

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 339.

An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230.

H. 364.

An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton.

H. 396.

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

H. 461.

An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave.

**Proposal of amendment to H. 461 to be offered by Senator Chittenden
before Third Reading**

Senator Chittenden moves to amend the Senate proposal of amendment in Sec. 2, 21 V.S.A. § 471, by striking out the newly renumbered subdivision (5) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (5) to read as follows:

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

H. 481.

An act relating to stormwater management.

**Proposal of amendment to H. 481 to be offered by Senator Watson before
Third Reading**

Senator Watson moves to amend the Senate proposal of amendment in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1264, in subdivision (d)(2), after “the special assessment fee consented and the” and before “fee assessed is a fair apportionment” by striking out the word “impact”

Second Reading
Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 401.

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Vermont enhance its food resiliency through increased supply and distribution of locally produced food products;

(2) Vermonters have more access to the local food marketplace as both producers and consumers;

(3) local food producers are able to meet the demand for Vermont-made food products from visitors to the State;

(4) small-scale food producers, new business start-ups, and sole proprietors benefit from raising the limit of the existing licensing exemption for at-home bakery products to adjust for inflationary cost changes occurring since the initial statutory enactment; and

(5) supply-chain costs and inflationary considerations be addressed to bring risk management thresholds more in line with the economic conditions at the time of initial statutory enactment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4301 is amended to read:

§ 4301. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4) “Cottage food operation” means a food manufacturing establishment where a cottage food product is produced.

(5) “Cottage food operator” means any person who produces or packages cottage food products solely in the home kitchen of the person’s private residential dwelling or a kitchen on the person’s personal property.

(6) “Cottage food product” means food sold by a cottage food operator that does not require refrigeration or time or temperature control for safety, such as:

(A) nonpotentially hazardous baked goods;

(B) candy;

(C) jams and jellies;

(D) dry herbs;

(E) trail mix;

(F) granola;

(G) cereal;

(H) mixed nuts;

(I) flavored vinegar;

(J) popcorn;

(K) coffee beans;

(L) dry tea;

(M) home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits having an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower or a water activity value of 0.85 or less that are made using recipes:

(i) approved by the National Center for Home Food Preservation;

or

(ii) reviewed by a food processing authority for safety; and

(N) any other good defined by the Commissioner in rule or policy.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Health.

~~(5)~~(8) “Establishment” means food manufacturing establishments, food service establishments, lodging establishments, children’s camps, seafood vending facilities, and shellfish reshippers and repackers.

~~(6)~~(9) “Food” means articles of food, drink, confectionery, or condiment for human consumption, whether simple, mixed, or compound, and all substances and ingredients used in the preparation thereof.

~~(7)~~(10) “Food manufacturing establishment” or “food processor” means all buildings, rooms, basements, cellars, lofts, or other premises or part thereof used, occupied, or maintained for the purpose of manufacturing, preparing, packing, canning, bottling, keeping, storing, handling, serving, or distributing

food for sale. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall include~~ includes food processors, bakeries, cottage food operations, distributors, and warehouses. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall~~ does not include a place where only maple syrup or maple products, as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 481, are prepared for human consumption.

(8)(11) “Food service establishment” means entities that prepare, serve, and sell food to the public, including restaurants, temporary food vendors, caterers, mobile food units, and limited operations as defined in rule.

(9)(12) “Lodging establishment” means a place where overnight accommodations are regularly provided to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public, including hotels, motels, inns, and bed and breakfasts. “Lodging establishment” ~~shall~~ does not include short-term rentals.

(10)(13) “Salvage food” means any food product from which the label on the packaging has been lost or destroyed or that has been subjected to possible damage as the result of an accident, fire, flood, or other cause that prevents the product from meeting the specifications of the manufacturer or the packer but is otherwise suitable for human consumption.

(11)(14) “Salvage food facility” means any food vendor for which salvage food comprises 50 percent or more of gross sales.

(12)(15) “Seafood vending facility” means a store, motor vehicle, retail stand, or similar place from which a person sells seafood for human consumption.

(13)(16) “Shellfish reshipper and repacker” means an establishment engaging in interstate commerce of molluskan shellfish.

(14)(17) “Short-term rental” means a furnished house, condominium, or other dwelling room or self-contained dwelling unit rented to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days and for more than 14 days per calendar year.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4303 is amended to read:

§ 4303. RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to establish minimum standards for the safe and sanitary operation of food or lodging establishments or children’s camps or any combination thereof and for their administration and enforcement. The rules shall require that an establishment be constructed, maintained, and operated with strict regard for

the health of the employees and the public pursuant to the following general requirements:

* * *

(7) There shall be training requirements for food manufacturing establishment operators and employees to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and healthfulness.

(8) The Commissioner may adopt any other minimum conditions deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of a food or lodging establishment in a safe and sanitary manner.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4353 is amended to read:

§ 4353. FEES

(a) The Commissioner may establish by rule any requirement the Department needs to determine the applicable categories or exemptions for licenses. The following license fees shall be paid annually to the Department at the time of making the application according to the following schedules:

* * *

(3) Food manufacturing establishment — a fee for any person or persons that process food for resale to restaurants, stores, or individuals according to the following schedule:

(A) Food manufacturing establishments; nonbakeries

I — Gross receipts of \$10,001.00 to \$50,000.00; \$175.00

II — Gross receipts of over \$50,000.00; \$275.00

III — Gross receipts of \$10,000.00 or less are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title

(B) Food manufacturing ~~establishment~~ establishments; bakeries

I — Home bakery; \$100.00

II — Small commercial; \$200.00

III — Large commercial; \$350.00

(C) Food manufacturing establishments; cottage food operations — Gross receipts of \$30,000.00 or less from the sale of cottage food products are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4358 is amended to read:

§ 4358. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(b) The provisions of obligation to obtain a license and the associated licensure fees in this subchapter shall not apply to an individual manufacturing and selling bakery products from his or her own home kitchen whose a cottage food operation or other food manufacturing establishment that is exempt due to its average gross retail sales do not exceed \$125.00 per week being below the listed thresholds in section 4353 of this title.

(c) Any Annually, a food manufacturing establishment claiming a licensing exemption pursuant to this title shall provide documentation submit to the Department a licensing exemption filing as required by rule. The licensing exemption filing shall require the food manufacturing establishment to attest to the completion of any training required by rule pursuant to section 4303 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. RULEMAKING

Pending the adoption of permanent rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this act, the Commissioner of Health shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844, which shall be deemed to meet the emergency rulemaking standard in 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 25, 2025, pages 710-712)

Reported favorably by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

Senate Resolution for Second Reading
Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S.R. 11.

Senate resolution supporting warm and cooperative relations on the part of both the United States and the State of Vermont with Canada and urging President Trump to remove all tariffs that he has imposed against Canadian imports and to refrain from subsequently imposing any new tariffs against Canadian imports.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Weeks for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the resolution be amended by striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas, the United States and Canada have been military and diplomatic allies and economic partners, even through episodes of commercial disagreement, since Canadian confederation in 1867, and

Whereas, perhaps no American state has a closer and more active two-way relationship with our northern neighbor than the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, these ties entail cultural, economic, familial, and personal relationships, and

Whereas, many Vermonters and Canadians have enjoyed mutually seamless travel between our countries, and

Whereas, in recent years, Vermont State officials repeatedly traveled to Montreal on trade missions and have strived to enhance Vermont-Quebec trade ties, and

Whereas, the importance of this relationship is epitomized in the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's maintenance of a trade office in Canada to work continuously with federal, provincial, and local officials and the private sector to maximize opportunities for a vibrant two-way trading relationship between Vermont and our northern neighbor, and

Whereas, on the economic front, for 2023, the Canadian Consulate in Boston reported that Vermont exported \$680 million in goods and \$165 million in services to Canada, and, that same year, Vermont imported \$2.6 billion in goods from Canada, and Canadian investments in the State supported over 17,000 Vermont jobs, and

Whereas, according to the Department of Public Service, Vermont sources a significant amount of its commercial and residential energy from Canada, and

Whereas, the current USMCA is broadly drafted, covering many aspects of the North American continental economic relationship, and it seeks to maximize a duty-free trading relationship between the United States and Canada, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont honors the historic, integrated, and productive relations on the part of both the United States and the State of Vermont with Canada and the Province of Quebec, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate of the State of Vermont, in order to preserve a robust and interdependent economy, urges President Trump to remove all tariffs against imports from Canada that were not in effect on January 20, 2025, including those outside the provisions of the USMCA, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges the U.S. Congress to reassert the legislative branch's role in the crafting of international trade policy, including the imposition of tariffs, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, Governor Philip B. Scott, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Quebec Premier François Legault, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

and that after passage the title of the resolution be amended to read: "Senate resolution honoring the historic, integrated, and productive relations on the part of both the United States and the State of Vermont with Canada and the Province of Quebec; urging that Congress reassert its role in the crafting of international trade policy, including the imposition of tariffs; and urging that President Trump remove all tariffs he has imposed on Canada since January 20, 2025, including those outside the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 479.

An act relating to housing.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Ram Hinsdale for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

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

* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program.

* * *

(5)(A) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and governmental subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

(B) Solely with regards to actions undertaken pursuant to this subdivision, entities carrying out the provisions of this section, including grantees, subgrantees, and contractors of the State, shall be exempt from the provisions of 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators, sales finance companies, and loan solicitation companies).

* * *

(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.

(1)(A) A grant or loan shall not exceed:

~~(i) \$70,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of an eligible rental housing unit meeting the applicable building accessibility requirements under the Vermont Access Rules; or~~

~~(ii) \$50,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of any other eligible rental housing unit. Up to an additional \$20,000.00 per unit may be made available for specific elements that collectively bring the unit to the visitable standard outlined in the rules adopted by the Vermont Access Board.~~

* * *

(e) Program requirements applicable to grants and five-year forgivable loans. For a grant or five-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:

(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local ~~coordinated-entry~~ homelessness service organizations approved by the Department to identify potential tenants.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (e), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:

(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;

(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; ~~or~~

(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who ~~receives or is eligible~~ approved to receive Medicaid-funded home- and community-based home- and community-based services or Social Security Disability Insurance;

(iv) displaced due to a natural disaster; or

(v) with approval from the Department in writing, an organization that will hold a master lease that explicitly states the unit will be used in service of the populations described in this subsection (e).

* * *

(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the grant.

(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive a ~~10-percent~~ prorated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the landlord participates in the Program.

(f) Requirements applicable to 10-year forgivable loans. For a 10-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of 10 years:

(1) ~~A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local coordinated-entry organizations to identify potential tenants~~ The total cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, except that a landlord may accept a housing voucher that exceeds fair market rent, if available.

~~(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (f), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:~~

~~(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;~~

~~(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; or~~

~~(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who is eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.~~

~~(B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing organization that issued the grant determines that a household under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (f) is not available to lease the unit, then the landlord shall lease the unit:~~

~~(i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of area median income; or~~

~~(ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with the approval of the Department or housing organization.~~

~~(3)(A) A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.~~

~~(B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.~~

~~(4)(3) The Department shall forgive 10 percent of the a prorated amount of a forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.~~

~~(g) Minimum funding for grants and five-year forgivable loans.~~

~~(1) Annually, the Department shall establish a minimum allocation of funding set aside to be used for five-year grants or forgivable loans to serve eligible households pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Remaining funds may be used for either five-year grants or forgivable loans or 10-year forgivable loans pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. The set aside shall be a minimum of 30 percent of funds disbursed annually.~~

~~(2) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to evaluate factors in establishing the amount of the set aside, including:~~

~~(A) the availability of housing vouchers;~~

~~(B) the current need for housing for eligible households;~~

~~(C) the ability and desire of landlords to house eligible households;~~

(D) the support services available for landlords; and

(E) the prior uptake and success rates for participating landlords.

(3) The Department shall coordinate with the local Coordinated Entry Lead Agencies and HomeOwnership Centers to direct referrals for those individuals or families prioritized to be housed pursuant to the five-year grants or forgivable loans.

(4) Funds from the set aside not utilized after nine months shall become available for 10-year forgivable loans.

(5) The Department shall annually publish the amount of the set aside on its website.

* * *

(i) Creation of the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program Fund. Funds repaid or returned to the Department from forgivable loans or grants funded by the Program shall return to the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program Fund to be used for Program expenditures and administrative costs at the discretion of the Department.

(j) Annual report. Annually, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the following:

(1) separately, the number of units funded and the number of units rehabilitated through grants, through a five-year forgivable loan, and through a 10-year forgivable loan;

(2) for grants and five-year forgivable loans, for the first year after the expiration of the lease requirements outlined in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, whether the unit is still occupied by a tenant who meets the qualifications of that subdivision;

(3) for each program, for the first year after the expiration of the applicable lease requirements outlined in this section, the amount of rent charged by the landlord and how that rent compares to fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(4) the rate of turnover for tenants housed utilizing grants or five-year forgivable loans and 10-year forgivable loans separately.

* * * MHIR * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 700 is added to read:

§ 700. VERMONT MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) There is created within the Department of Housing and Community Development the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program. The Department shall design and implement the Program to award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide financial assistance or awards to manufactured homeowners and manufactured home park owners to improve existing homes, incentivize new slab placement for prospective homeowners, and incentivize park improvements for infill of more homes.

(b) The following projects are eligible for funding through the Program:

(1) The Department may award up to \$20,000.00 to owners of manufactured housing communities to complete small-scale capital needs to help infill vacant lots with homes, including disposal of abandoned homes, lot grading and preparation, the siting and upgrading of electrical boxes, enhancing E-911 safety issues, transporting homes out of flood zones, and improving individual septic systems. Costs awarded under this subdivision may also cover legal fees and marketing to help make it easier for home-seekers to find vacant lots around the State.

(2) The Department may award funding to manufactured homeowners for which the home is their primary residence to address habitability and accessibility issues to bring the home into compliance with safe living conditions.

(3) The Department may award up to \$15,000.00 per grant to a homeowner to pay for a foundation or federal Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved slab, site preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and utility connections on vacant lots within a manufactured home community.

(c) The Department may adopt rules, policies, and guidelines to aid in enacting the Program.

* * * Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund * * *

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. chapter 119, subchapter 6 is amended to read:

Subchapter 6. Special Funds

* * *

§ 4686. VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund within the Vermont Bond Bank.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to provide capital to extend and increase capacity of water and sewer service and other public infrastructure in municipalities where lack of extension or capacity is a barrier to housing development.

(c) Administration. The Vermont Bond Bank may administer the Fund in coordination with and support from other State agencies, government component parts, and quasi-governmental agencies.

(d) Program parameters.

(1) The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall develop program guidelines to effectively implement the Fund.

(2) The program shall provide low-interest loans or purchase bonds from municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. Eligible activities include:

(A) preliminary engineering and planning;

(B) engineering design and bid specifications;

(C) construction for municipal water and wastewater systems;

(D) transportation investments, including those required by municipal regulation, the municipality's official map, designation requirements, or other planning or engineering identifying complete streets and transportation and transit related improvements, including improvements to existing streets; and

(E) other eligible activities as determined by the guidelines produced by the Vermont Bond Bank in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Application requirements. Eligible project applications shall demonstrate:

(1) the project will create reserve capacity necessary for new housing unit development;

(2) the project has a direct link to housing unit production; and

(3) the municipality has a commitment to own and operate the project throughout its useful life.

(f) Application criteria. In addition to any criteria developed in the program guidelines, project applications shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

(1) whether there is a direct connection to proposed or in-progress housing development with demonstrable progress toward regional housing targets;

(2) whether the project is an expansion of an existing system and the proximity to a designated area;

(3) the project readiness and estimated time until the need for financing; and

(4) the demonstration of financing for project completion or completion of a project component.

(g) Award terms. The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall establish award terms that may include:

(1) the maximum loan or bond amount;

(2) the maximum term of the loan or bond amount;

(3) the time by which amortization shall commence;

(4) the maximum interest rate;

(5) whether the loan is eligible for forgiveness and to what percentage or amount;

(6) the necessary security for the loan or bond; and

(7) any additional covenants required to further secure the loan or bond.

(h) Revolving fund.

(1) Any funds repaid or returned from the Infrastructure Sustainability Fund shall be deposited into the Fund and used to continue the program established in this section.

(2) The Bank may use the funds in conjunction with other Bank programs to accomplish the policy objectives outlined in this section.

* * * VHFA Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program * * *

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

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

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

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

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

(i) seven years; or

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

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

* * *

* * * Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee * * *

Sec. 5. STATE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PLANNING
COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee to generate a State plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) the State Treasurer or designee;

(7) one member, appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative;

(8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(9) one member, appointed by Green Mountain Self-Advocates;

(10) one member, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(11) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; and

(12) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall create an actionable plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities that reflects the diversity of needs expressed by those individuals and their families, including individuals with high-support needs who require 24-hour care and those with specific communication needs. The plan shall include:

(1) a schedule for the creation of at least 600 additional units of service-supported housing;

(2) the number and description of the support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities anticipated to be served annually;

(3) anticipated funding needs; and

(4) recommendations for changes in State laws or policies that are obstacles to the development of housing needed by individuals with Medicaid-funded home-and community-based services.

(d) Assistance.

(1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(2) Upon request of the Committee, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall provide an analysis of the current state of housing in Vermont for individuals with development disabilities and, to the extent available, an analysis of the level of community support needed for these individuals.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

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

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on November 30, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subsection (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Tax Department Housing Data Access * * *

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 5404 is amended to read:

§ 5404. DETERMINATION OF EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND LIST

* * *

(b) Annually, on or before August 15, the clerk of a municipality, or the supervisor of an unorganized town or gore, shall transmit to the Director in an electronic or other format as prescribed by the Director: education and municipal grand list data, including exemption information and grand list abstracts; tax rates; an extract of the assessor database also referred to as a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system or Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal database; and the total amount of taxes assessed in the town or unorganized town or gore. The data transmitted shall identify each parcel by a parcel identification number assigned under a numbering system prescribed by the Director. Municipalities may continue to use existing numbering systems in addition to, but not in substitution for, the parcel identification system

prescribed by the Director. If changes or additions to the grand list are made by the listers or other officials authorized to do so after such abstract has been so transmitted, such clerks shall forthwith certify the same to the Director.

* * *

* * * Landlord Certificate * * *

Sec. 7. REPEAL; ACT 181 PROSPECTIVE LANDLORD CERTIFICATE CHANGES

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Secs. 98 (landlord certificate amendments) and 114(5) (effective date of landlord certificate amendments) are repealed.

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 6069 is amended to read:

§ 6069. LANDLORD CERTIFICATE

* * *

(b) The owner of each rental property shall, on or before January 31 of each year, furnish a certificate of rent to the Department of Taxes.

(c) A certificate under this section shall be in a form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include the following:

(1) the name of the each renter;

(2) the address and any property tax parcel identification number of the homestead, the information required under subsection (f) of this section, the School Property Account Number of the rental property;

(3) the name of the owner or landlord of the rental property;

(4) the phone number, email address, and mailing address of the owner or landlord of the rental property, as available;

(5) the type or types of rental units on the rental property;

(6) the number of rental units on the rental property;

(7) the number of ADA-accessible units on the rental property; and

(8) any additional information that the Commissioner determines is appropriate.

* * *

~~(f) Annually on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each~~

~~rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this section:~~

- ~~(1) name of owner or landlord;~~
- ~~(2) mailing address of landlord;~~
- ~~(3) location of rental unit;~~
- ~~(4) type of rental unit;~~
- ~~(5) number of units in building; and~~

~~(6) School Property Account Number. Annually on or before December 15, the Department shall submit a report on the aggregated data collected under this section to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.~~

* * * Land Bank Report * * *

Sec. 9. DHCD LAND BANK REPORT

(a) On or before November 1, 2026, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue a report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs outlining a legal framework for implementation of a State land bank. The report shall include proposed legislative language specific to:

- (1) the creation and ongoing administration of a statewide land bank;
- (2) the authorization of regional or municipal land banks; and
- (3) the identification of funding proposals to support the establishment and sustainability of each separate model.

(b) The report shall include an analysis on which option, the creation of a statewide land bank or the authorization of regional or municipal land banks, best serves the interest of Vermont communities, including rural communities.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide a written update to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on progress made, including a preliminary assessment of the information required in the final report.

* * * Housing and Public Accommodations Protections * * *

Sec. 10. 9 V.S.A. § 4456a is amended to read:

§ 4456a. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL APPLICATION FEES; PROHIBITED

(a) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not charge an application fee to any individual in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit. This ~~section~~ subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a person from charging a fee to a person in order to apply to rent commercial or nonresidential property.

(b)(1) In order to conduct a background or credit check, a landlord may request a Social Security number from a residential rental applicant.

(2) In the event an applicant does not have a Social Security number, a landlord shall accept one of the following:

(A) an original or a copy of any unexpired form of government-issued identification; or

(B) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

Sec. 11. 9 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12)(A) "Harass" means to engage in unwelcome conduct that detracts from, undermines, or interferes with a person's:

(i) use of a place of public accommodation or any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of a place of public accommodation because of the person's race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(ii) terms, conditions, privileges, or protections in the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the person's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability, or because the person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because the person is a recipient of public assistance, or because the person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

Sec. 12. 9 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

(a) An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of such owner or operator shall not, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person, refuse, withhold from, or deny to that person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of the place of public accommodation.

* * *

Sec. 13. 9 V.S.A. § 4503 is amended to read:

§ 4503. UNFAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(1) To refuse to sell or rent, or refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling or other real estate to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(2) To discriminate against, or to harass, any person in the terms, conditions, privileges, and protections of the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) To make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(4) To represent to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national

origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, that any dwelling or other real estate is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when the dwelling or real estate is in fact so available.

* * *

(6) To discriminate against any person in the making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance for real-estate-related transactions or in the selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(7) To engage in blockbusting practices, for profit, which may include inducing or attempting to induce a person to sell or rent a dwelling by representations regarding the entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation, on account of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

(12) To discriminate in land use decisions or in the permitting of housing because of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, disability, the presence of one or more minor children, income, or because of

the receipt of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, except as otherwise provided by law.

* * *

(d) If required by federal law, the verification of immigration status or differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status shall not constitute a violation of subsection (a) of this section with respect to the sale and rental of dwellings.

(e) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6) of this section, it shall not constitute unlawful discrimination for a lender to consider a credit applicant's immigration status to the extent such status has bearing on the lender's rights and remedies regarding loan repayment and further provided such consideration is consistent with any applicable federal law or regulation.

* * * Housing Appeals * * *

Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 8502 is amended to read:

§ 8502. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Person aggrieved" means a person who alleges an injury to a particularized interest protected by the provisions of law listed in section 8503 of this title, attributable to an act or decision by a district coordinator, District Commission, the Secretary, an appropriate municipal panel, or the Environmental Division that can be redressed by the Environmental Division or the Supreme Court. For purposes of appeals pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 117, the injury alleged shall be to a particularized interest protected by 24 V.S.A. § 4302(c).

* * *

(9) "Appropriate municipal panel" has the same meaning as 24 V.S.A. § 4303(3).

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:

§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

* * *

(b) Planning and zoning chapter appeals.

(1) Within 30 days of following the date of the act or decision, an interested person, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4465, or a person aggrieved owning or occupying property in the immediate neighborhood of a property

that is the subject of the decision or act, who has participated as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4471 in the municipal regulatory proceeding under that chapter may appeal to the Environmental Division an act or decision made under that chapter by ~~a board of adjustment, a planning commission, or a development review board~~ the appropriate municipal panel; provided, however, that decisions of a development review board under 24 V.S.A. § 4420 with respect to local Act 250 review of municipal impacts are not subject to appeal but shall serve as presumptions under chapter 151 of this title. An aggrieved person shall not appeal an act or decision on a permit application filed on or before June 30, 2025.

* * *

(h) De novo hearing. The Environmental Division, applying the substantive standards that were applicable before the tribunal appealed from, shall hold a de novo hearing on those issues that have been appealed, except in the case of:

(1) a decision being appealed on the record pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 117; or

(2) a decision of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation under section 2625 of this title being appealed on the record, in which case the court shall affirm the decision, unless it finds that the Commissioner did not have reasonable grounds on which to base the decision.

* * *

(k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section:

(1) there shall be no appeal from a District Commission decision when the Commission has issued a permit and no hearing was requested or held, or no motion to alter was filed following the issuance of an administrative amendment;

(2) a municipal decision regarding whether a particular application qualifies for a recorded hearing under 24 V.S.A. § 4471(b) shall not be subject to appeal;

(3) if a District Commission issues a partial decision under subsection 6086(b) of this title, any appeal of that decision must be taken within 30 days following the date of that decision; ~~and~~

(4) it shall be the goal of the Environmental Division to issue a decision on a case regarding an appeal of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 90 days following the close of the hearing; and

(5) except for cases the court considers of greater importance, appeals of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 involving housing development take precedence on the docket over other cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument accordingly.

* * *

Sec. 16. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

(a) An interested person may appeal any decision or act taken by the administrative officer in any municipality by filing a notice of appeal with the secretary of the board of adjustment or development review board of that municipality or with the clerk of that municipality if no such secretary has been elected. This notice of appeal must be filed within 15 days following the date of that decision or act, and a copy of the notice of appeal shall be filed with the administrative officer.

(b) As used in this chapter, an “interested person” means any one of the following:

(1) A person owning title to property, or a municipality or solid waste management district empowered to condemn it or an interest in it, affected by a bylaw, who alleges that the bylaw imposes on the property unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions of present or potential use under the particular circumstances of the case.

(2) The municipality that has a plan or a bylaw at issue in an appeal brought under this chapter or any municipality that adjoins that municipality.

(3) A person owning or occupying property in the immediate neighborhood of a property that is the subject of any decision or act taken under this chapter, who can demonstrate a particularized physical or environmental ~~impact on~~ injury to the person’s interest under the criteria reviewed, and who alleges that the decision or act, if confirmed, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality.

(4) Any 20 persons who may be any combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection who, by signed petition to the appropriate municipal panel of a municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is at issue in any appeal brought under this title, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the appropriate municipal panel must designate one person to serve as the representative of the petitioners

regarding all matters related to the appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, an appeal shall not include the character of the area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable housing.

(5) Any department and administrative subdivision of this State owning property or any interest in property within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development of this State.

(c) For purposes of an appeal of any act or decision by an appropriate municipal panel pursuant to subchapters 10 and 11, “interested person” shall not include subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

(d) In the exercise of its functions under this section, a board of adjustment or development review board shall have the following powers, in addition to those specifically provided for elsewhere in this chapter:

(1) To hear and decide appeals taken under this section, including where it is alleged that an error has been committed in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative officer under this chapter in connection with the administration or enforcement of a bylaw.

(2) To hear and grant or deny a request for a variance under section 4469 of this title.

Sec. 17. 24 V.S.A. § 4441 is amended to read:

§ 4441. PREPARATION OF BYLAWS AND REGULATORY TOOLS;
AMENDMENT OR REPEAL

* * *

(i) Notwithstanding this section and any other law to the contrary, for bylaw amendments that are required to comply with amendments to this chapter, no hearings are required to be held on the bylaw amendments.

* * * LURB Study * * *

Sec. 18. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 11a is amended to read:

Sec. 11a. ACT 250 APPEALS STUDY

(a) On or before ~~January 15, 2026~~ November 15, 2025, the Land Use Review Board shall issue a report evaluating whether to transfer appeals of permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to the Land Use Review Board or whether they should remain at the Environmental Division of the Superior Court. The Board shall convene a stakeholder group that at a minimum shall be composed of a representative of environmental interests, attorneys that practice environmental and

development law in Vermont, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Association of Realtors, a representative of non-profit housing development interests, a representative of for-profit housing development interests, a representative of commercial development interests, an engineer with experience in development, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Natural Resources in preparing the report. The Board shall provide notice of the stakeholder meetings on its website and each meeting shall provide time for public comment.

(b) The report shall at minimum recommend:

(1) whether to allow consolidation of appeals at the Board, or with the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, and how, including what resources the Board would need, if transferred to the Board, appeals of permit decisions issued under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the Agency of Natural Resources can be consolidated with Act 250 appeals;

(2) how to prioritize and expedite the adjudication of appeals related to housing projects, including the use of hearing officers to expedite appeals and the setting of timelines for processing of housing appeals;

(3) procedural rules to govern the Board's administration of Act 250 and the adjudication of appeals of Act 250 decisions. These rules shall include procedures to create a firewall and eliminate any potential for conflicts with the Board managing appeals and issuing permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions; and

(4) other actions the Board should take to promote the efficient and effective adjudication of appeals, including any procedural improvements to the Act 250 permitting process and jurisdictional opinion appeals.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment ~~and Energy~~.

* * * Brownfields * * *

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 6604c is amended to read:

§ 6604c. MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) Management of development soils. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter to the contrary, development soils may be managed at a location permitted pursuant to an insignificant waste event

approval authorization issued pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Rules that contains, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the development soils are generated from a hazardous materials site managed pursuant to a corrective action plan or a soil management plan approved by the Secretary;

(2) the development soils have been tested for arsenic, lead, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Secretary that ensures that the soils do not leach above groundwater enforcement standards;

(3) the location where the soils are managed is appropriate for the amount and type of material being managed;

(4) the soils are capped in a manner approved by the Secretary;

(5) any activity that may disturb the development soils at the permitted location shall be conducted pursuant to a soil management plan approved by the Secretary; and

(6) the permittee files a record notice of where the soils are managed in the land records.

* * *

Sec. 20. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) As part of the biennial report to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy under 10 V.S.A. § 6604(c), the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report on the status of the management of development soils in the State under 10 V.S.A. § 6604c. The report shall include:

(1) the number of insignificant waste event approval authorizations issued by the Secretary in the previous two years for the management of development soils;

(2) the number of certified categorical solid waste facilities operating in the State for the management of development soils;

(3) a summary of how the majority of development soils in the State are being managed;

(4) an estimate of the cost to manage development soils, depending on management method; and

(5) any additional information the Secretary determines relevant to the management of development soils in the State.

(b) As used in this section, “development soil” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6602(39).

Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 6641 is amended to read:

§ 6641. BROWNFIELD PROPERTY CLEANUP PROGRAM; CREATION;
POWERS

(a) There is created the Brownfield Property Cleanup Program to enable certain interested parties to request the assistance of the Secretary to review and oversee work plans for investigating, abating, removing, remediating, and monitoring a property in exchange for protection from certain liabilities under section 6615 of this title. The Program shall be administered by the Secretary who shall:

* * *

(c) When conducting any review required by this subchapter, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of remediation at a site that contains housing or that is planned for the construction or rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing.

Sec. 22. BROWNFIELDS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT; REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House Committees on Environment and on General and Housing and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy with proposals to make the Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 3 (brownfields reuse and liability limitation) substantially more efficient. At a minimum, the report shall include both of the following:

(1) A survey of stakeholders in the brownfields program to identify areas that present challenges to the redevelopment of contaminated properties, with a focus on redevelopment for housing. The Secretary shall provide recommendations to resolve these challenges.

(2) An analysis of strengths and weaknesses of implementing a licensed site professional program within the State. The Secretary shall make a recommendation on whether such a program should be implemented. If the Secretary recommends implementation, the report shall include any changes to statute or budget needed to implement this program.

Sec. 23. FISCAL YEAR 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINGENCY FUND
DISBURSEMENT FOR BROWNFIELDS

In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to disburse up to \$2,000,000.00 from the Environmental Contingency Fund for the assessment, planning, and cleanup of brownfields sites.

* * * Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms * * *

Sec. 24. 9 V.S.A. chapter 77 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77. SMOKE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS AND CARBON
MONOXIDE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS

§ 2881. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) “Smoke ~~detector~~ alarm” means a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

(3) “Carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm” means a device with an assembly that incorporates a sensor control component and an alarm notification that detects elevations in carbon monoxide levels and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

§ 2882. INSTALLATION

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling, and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) Any single-family dwelling when transferred by sale or exchange shall contain ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. A single-family dwelling constructed before January 1, 1994 may contain smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both. In a single-

family dwelling newly constructed after January 1, 1994 that is provided with electrical power, smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after July 1, 2005 that is provided with electrical power, carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require an owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling to maintain or use a smoke ~~detector~~ alarm or a carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm after installation.

§ 2883. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF DWELLING

(a) The seller of a single-family dwelling, including one constructed for first occupancy, whether the transfer is by sale or exchange, shall certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in accordance with this chapter. This certification shall be signed and dated by the seller.

(b) If the buyer notifies the seller within 10 days by certified mail from the date of conveyance of the dwelling that the dwelling lacks any ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms, or any carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms, or that any ~~detector~~ alarm is not operable, the seller shall comply with this chapter within 10 days after notification.

* * *

Sec. 25. 20 V.S.A. § 2731 is amended to read:

§ 2731. RULES; INSPECTIONS; VARIANCES

* * *

(j) Detectors Alarms. Rules adopted under this section shall require that information written, approved, and distributed by the Commissioner on the type, placement, and installation of ~~photoelectric~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms be conspicuously posted in the retail sales area where the ~~detectors~~ alarms are sold.

* * *

* * * Positive Rental Payment Pilot Program * * *

Sec. 26. POSITIVE RENTAL PAYMENT CREDIT REPORTING PILOT

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Contractor” means the third-party vendor that the State Treasurer’s Office contracts with to administer the pilot program described in this section.

(2) “Dwelling unit” has the same meaning as in 9 V.S.A. § 4451(3).

(3) “Participant property owner” means a landlord that has agreed in writing to participate in the pilot program and has satisfied the requirements described in subsection (c) of this section.

(4) “Participant tenant” means a tenant that has elected to participate in the pilot program and whose landlord is a participant property owner.

(5) “Rental payment information” means information concerning a participating tenant’s timely payment of rent. “Rent payment information” does not include information concerning a participating tenant’s payment or nonpayment of fees.

(b) Pilot program creation.

(1) The State Treasurer shall create and implement a two-year positive rental payment reporting pilot program to facilitate the reporting of rent payment information from participating tenants to consumer reporting agencies.

(2) On or before May 1, 2026, the State Treasurer shall contract with a third party to administer a positive rental payment pilot program and facilitate the transmission of rent reporting information from a participant property owner to a consumer reporting agency. The third-party administrator shall be required to:

(A) enter into an agreement with one or more participant property owners in the State in accordance with the requirements of this section for participation in the pilot program;

(B) ensure that information to a credit reporting agency includes only rent payment information after the date on which the participant tenant elected to participate in the pilot program;

(C) develop and implement a process for removal of participant tenants for failure to comply with program requirements, including failure make timely rental payments;

(D) establish a standard form for a participant tenant to use to elect to participate or cease participation in the pilot program, which shall include a statement that the tenant’s participation is voluntary and that a participant may cease participating in the pilot program at any time and for any reason by providing notice to the participant’s landlord and that the tenant may be

removed from the program for failure to comply with program requirements, including failure to make timely rental payments; and

(E) offer an optional financial education course for participant tenants.

(c) Program agreements. A participant property owner shall agree in writing:

(1) to participate in the pilot program for the duration of the program;

(2) not to charge a participant tenant for participation in the pilot program;

(3) to comply with the requirements of the program;

(4) to provide information as required by the State Treasurer concerning the implementation of the pilot program; and

(5) to assist in the recruitment of tenants to participate in the pilot program.

(d) Program participants. On or before June 1, 2026, the Contractor shall, in coordination with the State Treasurer, recruit not more than 10 participant property owners and, to the extent practicable, not less than 100 participant tenants, to participate in the pilot program. The Contractor shall seek to select participant tenants from populations that are under-served and under-represented in home ownership. The Contractor shall also seek to recruit participant landlords who offer:

(1) a variety of types of dwelling units for rent, including dwelling units of various sizes;

(2) dwelling units for rent that are located in geographically diverse areas of the State; and

(3) at least five dwelling units for rent.

(e) Termination. The State Treasurer may terminate the pilot program at any time in the Treasurer's sole discretion or terminate participation of a participant property owner for failure to comply with the requirements of the program.

(f) Reports.

(1) On or before November 1, 2027, the State Treasurer shall submit an interim report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on General and Housing regarding the findings of the pilot program. The report shall include:

(A) the number of participant tenants, including information regarding the demographic makeup of participant tenants, such as race, ethnicity, gender, income, and age, as voluntarily provided by the participant;

(B) the number of participant tenants who ceased participating in the program voluntarily;

(C) the number of participant tenants who were removed from the program and the reasons why;

(D) a breakdown of costs of administering the program, including the monthly costs associated with rent reporting;

(E) a description of challenges faced by the participating property owners and participating tenants during the pilot program;

(F) an analysis of the outcomes of rent reporting on participant tenant's credit scores; and

(G) recommendations for legislative action, including proposed statutory language and an appropriation for associated costs.

(2) On or before November 1, 2028, the State Treasurer shall submit a final report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on General and Housing regarding the findings of the pilot program. The report shall include an update to the information required in the interim report.

Sec. 26a. POSITIVE RENTAL PAYMENT CREDIT REPORTING PILOT;
IMPLEMENTATION

The duty to implement Sec. 26 of this act shall be contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Office of the State Treasurer for the purposes of carryout that section.

* * * Tax Increment Financing * * *

Sec. 27. 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Community and Housing Infrastructure Program

§ 1906. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Brownfield" means a property on which the presence or potential presence of a hazardous material, pollutant, or contaminant complicates the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property.

(2) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the current and future payment of financing and related costs.

(3) “Developer” means the person undertaking to construct a housing development.

(4) “Financing” means debt, including principal, interest, and any fees or charges directly related to that debt, incurred by a sponsor, or other instruments or borrowing used by a sponsor, to pay for a housing infrastructure project and, in the case of a sponsor that is a municipality, authorized by the municipality pursuant to section 1910a of this subchapter.

(5) “Housing development” means the construction of one or more buildings that includes housing.

(6) “Housing development site” means the parcel or parcels encompassing a housing development as authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(7) “Housing infrastructure agreement” means a legally binding agreement to finance and develop a housing infrastructure project and to construct a housing development among a municipality, a developer, and, if applicable, a third-party sponsor.

(8) “Housing infrastructure project” means one or more improvements authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(9) “Improvements” means:

(A) the installation or construction of infrastructure that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose of housing infrastructure tax increment financing as stated in section 1907 of this subchapter, including utilities, digital infrastructure, transportation, public recreation, parking, public facilities and amenities, land and property acquisition and demolition, brownfield remediation, site preparation, and flood remediation and mitigation; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

(10) “Legislative body” means the mayor and alderboard, the city council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated village, as appropriate.

(11) “Municipality” means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(12) “Original taxable value” means the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within a housing development site as of its creation date, provided that no parcel within the housing development site shall be divided or bisected.

(13) “Related costs” means expenses incurred and paid by a municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of the municipality’s housing infrastructure project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the municipality for those purposes. Related costs may include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the housing infrastructure project to the extent they are paid from the tax increment realized from municipal and not education taxes and using only that portion of the municipal increment above the percentage required for serving debt as determined in accordance with subsection 1910c(c) of this subchapter.

(14) “Sponsor” means the person undertaking to finance a housing infrastructure project. Any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards may serve as a sponsor for a housing infrastructure project.

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of housing infrastructure tax increment financing is to provide revenues for improvements and related costs to encourage the development of primary residences for households of low or moderate income.

§ 1908. CREATION OF HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may create within its jurisdiction a housing infrastructure project, which shall consist of improvements that stimulate the development of housing, and a housing development site, which shall consist of the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is installed or constructed and any immediately contiguous parcels.

(b) To create a housing infrastructure project and housing development site, a municipality, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop a housing development plan, including:

(A) a description of the proposed housing infrastructure project, the proposed housing development, and the proposed housing development site;

(B) identification of a sponsor;

(C) a tax increment financing plan meeting the standards of subsection 1910(f) of this subchapter;

(D) a pro forma projection of expected costs of the proposed housing infrastructure project;

(E) a projection of the tax increment to be generated by the proposed housing development; and

(F) a development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for the proposed housing infrastructure project and the proposed housing development;

(2) develop a plan describing the housing development site by its boundaries and the properties therein, entitled “Proposed Housing Development Site (municipal name), Vermont”;

(3) hold one or more public hearings, after public notice, on the proposed housing infrastructure project, including the plans developed pursuant to this subsection; and

(4) adopt by act of the legislative body of the municipality the plan developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection, which shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor.

(c) The creation of a housing development site shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the calendar year in which the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the use of tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

§ 1909. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

(a) The housing infrastructure agreement for a housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) clearly identify the sponsor for the housing infrastructure project;

(2) clearly identify the developer and the housing development for the housing development site;

(3) obligate the tax increments retained pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter for not more than the financing and related costs for the housing infrastructure project; and

(4) provide for performance assurances to reasonably secure the obligations of all parties under the housing infrastructure agreement.

(b) A municipality shall provide notice of the terms of the housing infrastructure agreement for the municipality’s housing infrastructure project to the legal voters of the municipality and shall provide the same information as set forth in subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter.

§ 1910. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION;
VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Application. A municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council to use tax increment financing for a housing infrastructure project.

(b) Review. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve only applications that:

(1) meet the process requirements, the project criterion, and any of the location criteria of this section; and

(2) are submitted on or before December 31, 2035.

(c) Process requirements. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the municipality has:

(1) created a housing infrastructure project and housing development site pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter;

(2) executed a housing infrastructure agreement for the housing infrastructure project adhering to the standards of section 1909 of this subchapter with a developer and, if the municipality is not financing the housing infrastructure project itself, a sponsor; and

(3) approved or pledged to use incremental municipal tax revenues for the housing infrastructure project in the proportion provided for municipal tax revenues in section 1910c of this subchapter.

(d) Project criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the projected housing development includes housing.

(e) Location criteria. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the housing development site is located within one of the following areas:

(1) an area designated Tier 1A or Tier 1B pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) or an area exempt from the provisions of that chapter pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6081(dd) (interim housing exemptions);

(2) an area designated Tier 2 pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) or an area in which the housing development site is compatible with regional and town land use plans as evidenced by a

letter of support from the regional planning commission for the municipality;
or

(3) an existing settlement or an area within one-half mile of an existing settlement, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(16).

(f) Tax increment financing plan. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve a municipality's tax increment financing plan prior to a sponsor's incurrence of debt for the housing infrastructure project, including, if the sponsor is a municipality, prior to a public vote to pledge the credit of the municipality under section 1910a of this subchapter. The tax increment financing plan shall include:

(1) a statement of costs and sources of revenue;

(2) estimates of assessed values within the housing development site;

(3) the portion of those assessed values to be applied to the housing infrastructure project;

(4) the resulting tax increments in each year of the financial plan;

(5) the amount of bonded indebtedness or other financing to be incurred;

(6) other sources of financing and anticipated revenues; and

(7) the duration of the financial plan.

§ 1910a. INDEBTEDNESS

(a) A municipality approved for tax increment financing under section 1910 of this subchapter may incur indebtedness against revenues of the housing development site at any time during a period of up to five years following the creation of the housing development site. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may extend this debt incursion period by up to three years. If no debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project during the debt incursion period, whether by the municipality or sponsor, the housing development site shall terminate.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter, each instance of borrowing by a municipality to finance or otherwise pay for a housing infrastructure project shall occur only after the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so warned.

(c) Any indebtedness incurred under this section may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of the municipality.

(d) The housing development site shall continue until the date and hour the indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, five years following the creation of the housing development site.

(e) A municipal legislative body shall provide information to the public prior to the public vote required under subsection (b) of this section. This information shall include the amount and types of debt and related costs to be incurred, including principal, interest, and fees; terms of the debt; the housing infrastructure project to be financed; the housing development projected to occur because of the housing infrastructure project; and notice to the voters that if the tax increment received by the municipality from any property tax source is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt in any year, the municipality shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of the indebtedness. If interfund loans within the municipality are used, the information must also include documentation of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(f) If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of financing, no interest shall be charged.

(g) The use of a bond anticipation note shall not be considered a first incurrence of debt pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1910b. ORIGINAL TAXABLE VALUE; TAX INCREMENT

(a) As of the date the housing development site is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the housing development site the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property within the housing development site has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.

(b) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the lister or assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which the housing development site is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year.

(c) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, a municipality shall remit not less than the aggregate education property tax due on the original taxable value to the Education Fund.

(d) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts, that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the housing development site that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount held apart each year is the “tax increment” for that year. The tax increment shall only be used for financing and related costs.

(e) Not more than the percentages established pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter of the municipal and State education tax increments received with respect to the housing development site and committed for the payment for financing for improvements and related costs shall be segregated by the municipality in a special tax increment financing account and in its official books and records until all capital indebtedness incurred for the housing infrastructure project has been fully paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter include the entire assessed valuation of the housing development site in the assessed valuations upon which the municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended, and thereafter no taxes from the housing development site shall be deposited in the special tax increment financing account.

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87 of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site.

§ 1910c. USE OF TAX INCREMENT; RETENTION PERIOD

(a) Uses of tax increments. A municipality may apply tax increments retained pursuant to this subchapter to debt incurred within the period permitted under section 1910a of this subchapter, to related costs, and to the direct payment of the cost of a housing infrastructure project. Any direct payment shall be subject to the same public vote provisions of section 1910a of this subchapter as apply to debt.

(b) Education property tax increment. Up to 80 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project. Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes

and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the retention period of the education property tax increment.

(c) Municipal property tax increment. Not less than 100 percent of the municipal property tax increment may be retained, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(d) Excess tax increment.

(1) Of the municipal and education property tax increments received in any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the financing and related costs for a housing infrastructure project, equal portions of each increment may be retained for the following purposes:

(A) to prepay principal and interest on the financing;

(B) to place in a special tax increment financing account required pursuant to subsection 1910b(e) of this subchapter and use for future financing payments; or

(C) to use for defeasance of the financing.

(2) Any remaining portion of the excess education property tax increment shall be distributed to the Education Fund. Any remaining portion of the excess municipal property tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village budget in the proportion that each budget bears to the combined total of the budgets unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village.

§ 1910d. INFORMATION REPORTING

(a) A municipality with an active housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) develop a system, segregated for the housing infrastructure project, to identify, collect, and maintain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting requirements of this section;

(2) provide timely notification to the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of any housing infrastructure project debt, public vote, or vote by the municipal legislative body immediately following the debt incurrence or public vote on a form prescribed by the Council, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a copy of the information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter; and

(3) annually on or before February 15, submit on a form prescribed by the Vermont Economic Progress Council an annual report to the Council and the Department of Taxes, including the information required by subdivision (2)

of this subsection if not previously submitted, the information required for annual audit under section 1910e of this subchapter, and any information required by the Council or the Department of Taxes for the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Annually on or before April 1, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means on housing infrastructure projects approved pursuant to this subchapter, including for each of the following:

(1) the date of approval;

(2) a description of the housing infrastructure project;

(3) the original taxable value of the housing development site;

(4) the scope and value of projected and actual improvements and developments in the housing development site, including the number of housing units created;

(5) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

(6) projected and actual incremental revenue amounts;

(7) the allocation of incremental revenue; and

(8) projected and actual financing.

(c) On or before January 15, 2035, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criterion and location criteria of section 1910 of this chapter.

§ 1910e. AUDITING

Annually on or before April 1 until the year following the end of the period for retention of education property tax increment, a municipality with a

housing infrastructure project approved under this subchapter shall ensure that the special tax increment financing account required by section 1910b of this subchapter is subject to the annual audit prescribed in section 1681 or 1690 of this title and submit a copy to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. If an account is subject only to the audit under section 1681 of this title, the Council shall ensure a process is in place to subject the account to an independent audit. Procedures for the audit must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total municipal and education property tax increments generated, expenditures for financing and related costs, and current balance.

§ 1910f. GUIDANCE

(a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, after reasonable notice to a municipality and an opportunity for a hearing, may issue decisions to a municipality on questions and inquiries concerning the administration of housing infrastructure projects, statutes, rules, noncompliance with this subchapter, and any instances of noncompliance identified in audit reports conducted pursuant to section 1910e of this subchapter.

(b) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall prepare recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development prior to any decision issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The Council may prepare recommendations in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer. In preparing recommendations, the Council shall provide a municipality with a reasonable opportunity to submit written information in support of its position.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall review the recommendations of the Council and issue a final written decision on each matter within 60 days following receipt of the recommendations. The Secretary may permit an appeal to be taken by any party to a Superior Court for determination of questions of law in the same manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from a Superior Court before issuing a final decision.

(d) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter.

Sec. 28. 32 V.S.A. § 3325 is amended to read:

§ 3325. VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Creation. The Vermont Economic Progress Council is created to exercise the authority and perform the duties assigned to it, including its authority and duties relating to:

(1) the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter; ~~and~~

(2) tax increment financing districts pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title; and

(3) housing infrastructure tax increment financing pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7.

* * *

(g) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Council to approve or deny an application under subchapter 2 of this chapter, ~~or to approve or deny a tax increment financing district pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title, or to approve or deny a housing infrastructure project pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7~~ is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 29. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 4 (Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program), Sec. 7 (repeal; Act 181 prospective landlord certificate changes), and this section shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 26, 2025, pages 738-742)

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 51.

An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit.

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

Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 5830f is amended to read:

§ 5830f. VERMONT CHILD TAX CREDIT

(a) A resident individual or part-year resident individual who is entitled to a child tax credit under the laws of the United States or who would have been entitled to a child tax credit under the laws of the United States but for the fact that the individual or the individual's spouse does not have a taxpayer identification number shall be entitled to a refundable credit against the tax imposed by section 5822 of this title for the taxable year. The total credit per

taxable year shall be in the amount of \$1,000.00 per qualifying child, as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 152(c) but notwithstanding the taxpayer identification number requirements under 26 U.S.C. § 24(e) and (h)(7), who is ~~five~~ six years of age or younger as of the close of the calendar year in which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins. For a part-year resident individual, the amount of the credit shall be multiplied by the percentage that the individual's income that is earned or received during the period of the individual's residency in this State bears to the individual's total income. An otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled to the credit under this section without regard for the laws of the United States pertaining to the amount of federal child tax credit that may be refunded.

* * *

Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 5828b is amended to read:

§ 5828b. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

(a) A resident individual or part-year resident individual who is entitled to an earned income tax credit granted under the laws of the United States ~~or who would have been entitled to an earned income tax credit under the laws of the United States but for the fact that the individual, the individual's spouse, or one or more of the individual's children does not have a qualifying taxpayer identification number~~ shall be entitled to a credit against the tax imposed for each year by section 5822 of this title. The credit shall be for an individual who claims one or more qualifying children 38 percent or for an individual who does not claim one or more qualifying children 100 percent of the earned income tax credit granted to the individual under the laws of the United States ~~or that would have been granted to the individual under the laws of the United States but for the fact that the individual, the individual's spouse, or one or more of the individual's children does not have a qualifying taxpayer identification number~~, multiplied by the percentage that the individual's income that is earned or received during the period of the individual's residency in this State bears to the individual's total income. A resident individual or part-year resident individual who would have been entitled to or granted an earned income tax credit under the laws of the United States but for the fact that the individual, the individual's spouse, or one or more of the individual's children does not have a qualifying taxpayer identification number shall be entitled to a credit under this section.

* * *

Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 5830e is amended to read:

§ 5830e. RETIREMENT INCOME; SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

(a) Social Security income. The portion of federally taxable Social Security benefits excluded from taxable income under subdivision 5811(21)(B)(iv) of this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) For taxpayers whose filing status is single, married filing separately, head of household, or surviving spouse:

(A) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00, all federally taxable benefits received under the federal Social Security Act shall be excluded.

(B) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00 but less than ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00, the percentage of federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act to be excluded shall be proportional to the amount of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income over ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00, determined by:

(i) subtracting the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer from ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (B) by \$10,000.00; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (B) by the federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act.

(C) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is equal to or greater than ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00, no amount of the federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act shall be excluded under this section.

(2) For taxpayers whose filing status is married filing jointly:

(A) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, all federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act shall be excluded.

(B) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00 but less than ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00, the percentage of federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act to be excluded shall be proportional to the amount of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income over ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, determined by:

(i) subtracting the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer from ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (B) by \$10,000.00; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (B) by the federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act.

(C) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is equal to or greater than ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00, no amount of the federally taxable benefits received under the Social Security Act shall be excluded under this section.

(b) Civil Service Retirement System income. The portion of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System excluded from taxable income under subdivision 5811(21)(B)(iv) of this title shall be subject to the limitations under subsection (e) of this section and shall be determined as follows:

(1) For taxpayers whose filing status is single, married filing separately, head of household, or surviving spouse:

(A) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00, the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System shall be excluded.

(B) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00 but less than ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00, the percentage of the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System to be excluded shall be proportional to the amount of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income over ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$55,000.00, determined by:

(i) subtracting the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer from ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (B) by \$10,000.00; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (B) by the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System.

(C) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is equal to or greater than ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$65,000.00, no amount of the income received from the Civil Service Retirement System shall be excluded under this section.

(2) For taxpayers whose filing status is married filing jointly:

(A) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System shall be excluded.

(B) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00 but less than ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00, the percentage of the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System to be excluded shall be proportional to the amount of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income over ~~\$65,000.00~~ \$70,000.00, determined by:

(i) subtracting the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer from ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (B) by \$10,000.00; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (B) by the first \$10,000.00 of income received from the Civil Service Retirement System.

(C) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is equal to or greater than ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$80,000.00, no amount of the income received from the Civil Service Retirement System shall be excluded under this section.

(c) Other contributory retirement systems; earnings not covered by Social Security. Other retirement income, except U.S. military retirement income pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, received by a taxpayer of this State shall be excluded pursuant to subsection (b) of this section as though the income were received from the Civil Service Retirement System and shall be subject to the limitations under subsection (e) of this section, provided that:

* * *

(d) U.S. military retirement income and U.S. military survivor benefit income. For taxpayers of any filing status, U.S. military retirement income, and U.S. military survivor benefit income received by an eligible beneficiary, received by a taxpayer of this State shall be excluded from taxable income under subdivision 5811(21)(B)(iv) of this chapter as follows:

(1) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to \$125,000.00, all federally taxable U.S. military retirement income and survivor benefit income shall be excluded.

(2) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than \$125,000.00 but less than \$175,000.00, the percentage of federally taxable U.S. military retirement income and survivor benefit income to be excluded shall be proportional to the amount of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income over \$125,000.00, determined by:

(A) subtracting the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer from \$175,000.00;

(B) dividing the value under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) by \$50,000.00; and

(C) multiplying the value under subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2) by the federally taxable U.S. military retirement income and survivor benefit income received.

(3) pursuant to subsection (b) of this section as though the income were received from the Civil Service Retirement System and shall be subject to the limitations under subsection (e) of this section. If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is equal to or greater than \$175,000.00, no amount of the federally taxable U.S. military retirement income and survivor benefit income received shall be excluded under this section.

(e)(1) Requirement to elect one exclusion. A taxpayer of this State who is eligible during the taxable year for more than one of the exclusions under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section the Social Security income exclusion under subsection (a) of this section and any of the exclusions under subsections (b)–(d) of this section shall elect either only one of the exclusions for which the taxpayer is eligible under subsections (b)–(d) of this section or the Social Security income exclusion under subsection (a) of this section, but not both, for the taxable year. A taxpayer of this State who is eligible during the taxable year for more than one of the exclusions under subsections (b)–(d) of this section shall elect only one of the exclusions for which the taxpayer is eligible for the taxable year.

(2) A taxpayer of this State who is eligible during the taxable year for the military retirement and survivor benefit exclusion under subsection (d) of this section may elect that exclusion regardless of whether the taxpayer also elects an exclusion under subsections (a)–(c) of this section.

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 5813 is amended to read:

§ 5813. STATUTORY PURPOSES

* * *

(aa) The statutory purpose of the Vermont veteran tax credit in section 5830g of this title is to provide financial support to Vermonters who served in the U.S. uniformed services.

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 5830g is added to read:

§ 5830g. VERMONT VETERAN TAX CREDIT

(a) A resident individual or part-year resident individual who served in the uniformed services shall be entitled to a refundable credit against the tax imposed by section 5822 of this title for the taxable year.

(b) A taxpayer shall be eligible for the credit under this section provided the taxpayer has a discharge record, or other record of separation from active duty, verifying service in the uniformed services.

(c)(1) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is less than or equal to \$25,000.00, the amount of tax credit provided under this section shall be \$250.00.

(2) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is greater than \$25,000.00 but less than \$30,000.00, the amount of credit shall be \$250.00 less \$5.00 per \$100.00 of federal adjusted gross income exceeding \$25,000.00 of federal adjusted gross income.

(3) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer is \$30,000.00 or greater, no amount of credit shall be provided under this section.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this act shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits”

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 56

An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill in Sec. 1, Office of New Americans Study Committee; report, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) six members, appointed by the Governor, one who must be a New American with lived experience, who shall include:

(A) one member, nominated by the Association of Africans Living in Vermont;

(B) one member, nominated by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants;

(C) one member, nominated by the Vermont Afghan Alliance;

(D) one member, nominated by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation;

(E) one member, nominated by Migrant Justice; and

(F) one member, nominated by the Vermont State College System.

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 494.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

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

H.494. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

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

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

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

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u> | <u>\$6,493,401.00</u> |
| <u>(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u> | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| <u>(3) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u> | <u>\$75,000.00</u> |

<u>(4) Rutland, Asa Bloomer Building roof repair and sewage system upgrades:</u>	<u>\$1,500,000.00</u>
<u>(5) Rutland, multimodal garage renovation:</u>	<u>\$600,000.00</u>
<u>(6) Middlesex, Print and Postal uninterruptable power supply upgrade:</u>	<u>\$58,279.44</u>
<u>(7) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>(8) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u>	<u>\$1,500,000.00</u>
<u>(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:</u>	
<u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u>	<u>\$8,500,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency:</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
<u>(3) Statewide, physical security enhancements:</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
<u>(4) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u>	<u>\$1,100,000.00</u>
<u>(5) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
<u>(6) Pittsford, Academy firing range upgrades</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
<u>(7) Montpelier, State House replacement of historic interior finishes:</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
<u>(8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation:</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>(9) Middlesex, Vermont State Archives roof replacement, main building:</u>	<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>
<u>(10) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>(11) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u>	<u>\$500,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$13,726,680.44</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$15,925,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 2</u>	<u>\$28,951,680.44</u>

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$4,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, accessibility upgrades at correctional facilities: \$2,000,000.00

(3) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: \$225,000.00

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

(5) St. Albans, Northwest State Regional Correctional Facility (NWSCF) roof replacement: \$1,000,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$1,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: \$200,000.00

(3) Rutland, Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility (MVRCF) door control system replacements: \$500,000.00

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

(5) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00

(c) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(5) of this section and the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(1), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (NWSCF, booking expansion, planning, design, and construction), and the Commissioner of Finance and Management may release the amount notwithstanding 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 27(a) (NWSCF; funding request for federal detainees).

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$8,225,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$4,800,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 3 \$13,025,000.00

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites: \$550,000.00

(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves: \$46,000.00

(3) Roadside historic site markers: \$25,000.00

(4) Bennington, Battle Monument, maintenance of safety fencing, restoration, planning, and design: \$425,000.00

(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

(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves: \$46,000.00

(3) Roadside historic site markers: \$25,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$1,046,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$621,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 4 \$1,667,000.00

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

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

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

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

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$300,000.00

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

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

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

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

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$300,000.00

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

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

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$2,100,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$2,100,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 5</u>	<u>\$4,200,000.00</u>

Sec. 6. VETERANS' HOME

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the following projects:

- (1) Replacement of air handlers: \$710,000.00
- (2) Expansion of laundry facilities: \$340,000.00

(b) The Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(1)–(2) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$1,050,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 6 \$1,050,000.00

Sec. 7. UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the University of Vermont for construction, renovations, and major maintenance.

(b) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the University of Vermont for the projects described in subsection (a) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$1,500,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027 \$1,500,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 7 \$3,000,000.00

Sec. 8. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

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

- (1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance: \$1,500,000.00
- (2) Johnson, the central heating plant replacement: \$1,500,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Vermont State Colleges for the following projects:

- (1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance: \$1,500,000.00
- (2) Johnson, central heating plant replacement: \$3,500,000.00

(c) For the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(2) and (b)(2) of this section, the Vermont State Colleges shall work with Efficiency Vermont to develop a central heating plant replacement.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$3,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$5,000,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 8</u>	<u>\$8,000,000.00</u>

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for dam safety and hydrology projects.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$3,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: \$700,000.00

(c) The sum of \$1,105,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

(d) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the following projects:

(1) State match, drinking water supply, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$590,000.00

(2) Dam safety and hydrology projects: \$500,000.00

(e) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$2,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: \$700,000.00

(f) The sum of \$1,029,360.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$5,805,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$5,319,360.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 9</u>	<u>\$11,124,360.00</u>

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

(a) The sum of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(b) The sum of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for municipal pollution control grants.

(c) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for water quality improvements to forest access roads.

(d)(1) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the following projects:

(A) Agricultural water quality projects: \$800,000.00

(B) Land conservation and water quality projects: \$2,000,000.00

(2) A grant issued under subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

(A) shall not be considered a State grant under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 3 for purposes of calculating the maximum amount of a State water quality assistance award under 6 V.S.A. § 4824 or 4826; and

(B) may be used to satisfy a grant recipient’s cost-share requirements.

(e) The sum of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for clean water implementation projects.

(f) In FY 2026 and FY 2027, any agency that receives funding from this section shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure that the projects are capital eligible.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$10,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$10,000,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 10</u>	<u>\$20,000,000.00</u>

Sec. 11. MILITARY

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

(1) Major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories: \$1,272,838.00

(2) Northwest Regional Readiness Center, planning and design:
\$1,343,333.00

(b) The sum of \$1,310,167.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Military Department for major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$2,616,171.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$1,310,167.00

Total Appropriation – Section 11 \$3,926,338.00

Sec. 12. AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the following projects:

(1) Renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition: \$1,500,000.00

(2) Upgrades to the heat systems serving the Vermont State University Randolph Campus and the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory: \$3,500,000.00

(b) The sum of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition.

(c) For the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall negotiate the maintenance of propane summer boilers and update the memorandum of understanding with Vermont State University. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is additionally authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory Heat Plant, construction).

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$5,000,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$1,500,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 12 \$6,500,000.00

Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

(a) The sum of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for Rutland Field Station.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the following projects:

<u>(1) Shaftsbury Field Station, land acquisition, planning, and design:</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Rutland Field Station:</u>	<u>\$1,645,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$1,795,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 13</u>	<u>\$3,795,000.00</u>

Sec. 14. JUDICIARY

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

<u>(1) Woodstock Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Essex County Courthouse, connector and security upgrades:</u>	<u>\$3,685,910.00</u>
<u>(3) Lamoille County Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system:</u>	<u>\$190,000.00</u>

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

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$5,075,910.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 14</u>	<u>\$5,075,910.00</u>

Sec. 15. VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

(a) The sum of \$125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program.

(b) The sum of \$125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 15</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>

Sec. 16. VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The sum of \$700,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Historical Society to mitigate water infiltration at the roof, foundation, and basement of the Spaulding Building in Barre.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 16</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>

* * * Funding * * *

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

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

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c)(5), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 1 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): \$399,803.36

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c)(18), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): \$37,519.86

(3) of the amount appropriated in in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 13(a), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 9 (Middlesex Field Station): \$371.89

(4) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(a)(2) (Middlesex Field Station): \$18,309.45

(5) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(c), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 10, as further amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 35 (Williston Public Safety Field Station): \$2,220,099.10

(6) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(3) (statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency): \$425,000.00

(7) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c)(7) (Northern State Correctional Facility, planning and construction for the boiler replacement): \$1,000,000.00

(8) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(5), as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (South Burlington, justice-involved men, feasibility study for reentry facility):
\$125,000.00

(9) of the amounts appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26, Sec. 2(b) (various projects):
\$58,279.44

(10) of the amounts appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2(b) (various projects):
\$23,237.47

(11) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects):
\$73,784.44

(b) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 5(c)(3), as amended by 2020 Acts & Resolves No. 139, Sec. 3 (Highgate Native American Cemetery):
\$12,042.00

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts & Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(m), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Downtown Transportation Fund pilot project):
\$67,000.00

(c) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Transportation from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail):
\$112.31

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program):
\$19,342.69

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Better Roads Grant Program):
\$41,238.46

(d) Of the amount appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(4) (Bennington, Battle Monument, construction of safety fencing), \$419,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 4 of this act.

(e) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment),

\$115,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(f) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Education in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 6(a) (funding emergency projects), \$19,549.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(g) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(b)(2) (ecosystem restoration and protection), \$249.01 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(h) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Vermont Veterans’ Home in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(7) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(7) (design for the renovation of the Brandon and Cardinal units), \$1,500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(i) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(9) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(10) (111 State Street; renovation of the stack area), \$200,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(j) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Buildings and General Services may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (East Cottage); and

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects).

(k) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amount not reallocated in this act appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment).

(l) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Environmental Conservation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(f)(2)(A), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Standard EcoSystem Restoration and Protection programs);

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(b) (pollution control); and

(3) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 10(a)(2) (dam safety and hydrology projects).

(m) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Transportation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program); and

(2) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Municipal Mitigation Program).

<u>Bonded Dollars</u>	<u>\$5,074,938.48</u>
<u>Cash</u>	<u>\$1,700,000.00</u>
<u>Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 17</u>	<u>\$6,774,938.48</u>

Sec. 18. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$100,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations made in Secs. 2–16 of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded.

(b) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue additional general obligation bonds in the amount of \$6,890,350.00 that were previously appropriated but unissued under 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, for the purpose of funding the appropriations in this act.

<u>Total Revenues – Section 18</u>	<u>\$106,890,350.00</u>
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Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS ACT; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that in addition to the issuance of general obligation bonds, eligible capital projects may be funded from the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize certain capital projects eligible for funding by 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in this act but appropriate the funds for these projects in the FY 2026 Appropriations Act. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 Appropriations Act appropriate funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2027.

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

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: \$1,506,599.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

(8) to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for infrastructure improvements that are either municipally leased for a term of at least 30 years or municipally owned and that support the development of new or rehabilitated housing, provided that a grant agreement shall be in place between the State and the municipality prior to the release of funds: \$2,500,000.00

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

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

(d) Authorizations; Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority is authorized from the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in accordance with the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b), in the amount of \$14,500,000.00.

(e) Transfer. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(7) of this section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(1) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement).

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Capital Budgeting Process * * *

Sec. 20. 32 V.S.A. § 701a is amended to read:

§ 701a. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BILL

* * *

(d)(1) On or before November 15 each year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall require each entity to which spending authority has been authorized by a capital construction act enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session to submit a report on the current fund balances of each authorized project with unexpended funds. The report shall include plans for the unexpended funds, any projects or contracts the funds are assigned to, and an anticipated timeline for expending the funds.

(2) On or before ~~December 15 each year~~ the third Tuesday of every annual session, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall submit in a consolidated format the reports required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

* * *

Sec. 21. 32 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. FORM OF ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET AND 10-YEAR
CAPITAL PROGRAM PLAN

* * *

(b) The capital budget request for the following biennium shall be presented as the next increment of the 10-year plan. Elements of the plan shall include:

* * *

(2) Comprehensive cost and financing assessment.

(A) Amounts appropriated and expended for the current fiscal year and for the preceding fiscal year shall be indicated for capital programs and for individual projects. For the five fiscal years preceding these, the assessment shall include the aggregate amounts appropriated and expended for individual projects, which amounts shall be categorized by funding type and presented in a format that concisely displays the funding stream and project phases for each individual project over time. The assessment shall indicate further the source of funds for any project that required additional funding and a description of any authorized projects that were delayed.

* * *

Sec. 22. 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

§ 1001b. CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

* * *

(e) Spending authority. Any entity authorized to make expenditures from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount shall have not more than ~~two~~ three years from the end of the legislative session in which the act authorizing the expenditure was enacted to encumber the funds. Any remaining unencumbered funds shall remain part of the Fund account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) the sources of funds; and

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

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

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 23. TRANSFER OF RANDALL MEADOW PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF WATERBURY

Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to survey, subdivide, and transfer to the Town of Waterbury the portion of land in the Waterbury State Office Complex (Parcel ID # 69622111909 as designated on the Town of Waterbury’s Tax Parcel Maps) that is commonly referred to as the “Randall Meadow,” provided that the Commissioner may transfer the Randall Meadow property only once:

(1) the parcel has been subdivided to reflect stormwater management needs of the Waterbury State Office Complex to the satisfaction of the Commissioner;

(2) any permits required for transfer have been obtained; and

(3) the Commissioner and the Town of Waterbury have created a plan to align the transfer with the current lease for the parcel.

Sec. 24. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 27 is amended to read:

Sec. 27. CAPITOL COMPLEX FLOOD RECOVERY; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide quarterly updates to the Special Committee on the planning process for Capitol Complex flood recovery and shall provide timely notification to the City of Montpelier and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience of alterations to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

* * *

* * * Human Services * * *

Sec. 25. REPEAL

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 31 (potential reuse of Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility Site; feasibility; report) is repealed.

* * * Vermont Veterans' Home * * *

Sec. 26. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS; EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND BOILER REPLACEMENT; ELEVATOR UPGRADE

If the Commissioner of Finance and Management offsets any capital funds appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15 (b)(1)–(2) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement; elevator upgrade) with federal funds, then any offset amounts shall be reused for future capital construction projects as part of the capital budget process.

* * * Sergeant at Arms * * *

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b, as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 8, is amended to read:

Sec. 15b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Sergeant at Arms for the following projects:

(1) the replacement of State House cafeteria furnishings; and

(2) the purchase and installation at the State House of an X-ray machine designed to screen baggage.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 28. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

WENDY K. HARRISON

ROBERT PLUNKETT

RUSSELL H. INGALLS

Committee on the part of the Senate

ALICE M. EMMONS

JAMES A.R. GREGOIRE

TROY HEADRICK

Committee on the part of the House

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

H.C.R. 129-140 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for May 8, 2025)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President pro tempore, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission, underlined below, shall be fully and separately acted upon.

L. Brooke Dingleline of Randolph - Member of the Land Use Review Board - By Senator Bongartz for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (May 6, 2025)

Matthew Valerio of Proctor - Defender General of Defender General's Office - By Senator Norris for the Committee on Judiciary (May 8, 2025)

Jason Maulucci of Essex - Trustee of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees - By Senator Weeks for the Committee on Education (May 13, 2025)

JFO NOTICE

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3):

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

[Received April 10, 2025, expedited review requested April 10, 2025]

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

[Received April 10, 2025]

JFO #3249: \$22,117.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Corrections to ensure compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

[Received April 10, 2025]

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

[Received April 11, 2025]

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

[Received April 11, 2025]

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

[Received April 11, 2025]

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 14, 2025**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Note: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

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).