S. 64

An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists

Rep. Soucy of Barre Town, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Rep. Birong of Vergennes, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

Rep. Waszazak of Barre City, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 935

An act relating to emergency 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:

* * * Ready Response Grant Program * * *

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 52 is added to read:

§ 52. READY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM

(a) As used in this section, “ready response” means the provision of short-term food and bottled water resources, including logistical support and transportation, to individuals in Vermont who do not have adequate access to food and water at agreed upon times when the Division of Emergency Management seeks resource assistance from a grantee or responds to an all-hazards event or state of emergency.

(b) There is created the Ready Response Grant Program to be managed and administered by the Division of Emergency Management. The Division shall award an annual grant to an eligible food bank to source, store, and distribute shelf-stable, ready-to-eat foods and bottled water at times and in types and quantities per a written memorandum of agreement with the Division.

(c) The grant shall be in an amount sufficient to compensate the grantee for all costs incurred to procure and stage food and water in agreed upon quantities and locations, the costs of cycling the food and water at agreed-upon intervals, the value of distribution center storage capacity, the value of operational capacity to stage materials in anticipation of need, and the costs of distribution whenever the Division seeks resource assistance from the grantee or responds to an all-hazards event or state of emergency. As used in this

subsection, the “value of operational capacity” includes leased storage space, delivery vehicles, drivers, warehouse selectors, and other operational costs.

(d) Food and water supplies subject to a grant and under the grantee’s control shall be rotated and replenished according to established industry guidelines and best practices. Rotated food and water shall be redistributed in an equitable manner by the grantee through Vermont’s charitable food system to Vermont nonprofit organizations qualifying under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) that provide food to individuals in Vermont.

(e) To the extent that the Division requests services from the grantee that are not covered by the Grant Program, a separate agreement shall be reached between the Division and the grantee.

* * * Technical Rescue Grant Program * * *

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 53 is added to read:

§ 53. TECHNICAL RESCUE GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program. There is created the Technical Rescue Grant Program to assist Vermont fire departments, emergency medical services agencies, and technical rescue agencies with the improvement of operational readiness and investment in specialized equipment, personal protective gear, and training. The Program shall be administered by the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team program manager.

(b) Duties of USAR Team program manager. The USAR Team program manager, in addition to other duties described elsewhere in law, shall review grant applications, award grants, and otherwise administer the Program.

(c) Eligibility. Fire departments, emergency medical services agencies, and technical rescue agencies operating within Vermont shall be eligible for Program grants. Grant applicants shall demonstrate their use, planned use, or need for technical rescue operations within their service area. All grant applicants shall submit their application on a form adopted by the USAR Team program manager. The USAR Team program manager shall prioritize grant awards for applicants that:

(1) maintain a memorandum of understanding with the Division of Emergency Management for swiftwater rescue; or

(2) function as regional technical rescue teams providing services in multiple jurisdictions.

(d) Grant award limitations. The maximum award to any applicant in a given fiscal year shall be not more than \$5,000.00. The Program shall not award more than \$25,000.00 in total grants in a given fiscal year.

(e) Application review and scoring. The USAR Team program manager shall adopt procedures governing application submission, forms, review, scoring, and recommendation of awards. The procedures for application scoring shall include alignment with the Program priorities in subsection (a) of this section, operational need, geographic service area, feasibility of the proposed project, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability of the applicant's services.

(f) Grant recipient reporting; report. Each grant recipient shall submit to the USAR Team program manager a final expenditure report, proof of purchase or training completion, and a narrative description of how the grant improved the recipient's technical rescue capacity. Annually on or before November 15, the USAR Team program manager shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations summarizing grant awards, outcomes, and Program recommendations.

(g) Rulemaking. The USAR Team program manager may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to implement this section.

Sec. 2a. 20 V.S.A. § 50 is amended to read:

§ 50. URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

* * *

(b) The USAR Team program manager shall perform all the following duties:

* * *

(5) negotiate and enter into agreements with municipalities, municipal agencies that maintain swiftwater rescue teams, State-recognized swiftwater rescue teams, or other technical rescue teams to provide expert assistance and services to the USAR Team when necessary; ~~and~~

(6) coordinate USAR Team participation in search and rescue operations under chapter 112 of this title; and

(7) administer the Technical Rescue Grant Program pursuant to section 53 of this title.

* * *

* * * Disability Inclusion in Emergency Planning * * *

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(13) “Whole community” means the collective of residents; emergency management practitioners; organizational and community leaders; and local, State, and federal government officials.

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 6 is amended to read:

§ 6. LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

* * *

(c)(1) Each local organization shall develop and maintain an all-hazards emergency management plan in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan and guidance set forth by the Division of Emergency Management.

* * *

(3) The Division shall advise municipalities that when a shelter is sited under a local emergency plan, the municipality should work with the ~~Agency of Human Services, the American Red Cross, and community-based emergency or charitable food providers~~ whole community, to assess the facility and the facility’s potential operations, including the characteristics of the surrounding area during an all-hazards event, multiple routes of travel and possible hazards that could prevent access to the shelter, and the need for immediate and sustained access to food and water for individuals using the shelter.

(4) The Division, in coordination with the ~~Agency of Human Services~~ whole community, shall advise municipalities, upon completion of a local emergency management plan, on how to conduct training and exercises pertaining to sheltering.

* * *

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 32 is amended to read:

§ 32. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES; CREATION;
DUTIES

* * *

(b) All local emergency planning committees shall include representatives from the following: fire departments; local and regional emergency medical services; local, county, and State law enforcement; other entities providing

first responders or emergency management personnel; organizations serving vulnerable populations; media; transportation; regional planning commissions; hospitals; industry; the Vermont National Guard; the Department of Health's district office; and an animal rescue organization, and may include any other interested public or private individual or organization. Where the local emergency planning committee represents more than one region of the State, the Commission shall appoint representatives that are geographically diverse.

(c) A local emergency planning committee shall perform all the following duties:

(1) Carry out all the requirements of a committee pursuant to EPCRA, including preparing a local emergency planning committee plan. The plan shall be coordinated with the State ~~emergency management plan~~ Emergency Management Plan and may be expanded to address all-hazards identified in the State ~~emergency management plan~~ Emergency Management Plan. A local emergency planning committee shall coordinate with disability-led organizations throughout all phases of emergency management planning. At a minimum, the local emergency planning committee plan shall include the following:

* * *

Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

* * * Town Forest Fire Wardens * * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

§ 2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER

* * *

(d) The Commissioner or designee shall be the State ~~fire warden~~ Forest Fire Warden and may act as, and in place of, the town forest fire warden of any municipality, unorganized town, or gore as provided under subchapter 4 of this chapter. The Commissioner or designee, as State Forest Fire Warden, shall have the authority to:

(1) exercise the authority and duties of a town forest fire warden as set forth in subchapter 4 of this chapter;

(2) appoint special forest fire wardens and delegate the authority of the State Forest Fire Warden to the special forest fire wardens;

(3) take command and control of a forest fire in any municipality or unorganized town or gore in the State when, in the State Forest Fire Warden's determination, it is necessary to do so, or when resources are needed in

addition to local resources, and act as incident commander over all other fire officials;

(4) delegate the authority to act as incident commander of a forest fire to another person or entity;

(5) serve on the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission or designate an appropriate Department representative to serve in the Commissioner's place, pursuant to section 2503 of this title, and exercise all related authority;

(6) enter into mutual aid compact agreements as set forth in section 2462 of this title; and

(7) issue a ban on kindling fires on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources when necessary.

* * *

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. chapter 83, subchapter 4 is amended to read:

Subchapter 4. Forest Fires and Fire Prevention

§ 2641. TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS; ~~APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL~~

~~(a) Upon approval by the selectboard and acceptance by the appointee, the Commissioner shall appoint a town forest fire warden for a term of five years or until a successor is appointed. A town forest fire warden may be reappointed for successive five-year terms by the Commissioner or until a successor is approved by the selectboard and appointed by the Commissioner. The warden may be removed for cause at any time by the Commissioner with the approval of the selectboard. A warden shall comply with training requirements established by the Commissioner. The chief of the fire department, fire district, or private fire department with the jurisdictional responsibility to respond to a municipality, unorganized town, or gore is designated as the town forest fire warden and shall have the authority to exercise all the powers and duties of a town forest fire warden. For any municipality, unorganized town, or gore that is covered by two or more fire districts or has two or more fire departments, the municipality, unorganized town, or gore shall designate one fire chief as town forest fire warden and shall notify the Commissioner of the designation.~~

~~(b) The Commissioner may appoint a forest fire warden for an unorganized town or gore, who shall serve for a term of five years or until a successor is appointed. An appointed forest fire warden for an unorganized town or gore may be reappointed for successive five-year terms by the Commissioner until~~

~~the Commissioner appoints and the unorganized town or gore approves a successor. The warden may be removed for cause at any time by the Commissioner with the approval of the unorganized town or gore. The forest fire warden of an unorganized town or gore shall have the same powers and duties as town forest fire wardens and shall be subject to the requirements of this subchapter. The chief of the fire department, fire district, or private fire department with the jurisdictional responsibility to respond to a municipality, unorganized town, or gore, as town forest fire warden, may designate deputy town forest fire wardens. The town forest fire warden shall provide a list of all designated deputy forest fire wardens to the Commissioner. Deputy forest fire wardens shall only have the authority to issue permits to kindle a fire as set forth in sections 2644 and 2645 of this subchapter.~~

~~(c) When there are woodlands within the limits of a city, the chief of the fire department of such city shall act as the city forest fire warden with all the powers and duties of town forest fire wardens. When a municipality, unorganized town, or gore does not have a fire department or is not covered by a fire district, the municipality, unorganized town, or gore may contract with a neighboring fire department or fire district to designate the chief of the fire department or fire district to serve as the town forest fire warden for the municipality, unorganized town, or gore. When a private fire department provides fire suppression and control services to a municipality, unorganized town, or gore, the chief of the private fire department may serve as the town forest fire warden when approved by the municipality, unorganized town, or gore.~~

~~(d) When the Commissioner deems it difficult in any municipality for one warden to take charge of protecting the entire municipality from forest fires, he or she may appoint one or more deputy forest fire wardens. Such wardens under the direction of the fire warden shall have the same powers, duties, and pay and make the same reports through the fire warden to the Commissioner as forest fire wardens. [Repealed.]~~

~~(e) The Commissioner may appoint designate special forest fire wardens who shall hold office during at the pleasure of the Commissioner. Such The fire wardens shall be employees of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation with forest fire suppression and control training, and shall have the same powers and duties throughout the State as town forest fire wardens, except that all expenses and charges incurred on account of their official acts shall be paid from the appropriations for the Department.~~

§ 2642. SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF TOWN FOREST FIRE
WARDENS

(a) The salary of a town forest fire warden and any deputy town forest fire warden shall be determined by the selectboard members for time spent in the performance of the duties of ~~his or her~~ the warden's office, which shall be paid by the town. ~~In addition thereto, he or she shall receive from the Commissioner \$30.00 annually for fulfilling the requirements of section 2645 of this title and keeping the required State records. He or she shall also receive from the Commissioner \$30.00 per diem for attendance at each training required by the Commissioner. He or she shall also receive annually an amount of \$10.00 for each fire report that is submitted by the forest fire warden under section 2644 of this title.~~

* * *

§ 2643. TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR SUPPRESSION OF FOREST FIRES;
STATE AID

(a) A municipality in which a forest fire occurs shall pay the cost to suppress a forest fire that occurs on land that is not owned by the Agency of Natural Resources, including the costs of personnel and equipment. The Commissioner may, ~~according to the Department fire suppression reimbursement policy when funds have been appropriated or are otherwise available,~~ reimburse a municipality for all or a portion of the costs of suppressing a forest fire on land that is not owned by the Agency of Natural Resources.

(b) For the purpose of suppressing forest fires on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources, the State shall may reimburse a town municipality or unorganized town or gore for some or all its forest fire suppression costs at a rate determined by the Commissioner ~~according to the Department fire suppression reimbursement policy~~. If the total acreage of a forest fire is ~~determined to be partially on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources and partially on land owned by another party,~~ the Commissioner shall, at a minimum, reimburse the town at a rate determined by the Commissioner ~~according to the Department fire suppression reimbursement policy~~ for costs incurred by the municipality on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources if, at a minimum, the requirements in subsection (c) of this section are satisfied. The Commissioner may establish additional requirements and guidance regarding reimbursement.

(c) For any forest fire on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources to be considered eligible for reimbursement from the State, ~~a town forest fire warden shall have reported the forest fire to the Commissioner within 14 days~~

~~of extinguishment of the fire as required under section 2644 of this title. For reimbursement of fire suppression costs for forest fires on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources, the town forest fire warden and the Commissioner or designee shall approve the costs before submission to the municipality for payment. The town forest fire warden may submit to the State on an annual basis a request for reimbursement of fire suppression costs on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources. The State shall reimburse a town for all applicable forest fire suppression costs when the reimbursement request is presented in a form approved by the Commissioner to the Commissioner by December 31 of each year. a municipality, unorganized town, or gore shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:~~

~~(1) The town forest fire warden of a municipality, unorganized town, or gore shall request assistance within one hour of discovery after the forest fire from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Wildland Fire Team, for the suppression of the forest fire on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources.~~

~~(2) The town forest fire warden shall submit a report of the forest fire to the Commissioner within 24 hours after extinguishment of the fire as required under section 2644 of this title.~~

~~(3) The municipality, unorganized town, or gore shall submit detailed documentation of the costs of suppression of the forest fire to the Commissioner within 60 days after extinguishment of the forest fire.~~

~~(4) The Commissioner shall review and approve the request for reimbursement.~~

~~(d) For requests for reimbursement approved by the Commissioner for forest fire suppression costs of a municipality, unorganized town, or gore on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources, payment of the costs shall be made by the Commissioner of Finance and Management to the municipality, unorganized town, or gore. The funds for the payment are to be taken from the appropriation for forest fire suppression.~~

§ 2644. DUTIES AND POWERS OF FIRE WARDEN

~~(a) When a forest fire or fire threatening a forest forestland is discovered in his or her town the warden's jurisdiction of responsibility, the town forest fire warden shall enter upon any premises and take measures for its prompt control, suppression, and extinguishment. The town forest fire warden may call upon any person for assistance. The town forest fire warden may choose to share or delegate command authority to a chief engineer of a responding fire department or, in the chief's absence, the highest ranking assistant firefighter~~

~~present during the fire.~~ Within 24 hours after discovery of the forest fire on lands not owned by the Agency of Natural Resources, the town forest fire warden shall notify the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation that the fire was discovered.

(b) ~~A town forest fire warden shall keep~~ prepare a report for all forest fires in the warden's jurisdiction that includes, at a minimum, the following information: a record of ~~his or her~~ the warden's acts, the number of forest fires and causes of the forest fires, the areas burned over, and the character and amount of damages done in the warden's jurisdiction. ~~Within two weeks~~ 48 hours after the extinguishment of a fire, the town forest fire warden shall file a report of the fire to the Commissioner, ~~but the making of a report under this subsection shall not be a charge against the town.~~

* * *

(d) Within 12 hours after granting permission to kindle a fire pursuant to section 2645 of this subchapter, the town forest fire warden or deputy forest fire warden shall issue a written "Permit to Kindle" stating when and where the fire may be kindled, including any conditions deemed appropriate by the town forest fire warden.

§ 2645. OPEN BURNING; PERMITS

(a) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not kindle or authorize another person to kindle a fire in the open air for the purpose of burning natural wood, brush, weeds, or grass without first obtaining permission a permit to kindle a fire from the town forest fire warden or deputy forest fire warden stating when and where such the fire may be kindled and imposing any conditions deemed necessary by the town forest fire warden or deputy forest fire warden. Special forest fire wardens designated by the Commissioner shall issue permits for Category 3 fires on land owned by the Agency of Natural Resources. Wood, brush, weeds, or grass shall not be burned if they have been altered in any way by surface applications or injection of paints, stains, preservatives, oils, glues, or pesticides. Whenever such permission is granted, the fire warden, within 12 hours, shall issue a written "Permit to Kindle" for record purposes stating when and where such fire may be kindled.~~

(b) ~~With the written approval of the Secretary, during~~ During periods of increased fire hazard, or when the Department of Environmental Conservation has issued an Air Quality Alert due to forecasted ambient air quality, the Commissioner may:

~~(1) notify~~ Notify town forest fire wardens that for a specified period no burning permits to kindle a fire shall be issued. The forest fire wardens shall issue no permits during the specified period.

~~(2) Notify town forest fire wardens that for a specified period of time permits for Category 2 or 3 fires shall be prohibited or restricted as set forth by the Commissioner.~~

~~(3) Notify town forest fire wardens that for a specified period of time, Category 1 fires shall be prohibited or restricted as set forth by the Commissioner.~~

~~(c) The provisions of this section will not apply to~~ A permit to kindle a fire is not required for the following categories or conditions when the requirements set forth below are satisfied:

~~(1) the kindling of a fire in a location where there is snow surrounding the open burning site;~~

~~(2) fires built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or existing fire rings at State recreational areas or fires built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or fire rings on private property that are not located within woodland, timberland, or a field containing dry grass or other flammable plant material contiguous to woodland; Category 1 fires; or~~

~~(3) the kindling of a fire in a location that is 200 feet or more from any woodland, timberland, or field containing dry grass or other flammable plant material contiguous to woodland; or~~

~~(4) areas within cities maintaining a fire department. the kindling of a fire that complies with all requirements established by rule adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation when a person is primitive camping on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources.~~

~~(d)(1) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may issue a ban on kindling fires on lands owned by the Agency of Natural Resources when necessary.~~

~~(e) As used in this section, “natural wood”:~~

~~(1) “Category 1” includes campfires that meet the following requirements:~~

~~(A) fires 36 inches in diameter or less that are built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or existing fire rings at State recreational areas, other public recreational areas, or on private property; or~~

(B) fires 36 inches in diameter or less built in a location that is 200 feet or more from any forestland, or field containing dry grass or other flammable plant materials contiguous to forestland.

(2) “Category 2” includes natural wood fires that meet the following requirements:

(A) fires in piles larger than 36 inches in diameter; or

(B) fires 36 inches in diameter or less, not built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or existing fires rings at State recreational areas, other public recreational areas, or on private property.

(3) “Category 3 broadcast burn” includes fires that meet the following requirements:

(A) Fires applied to existing vegetation in a predetermined land area, in a manner to meet specific or prescribed objectives, including fuels management, slash abatement, firefighter training, agricultural field burning, forest management, wildlife habitat management, or introduced species management.

(B) All Category 3 fires must have a plan that includes location, objectives, and contingency for escaped fire.

(4) “Forestland” means woodlands, timberland, brushland, forest, and woodlots.

(5) “Natural wood” means:

* * *

(2)(6) “Natural wood” does not mean other wood products such as sawdust, plywood, particle board, or press board. “Natural wood” does not mean wood, brush, weeds, or grass if they have been altered in any way by surface applications or injections of paints, stains, preservatives, oils, glues, or pesticides.

* * *

§ 2646. PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR PROHIBITING KINDLING OF FIRES: CLOSING OF WOODLANDS FORESTLANDS

(a) Whenever it appears to the Governor that there is excessive danger of forest fires, ~~he or she~~ the Governor may prohibit by proclamation the kindling of a fire in or adjoining forestland or close any or all sections of ~~woodland forestland~~, or brushland, in any town for such time as the Governor may designate, to all persons ~~except the owner and his or her household, his or her~~

~~tenants, servants, or agents and persons in the public employment engaged in abating such fire-hazardous condition.~~

~~(b) Proclamations shall be published in such newspapers of the State and posted in such places and in such manner as the Governor may order in writing. A copy of such publication the proclamation and order, attested by the Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, shall be filed with the Secretary of State and a like copy shall be furnished to the Commissioner who shall attend to the ~~publication and posting thereof of the proclamation~~. The expenses of ~~such publication and posting~~ shall be paid by the Department. Notice of removal of restrictions imposed by proclamation shall be in the same manner.~~

§ 2647. FIRES IN WOODS FORESTLAND OF ANOTHER; PERMISSION

~~No one shall build a fire in the ~~woodlands~~ forestland of another without the permission of the owner, lessee, holder of right-of-way, or his or her authorized agent between April 1 and November 1. A person who builds a fire in or adjoining any woods shall totally extinguish such fire before leaving it.~~

§ 2648. SLASH REMOVAL

(a) A person may cut or cause to be cut forest growth only if all slash adjoining the right-of-way of any public highway, or the boundary lines of ~~woodlots~~ forestland owned by adjoining property owners, is treated as follows:

(1) All slash shall be removed for a distance of 50 feet from the right-of-way of any public highway or from the boundary lines of ~~woodlots~~ forestland owned by adjoining property owners.

* * *

(d) As used in this section, "slash" means the branches, tree tops, and other woody debris left on the forest floor after logging.

Sec. 9. REPEAL

10 V.S.A. chapter 83, subchapter 7 (uniform fire prevention ticket) is repealed.

Sec. 10. 20 V.S.A. § 2673 is amended to read:

§ 2673. POWERS AND DUTIES DURING HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL OR SUBSTANCE INCIDENT, FIRES; THREAT OF FIRES OR EXPLOSIONS; FOREST FIRES

* * *

(e) The chief of a fire district is designated as the town forest fire warden under 10 V.S.A chapter 83, subchapter 4 and shall have the authority and duties related to forest fires pursuant to that subchapter.

Sec. 11. 20 V.S.A. § 2992 is amended to read:

§ 2992. DEFINITION

The term “private fire department” includes fire protection organizations operated by industries, institutions, and establishments for self-protection and also nonprofit volunteer fire associations. Nothing contained in this subchapter shall be construed to interfere with the exclusive jurisdiction vested by law in the State Forester ~~and the State Forester’s subordinates~~ or the State Forest Fire Warden over forest fires as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 2603(d); 10 V.S.A. chapter 83, ~~subchapters subchapter 4 and 7~~; or 10 V.S.A. chapter 81, nor to affect the laws governing prevention or extinguishment of forest fires. Nothing contained in this subchapter shall be construed to interfere with general authorization vested by law in a chief engineer of a fire district or chief of a volunteer fire department to give outside aid as provided in sections 2674 and 2961 of this title.

* * * Increasing Wildland Fire Response Capacity Task Force * * *

Sec. 11a. INCREASING WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY
TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Increasing Wildland Fire Response Capacity Task Force to examine and report on increasing Vermont’s capacity for wildland fire response.

(b) Membership. The following individuals and entities shall be invited by Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to join the Task Force:

(1) the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(2) Vermont Emergency Management;

(3) the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety;

(4) the Green Mountain National Forest;

(5) the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; and

(6) two municipal fire chiefs, with one being a career fire fighter and the other being a volunteer fire fighter.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall examine how to best increase Vermont’s capacity for wildland fire response, including:

(1) examining available information on wildland fire incidence and existing response capacity, and making recommendations regarding staffing, funding, equipment, supplies, and infrastructure, including vehicles, necessary to increase wildland fire response capacity; and

(2) identifying any potential policy or statutory changes needed to improve wildland fire response capacity; clarify statewide roles and responsibilities among State, municipal, and federal entities; and recommend any coordination and communication improvements.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

(e) Report. On or before February 15, 2027, and again on or before July 2027, the Task Force shall submit a written report to House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Government Operations with its findings to date and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, or designee, shall call the first meeting of the Task Force.

(2) The Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, or designee, shall be the chair of the Task Force.

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

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on November 16, 2027.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

* * * Public Safety Communications * * *

Sec. 12. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE; AUTHORIZATION FOR
ONGOING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

(a) The General Assembly authorizes the use of monies appropriated or held in reserve pursuant 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115 and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 49, for the Department of Public Safety to procure and

implement a multidisciplinary computer-aided dispatch system for public safety communications, subject to the following:

(1) \$2,250,000.00 shall be available for immediate costs associated with establishing the multidisciplinary computer-aided dispatch system and five years of software licensing fees, provided that the Department issues requests for proposal and signs contracts for services on or before January 1, 2027;

(2) \$190,000.00 shall be immediately available for cybersecurity, expanded use of Rapid SOS, and geographic information systems; and

(3) \$4,500,000.00 shall be available incrementally over three years to:

(A) implement and expand the Land Mobile Radio network to include a Statewide conceptual design;

(B) detail designs for one or more proof of concept projects and initially implement pilot projects; and

(C) build out or improve 10 or more Land Mobile Radio sites, including equipment and antenna deployment at existing chosen sites.

(b) Notwithstanding any provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114 to the contrary, the Public Safety Communications Task Force shall continue in existence until February 15, 2027. The Task Force shall meet as necessary to advise the Department of Public Safety on executing the Task Force recommendations and final design plan. Notwithstanding 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114(d)(3), members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Public Safety.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall submit written reports to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Government Operations concerning the expenditure of monies pursuant to this section. The Department shall submit the written reports on or before May 1, 2027, January 15, 2028, and January 15, 2029, concerning the expenditures made during each respective reporting period.

Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

* * * Programs Contingent on Availability of Agency Funds * * *

Sec. 13a. PROGRAMS CONTINGENT ON AVAILABILITY OF AGENCY FUNDS

The duty to implement Secs. 1 (Ready Response Grant Program) and 2 (Technical Rescue Grant Program) of this act is contingent upon the availability of sufficient funds within the Department of Public Safety and the Agency of Administration to support the programs.

* * * Appropriation * * *

Sec. 13b. [Deleted.]

* * * Emergency Rule * * *

Sec. 13c. 3 V.S.A. § 844 is amended to read:

§ 844. EMERGENCY RULES

(a) Where an agency believes that there exists an imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare, it may adopt an emergency rule. The rule may be adopted without having been prefiled or filed in proposed or final proposed form, and may be adopted after whatever notice and hearing the agency finds to be practicable under the circumstances. The agency shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that emergency rules are known to persons who may be affected by them.

* * *

(g) In the alternative to the grounds specified in subsection (a) of this section, an agency may adopt emergency amendments to existing rules using the process set forth in this section if each of the subdivisions (1)–(5) of this subsection applies. On a majority vote of the entire Committee, the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules may object to the emergency amendments on the basis that one or more of these subdivisions do not apply or under subdivision (e)(1)(A), (B), or (C) of this section, or both.

(1) The existing rules implement a program controlled by federal statute or rule or by a multistate entity.

(2) The controlling federal statute or rule has been amended to require a change in the program, or the multistate entity has made a change in the program that is to be implemented in all of the participating states.

(3) The controlling federal statute or rule or the multistate entity requires implementation of the change within 120 days or less.

(4) The adopting authority finds each of the following in writing:

(A) The agency cannot by the date required for implementation complete the final adoption of amended rules using the process set forth in sections ~~837 through 843~~ 837–843 of this title.

(B) Failure to amend the rules by the date required for implementation would cause significant harm to the public health, safety, or welfare or significant financial loss to the State.

(5) On the date the emergency rule amendments are adopted pursuant to this subsection, the adopting authority prefiles a corresponding permanent rule pursuant to section 837 of this title.

(h) In addition to the grounds for emergency rulemaking under subsections (a) and (g) of this section, an agency may adopt an emergency rule under this section if an amendment to a federal statute, rule, or policy will materially conflict with or threaten the ability of the agency to implement a statutory or regulatory program required under Vermont law. On a majority vote of the entire Committee, the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules may object to proposed emergency rules for adoption under this subsection on the basis that the provisions of this subsection do not apply.

Sec. 13d. SUNSET OF AGENCY EMERGENCY RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

3 V.S.A. § 844(h) (emergency rulemaking in response to federal action) is repealed on July 1, 2028.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and sections 13c and 13d shall take effect upon passage.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

H. 942

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

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

First: In Sec. 3, 6 V.S.A. chapter 37, in section 681, after subdivision (3), by adding a new subdivision (4) to read as follows and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct:

(4) “Convenience store” means a type of retail establishment that sells a limited number of everyday items such as motor fuel, tobacco products, made-to-order food, snacks, and beverages that serve as a quick, accessible retail option for consumers who typically purchase a small number of products, and that does not offer a sufficient quantity of consumer commodities to make unit pricing as useful to consumers. “Convenience store” does not include a grocery store, drug store, dollar store, or any other type of store. The

Secretary has the discretion to determine whether a retail establishment is a convenience store.

Second: In Sec. 3, 6 V.S.A. chapter 37, in section 686, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) The unit price requirements of this chapter shall not apply to sales of consumer commodities commodity sales as follows:

(1) At a retail store with less than 7,000 square feet of floor space dedicated to the sale of consumer commodities. This ~~exception~~ exemption shall not apply to the sales agencies or instrumentalities retail establishments of a company having two or more sales agencies or instrumentalities locations as parts of that company.

(2) ~~For use or consumption on the premises where sold~~ Convenience stores.

(3) When different brands or products are commingled in one receptacle for a limited-time one-priced sale.

(4) When commodities are individually marked with a clearance or sale tag and are located in a clearance or limited-time sale section of the store. Clearance or limited-time sale sections may be on a shelf or multiple shelves, or in another defined area of the store.

(5) When the unit price is identical to the total selling price.

(6) When the item falls into one of the following categories:

(A) seasonal decorations; or

(B) beverages subject to the Federal Alcoholic Administration Act packing and labeling requirements.

Third: By striking out Sec. 4, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 and reader assistance heading to read as follows:

Sec. 4. EQUINE FARMING AND USE VALUE APPRAISAL STUDY;
REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Taxes shall study and provide recommendations for including equine farming in the Use Value Appraisal Program. The Commissioner shall submit the recommendations to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Finance on or before December 15, 2026. The Commissioner's recommendations shall include an analysis of the

potential fiscal impact of permitting agricultural land and farm buildings that are used for equine farming to enroll in the Use Value Appraisal Program.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) “Agricultural land” has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 3752(1).

(2) “Equine farming” means the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or boarded by a farmer for gain or profit, including training, showing, and providing instruction and lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines.

(3) “Farm buildings” has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 3752(14).

(4) “Farmer” has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 3752(7).

Fourth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 5 to read as follows:

* * * Community Development Initiatives * * *

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 325m is amended to read:

§ 325m. RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

(a) Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Rural area” means a county of the State designated as “rural” or “mostly rural” by the U.S. Census Bureau in its most recent decennial census.

(2) “Small town” means a town in the State with a population of less than 5,000 at the date of the most recent U.S. Census Bureau decennial census.

(3) “Community development initiatives” means priority projects located throughout the State that support agriculture, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and other critical economic development needs, which may be supported when State resources or staffing assistance is not available.

(b) Establishment. There is created the Rural Economic Development Initiative to be administered by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the purpose of promoting and facilitating community economic development in the small towns and rural areas of the State, and supporting community development initiatives. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall collaborate with municipalities, businesses, regional development corporations, regional planning commissions, and other appropriate entities to access funding and other assistance available to small towns and businesses primarily in rural areas of the State when existing State resources or staffing assistance is not available.

(c) Services; access to funding. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall provide the following services to small towns and businesses primarily in rural areas:

(1) identification of grant or other funding opportunities that facilitate business development, infrastructure development, or other economic development opportunities; or

(2) technical assistance in writing grants, accessing other funding, coordination with providers of grants or other funding, strategic planning for the implementation or timing of activities funded by grants or other funding, and compliance with the requirements of grant awards or awards of other funding.

(d) Priority. In providing services under this section, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall give first priority to projects that have received necessary State or municipal approval and that are ready for construction or implementation.

(e) Priority projects. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall ~~seek to assist~~ include the following priority types of projects:

(1) milk plants, milk handlers, or dairy products, as those terms are defined in 6 V.S.A. § 2672;

(2) outdoor recreation and equipment enterprises;

(3) value-added food and forest products enterprises;

(4) farm operations, including phosphorus removal technology for farm operations;

(5) coworking or business generator and accelerator spaces;

(6) commercial composting facilities; and

(7) restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings in community centers.

(f) Coordination. In providing services under this section, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, regional development corporations, and regional planning commissions.

(g) Report. Beginning on January 31, 2019, and annually thereafter, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall submit to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Commerce and Economic Development a report regarding the activities and

progress of the Initiative as part of the report of the Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program. The report shall summarize the Initiative's activities in the preceding year; evaluate the effectiveness of the services provided by the Initiative; provide an accounting of the grants or other funding that the Initiative facilitated or helped secure; and recommend any changes to the program to further economic development in small towns and rural areas of the State.

Fifth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 6 to read as follows:

* * * Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund * * *

Sec. 6. 6 V.S.A. § 4643(e) is amended to read:

(e) All administratively complete applications shall be evaluated by the Review Board. Within 15 days following receipt of an administratively complete application, the Review Board by majority vote shall recommend to the Secretary whether to issue a payment to the applicant. ~~If the Review Board recommends an award under this section, the~~ The Secretary shall ~~issue the award~~ make a final award determination within 15 days following the date of the Review Board's recommendation.

Sixth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 7 to read as follows:

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Committee of Conference Report

H. 952

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

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.952. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

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:

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$111,965,288.44~~ \$123,564,624.67 authorized in Secs. 2-16 this act, not more than ~~\$61,969,761.44~~ \$61,449,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

* * *

* * * Bond-Funded Project Authorizations * * *

Sec. 2. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

* * *

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

* * *

(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$500,000.00

* * *

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

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: ~~\$8,500,000.00~~ \$8,683,413.18

* * *

(4) ~~Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,100,000.00~~
[Repealed.]

* * *

(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~~ \$1,000,000.00

* * *

(12) Montpelier, State House entryway upgrades, design documents, including comprehensive parking plan and delivery truck access, and second-floor egress design: \$1,300,000.00

(d) On or before January 15, 2027, the Sergeant at Arms and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the status of the designs for the State House entryway and second-floor egress under subdivision (c)(12) of this section and on estimates for construction costs.

Appropriation – FY 2026	\$13,726,680.44	<u>\$12,726,680.44</u>
Appropriation – FY 2027	\$15,925,000.00	<u>\$15,308,413.18</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 2	\$28,951,680.44	<u>\$28,035,093.62</u>

Sec. 3. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

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:

* * *

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$1,480,000.00

* * *

(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~~ \$9,426,254.21

* * *

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: ~~\$2,600,000.00~~ \$2,920,000.00

(5) ~~Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00 [Repealed.]~~

(6) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) boiler replacement: \$700,000.00

(7) Maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other correctional facilities utilized in response to overcrowding for the incarcerated women's population: \$598,850.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2026	\$8,225,000.00	<u>\$8,705,000.00</u>
Appropriation – FY 2027	\$4,800,000.00	<u>\$14,345,104.21</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 3	\$13,025,000.00	<u>\$23,050,104.21</u>

Sec. 4. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* * *

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

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:	\$550,000.00	
	<u>\$750,000.00</u>	

* * *

(3) Roadside historic site markers:	\$25,000.00	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
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* * *

Appropriation – FY 2027	\$621,000.00	<u>\$841,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 4	\$1,667,000.00	<u>\$1,887,000.00</u>

Sec. 5. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

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 and the amount appropriated in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) The sum of \$1,250,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for sewage system and elevator upgrades.

Appropriation – FY 2026		\$1,050,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027		<u>\$1,250,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 6	\$1,050,000.00	<u>\$2,300,000.00</u>

Sec. 6. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

* * *

~~(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. [Repealed.]~~

(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.

(g) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(h) 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) Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$1,577,600.00
- (2) Municipal pollution control grants: \$3,922,400.00

(i) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for water quality improvements to forest access roads.

(j) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the following projects:

- (1) Agricultural water quality projects: \$800,000.00
- (2) Land conservation and water quality projects: \$2,000,000.00

* * *

Sec. 7. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 14 is amended to read:

Sec. 14. JUDICIARY

* * *

(c) The sum of \$1,720,818.84 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for the Newport Courthouse project.

Appropriation – FY 2026	\$5,075,910.00
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$1,720,818.84</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 14	\$5,075,910.00 <u>\$6,796,728.84</u>

* * * Reallocations * * *

Sec. 8. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION AND REVERSION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums ~~are reallocated~~ appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

* * *

(12) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (CJTC East Cottage): \$43,190.08

(13) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$1,624,241.12

(14) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$393,854.32

(15) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(a)(2) (women’s correctional facilities): \$97,890.12

(16) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$618,000.00

(17) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$350,420.67

(18) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$150,000.00

(19) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(b)(1) (women’s correctional facilities, replacement): \$868,850.00

(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:

* * *

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 4(a)(4) (Unmarked Burial Fund): \$31,320.70

* * *

(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~~ reverted 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~~ reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

* * *

(n) Of the amount appropriated to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(2) (elevator upgrade), \$500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 6 of this act.

(o) Of the amount appropriated to the Enhanced 911 Board in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 6(b)(9), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 5 (Enhanced 911 Compliance Grants Program), \$63,413.15 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(p) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(j), as added by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 7 (State-owned forest and recreational access points), \$0.03 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(q) The following sums appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1105(a) are reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act:

(1) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(1) (planning, reuse, and contingency): \$119,114.60

(2) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(6) (120 State Street renovation): \$1,000,000.00

(3) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(8) (CJTC administration building and West Cottage): \$450,000.00

(4) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(10) (DCF short-term stabilization facility): \$372,557.10

(5) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) (Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre): \$750,000.00

(6) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(13) (planning and design of the Rutland Field Station): \$250,000.00

(7) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(15) (EV charging stations): \$995,040.00

(r) 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)(3) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(3), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 11 (120 State Street renovation), \$1,500,000.00 is reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

Bonded Dollars	\$5,074,938.48	\$9,816,118.67
Cash	\$1,700,000.00	\$7,136,711.70
Total Reallocations, Reversions, and Transfers – Section 17	\$6,774,938.48	\$16,952,830.37

* * * Cash-Funded Project Authorizations * * *

Sec. 9. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19 is amended to read:

Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026 AND FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS ACT ACTS; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

* * *

(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 and FY 2027 Appropriations Act Acts. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Appropriations Act appropriate Acts transfer funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2026 and 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:

* * *

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

* * *

(f) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2027, 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: \$1,781,173.60

(2) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide physical security enhancements: \$225,000.00

(3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Asa Bloomer roof replacement: \$3,600,000.00

(4) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Rutland multimodal garage renovation: \$900,000.00

(5) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: \$3,000,000.00

(6) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC upgrades at correctional facilities:
\$1,050,000.00

(7) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for statewide correctional facilities security upgrades:
\$225,000.00

(8) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: \$2,700,000.00

(9) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern State Correctional Facility boiler replacement: \$1,000,000.00

(10) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00

(11) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other correctional facilities

utilized in response to overcrowding for the incarcerated women's population:
\$500,000.00

(12) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Department for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility:
\$772,557.10

(13) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match for federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:
\$2,498,000.00

(14) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns:
\$150,000.00

(15) to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance:
\$400,000.00

(16) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for dam maintenance and safety planning:
\$200,000.00

(17) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility:
\$500,000.00

(18) to the Judiciary for the Essex County Courthouse connector project:
\$500,000.00

(19) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River Junction courthouse:
\$1,600,000.00

(20) to the Vermont Historical Society for the replacement of a climate control unit:
\$566,724.00

(21) to the Department of Corrections to work with the Agency of Digital Services to develop a plan for providing network connectivity in State correctional facilities that modernizes processes and reduces reliance on paper; improves staff efficiency and addresses workforce challenges, such as staff retention; supports real-time data-driven operations; lays the foundation for future capabilities, such as wearable technology and mobile device-supported operations; and ensures secure, compliance connectivity in key facilities, each as outlined in the *Business Transformation Project Recommendations Report* issued by the Agency:
\$750,000.00

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Department of Environmental Conservation * * *

Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 4752 is amended to read:

§ 4752. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(21) “Eligible mobile home park water system” means a privately owned nonprofit community type system that serves a majority of the users who reside in a nonprofit- or resident-owned mobile home park registered with the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6254.

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 4771 is amended to read:

§ 4771. CONDITIONS OF LOAN AGREEMENT

(a) VEDA may make loans to applicants on behalf of the State for one or more of the purposes set forth in subsection 4770(b) of this title. Each such loan shall be made subject to the following conditions:

(1) The loan shall be evidenced by a note payable over a term not to exceed 30 years. Repayment shall commence not later than one year after completion of the project for which loan funds have been applied.

(2) The loan shall be secured with assets as determined by VEDA. VEDA may also require that the applicant assign all or a portion of the water system revenues as security for the loan, or may require the establishment of a reserve fund.

(3) The loan recipient shall establish a dedicated source of revenue for repayment of the loan which may include a pledge of revenue from user charges, tap fees, development charges, and pledges of accounts receivable and the proceeds therefrom.

(4) The rate of interest charged for loans shall be set by the State Treasurer, taking into consideration prevailing borrowing rates available to similarly situated applicants from private lenders and administrative fees to be charged to applicants. VEDA, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall periodically recommend interest rates to be set by the State Treasurer ~~which~~ that are the lowest practicable rates consistent with maintaining the long-term integrity of the Fund. The interest rate set by the State Treasurer may be less than the prevailing borrowing rates available to similarly situated applicants from private lenders, but not less than zero percent.

(5)(A) Notwithstanding ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions (1) and (4) of this subsection (a), a privately owned nonprofit community type system may qualify for a 40-year loan term at an interest rate, plus administrative fee, to be established by the Secretary of Natural Resources that shall be not more than

three percent or less than minus three percent, provided that the applicant system meets the income level and annual household user cost requirements of a disadvantaged municipality as defined in subdivision 4752(12)(A) of this title or is an eligible mobile home park water system, and at least 80 percent of the residential units served by the water system is continuously occupied by local residents and at least 80 percent of the water produced is for residential use.

(B) [Repealed.]

(C) If the Secretary determines that a privately owned nonprofit community type system qualifies for a loan under this subdivision (5), the Secretary shall certify the loan term and interest rate to VEDA. ~~In no instance shall the~~ Except as applied to an eligible mobile home park water system, the Secretary shall not certify an annual interest rate, plus an administrative fee, ~~be~~ pursuant to this subdivision (C) that is less than is necessary to achieve an annual household user cost equal to one percent of the median household income of the applicant water system computed in the same manner as prescribed in subdivision 4763c(b)(2) of this title.

* * *

* * * Division for Historic Preservation * * *

Sec. 12. 22 V.S.A. § 725 is amended to read:

§ 725. ACCEPTANCE AND SOLICITATION OF FUNDS OR GIFTS FOR HISTORIC SITES AND VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY HERITAGE CENTER

(a) ~~With~~ Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 1203g and with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, the State Historic Preservation Officer may accept and solicit grants, gifts, donations, loans, or other things of value on behalf of the Division for Historic Preservation for use by the Division for Historic Preservation in establishing and maintaining displays and exhibits at any historic site and at the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center, or restoring any historic site maintained and developed under section 723 of this chapter.

(b) In any request for approval of solicitation under this section, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall specify the project and fundraising goal for which the Officer is undertaking fundraising.

* * * Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation * * *

Sec. 13. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;
LITTLE RIVER STATE PARK LEASE

(a) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166, in fiscal year 2027, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to enter into a long-term lease with Vermont Huts Association Ltd. for the use of a structure at Little River State Park and the land on which the structure is located, provided that the lease specifies:

(1) the term of 20 years with an option to renew for an additional two 10-year terms at the Commissioner's discretion;

(2) the fee or fee formula to be used to compensate the State;

(3) conditions on the use of the structure, including the boundaries of the land and structure to be leased;

(4) that Vermont Huts Association Ltd. shall secure insurance and be subject to an indemnification clause consistent with Attachment C, Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants, approved by the Agency of Administration in Administrative Bulletin 3.5;

(5) provisions for the termination of the lease;

(6) requirements for the operation and maintenance of the leased structure and lands, including responsibility for the costs of maintenance;

(7) how any conflict between the parties shall be resolved; and

(8) that a contract between the Department and Vermont Huts Association Ltd., executed in accordance with the Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants set forth in Administrative Bulletin 3.5 of the Agency of Administration, be required for the relocation and reconstruction of the Goodell House located at Little River State Park.

(b) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and Senate Committee on Institutions with a report on the status of the lease negotiations under this section on or before August 15, 2026, and immediately prior to execution of any related lease agreement and shall provide to the Chairs the lease agreement promptly following execution.

* * * Department of Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 14. SOUTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; PROPERTY TRANSFER

(a) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer to the Town of Springfield a portion of the Southern State Correctional Facility property consisting of approximately 22.93 acres to be used for municipal purposes, including

economic development as an industrial parcel, provided that the Commissioner may transfer the property only if:

(1) the State obtains any State or local zoning or subdivision approvals required for transfer;

(2) the State and the Town negotiate updates to the 1999 Agreement to:

(A) establish responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the access road and the water and sewer service lines for the Facility and the transferred property; and

(B) mitigate impacts to the Springfield community; and

(3) the transferred property does not include any brownfields.

(b) If the Town has not begun developing the transferred property for purposes of economic development by the end of March 2030, the Town shall consult with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to examine alternative uses for the property.

Sec. 15. REPEALS

(a) 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 23 (Southern State Correctional Facility; transfer of parcel) is repealed.

(b) Sec. 14 of this act (Southern State Correctional Facility; property transfer) is repealed on July 1, 2030.

Sec. 16. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) 110 State Street. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the property located at 110 State Street in the City of Montpelier, provided that the Commissioner includes in any contract for sale appropriate interior and exterior protective covenants developed in consultation with the Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to 22 V.S.A. § 743. The Commissioner shall first offer in writing to the City the right to purchase the property.

(1) The City's preferential right to purchase the property authorized in this subsection shall terminate unless the City submits a written notification to the Commissioner of its intent to purchase the property on or before October 15, 2023.

(2) If the City submits a notification of its intent to purchase the property pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the City shall submit a written offer to the Commissioner not later than June 1, 2024. In the event the City fails to submit a written offer by June 1, 2024, then the City's preferential

~~right to purchase the property shall terminate and the Commissioner is authorized to sell the property to another party~~ The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions copies of any related request for proposal and any executed contract for sale of 110 State Street in the City of Montpelier promptly after each becomes available.

(3) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that 110 State Street in the City of Montpelier is sold at fair market value; that historic attributes of the property are protected for future generations; that the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions receive timely notice of status updates on the disposition of the property; and that the initial purchaser of the property provides notification of any intent to sell to the Secretary of Administration and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, who shall then promptly notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of the potential sale.

Sec. 17. CHITTENDEN REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Among the uses of the funds appropriated in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Secs. 3(b)(7) and 19(f)(11), as amended by this act, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall prioritize repairs of bathrooms, showers, and flooring at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility. If the Department of Buildings and General Services applies funds to other correctional facilities to respond to overcrowding at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide an overview of the use of funds to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee at the Committee's regularly scheduled meetings in calendar year 2026.

* * * Agency of Human Services * * *

Sec. 18. HIGH-END SYSTEM FACILITIES FOR YOUTH

(a) At the August, October, and December 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall report on their plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, before the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services approve design documents for construction and prior to approval of the lease for the facility, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall submit their approved design to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions

and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Health and Welfare. At the same time, the Department for Children and Families shall submit a draft operating budget.

* * * Department of Corrections and Agency of Digital Services * * *

Sec. 19. REPORT; NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN STATE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

The Commissioner of Corrections and the State Chief Information Officer of Digital Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee at each scheduled meeting of the Committee in calendar year 2026 on the plan for providing network connectivity in State correctional facilities authorized pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19(f)(21), including any prioritization and schedule.

* * * Stormwater Utilities * * *

Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. § 4414(9) is amended to read:

(9) Stormwater management and control. Any municipality may adopt bylaws to implement stormwater management and control consistent with the program developed by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264. The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this subdivision, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw establishing a municipal stormwater utility. Municipalities shall not charge an impervious surface fee or other stormwater fee under this subdivision or under other provisions of this title on property regulated under the Required Agricultural Practices for discharges of agricultural waste or agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Sec. 21. 24 V.S.A. § 3626 is added to read:

§ 3626. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE AND OPERATE
STORMWATER UTILITY

The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this chapter, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw authorizing the operation of a municipal stormwater utility that establishes an assessment on an equivalent residential unit or impervious surface.

* * * General Assembly * * *

Sec. 22. STATE HOUSE; ENTRYWAY DESIGN; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

(a) A special committee consisting of the Joint Legislative Management Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions (special committee) is hereby established. The special committee is authorized to meet to review, approve, or recommend alterations to the State House entryway design at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

(b) The special committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 23. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

SEN. WENDY K. HARRISON

SEN. ROBERT PLUNKETT

SEN. JOHN BENSON

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. ALICE M. EMMONS

REP. MARY A. MORRISSEY

REP. BRIAN MINIER

Committee on the part of the House

For Informational Purposes

HOUSE CHAMBER 2027 SEATING REQUESTS

Pursuant to House Rule 5, a current Representative who will return to the House for the 2027-28 Biennium has a right to retain their current seat in the Chamber or to change seats by selecting a seat that will be vacant in 2027. No steps are needed for a Representative to retain their current seat. Here are the steps for Representatives to request a change of seat for the 2027-28 Biennium:

1. Requests for changes in House seating will be accepted by the House Clerk's Office beginning **at 8:00 A.M. on the first Monday after the House adjourns *sine die*.**
2. Call or email your request to Nigel Hicks-Tibbles at:
nigel.hicks-tibbles@vtleg.gov.

3. Include in your request the seat number you would like to request; or you may ask Nigel what seats are available and they will be able to provide a list of vacant seats. A request for information will not be treated as a seat-change request for purposes of reserving a seat against other requests.
4. Requests for vacant seats will be accepted in the order received.
5. A vacant seat is one that was held at the end of the 2026 session by a member who has publicly announced they do not plan to run or has not filed to run for reelection to the House, who is not so reelected, or who has changed seats for 2027-28.
6. The list of vacant seats will change over the course of the adjournment and members are welcome to request a change more than once as different seats become available.

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 13, 2026**, 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 13, 2026**.

(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 20, 2026**, 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 or email 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 communicate 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 sign-out sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit a final sponsor list (with all sponsors listed) to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.
5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted, by email *or* on a paper sign-out sheet, to Counselor Chernick **not later than 1:00 p.m. the Wednesday 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, meaning it must have been adopted through the House Consent Calendar not later than the week prior to your requested ceremonial reading date. Contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.
9. **A Note:** If there is a **specific date, week, or month that your resolution must be read** (e.g. to designate a specified period of time or to recognize a group on a certain day), please inform Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord as soon as possible, so she can reserve that date in advance. You do not need to have the resolution drafted by then.

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 #3276:** Twelve (12) limited-service positions to the Agency of Human Services, various departments, to staff the Rural Health Transformation Initiative. The Rural Health Transformation grant, JFO #3272 was approved at the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting on February 6, 2026. All limited-service positions are expected to be funded through 9/30/2031. *[Received March 31, 2026]*
- JFO #3277:** \$36,000.00 to the Vermont Legislature, Sergeant at Arms office from the National Conference of State Legislatures. The grant will extend up to \$500.00 to each member of the General Assembly to secure their homes. Funds would be available once as a reimbursement during the lawmaker's service for expenses incurred after June 1, 2026. *[Received April 14, 2026]*
- JFO #3278:** \$690,050.00 to the Department of Public Service from the State and Community Energy Programs, U.S. Department of Energy. Funds for a revolving loan program (Municipal Energy Revolving Fund) to help VT communities meet state energy goals. The funds will be managed by the Building and General Services department via a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Public Service. *[Received May 11, 2026]*
- JFO #3279:** \$160,000.00 land donation to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from the Robert M. Burley Trust. The land is 102-acre donation in Elmore, VT to extend the Elmore State Park.. PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) will be \$1,123.71 annually. *[Received May 11, 2026]*
- JFO #3280:** \$20,000.00 to the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission (VTRC) from Patricia Fontaine, private donor. Funds will hire consultants to fulfill the mission of the VTRC in their pursuit of community-centered justice and holistic healing. *[Received May 11, 2026]*
- JFO #3281:** \$867,972.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Funds to fix drainage and foundation issues at the Theron Boyd State Historic Site and to prepare a full historic structure report. A State match of \$27,750.00 is required for this grant and is covered by the major maintenance funds allocated to ACCD, Historic Preservation Division in the State Capital Construction Bill for fiscal year 2028. *[Received May 11, 2026]*

