Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

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(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

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(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

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(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

GOVERNOR'S VETO

S. 183.

An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

The text of the Communication from His Excellency, The Governor, whereby he *vetoed* and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 183** to the Senate is as follows:

Text of Communication from Governor

April 22, 2026

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning S.183, *An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud* without my signature because of my objections described herein.

To be clear, I fully support this bill's intent, which makes necessary changes to Vermont's home and land improvement fraud statute to restore the original criminal intent standard — requiring prosecutors to prove a contractor knowingly intended to defraud at the time of contracting — after a 2015 amendment that changed the law in a likely-unconstitutional way that was recently flagged by two Vermont trial courts.

However, this bill was passed with a cross-reference that was struck in error and requires a legislative correction. I understand this error has been flagged for relevant committees of jurisdiction, and a corrected version of S.183 can be added to another bill that is moving through the process.

With several weeks remaining in the legislative session, there is time for the Legislature to make the appropriate correction, either as a new bill or as an amendment to a bill that is still currently under consideration. Again, to be clear I support this bill's intent and look forward to a version I can sign.

Based on this objection I must return S.183 without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

Text of bill as passed by Senate and House

S.183

An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2029 is amended to read:

§ 2029. HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LAND IMPROVEMENT FRAUD

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Home improvement" means the fixing, replacing, remodeling, removing, renovation, alteration, conversion, improvement, demolition, or rehabilitation of or addition to any building, or any portion thereof, including roofs, that is used or designed to be used as a residence or dwelling unit.

(2)(A) "Land improvement" means:

(i) the construction, replacement, installation, paving, or improvement of driveways, sidewalks, trails, roads, or other landscape features;

(ii) site work, including grading, excavation, landscape irrigation, site utility installation, site preparation, and other construction work that is not part of a building on a parcel;

(iii) the limbing, pruning, cutting, or removal of trees or shrubbery; and

(iv) forestry operations, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 2602, including the construction of trails, roads, and structures associated with forestry operations and the transportation off-site of trees, shrubs, or timber.

(B) "Land improvement" includes activities made in connection with a residence or dwelling or those activities not made in connection with a residence or dwelling.

(b) A person commits the offense of home improvement or land improvement fraud when the person knowingly enters into a contract, ~~or~~ agreement, or change order, written or oral, for $1,000.00 or more, with an owner for home improvement or land improvement, or into several contracts, ~~or~~ agreements, or change orders for $2,500.00 or more in the aggregate, with more than one owner for home improvement or land improvement, and the person knowingly:

(1)~~(A) fails to perform the contract or agreement, in whole or in part; and~~

~~(B) when the owner requests performance, payment, or a refund of payment made, the person fails to either:~~

~~(i) refund the payment;~~

~~(ii) make and comply with a definite plan for completion of the work that is agreed to by the owner; or~~

~~(iii) make the payment~~ promises performance that the person does not intend to perform or knows will not be performed, in whole or in part;

(2) misrepresents a material fact relating to the terms of the contract, ~~or~~ agreement, or change order or to the condition of any portion of the property involved;

(3) uses or employs any unfair or deceptive act or practice in order to induce, encourage, or solicit such person to enter into any contract, ~~or~~ agreement, or change order or to modify the terms of the original contract, ~~or~~ agreement, or change order; or

(4) when there is a declared state of emergency, charges for goods or services related to the emergency a price that exceeds two times the average price for the goods or services and the increase is not attributable to the additional costs incurred in connection with providing those goods or services.

(c) Whenever a person is convicted of home improvement or land improvement fraud or of fraudulent acts related to home improvement or land improvement:

(1) the person shall notify the Office of the Attorney General;

(2) the court shall notify the Office of the Attorney General; and

(3) the Office of the Attorney General shall place the person's name on the Home Improvement and Land Improvement Fraud Registry and shall include on the Registry whether the person has notified the Office of Attorney General under subdivision (e)(1) of this section that they have filed a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than $1,000.00, or both, if the loss to a single consumer is less than $1,500.00.

(2) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (b) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than $5,000.00, or both.

(3) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than $5,000.00, or both, if:

(A) the loss to a single consumer is $1,500.00 or more; or

(B) the loss to more than one consumer is $2,500.00 or more in the aggregate.

(4) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subdivision (b)(3) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than $10,000.00, or both.

(5) A person who violates this subsection ~~(c) or (e)~~ or subsection (f) of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than two years or fined not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(e)(1) A person who is sentenced pursuant to subdivision (d)(2), (3), or (4) of this section, or convicted of fraudulent acts related to home improvement or land improvement, may engage in home improvement or land improvement activities for compensation only if:

(A) the work is for a company or individual engaged in home improvement or land improvement activities and the company or individual has not previously committed a violation under this section; the person and the management of the company or the individual are not a family member, a household member, or a current or prior business associate; and the person first notifies the company or individual of the conviction and notifies the Office of the Attorney General of the person's current address and telephone number; the name, address, and telephone number of the company or individual for whom the person is going to work; and the date on which the person will start working for the company or individual; or

(B) the person notifies the Office of the Attorney General of the intent to engage in home improvement or land improvement activities, and that the person has filed a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit with the Office in an amount of not less than $250,000.00 and pays on a regular basis all fees associated with maintaining such bond or letter of credit.

(2) As used in this subsection:

(A) "Business associate" means a person joined together with another person to achieve a common financial objective.

(B) "Family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, parent, next of kin, domestic partner, or legal guardian.

(C) "Household member" means a person who, for any period of time, is living or has lived together, is sharing or has shared occupancy of a dwelling.

(f) The Office of the Attorney General shall release the letter of credit at such time when:

(1) any claims against the person relating to home improvement or land improvement fraud have been paid;

(2) there are no pending actions or claims against the person for home improvement or land improvement fraud; and

(3) the person has not been engaged in home improvement or land improvement activities for at least six years and has signed an affidavit so attesting.

(g) A person convicted of home improvement or land improvement fraud is prohibited from applying for or receiving State grants or from contracting, directly or indirectly, with the State or any of its subdivisions for a period of up to three years following the date of the conviction, as determined by the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services.

(h) A person subject to the financial surety requirements of section 3605 of this title for timber trespass shall not engage in land improvement activities unless the person has satisfied the financial surety requirements for timber trespass.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 674.

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont Sister State Program.

Reported favorably by Senator Brock for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, pages 3234-3243)

H. 814.

An act relating to neurological rights and the use of artificial intelligence technology in health and human services.

Reported favorably by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3313-3316)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 46.

An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Morley 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. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) lack of awareness contributes to common and harmful obstacles that rare disease patients face, such as delays in diagnosis, misdiagnosis, lack of treatment options, high out-of-pocket costs, and limited access to medical specialists; and

(2) with the support of the National Organization for Rare Disorders, various patient organizations, and stakeholders in the rare disease community, rare disease advisory councils are enabling states to strategically identify and address barriers that prevent individuals living with rare disease from accessing adequate and effective treatment and care for their condition.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 19 is added to read:

CHAPTER 19. RARE DISEASES

§ 981. RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) Creation. There is created the Rare Disease Advisory Council within the Department of Health to provide guidance and recommendations to the public, General Assembly, and other government agencies and departments, as necessary, regarding the needs of individuals living with rare diseases in Vermont.

(b) Membership.

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

(A) two individuals living with a rare disease, at least one of whom is an older Vermonter, appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

(B) a parent or guardian of a person living with a rare disease, appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

(C) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

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

(E) a representative of the Heath Equity Advisory Commission established pursuant to section 252 of this title;

(F) an academic researcher who conducts rare disease research, appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

(G) a physician practicing in Vermont with experience treating a rare disease, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

(H) a nurse practicing in Vermont with experience treating a rare disease, appointed by the Vermont chapter of the American Nurses Association;

(I) a pharmacist practicing in Vermont, appointed by the Vermont Pharmacists Association;

(J) a geneticist or genetic counselor, appointed by the Commissioner of Health; and

(K) any other persons deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Health.

(2) Members of the Advisory Council shall be appointed for staggered five-year terms. Any midterm vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the year of appointment and conclude on December 31 of the last year of the member's term. Members of the Advisory Council may serve multiple terms, either consecutively or intermittently.

(3) The Advisory Council may collaborate with any other relevant stakeholders it deems appropriate, including the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council may conduct the following activities for the benefit of individuals impacted by rare diseases in Vermont:

(1) convene public hearings and solicit comments from individuals impacted by rare diseases to assist the Advisory Council with creating a needs

assessment identifying gaps in services for individuals with a rare disease in Vermont and the needs of their caregivers and providers;

(2) provide testimony and comments on pending legislation and rules that impact Vermont's rare disease community before the General Assembly and other State agencies;

(3) in consultation with experts on rare diseases, develop and provide policy recommendations that:

(A) identify conditions for the Department of Health to consider as part of appropriate screening guidance and recommendations; and

(B) support timely patient access to diagnostic services and treatment and enhance quality of services provided by rare disease specialists; and

(4) any other activities identified by a majority of the Advisory Council.

(d) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Health. The Department shall maintain a web page on its website that contains notices of upcoming meetings, meeting minutes, public comments, and reports.

(e) Report. As needed, the Advisory Council may submit any recommendations for legislative action to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

(2) Annually, the Advisory Council shall elect a member to serve as the Chair.

(3) The Advisory Council shall meet quarterly. Meetings may be held in person or remotely on an electronic platform in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law set forth in 1 V.S.A. §§ 310–314.

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

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. The members of the Advisory Council not otherwise compensated for their participation shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than four meetings annually.

Sec. 3. LONG COVID RESOURCES FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS

(a) On or before January 1, 2027, the Department of Health shall collaborate with the University of Vermont Medical Center, the Vermont Medical Society, and patients with lived experience of long COVID to:

(1) identify existing evidence-informed standards, best practices, and training for primary care providers regarding long COVID and distribute these resources through the Department's website and to primary care providers; and

(2) in collaboration with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, identify support services or other resources for long COVID that include a range of peer and community-based programs, such as long COVID support groups through the University of Vermont Medical Center, the Vermont Center for Independent Living, or another entity, and strategies to support patients who are homebound or at risk of becoming homebound.

(b) On or before February 1, 2027, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, shall present recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on providing long-term disability supports to individuals experiencing long COVID.

(c) As used in this section, "long COVID" means postacute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of May 13, 2025, pages 1531-1534)

Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Appropriations.

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)

H. 542.

An act relating to terminating testing of schools in Vermont for polychlorinated biphenyls.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Ram Hinsdale for the Committee on Education.

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. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.709.1, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 8, and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.111, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.709.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINGENCY FUND; POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) TESTING IN SCHOOLS

(a) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 1283, of the funds transferred in Sec. D.101(a) of this act to the Environmental Contingency Fund, the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Agency of Education, shall use up to $4,500,000 to complete air indoor quality testing for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in public schools and approved and recognized independent schools that were constructed or renovated before 1980. All schools subject to this subsection shall test for PCBs on or before ~~July 1, 2027~~ August 1, 2031.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 6618a is added to read:

§ 6618a. SCHOOL POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL PROGRAM FUND

(a) There is created the School Polychlorinated Biphenyl Program Fund to be administered by the Secretary of Natural Resources to provide funding for the investigation, mitigation, and remediation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at schools in Vermont. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) Reimbursements from a school for work related to a grant issued by the State for PCB investigation, mitigation, and remediation when that school recovers money from litigation or other awards. The reimbursement shall be limited to the amount of the grant awarded to the school or the amount of the recovery, whichever is less.

(2) Any recovery by the State for any claims for damages caused by PCBs, except recoveries for damages to natural resources, which shall be deposited in the fund established pursuant to section 1283 of this title.

(3) Monies from time to time appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly.

(4) Other gifts, donations, or other monies received from any source, public or private, dedicated for deposit into the Fund and approved by the Secretary of Administration.

(b)(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall administer a program to issue grants to school districts to pay the costs, to the extent funds are available, of the following activities in order of the priority listed:

(A)(i) PCB investigations that are a part of a facilities master plan; or

(ii) indoor air quality testing of a school initiated voluntarily by a school district, provided that the school district notified the Secretary of Natural Resources of the testing and the school district conducts the testing according to the Department of Environmental Conservation's standards for testing;

(B) the development of PCB management plans;

(C) the costs of mitigation when results exceed the immediate action level;

(D) the costs of implementing any approved corrective action plan when, after mitigation efforts, the concentrations in the school exceed the immediate action level; and

(E) the costs of implementing a corrective action plan as a part of a school construction project.

(2) To the extent that funds are available, grants to school districts that are required to conduct investigation, mitigation, or remediation of PCB contamination in a school after Agency of Natural Resources testing shall be in an amount sufficient to pay for 100 percent of the costs at the school of investigation, remediation, or removal required by the Agency of Natural Resources Investigation and Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule.

(c) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, unexpended balances and interest earned by the Fund shall be retained in the Fund from year to year.

(d) If a school district in the State recovers money from litigation or other award for work covered under a grant issued under this section, the school district shall reimburse the State the amount of the recovery or the amount of the grant awarded to the school district under subsection (b) of this section, whichever amount is less.

(e) In addition to any other remedy, the State may recover from a manufacturer of PCBs monies expended or awarded by the State for PCB investigation, testing, assessment, remediation, or removal of PCBs in a school above the relevant action level.

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 3445 is amended to read:

§ 3445. APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

(a) Construction aid.

(1) Preliminary application for construction aid. A school district eligible for assistance under section 3447 of this title that intends to construct or purchase a new school, or make extensive additions or alterations to its existing school, and desires to avail itself of State school construction aid shall submit a written preliminary application to the Secretary. A preliminary application shall include information required by the Agency by rule and shall specify the need for and purpose of the project.

(2) Approval of preliminary application.

(A) When reviewing a preliminary application for approval, the Secretary shall consider:

(i) regional educational opportunities and needs, including school building capacities across school district boundaries, and available infrastructure in neighboring communities;

(ii) economic efficiencies;

(iii) the suitability of an existing school building to continue to meet educational needs; and

(iv) statewide educational initiatives.

(B) The Secretary may approve a preliminary application if:

(i)(I) the project or part of the project fulfills a need occasioned by:

(aa) conditions that threaten the health or safety of students or employees;

(bb) facilities that are inadequate to provide programs required by State or federal law or regulation;

(cc) excessive energy use resulting from the design of a building or reliance on fossil fuels or electric space heat; or

(dd) deterioration of an existing building; or

(II) the project results in consolidation of two or more school buildings and will serve the educational needs of students in a more cost-effective and educationally appropriate manner as compared to individual projects constructed separately;

(ii) the need addressed by the project cannot reasonably be met by another means;

(iii) the proposed type, kind, quality, size, and estimated cost of the project are suitable for the proposed curriculum and meet all legal standards;

(iv) the applicant achieves the level of "proficiency" in the school district quality standards regarding facilities management adopted by rule by the Agency; ~~and~~

(v) the applicant has completed a facilities master planning process that:

(I) engages robust community involvement;

(II) considers regional solutions;

(III) evaluates environmental contaminants; and

(IV) produces a facilities master plan that unites the applicant's vision statement, educational needs, enrollment projections, renovation needs, and construction projects; and

(vi) if the applicant school district is applying for construction aid for a school building that was constructed or renovated before 1980, the applicant has completed indoor air quality testing for polychlorinated biphenyls that was conducted according to the Department of Environmental Conservation's standards for testing.

(3) Priorities. Following approval of a preliminary application and provided that the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of a project, the Agency, with the advice of the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board, shall assign points to the project as prescribed by rule of the Agency so that the project can be placed on a priority list based on the number of points received.

* * *

Sec. 4. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT ON FUNDING FOR PCB TESTING OF SCHOOLS

On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Agency of Education, shall submit to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education:

(1) an estimate of the additional cost to the State to complete testing, mitigation, and remediation for polychlorinated biphenyls at public schools and approved and recognized independent schools that were constructed or renovated before 1980; and

(2) a plan to fund the costs estimated necessary to complete testing, mitigation, and remediation.

Sec. 5. REPEAL

2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.112(b)(1) and (2) (State funding of grants for investigation, remediation, and removal of PCB contamination at a school) is repealed.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 3 (approval and funding of school construction projects) shall take effect on July 2, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to testing of schools in Vermont for polychlorinated biphenyls"

(Committee vote: 6-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, page 3257)

H. 559.

An act relating to the Parole Board.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Major for the Committee on Institutions.

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. 28 V.S.A. § 403 is amended to read:

§ 403. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER REGARDING PAROLE

The Commissioner is charged with the following powers and responsibilities regarding the administration of parole:

* * *

(6) To provide regular training for the Parole Board, at least annually, in collaboration with the Parole Board Director and the Chair of the Parole Board, on topics related to criminogenic behavior, mental health disorders, substance use treatment, trauma-informed work with victims of crime, and serious crime rehabilitation.

Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 451 is amended to read:

§ 451. CREATION OF BOARD

(a)(1) A Parole Board of ~~five~~ seven members is created. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ~~five regular~~ members ~~and two alternates~~ for terms of three years in such a manner that not more than three terms shall expire annually. Initial terms may be less than three years. Each member ~~and alternate~~ shall hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified. The Governor shall designate the Board's chair.

(2) Upon notification of a vacancy, the Governor shall consult with the Parole Board Director and the Chair of the Parole Board. As far as practicable, the Governor shall appoint as members persons who have knowledge of and experience in ~~correctional treatment, crime prevention, or human relations~~ criminogenic behavior, mental health treatment, substance use disorder, or serious crime rehabilitation, and shall give consideration, as far as practicable, to geographic representation of the State and a balance of different knowledge and experience.

(3) The Board shall select one of its members to serve as Vice Chair of the Board. If the Chair resigns or is otherwise permanently unable to serve on the Board, the Vice Chair shall serve as interim chair until the Governor designates a new chair pursuant to this section. ~~The Chair or the executive director may assign alternates to serve on the Board in the absence of a regular member and such alternates shall have all the powers and authority of a regular member when so assigned.~~

(b) Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of a meeting. Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 172, the concurrence of a majority of members present at a Parole Board meeting shall be necessary and sufficient for Board action.

(c) The Chair of the Parole Board shall be entitled to compensation in the amount of $20,500.00 annually, effective on the first pay period in fiscal year 2006, which shall be in lieu of any per diem otherwise authorized by law. If the Vice Chair assumes the duties of the Chair for a period in excess of 30 consecutive days, the compensation otherwise payable to the Chair during ~~his or her~~ the Chair's absence shall be paid to the Vice Chair.

(d) At least annually, each member of the Parole Board shall attend trainings designated by the Parole Board Director in collaboration with the Chair of the Parole Board.

Sec. 3. 28 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

§ 455. DIRECTOR

(a) The position of Parole Board Director is created. The Director shall be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Board.

(b) The Director shall serve for a term of four years commencing on March 1 and continuing until ~~his or her~~ a successor is appointed.

(c) The Director shall be exempt from classified State service.

(d) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Parole Board and the Department of Human Resources, shall establish the minimum and preferred qualifications, duties, and compensation of the Director.

(e) The Director shall be responsible for the overall function of the Parole Board, ensuring legal compliance, developing and implementing all policies and procedures of the Board, and ensuring training is developed and provided to the Board, in collaboration with the Commissioner and the Chair of the Parole Board.

Sec. 4. PAROLE BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL PILOT PROJECT

(a) There is created the Parole Board Legal Counsel Pilot Project to provide external legal support for:

(1) annual training to the Board, including on topics related to due process and parole violations; and

(2) legal advice to the Board as needed related to Board hearings.

(b) The Board and the Agency of Human Services shall identify and contract with external legal support in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General.

(c) As part of the fiscal year 2028 budget development process, the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Corrections shall coordinate with the Parole Board Director to evaluate the pilot project and determine resources needed for Board external legal support for fiscal year 2028.

(d) On or before November 15, 2026, the Parole Board Director shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions detailing the operation of

the pilot project. The report shall include a recommendation regarding legal support for the Board going forward and the resources needed.

Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2026 CARRYFORWARD

The $25,000.00 General Fund appropriated to the Department of Corrections for third-party legal services in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.336 shall carry forward into fiscal year 2027 for the purpose of hiring external legal counsel pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. APPROPRIATION

The sum of $50,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections in fiscal year 2027 for the purpose of hiring external legal counsel pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act.

Sec. 7. PAROLE BOARD BUDGET SUBMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND FISCAL YEAR 2029

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2028 and fiscal year 2029 budget development processes, the Parole Board Director shall submit a proposed budget to the Commissioner of Corrections and Secretary of Human Services.

(b) On or before December 1, 2027, the Parole Board Director shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions detailing the budget development process. The report shall include a recommendation regarding the Parole Board submitting an annual budget to the Commissioner of Corrections.

Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 5305 is amended to read:

§ 5305. INFORMATION CONCERNING RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

* * *

(c) ~~If requested by a victim of a listed crime, the~~ The Department of Corrections shall~~:~~

~~(1) at least 30 days before a parole board hearing concerning the defendant, inform the victim of the hearing and of the victim's right to testify before the parole board or to submit a written statement for the parole board to consider; and~~

~~(2) promptly inform the victim of the decision of the parole board, including providing to the victim any conditions attached to the defendant's release on parole~~ notify victims of a listed crime as to parole board hearings concerning defendants and parole board decisions as provided in 28 V.S.A. §§ 502a and 507.

Sec. 9. 28 V.S.A. § 502a is amended to read:

§ 502a. RELEASE ON PAROLE

* * *

(e)(1) The Department shall identify each inmate meeting the presumptive parole eligibility criteria in section 501a of this title and refer each eligible inmate who does not meet the risk criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection to the Parole Board for an administrative review at least 60 days prior to the inmate's eligibility date.

(2) The Department shall screen each inmate it identifies as eligible for presumptive parole for the risk criteria set forth in this subdivision. If the Department determines that, based on clear and convincing evidence, there is a reasonable probability that the inmate's release would result in a detriment to the community, or that the inmate is not willing and capable of fulfilling the obligations of parole, the Department shall, at least 60 days prior to the inmate's eligibility date, refer the inmate to the Parole Board for a parole hearing.

(3)(A) Within 30 days in advance of the inmate's eligibility date, the Parole Board shall conduct an administrative review of each inmate the Department identifies as eligible for presumptive release who does not meet the risk criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection. The Board may deny presumptive release and set a hearing if it determines, through its administrative review, that a victim or victims should have the opportunity to participate in a parole hearing. If the Board determines there is a victim or victims who should be notified, the Department shall notify the victim or victims, and the Board shall provide them with the opportunity to participate in a parole hearing. A victim may waive any notification.

(B) The Parole Board shall conduct a parole hearing pursuant to section 502 of this title for each eligible inmate that the Department determines meets the risk criteria in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

Sec. 10. 28 V.S.A. § 507 is amended to read:

§ 507. NOTIFICATION TO VICTIM AND OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY

(a) The Department of Corrections shall, unless waived by the victim:

(1) ~~At~~ at least 30 days prior to a parole ~~eligibility~~ hearing concerning the defendant, notify the victim of a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7)~~, shall be notified~~ as to the time and location of the hearing and as to the victim's right to testify before the Parole Board or to submit a written statement for the Parole Board to consider; and

(2) promptly inform the victim of the decision of the Parole Board, including providing to the victim any conditions attached to the defendant's release on parole. ~~Such notification may be waived by the victim in writing.~~

* * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3310-3313)

H. 582.

An act relating to adult protective services.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. § 6902, in subdivision (36)(B), following "power of attorney", by striking out "or an advance directive"

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 10, 2026, pages 3166-3169)

H. 588.

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Vyhovsky for the Committee on Government Operations.

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:

* * * General Powers * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

(a) The Office shall provide administrative, secretarial, financial, investigatory, inspection, and legal services to the boards. The services provided by the Office shall include:

* * *

(2) Issuing, recording, renewing, and reinstating all licenses as ordered by the boards, an appellate officer, the Director, an administrative law officer, or a court.

(3) Revoking, rescinding, or suspending licenses as ordered by the boards, the Director, an administrative law officer, or a court.

* * *

(14) Adopting rules to establish a program to serve as an alternative to the disciplinary process for regulated professionals with substance use disorders or other professional practice issues as designated by the boards or Director.

* * *

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS OR OF DIRECTOR IN ADVISOR PROFESSIONS; DISCIPLINE ~~PROCESS~~ AND RESCISSION PROCESSES

* * *

(d) A board or the Director shall notify parties, in writing, of their right to appeal final decisions of the board. A board or the Director shall also notify complainants in writing of the result of any disciplinary investigation made with reference to a complaint brought by them to the board or Director. When a disciplinary investigation results in a stipulation filed with the ~~board~~ docket clerk, the board or the Director shall provide the complainant with a copy of the stipulation and notice of the stipulation review scheduled before the board or hearing authority. The complainant shall have the right to be heard at the stipulation review.

* * *

(j) Hearings involving denials or rescissions of licensure or disciplinary matters concerning persons in professions that have advisor appointees shall be heard by an administrative law officer appointed by the Secretary of State.

* * *

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 129c is added to read:

§ 129c. RESCISSIONS

(a) The Director may rescind a license or compact privilege issued by the Office of Professional Regulation under the following circumstances:

(1) it is discovered that an administrative mistake has occurred resulting in the erroneous issuance of the license;

(2) payment is not remitted for any application fee pursuant to section 125 of this title; or

(3) if, for a compact license or privilege:

(A) either:

(i) this State or the compact license or privilege holder's home state of licensure ceases participating in the relevant licensing compact; or

(ii) the compact license or privilege holder ceases to hold an unencumbered home-state license; and

(B) the compact license or privilege holder does not obtain a full Vermont license within 30 days.

(b) The rescission process shall be as set forth in this subsection.

(1) License active for less than 30 days.

(A) If the individual's license has been active for less than 30 days, the Director shall initially rescind the license for any reason enumerated in subsection (a) of this section.

(B) The individual shall be immediately notified of the rescission, the reason for rescission, and procedural rights.

(C) The individual shall be provided an opportunity to have the rescission reviewed by either an administrative law officer or the relevant board. In any review, the Director shall have the burden of proving the rescission is merited. Any review shall commence not later than 30 days after the rescission, and a decision in any review shall be rendered within 40 days following the rescission. The decision shall either reverse the Director's rescission, in which case the license shall be immediately reinstated, or affirm the Director's rescission and be deemed a final decision of the administrative law officer or board.

(D) In the event of an administrative law officer or board affirming the Director's rescission, the individual shall be provided notice and the ability to appeal the Director's rescission in accordance with section 130a of this title; however, the individual shall have the burden of proving the rescission is not merited.

(2) License active for 30 days or more.

(A) If the individual's license has been active for 30 days or more, and the Director determines there is a reason for rescission as enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall provide notice to the individual that, after 30 days from issuing the notice, the Director intends to rescind the individual's license. The notice shall also include the reason for rescission and the individual's procedural rights.

(B) The individual shall be provided an opportunity to have a hearing to determine the merits of a rescission. The individual shall have 30 days from when the Director's notice was issued to indicate if the individual elects to have a hearing. In the event the individual either elects not to have a hearing or declines to answer within the allotted 30 days, Director shall rescind the individual's license and the individual shall be foreclosed from appealing the decision pursuant to subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(2). In the event the individual elects to have a hearing, any rescission shall be stayed until a hearing decision is rendered.

(C) Any hearing shall be held in accordance with section 129 of this title and the resulting decision shall either affirm or reverse the Director's rescission of the individual license.

(D) In the event of a hearing decision finding that the Director's rescission of the individual's license is merited, the individual shall be provided notice and the ability to appeal the Director's rescission in accordance with section 130a of this title; however, the individual shall have the burden of proving the rescission is not merited.

(c) A rescission of a license shall not be recorded as an adverse action taken against the individual or any other misconduct or unprofessional conduct for purposes of the individual's other currently held licenses or future licensure applications.

(d) Upon becoming aware of the State either withdrawing from any licensure compact described in Title 26 or when a licensure compact described in Title 26 becomes no longer binding on the State, the Office of Professional Regulation shall notify as soon as practicable all affected licensees practicing in the State. An individual's license may not be rescinded if the Office fails to provide the notice.

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 128 is amended to read:

§ 128. DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO BE REPORTED TO THE OFFICE

(a)(1) Any hospital, clinic, community mental health center, or other health care institution in which a licensee performs professional services shall report to the Office, along with supporting information and evidence, any

disciplinary action taken by it or its staff that limits or conditions the licensee's privilege to practice or leads to suspension or expulsion from the institution.

* * *

(3) This section shall ~~not~~ apply to cases of resignation, separation from service, or changes in privileges that are ~~unrelated~~ related to:

(A) a disciplinary or adverse action;

(B) an adverse action report to the National Practitioner Data Bank;

(C) an unexpected adverse outcome in the care or treatment of a patient;

(D) misconduct or allegations of misconduct;

(E) the initiation or process of an action to limit, condition, or suspend a licensee's privilege to practice in an institution;

(F) an action to expel the licensee from an institution; or

(G) any other action that could lead to an outcome described in subdivisions (A) through (F) of this subdivision (3).

* * *

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

(1) Fraudulent or deceptive procurement or use of a license or attempted fraudulent or deceptive procurement or use of a license by making or causing to be made a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation.

* * *

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other law to the contrary, the Director may adopt rules permitting a licensee to enter, at the Director's discretion, into a program serving as an alternative to the disciplinary process for regulated professionals with substance use disorders or other professional practice issues as designated by the boards or Director.

Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129b is amended to read:

§ 129b. BOARD MEMBER AND ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary relating to terms of office and appointments for members of boards attached to the Office of Professional Regulation, all board members appointed by the Governor shall be the age of majority, appointed for staggered five-year terms, and ~~shall~~ serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Appointments under this section shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor may remove any member of a board as provided in section 2004 of this title. Vacancies created other than by expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner that the initial appointment was made for the unexpired portion of the term. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the year of appointment and run through December 31 of the last year of the term. The Governor may request nominations from any source but shall not be bound to select board members from among the persons nominated. As provided in section 2004 of this title, board members shall hold office and serve until a successor has been appointed.

* * *

Sec. 7. 3 V.S.A. § 137 is amended to read:

§ 137. UNIFORM PROCESS FOR FOREIGN CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION

* * *

(d) The provisions relating to ~~preliminary~~ license denials set forth in subsection 129(e) of this subchapter shall apply to a license application that is ~~preliminarily~~ denied for nonequivalence under this section.

* * * Accountants * * *

Sec. 8. 26 V.S.A. § 13 is amended to read:

§ 13. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) ~~"Good character" means fiscal integrity, and a lack of any history of acts involving dishonesty, false statements, or fraud.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(11) "Principal place of business" means the office location designated by the licensee for the purposes of ~~substantial equivalency~~ mobility and reciprocity.

* * *

Sec. 9. 26 V.S.A. § 71a is amended to read:

§ 71a. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

(a) ~~A license~~ To qualify for licensure as a ~~"certified public accountant" shall be granted by the Board to any person~~ certified public accountant, an applicant must:

(1) ~~who is of good character;~~

~~(2) who completes~~ complete any one of the following requirements for education and experience:

(A) a postbaccalaureate degree from a college or university recognized by the Board with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and one year of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule;

(B) 150 or more semester hours of college credit at a college or university recognized by the Board, including a baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 42 semester hours of accounting, auditing, and related subjects as the Board determines to be appropriate, and one year of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule ~~or other experience or employment that the Board in its discretion considers substantially equivalent~~; ~~and~~ or

(C) a baccalaureate degree from a college or university recognized by the Board with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and two years of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule; and

~~(3)~~(2) ~~who has passed~~ pass the examination required under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Board shall administer an examination using a nationally recognized uniform certified public accountants' examination and advisory grading service.

(c) An applicant who has not yet completed a baccalaureate degree may sit for the exam upon the completion of 120 semester hours at an institution recognized by the Board, including a minimum of 30 semester hours of

accounting, auditing, and related subjects as the Board determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 10. 26 V.S.A. § 74c is amended to read:

§ 74c. ~~SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY~~ MOBILITY

(a) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this State shall ~~be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this State's requirements and shall~~ have the privileges of licensure of this State, without the need to obtain a license under section 72b of this title, if the individual:

(1) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from ~~a~~ any state ~~the Board determines has licensure requirements substantially equivalent to the requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act~~; ~~or~~ and

(2) ~~holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state, and the individual obtains verification from the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service that the individual's qualifications are substantially equivalent to the licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act. An individual who passed the uniform CPA examination and holds a valid license issued by any state prior to January 1, 2012 shall be exempt from the education requirements of subdivision 5(c)(2) of the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this section.~~ has passed the uniform CPA examination and has met any one of the following requirements for education and experience in accordance with rules adopted by the Board:

(A) a post-baccalaureate degree from a college or university with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and one year of experience in public accounting;

(B) 150 or more semester hours of college credit at a college or university, including a baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 42 semester hours of accounting, auditing, and related subjects, and one year of experience in public accounting; or

(C) a baccalaureate degree from a college or university with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and two years of experience in public accounting.

* * *

(g) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this State, who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant from any state, and who, as of December 31, 2024, had practice privileges in this State under this section shall continue to have all the privileges of licensees in this State

without the need to obtain a license under section 71a of this title, pursuant to all other requirements of this chapter.

* * * Dentists * * *

Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. § 603 is added to read:

§ 603. LIMITED ACADEMIC DENTIST LICENSE

(a) Scope of dentist practice. A limited academic dentist license is a credential that authorizes the practice of dentistry only:

(1) at a teaching facility operated by a dental program that is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation to grant doctoral degrees in dental medicine or dental surgery; and

(2) under the general supervision of a dentist who is fully licensed in good standing in Vermont.

(b) Eligibility. To qualify for a limited academic dentist license, an applicant must:

(1) be appointed as a full-time dental instructor of an accredited dental program;

(2) hold a dental degree sufficient for licensure by examination under section 601 of this title; and

(3) complete any courses in emergency office procedures or cardiopulmonary resuscitation required for a licensed dentist.

(c) Specialties unavailable. A limited academic dentist license holder who is not otherwise licensed as a dentist in this State is ineligible for sedation and general anesthesia specialties.

(d) Notification of termination required. A limited academic dentist license holder must notify the Office within 48 hours after any termination as a full-time dental instructor. Continued practice after termination constitutes unauthorized practice under 3 V.S.A. § 127.

(e) Renewal. For license renewal, a limited academic dentist license holder must:

(1) meet all renewal requirements set forth in subsections 661(a)–(d) for a licensed dentist, except no fee is required; and

(2) continue to be a full-time dental instructor of an accredited dental program.

Sec. 12. 26 V.S.A. § 662 is amended to read:

§ 662. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application

(A) Dentist $285.00

(B) Limited academic dentist $0.00

(C) Dental therapist $215.00

~~(C)~~(D) Dental hygienist $200.00

~~(D)~~(E) Dental assistant $80.00

(2) Biennial renewal

(A) Dentist $655.00

(B) Limited academic dentist $0.00

(C) Dental therapist $310.00

~~(C)~~(D) Dental hygienist $245.00

~~(D)~~(E) Dental assistant $105.00

(b) The licensing fee for a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist or the registration fee for a dental assistant who is otherwise eligible for licensure or registration and whose practice in this State will be limited to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced-fee clinic or similar setting approved by the Board shall be waived.

* * * Funeral Services * * *

Sec. 13. 26 V.S.A. § 1211 is amended to read:

§ 1211. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context:

* * *

(6) "Practice of funeral service" means arranging, directing, or providing for the care, preparation, or disposition of dead human bodies for a fee or other compensation. This includes:

(A) meeting with the public to select a method of disposition or funeral observance and merchandise;

(B) entering into contracts, either at-need or pre-need, for the provision of dispositions, funeral observances, and merchandise;

(C) arranging, directing, or performing the removal or transportation of a dead human body;

(D) securing or filing certificates, permits, forms, or other documents;

(E) supervising or arranging a funeral, memorial, viewing, or graveside observance; ~~and~~

(F) holding oneself out to be a licensed funeral director by using the words or terms "funeral director," "mortician," "undertaker," or any other words, terms, title, or picture that, when considered in context, would imply that such person is engaged in the practice of funeral service or is a licensed funeral director; and

(G) providing for the disposition of dead human bodies by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction.

* * *

(c) Notwithstanding this section, owners of a disposition facility and their personnel may engage in the listed activities in subdivision (a)(6) of this section only to the extent such functions are necessary to the performance of their duties. Specifically, personnel at a disposition facility may:

(1) provide for the disposition of dead human bodies by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction and meet with the public to arrange ~~and provide~~ for the disposition;

(2) enter into contracts, without taking prepaid funds, for the ~~provision of dispositions~~ disposition by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction;

(3) arrange, direct, or perform the removal or transportation of a dead human body, provided that removals are performed by licensed removal personnel; and

(4) secure and file certificates, permits, forms, or other documents.

* * * Nursing; Advanced Practice Registered Nurses * * *

Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. § 1614 is amended to read:

§ 1614. APRN RENEWAL

An APRN license renewal application shall include:

(1) documentation of ~~completion of the APRN practice requirement;~~

~~(2) possession of~~ a current certification by a national APRN specialty certifying organization; and

~~(3)~~(2) a current collaborative provider agreement if required for transition to practice.

* * * Pharmacists * * *

Sec. 14a. 26 V.S.A. § 2023 is amended to read:

§ 2023. CLINICAL PHARMACY; PRESCRIBING AND TESTING

(a) In accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Board, a pharmacist may engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy, including prescribing as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, provided that a pharmacist shall not:

* * *

(3) initiate antibiotic therapy, except pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement or state protocol.

(b) A pharmacist may prescribe in the following contexts:

* * *

(2) State protocol.

(A) A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer in a manner consistent with valid State protocols that are approved by the Commissioner of Health after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board and the ability for public comment:

* * *

(x) emergency prescribing of albuterol or glucagon while contemporaneously contacting emergency services;

~~(xi) tests for COVID-19 for individuals by entities holding a Certificate of Waiver pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. § 263a). If a test for COVID-19, prescribed, ordered, or administered by a pharmacist in accordance with this section and the resulting State protocol incidentally detects influenza or human respiratory syncytial virus, a pharmacist shall advise the individual tested that the results indicate influenza or human respiratory syncytial virus infection and recommend to the individual to seek further care from an appropriate health care provider;~~

~~(xii) tests for SARS-CoV for asymptomatic individuals or related serology for individuals by entities holding a Certificate of Waiver pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. § 263a); and~~

~~(xiii)~~(xi) emergency contraception;

(xii) tests waived under 42 C.F.R. § 493.15 for COVID-19, influenza, and streptococcal pharyngitis and subsequent drug treatment; and

(xiii) medications for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus, including those for pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis.

* * *

Sec. 14b. 26 V.S.A. § 2022 is amended to read:

§ 2022. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(14) "Pharmacy technician" means an individual who, only while assisting and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, performs tasks relative to dispensing prescription drugs, administering immunizations, and performing tests for COVID-19, influenza, and streptococcal pharyngitis. Pharmacy technicians shall administer immunizations and perform authorized tests ~~for COVID-19~~ in compliance and accordance with section 2042a of this title.

* * *

Sec. 14c. 26 V.S.A. § 2042a is amended to read:

§ 2042a. PHARMACY TECHNICIANS; QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

* * *

(e) Pharmacy technicians performing authorized ~~COVID-19~~ tests shall do so only:

(1) when a licensed pharmacist who is trained to perform authorized ~~COVID-19~~ tests is present and able to assist with the test, as needed; and

(2) in accordance with a State protocol adopted under subdivision 2023(b)(2)(A)~~(x)~~ of this title or pursuant to a standing order of the Commissioner of Health~~; and~~

~~(3) in accordance with rules adopted by the Board~~.

(f) The Board may adopt rules regarding the administration of immunizations and the performance of authorized ~~COVID-19~~ tests by pharmacy technicians.

* * * Psychologists * * *

Sec. 15. TEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENTATION

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 26 V.S.A. chapter 55, 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or any contrary rule, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation may develop and implement temporary policies permitting supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists.

(b) Policies adopted pursuant to this section shall be:

(1) developed in consultation with the Board of Psychological Examiners and the Vermont Psychological Association;

(2) consistent with 26 V.S.A. chapter 57; and

(3) made available to the public.

(c) The Director's powers granted pursuant to this section and any temporary policies adopted pursuant to this section shall be in effect only until either July 1, 2029, or when the Board of Psychological Examiners adopts permanent rules regarding supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists, whichever occurs first.

(d) On or before July 1, 2029, the Board shall adopt updated rules regarding the supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists.

* * * Midwives * * *

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 85. MIDWIVES

* * *

§ 4185. DIRECTOR; DUTIES

* * *

~~(c)(1) The Director shall appoint an advisory committee to study and report to the Director and to the Commissioner of Health on matters relating to midwifery, including recommendations if necessary for revisions to the administrative rules. The Committee shall focus on improving communication and collaboration among birth providers.~~

~~(2) The Committee shall be composed of at least six members: three midwives licensed under this chapter, two physicians licensed by the Board of~~

~~Medical Practice or the Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and one advanced practice registered nurse midwife licensed by the Board of Nursing.~~

~~(3) Members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation at the rate provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.~~

* * *

§ 4187. RENEWALS

(a)(1) ~~Biennially, the Director shall forward a renewal form to each licensed midwife~~ A license shall be renewed every two years upon the filing of a renewal application, payment of the required fee, and proof of compliance with renewal requirements. The completed ~~form~~ renewal application shall include verification that during the preceding two years, the licensed midwife has:

(A) completed 20 hours of continuing education approved by the Director by rule;

(B) participated in at least four peer reviews;

(C) ~~submitted individual practice data;~~

~~(D)~~ maintained current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification; ~~and~~

~~(E)~~(D) filed a timely certificate of birth for each birth at which ~~he or she~~ the licensee was the attending midwife, as required by law; and

(E) maintained current certification by the North American Registry of Midwives.

(2) Upon receipt of the completed form and of the renewal fee, the Director shall issue a renewal license to applicants who qualify under this section.

(b) The Director shall renew a license that has lapsed for a period of three years or less upon receipt of the renewal fee and late renewal penalty, the reinstatement fee, and an application for renewal that shows that the person still meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter and that all the requirements for renewal, including continuing education, have been satisfied. A person shall not be required to pay renewal fees for lapsed years.

(c) The Director may adopt rules to assure that an applicant whose license has lapsed for a period greater than three years may be eligible for licensing, but such rules shall not establish requirements greater than the eligibility requirements of this chapter.

(d) The Director may, as a condition of license renewal, require that licensed midwives submit individual practice data to the Office or its designee. The required data may include information such as client demographics, complications of labor and delivery, breastfeeding and postpartum health, and such other information as the Director may require.

* * * Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants; Sunrise Report * * *

Sec. 17. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; SUNRISE REVIEW REPORT; SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

On or before November 15, 2026, the Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with speech language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and other interested stakeholders, shall submit to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations a written report, in accordance with 26 V.S.A. chapter 57, on the advised nature of regulation and suggested level of credentialling for speech-language pathologist assistants practicing in the State. In so doing, OPR shall take into consideration its sunrise report completed in 2015.

* * * Massage Therapists, Bodyworkers, and Touch Professionals * * *

Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. chapter 105 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 105. MASSAGE THERAPISTS, BODYWORKERS, AND TOUCH PROFESSIONALS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2)~~(A)~~ "Establishment" means any ~~place of business that~~ location:

~~(i)~~(A) ~~offers the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork or where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is conducted on the premises of the business~~ where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is regularly engaged in; or

~~(ii)~~(B) that represents itself to the public by any title or description of services incorporating the words "touch professional," "bodywork," "massage," "massage therapy," "massage therapist," "massage practitioner," "massagist," "masseur," "masseuse," "energy work," or other words identified by the Director in rules.

~~(B) A "place of business" includes any office, clinic, facility, salon, spa, or other location not otherwise exempted under section 5404 of this chapter where a person or persons engage in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork.~~

* * *

§ 5403. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

Any individual who owns or operates an unregistered establishment or who engages in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork without a registration from the Office shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127 ~~(unauthorized practice)~~.

§ 5404. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional from engaging in or offering the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at a location that is not ~~an~~ a registered establishment~~,~~ if:

(1) ~~so long as prior to engaging in that practice at that location,~~ the ~~registrant~~ massage therapist and ~~his or her~~ the client agree in advance that the location is acceptable; and

(2) the location is not an establishment as defined in subdivision 5401(2) of this title.

(d) Establishment registration is not required for a location where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is provided solely by:

(1) persons exempt from registration; or

(2) a single massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional.

* * *

§ 5411. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

* * *

(b) Rules.

(1) The Director shall adopt rules requiring a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional to disclose to each new client before the first treatment the following information:

(A) the professional qualifications and experience of the registrant;

(B) actions that constitute unprofessional conduct;

(C) the method for filing a complaint against a registrant; and

(D) the method for making a consumer inquiry with the Office.

(2) The Director shall adopt rules regarding the display of:

(A) the registrations of employed or contracted massage therapists, bodyworkers, or touch professionals at an establishment; and

(B) information regarding unprofessional conduct and filing complaints with the Office.

(3) The rules described in this subsection shall include provisions relating to the manner in which the information disclosed shall be distributed or displayed and a requirement that a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional and ~~his or her~~ the client sign an acknowledgement that the information was disclosed.

(4) The Director may adopt other rules as necessary to perform ~~his or her~~ the Director's duties under this chapter.

(5) The Director may adopt rules limiting the applicability of this chapter as applied to establishments operated within private homes.

* * *

§ 5423. ESTABLISHMENTS; DESIGNEE AND INSPECTION

(a) An establishment shall ~~designate a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional to be responsible for ensuring the establishment complies with the requirements of this chapter and the rules adopted by the Director~~ register with the Office of Professional Regulation. The operation of an establishment without registration shall constitute unauthorized practice under 3 V.S.A. § 127.

(b) An establishment is responsible for ensuring its lawful operation, regardless of whether the establishment's owner is on-site or has personal knowledge of its operations. The Office may prosecute an establishment for unprofessional conduct or unauthorized practice occurring at the establishment.

(c) The Director may require that an application for establishment registration include:

(1) the management and ownership of the business;

(2) the name, location, and licensing history of any past or present massage establishment under the same management or ownership;

(3) the location and ownership of the establishment's premises;

(4) proof of business registration with the Secretary of State; and

(5) other information required by the Director in rule.

(d) The Director may deny an establishment registration of a location where unprofessional conduct, as defined in subdivision 5427(2) or (3) of this title, has previously occurred, even if under different ownership or management. A denial on this basis shall follow the same procedures as a denial for unprofessional conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129.

(e) A person authorized by the Director may enter any establishment for the purpose of inspection ~~when a complaint has been filed with the Office regarding the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at that establishment~~. The Director may require an establishment to undergo inspection prior to registration. A fee shall not be charged for any inspection under this subsection.

* * *

§ 5425. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay those fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b).

(b) An establishment where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is provided by only two massage therapists, bodyworkers, or touch professionals shall pay reduced fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b).

§ 5426. DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION

~~A massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional shall conspicuously display his or her registration in any establishment where the registrant is engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork~~ An establishment must conspicuously display the registrations of:

(1) the establishment; and

(2) any massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork in the establishment.

§ 5427. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Unprofessional conduct means the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a and the following:

(1) engaging in activities in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2605 (voyeurism);

(2) engaging ~~in a sexual act~~ with a client in sexual conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2821:

(A) at an establishment; or

(B) while engaging in, offering to engage in, or purporting to engage in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork;

(3) meeting a client at an establishment for the purpose of sexual conduct;

~~(3)~~(4) conviction of a crime committed while engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork;

~~(4)~~(5) performing massage or bodywork that the massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional knows or has reason to know has not been authorized by a client or the client's legal representative; ~~and~~

~~(5)~~(6) engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; and

(7) engaging in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at an unregistered establishment.

Sec. 18a. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

(a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board or advisor profession may charge the following fees:

(1) Verification of license, $30.00.

(2) An examination fee established by the Secretary, which shall be not greater than the costs associated with examinations.

(3) Reinstatement fees for expired licenses pursuant to section 127 (unauthorized practice) of this title.

(4) Continuing, qualifying, or prelicensing education course approval:

(A) Provider, $100.00.

(B) Individual, $25.00.

(5) A preapplication criminal background determination, $25.00.

(6) Limited temporary license or work permit, $60.00.

(7) Apprenticeship application, $50.00.

(8) Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, $100.00.

(9) Disciplinary action surcharge, $250.00.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees under Title 26:

(1) Application for registration, $100.00, except application for:

* * *

(D) Massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional, $90.00.

(E) Massage establishment qualifying for a reduced fee under 26 V.S.A. § 5425(b), $50.00.

(2) Application for licensure or certification, $115.00, except application for:

* * *

(M) ~~Massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional, $90.00.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(4) Biennial renewal, $275.00, except biennial renewal for:

* * *

(Y) Massage establishment qualifying for a reduced fee under 26 V.S.A. § 5425(b), $75.00.

(5) ~~Limited temporary license or work permit, $60.00.~~ [Repealed.]

(6) Radiologic evaluation, $125.00.

(7) Annual renewal for appraisal management company registration, $345.00.

(8) Real estate appraiser trainee, $115.00.

(9) ~~Apprenticeship application, $50.00.~~ [Repealed.]

(10) ~~Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, $100.00.~~ [Repealed.]

(11) ~~Disciplinary action surcharge, $250.00.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 19. 13 V.S.A. § 2638 is amended to read:

§ 2638. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Human trafficking" has the same meaning as in section 2651 of this title.

(2) "Prostitution" has the same meaning as in section 2631 of this title.

(b) A person who, in good faith and in a timely manner, reports to law enforcement that the person is a victim of or a witness to a crime that arose from the person's involvement in prostitution or human trafficking shall not be cited, arrested, or prosecuted for a violation of the following offenses:

(1) section 2632 of this title (prostitution);

(2) section 2601a of this title (prohibited conduct);

(3) 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a)(1)–(3) (cannabis possession);

(4) 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a)(1) and (2) (cocaine possession);

(5) 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a)(1) and (2) (LSD possession);

(6) 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a)(1) and (2) (heroin possession);

(7) 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a)(1) and (2) (depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs possession);

(8) 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a)(1) and (2) (methamphetamine possession);

(9) 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b)(1) (hallucinogenic drugs possession); ~~and~~

(10) 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a)(1) (Ecstasy possession); and

(11) 26 V.S.A. § 5403 (unauthorized practice of massage or bodywork).

* * *

* * * Board of Medical Practice * * *

Sec. 19a. 26 V.S.A. § 1353 is amended to read:

§ 1353. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The Board shall have the following powers and duties to:

* * *

(8)(A) Inquire into the criminal history backgrounds of applicants for licensure and for biennial license renewal for ~~all professionals licensed or certified by the Board. In obtaining these background checks, the Board may inquire directly of the Vermont Crime Information Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Information Center, or other holders of official criminal record information, and may arrange for these inquiries to be made by a commercial service~~ any Board-issued credential, including a license, certification, or registration for the following professions:

(i) medical doctors licensed pursuant to chapter 23 of this title;

(ii) podiatrists licensed pursuant to chapter 7 of this title;

(iii) anesthesiologist assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 29 of this title;

(iv) physician assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 31 of this title; and

(v) radiologist assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 52 of this title.

(B) Prior to acting on an initial or renewal application, the Board may obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Federal Bureau of Investigation background checks shall be fingerprint-supported, and fingerprints so obtained may be retained on file and used to notify the Board of future triggering events. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the Board on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center.

(C) An applicant or licensee shall bear any cost of obtaining a required criminal history background check. Applicants subject to background checks shall be notified that a check is required, whether fingerprints will be retained on file, and that criminal convictions are not an absolute bar to licensure. Applicants shall be provided other information as may be required by federal law or regulation.

~~(D) The Board shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy.~~

~~(E) No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal history record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this chapter. As used in this subdivision, "criminal history record" has the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.~~

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 1–10 (general powers, accountants), Secs. 13–17 (funeral services, advanced practice registered nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, midwives, speech-language pathologist assistants report), Sec. 18a (3 V.S.A. § 125), and Sec. 19a (Board of Medical Practice) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 11 and 12 (dentists) shall take effect on September 1, 2026.

(c) Sec. 18 (massage therapists, bodyworkers, and touch professionals) and Sec. 19 (13 V.S.A. § 2638) shall take effect on December 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, pages 3214-3234)

H. 778.

An act relating to dam safety.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Williams for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

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. 20 V.S.A. § 10 is amended to read:

§ 10. REQUEST TO GOVERNOR BY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

The all-hazards event provisions of this chapter shall not be brought into action unless the municipal director of emergency management, a member of the legislative body of the municipality, the city or town manager, or the mayor of a city that is within the area affected by an all-hazards event shall declare an emergency and request the Governor to find that a state of emergency exists and the Governor so finds, or unless the Governor declares a state of emergency under section 9 of this title. This section shall not be construed to prevent the Governor or the Director of Emergency Management without municipal approval from requiring the evacuation of an area subject to inundation from a dam failure when there is a dam failure or an imminent risk of failure.

Sec. 2. STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING PILOT PROJECT; REPORT

(a)(1) The Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Conservation, shall conduct a pilot project under which the Division shall develop a set of emergency operations plans (EOPs) for two State-owned dams that have been classified as high-hazard potential. One of the dams shall have a population at risk of 1,000 or more persons and the other shall have a population at risk of 100 or more but fewer than 1,000 persons.

(2) The set of EOPs for each dam shall include actions for each municipality in the inundation zone of the dam.

(b)(1) In preparing the EOPs required under subsection (a) of this section and in order to ensure the sufficiency of the EOPs to protect public lives and property, the Division shall coordinate with and collect input from the Whole Community that would be inundated if the dam were to fail. The Division also shall coordinate with any owner or operator of a hydroelectric generation facility located at a State-owned dam. As used in this section, "Whole Community" shall have the same meaning as provided in the Federal Emergency Management Administration guidance on A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action FDOC 104-008-1, December 2011.

(2) The Division of Emergency Management may hire a contractor, including a regional planning commission, to complete the requirements of this section, including one or both of the EOPs required under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Each EOP required to be completed under subsection (a) of this section shall:

(1) be coordinated with each dam's emergency action plan and shall utilize each dam's emergency action plan inundation maps;

(2) identify planned evacuations and evacuation routes based on possible inundation scenarios, including how to evacuate vulnerable populations such as medically vulnerable individuals who need access to electricity or specialized medical equipment;

(3) identify where individuals shall evacuate to, such as a shelter, higher ground, or reunification location;

(4) engage managers and administrators of facilities that house vulnerable populations within the Whole Community in the plan development;

(5) plan for the use of mutual aid and State resources, and coordinate such use between municipalities downstream of the dam;

(6) address how to implement the use of pre-event communication and early warning systems to alert persons in the inundation areas, including the use of the VT-Alert system; and

(7) include any additional provisions deemed useful by the Division in developing the EOP or for inclusion in the EOP.

(d) On or before July 1, 2028, the Division of Emergency Management shall submit to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy the results of the pilot project required under subsection (a) of this section, including:

(1) copies of the EOPs for the two dams;

(2) a summary of the process of developing the EOPs, including whether the Division completed the EOPs with Division staff, contracted with regional planning commissions, or hired other contractors to complete the EOPs;

(3) a summary of who in the area of potential inundation for each dam that the Division or the Division contractor coordinated with in the development of the EOP;

(4) the cost of the EOPs completed under the pilot project;

(5) a summary of early warning and communications systems municipalities may use to communicate recommendations or requests for evacuation, including the best use of the State's VT-Alert system; and

(6) a scope, timeline, and budget for the Division to develop an EOP template or templates and a training on EOP development for municipalities.

(e) As part of the report required under subsection (d) of this section, the Division of Emergency Management shall, based on the results of the pilot project EOPs:

(1) recommend how EOPs should be completed for municipalities downstream of all State or federal dams in Vermont that are high-hazard potential dams and that have a population at risk of 100 or more persons, including:

(A) whether and how to prioritize completion of the EOPs for municipalities downstream of all high-hazard dams with a population at risk of 100 or more persons;

(B) whether the Division of Emergency Management can complete or contract for completion of the EOPs for municipalities downstream of all State or federal dams with a population at risk of 100 or more persons by 2035;

(C) whether the Division of Emergency Management can complete an EOP for municipalities downstream of federal dam or whether the Division may only assist those local entities authorized to complete an EOP under federal law; and

(D) what it would cost for the Division of Emergency Management to complete the EOPs for municipalities downstream of dams with a population at risk of 100 or more persons or what it would cost for the Division to contract with a qualified consultant to complete the EOPs;

(2) recommend how EOPs should be completed for municipalities downstream of high-hazard dams with a population at risk of fewer than 100 persons;

(3) recommend organizations that may assist municipalities in accessing potential funding sources assist in the completion or compliance with an EOP;

(4) recommend how to best educate municipalities and emergency service providers about the need for and importance of EOPs for dams;

(5) recommend whether and how an EOP should identify structures that persons would reasonably be expected to occupy and how to geotag these structures for purposes of inclusion in the VT-Alert system; and

(6) recommend how often exercises should be conducted to validate the EOPs required under subsection (a) of this section and ultimately for all EOPs prepared for dams in the State.

Sec. 3. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In addition to other funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety for the Division of Emergency Management in fiscal year 2027, $250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department for completion by the Division of Emergency Management of the emergency operations plan pilot project required under Sec. 2 of this act.

(b) In addition to other funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation in fiscal year 2027, $125,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Department's assistance in completing the emergency operations plan pilot project required under Sec. 2 of this act.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 24, 2026, pages 3517-3521)

Reported favorably by Senator Watson for the Committee on Appropriations.

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

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 921.

An act relating to alcoholic beverages.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 7 V.S.A. § 224, in subdivision (c)(1), following "not more than" by striking out "10" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "five"

Second: In Sec. 6, 7 V.S.A. § 271, after the period at the end of subsection (g), by inserting "A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages shall retain copies of records of distribution and sales made pursuant to this subsection. Annually, on or before January 15, a licensed manufacturer shall report to the Division in a manner and form required by the Commissioner the total amount of malt beverages distributed pursuant to this subsection during the preceding 12 months."

Third: By striking out Sec. 7, 7 V.S.A. § 271 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

Fourth: By adding two new sections to be Secs. 11 and 12 and a reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Caterer's License * * *

Sec. 11. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(5) "Caterer's license" means a license issued by the Board of Liquor and Lottery authorizing the holder of a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses to serve alcoholic beverages at a function ~~located on premises other than those occupied by a first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell alcoholic beverages~~ pursuant to section 241 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 12. 7 V.S.A. § 241 is amended to read:

§ 241. CATERER'S LICENSE; COMMERCIAL CATERING LICENSE

(a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may issue a caterer's license or a commercial catering license to a person who holds a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses. The holder of a caterer's license is authorized to serve alcoholic beverages at a function located on premises other than those occupied by another first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell alcoholic beverages. The holder of a caterer's license may host not more than five functions per calendar year located on the license holder's own first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensed premises.

* * *

Fifth: By renumbering Sec. 11, effective dates, to be Sec. 13 and in subsection (b) of the new Sec. 13 by striking out the sentence "Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2028." and inserting in lieu thereof "[Deleted.]"

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House Amendments)

H. 933.

An act relating to miscellaneous administrative and policy changes to the tax laws.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

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:

* * * Credit for Taxes Paid in Another State by an S Corporation * * *

Sec. 1. REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 5916 (denial of tax credits for S corporations) is repealed.

* * * Property Transfer Tax * * *

Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 9602 is amended to read:

§ 9602. TAX ON TRANSFER OF TITLE TO PROPERTY

A tax is hereby imposed upon the transfer by deed of title to property located in this State, or a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest in any person with title to property in this State. The amount of the tax equals 1.25 percent of the value of the property transferred, or $1.00, whichever is greater, except as follows:

* * *

(4) Tax shall be imposed at the rate of 3.4 percent of the value of the property transferred with respect to transfers of residential property:

(A) ~~residential property~~ that is fit for habitation on a year-round basis;

(B) that will not be used as the principal residence of the transferee; and

(C) for which the transferee will not be required to provide a landlord certificate pursuant to section 6069 of this title.

(5) If a transfer would have been subject to the tax rate under subdivision (4) of this section but for the transferee's filing of a landlord certificate of rent for which there is no bona fide landlord-tenant relationship between the parties, the Commissioner shall assess tax at the rate under subdivision (4) of this section on the transfer. To make this determination, the Commissioner may consider whether the transferee and tenant are related parties, whether the transferee charges the tenant fair market rent, whether the transferee is an entity with a business purpose other than the avoidance of property transfer tax, and any other factor the Commissioner deems relevant.

* * * Current Use; Land Use Change Tax * * *

Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 3757 is amended to read:

§ 3757. LAND USE CHANGE TAX

(a) Land that has been classified as agricultural land or managed forestland pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to a land use change tax upon the development of that land, as defined in section 3752 of this chapter. The tax shall be at the rate of 10 percent of the full fair market value of the changed land determined without regard to the use value appraisal. If changed land is a portion of a parcel, the fair market value of the changed land shall be the fair market value of the changed land as a separate parcel, divided by the common level of appraisal. Such fair market value shall be determined as of the date the land is no longer eligible for use value appraisal. This tax shall be in addition to the annual property tax imposed upon such property. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require payment of an additional land use change tax upon the subsequent development of the same land, nor shall it be construed to require payment of a land use change tax merely because previously eligible land becomes ineligible, provided no development of the land has occurred.

(b) Any owner of eligible land who wishes to withdraw land from use value appraisal shall notify the Director, who shall in turn notify the local assessing official. In the alternative, if the Director determines that

development has occurred, the Director shall notify the local assessing official of ~~his or her~~ the Director's determination. Thereafter, land that has been withdrawn or developed shall be appraised and listed at its full fair market value in accordance with the provisions of chapter 121 of this title and subsection 3756(d) of this title, according to the appraisal model and land schedule of the municipality.

(c) For the purposes of the land use change tax, the determination of the fair market value of the land shall be made by the local assessing officials in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ subsection (b) of this section and divided by the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal as determined by the Director. The determination shall be made within 30 days after the Director notifies the local assessing officials of the date that the owner has petitioned for withdrawal from use value appraisal or that the Director or local assessing official has determined that development has occurred. The local assessing officials shall notify the Director and the owner of their determination~~, and the~~. Failing a determination of the fair market value of the withdrawn portion of the parcel by the local assessing officials within 30 days as required under this subsection, the Director shall establish the fair market value of the changed land and notify the local assessing officials and the owner of the Director's determination within 30 days. The provisions for appeal relating to property tax assessments in chapter 131 of this title shall apply, except that the owner shall have 30 days to appeal the determination to the municipality or to the Director as applicable under this subsection. If an owner erroneously appeals a municipality's determination to the Director, the Director may forward the appeal to the municipality and, provided the appeal to the Director is made within 30 days as permitted under this subsection, the appeal shall be considered timely filed to the municipality.

(d) The land use change tax shall be due and payable by the owner 30 days after the tax notice is mailed to the ~~taxpayer~~ owner. The tax shall be paid to the Commissioner, who, if the municipality's local assessing officials timely determine fair market value of the withdrawn portion of the parcel pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall remit to the municipality the lesser of one-half the tax paid or $2,000.00~~. The Director~~ and shall deposit three-quarters of the remainder of the tax paid in the Education Fund, and one-quarter of the remainder of the tax paid in the General Fund. If the municipality's local assessing officials fail to timely determine fair market value of the withdrawn portion of the parcel pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the municipality shall forfeit any tax paid and the Commissioner shall deposit three-quarters of the tax paid in the Education Fund, and one-quarter of the tax paid in the General Fund. The Commissioner shall issue a form to the assessing officials that shall provide for a description of the land developed, the amount of tax

payable, and the fair market value of the land at the time of development or withdrawal from use value appraisal. The owner shall fill out the form and shall sign it under the penalty of perjury. After receipt of the completed and signed form, the Commissioner shall furnish the owner with one copy, shall retain one copy, and shall forward one copy to the local assessing officials, one copy to the register of deeds of the municipality in which the land is located, and one copy to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets if the land is agricultural land and in all other cases to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

* * *

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 3758(b) is amended to read:

(b) Any owner who is aggrieved by the determination of the fair market value of classified land for the purpose of computing the land use change tax may appeal in the same manner as an appeal of a grand list valuation under this title, except that the owner shall have 30 days to appeal the determination to the municipality or to the Director as applicable under subsection 3757(c) of this chapter.

Sec. 4a. 32 V.S.A. § 3755(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) A management report of whatever activity has occurred, signed by ~~the~~ an owner or forester working on behalf of an owner, has been filed with the Department of Taxes' Director of Property Valuation and Review on or before February 1 of the year following the year when the management activity occurred.

Sec. 4b. 32 V.S.A. § 4463 is amended to read:

§ 4463. OBJECTIONS TO APPEAL

When a taxpayer, an agent designated by the legislative body of the town, or selectboard claims that an appeal to the Director is in any manner defective or was not lawfully taken, on or before ~~14~~ 30 days after mailing of the notice of ~~appeal by the clerk under Rule 74(b) of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure~~ receipt of the appeal by the Director**,** the taxpayer, town agent, or selectboard shall file objections in writing with the Director, and furnish the appellant or appellant's attorney with a copy of the objections. When the taxpayer, agent, or selectboard so requests, the Director shall thereupon fix a time and place for hearing the objections, and shall notify all parties thereof, by mail or otherwise. Upon hearing or otherwise, the Director shall pass upon the objections and make such order in relation thereto as is required by law. The order shall be recorded or attached in the town clerk's office in the book wherein the appeal is recorded.

Sec. 4c. REPEAL; GRAND LIST CONTENTS

2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60 (grand list contents) is repealed.

* * * Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program * * *

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 3710(c) is amended to read:

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

* * * Communications Property; Inventories * * *

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 36026 is amended to read:

§ 3602b. COMMUNICATIONS PROPERTY

(a) All communications property shall be set in the grand list as real estate.

(b) Communications property owned by a nonmunicipal communications service provider shall be taxed at appraisal value as defined in section 3481 of this title.

(c) As used in this section, "communications property" means tangible personal property used to enable the real-time, two-way, electromagnetic transmission of information, such as audio, video, and data, that is so fitted and attached as to be part of a local, state, national, or international communications network, as well as facilities that are part of a cable television system as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 501(2). The term includes wires, cables, conduit, pipes, antennas, poles, and wireless towers. The term does not include property used solely for one-way, broadcast radio or television transmission serving the general public and owned and operated by a licensed broadcaster.

(d)(1) On or before May 1 of each year, the Division of Property Valuation and Review of the Department of Taxes shall provide the listers in each municipality with the valuation of all taxable communications property of any communications service provider situated therein as reported by such provider to the Division.

(2) On or before March 31 of each year, each communications service provider shall submit to the Division a sworn inventory of all its taxable communications property in a form that identifies the valuation of its property in each municipality. If the communications service provider fails to submit the inventory on or before April 15 and in the form prescribed, the Commissioner may fine the provider not more than $100.00 for each violation, unless the provider's failure is due to factors beyond the provider's control.

(3) The Division shall prescribe the form of the inventory required under subdivision (2) of this subsection and the officer or officers who shall submit the sworn inventory. If a communications service provider willfully omits to make, swear to, and submit an inventory, or to answer any interrogatory therein, or makes a false answer or statement therein, then the Division shall ascertain the amount and fair market value of the provider's communications property using the best information available to the Division. In addition to the fine under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the provider shall be barred from any statutory appeal under this chapter or chapter 129 or 131 of this title of the value set by the Division under this subdivision.

(4) The valuations provided to the listers pursuant to this section shall be used by the listers in determining and fixing the valuations of communications property for the purposes of property taxation.

* * * Equalization Study * * *

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 5405(a) is amended to read:

(a) Annually, on or before April 1, the Commissioner shall determine the equalized education property tax grand list and coefficient of dispersion for each municipality in the State; provided, however, that for purposes of equalizing grand lists pursuant to this section, the equalized education property tax grand list of a municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district or a housing development site under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 shall include the fair market value of the property in the district or site and not the original taxable value of the property, and further provided that the unified towns and gores of Essex County may be treated as one municipality for the purpose of determining an equalized education property grand list and a coefficient of dispersion, if the Director determines that all such entities have a uniform appraisal schedule and uniform appraisal practices.

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 5406 is amended to read:

§ 5406. NOTICE OF FAIR MARKET VALUE AND COEFFICIENT OF DISPERSION

* * *

(c) If the Director of Property Valuation and Review certifies that a municipality has completed a townwide reappraisal, the common level of appraisal for that municipality shall be ~~equal to its new grand list value divided by its most recent equalized grand list value~~ 100 percent, for purposes of determining education property tax rates.

* * * Health IT Fund Sunset Extension * * *

Sec. 9. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187, Sec. 5, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.1, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 144, Sec. 11, is further amended to read:

(10) Secs. 48–51 (health care claims tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2013, and Sec. 52 (Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2026~~ 2031.

Sec. 10. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 75, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.2, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 144, Sec. 12, is further amended to read:

Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(b) Sec. 73 (further amending 32 V.S.A. § 10402) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2026~~ 2031.

* * * Inflation Index Updates * * *

Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 559(e)(7) is amended to read:

(7) Nothing in this section shall require a school board or supervisory union board to invite or advertise for bids if it is renewing a contract entered into pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided that:

(A) annual costs will not increase more than the most recent ~~New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index~~ National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator, as of November 15, for ~~State~~ state and local government ~~purchases of goods and services,~~ consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis;

(B) the total amount of the contract does not exceed an increase of 30 percent more than the total amount of the original contract~~,~~; and

(C) the contract for the renewal period allows termination by the board following an annual review of performance.

Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 2959a(d) is amended to read:

(d) If the amount of Medicaid reimbursement funds received for services provided in the prior State fiscal year exceeds $25,000,000.00, in addition to the 50 percent of the funds paid to supervisory unions submitting Medicaid bills, 25 percent of the amounts in excess of the $25,000,000.00 shall be paid into an incentive fund created in the Agency of Education. These funds shall be used for an incentive payment to supervisory unions with student participation rates of over 80 percent in accordance with a formula to be developed by the Agency, in consultation with the Vermont Superintendents Association. For any incentive payments made subsequent to fiscal year 2007, the $25,000,000.00 threshold of this subsection shall be increased by the percentage increase of the most recent ~~New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index~~ National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator, as of November 15, for state and local government ~~purchases of goods and services~~ consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the payment is being determined, plus an additional one-tenth of one percent.

Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 4011(b) is amended to read:

(b) For each fiscal year, the base education amount shall be $6,800.00, increased by the most recent ~~New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index~~ National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator, as of November 15, for state and local government ~~purchases of goods and services~~ consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, plus an additional one-tenth of one percent.

Sec. 14. 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12)(B) is amended to read:

(B) In excess of 118 percent of the statewide average district per pupil education spending increased by inflation, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date. As used in this subdivision, "increased by inflation" means increasing the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025 by the most recent ~~New England Economic Project cumulative price index~~ National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator, as of November 15, for state and local government ~~purchases of goods and services~~ consumption expenditures and gross investment published

by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined.

* * * Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit * * *

Sec. 15. 32 V.S.A. § 6062(c) is amended to read:

(c) When a homestead is owned by two or more persons as joint tenants, tenants by the entirety, or tenants in common and one or more of these persons are not members of the claimant's household, the property tax is the same proportion of the property tax levied on that homestead as the proportion of ownership of the homestead by the claimant and members of the claimant's household; provided, however, that:

* * *

(3) the property tax of a claimant who is a joint tenant with a former spouse and who has possession of the homestead pursuant to the joint owners' final divorce decree is the property tax for which the claimant is responsible under the joint owners' final divorce decree or any modifying orders; ~~and~~

(4) if the homestead is a portion of a duplex and all owners of the duplex occupy some portion of the building as their principal residence, the property tax of the claimant shall be that percentage of the total property tax equal to the ratio of the claimant's principal residence value to the total duplex building value; and

(5) the property tax of a claimant who is a joint tenant or tenant by the entirety with a spouse who is not a member of the household, and who is party to a divorce or separation proceeding in a court of law, shall be 100 percent of the property tax.

* * * Estate Tax * * *

Sec. 16. 32 V.S.A. § 7444(a) is amended to read:

(a) An executor shall submit a Vermont estate tax return to the Commissioner, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, when a decedent has an interest in property with a situs in Vermont and one or both of the following apply:

(1) a federal estate tax return is required to be filed under 26 U.S.C. § 6018; or

(2) the sum of the federal gross estate and federal adjusted taxable gifts, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 2001(b), made within two years of the date of the decedent's death exceeds ~~$2,750,000.00~~ $5,000,000.00.

Sec. 17. 32 V.S.A. § 5930u(h) is amended to read:

(h) Credit allocation; Down Payment Assistance Program.

(1) In fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019, the allocating agency may award up to $125,000.00 in total first-year credit allocations for loans through the Down Payment Assistance Program created in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(2) In fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2026, the allocating agency may award up to $250,000.00 in total first-year credit allocations for loans through the Down Payment Assistance Program created in subdivision (b)(3) of this section.

(3) In fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031, the allocating agency may award up to $350,000.00 in total first-year credit allocations for loans through the Down Payment Assistance Program created in subdivision (b)(3) of this section.

* * * Federal Tax Credit for SGO Contributions * * *

Sec. 18. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code creates a new federal program to subsidize scholarships for expenses at public and private schools.

(2) Under the terms of the statute, states may voluntarily elect to participate in the program, or they may decline to participate.

(3) The decision concerning whether or not to participate in the program is to be made by "the Governor of the State or by such other individual, agency, or entity as is designated under State law to make such elections on behalf of the State with respect to Federal tax benefits."

Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 24 is added to read:

§ 24. GOVERNOR'S LIST OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Annually on December 1, the Governor, or designee, may elect to provide a list of organizations that satisfy the conditions of subsection (b) of this section to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury for purposes of making the federal qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship tax credit available for Vermont taxpayers under 26 U.S.C. § 25F. It shall be presumed that an organization listed in the previous year will be listed in the subsequent year unless the Governor finds that the organization has failed to meet the requirements of this section.

(b) An organization shall not be listed unless the organization meets the following criteria:

(1) it qualifies as a "scholarship granting organization" as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 25F(c)(5);

(2) it is a nonprofit organization with the core mission of providing educational opportunities to economically underprivileged students through after-school programs, summer programs, tutoring, and similar programs;

(3) all grants and scholarships provided by the organization are to students attending a public school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(7), or an independent school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(8), that is also capable of receiving public tuition;

(4) all grants and scholarships provided by the organization are for students to attend a program that is partnered with, or approved by, a public school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(7), or an independent school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(8), that is also capable of receiving public tuition; and

(5) when determining whether to award a scholarship, the organization does not discriminate against any student because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age or against a student with a disability, as that term is defined under 21 V.S.A. § 495d(5).

(c) Annually, on or before January 15, each scholarship granting organization listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in the previous calendar year shall provide a report to the House Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education providing the following information relating to activity in the previous year:

(1) the total amount provided in scholarships under this section;

(2) the total number of scholarships provided under this section;

(3) the total number of scholarship recipients;

(4) a complete list of after-school programs, summer programs, tutoring, and similar programs that scholarship recipients attended using scholarship funds provided by the organization and the amount of scholarship funds received by each program;

(5) the total number of individuals who made donations to the organization, including the zip code of each individual donor;

(6) the total amount of money received as donations;

(7) the total amount spent on administrative costs with a description of those administrative costs and an accounting of any unspent funds currently held; and

(8) a list identifying all employees, officers, and board members of the organization that includes, for every individual, the name of the position held and compensation received.

(d) In the Governor's discretion, the Governor may audit an organization seeking placement on the list, or a program receiving scholarship funds under this section, to ensure the organization meets all the requirements for placement as provided by this section and applicable federal law. The Governor shall not list an organization that the Governor knows is not in compliance with the requirements of this section or 26 U.S.C. § 25F(c)(5).

(e)(1) If the Attorney General finds that any provision of this act is rendered invalid due to a federal act, federal agency rule, or court of competent jurisdiction, the Attorney General shall submit written notice of the invalidation to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate that the provision is invalid.

(2) Upon receipt of the notice provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), neither the Governor nor the Governor's designee shall provide a list of organizations to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a) of this section until the General Assembly has enacted legislation addressing the invalidated provision.

* * * Definition of Parcel * * *

Sec. 20. 32 V.S.A. § 4152(a)(3) is amended to read:

(3) A brief description of each parcel of taxable real estate in the town. "Parcel" means all contiguous land in the same ownership, together with all improvements thereon, except for purposes of mapping and per parcel payments under subsections 4041a(a) and 5405(f) of this title, for which "parcel" means a separate and sellable lot or piece of real estate.

* * *

* * * Department of Fish and Wildlife Fee Setting * * *

Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 4132 is amended to read:

§ 4132. GENERAL DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

(a) The Commissioner shall have charge of the enforcement of the provisions of this part.

* * *

(e)(1) ~~The Commissioner, subject to the direction and approval of the Secretary, shall adopt and publish rules in the name of the Agency for reasonable fees or charges for the use of the lands, roads, buildings, other property, and the use of and tuition for the Green Mountain Conservation Camps, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603. Fees collected for the use of fish and wildlife lands and properties shall be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund~~ Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603 and with the approval of the Secretary, the Commissioner may:

(A) issue licenses for the long-term use of Department of Fish and Wildlife lands for research, academic study, commercial use, or use by regulated utilities; and

(B) set the tuition for the Green Mountain Conservation Camps.

(2) The Commissioner shall adopt by rule the fees to be charged for licenses and tuition authorized under this subsection. The Commissioner is prohibited from adopting by rule a requirement that an individual possess a license or permit in order to access lands owned or controlled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(3) Fees collected ~~for the use of fish and wildlife lands and properties~~ under this subsection shall be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

(4) As used in this subsection, "license" means a written instrument issued by the Commissioner that authorizes research, academic study, commercial use, or use by regulated utilities on Department lands but does not vest the licensee with any property rights.

* * *

Sec. 22. REPEAL; COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RULE ON FEES FOR THE USE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT LANDS AND FACILITIES

Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife Rule 2008-01, CVR 12-010-075, Fees for the Use of Fish and Wildlife Department Lands and Facilities, is repealed.

Sec. 23. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FEES

On or before January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall submit to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance recommended fees to be charged for the use of the lands, roads, buildings, or other property owned or controlled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife so that the General Assembly, consistent with the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 603, shall establish the fees by statute for the service or product provided or regulatory function performed.

* * * Grand List Assessment Date * * *

Sec. 24. 24 V.S.A. § 1892(b) is amended to read:

(b) When adopted by the act of the legislative body of that municipality, the plan shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor, and the creation of the district shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on ~~April~~ January 1 of the calendar year so voted by the municipal legislative body.

Sec. 25. 24 V.S.A. § 1904(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) When adopted by the act of the legislative body of that municipality, the plan shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor, and the creation of the district shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on ~~April~~ January 1 of the calendar year so voted by the municipal legislative body.

Sec. 26. 32 V.S.A. § 3481(1)(B)(iv) is amended to read:

(iv) a capitalization rate that is typical for the geographic area determined and published annually prior to ~~April~~ January 1 by the Division of Property Valuation and Review after consultation with the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

Sec. 27. 32 V.S.A. § 3482 is amended to read:

§ 3482. PROPERTY LISTED AT ONE PERCENT

Except as otherwise provided, all real and personal estate shall be set in the list at one percent of its listed value on ~~April~~ January 1, of the year of its appraisal.

Sec. 28. 32 V.S.A. § 3485 is amended to read:

§ 3485. RECORDS TO BE KEPT RELATING TO DEEDS AND MORTGAGES

(a) Annually on ~~April~~ January 1, ~~town~~ municipal clerks shall furnish the listers with copies of the property tax returns filed by the clerk under section 9610 of this title relating to deeds that were filed for record during the year ending on the first day of such month. However, upon request in writing by the listers, on or before the 15th day of each month, ~~town~~ municipal clerks shall furnish the listers with copies of the property transfer tax returns to deeds that were filed for record during the next preceding calendar month.

(b) Failure on the part of the ~~town~~ municipal clerk to furnish the copies required under subsection (a) of this section shall not render the town liable in damages to any person. A ~~town~~ municipal clerk who willfully fails to furnish the copies required under subsection (a) of this section shall be fined $10.00 for each offense.

Sec. 29. 32 V.S.A. § 3603(a) is amended to read:

(a) Construction equipment and other personal estate used in the construction or repair of highways, dams, reservoirs, public utilities, or buildings shall be listed and taxed on the same basis as other personal estate in the town in which it is located on ~~April~~ January 1. Such equipment brought into the State after ~~April~~ January 1 and prior to December 15 of any year shall be taxed as other personal estate for that year in the town in which it is first used for a normal full work shift. The owner or person in charge of any equipment enumerated in this section shall, upon request of the Treasurer or tax collector of any municipality, present evidence that it has been listed for tax purposes in a municipality in this State. The Transportation Board and other State agencies shall insert in all contracts for construction a term by which the contractor agrees to pay taxes assessed under this section and section 4151 of this title.

Sec. 30. 32 V.S.A. § 3610(b) is amended to read:

(b) The listers of each town and the appraisers of each unorganized town and gore shall list every perpetual lease in a separate record in which shall be shown as to each lease a brief description of the leased land, the fair market value of the land as appraised by them, the name of the lessor, the annual rental payable under the lease, and as of ~~April~~ January 1 of each year the name and address of the lessee. If for any reason the lease is exempt under subsection (d) of this section, the reason for the exemption shall be noted.

Sec. 31. 32 V.S.A. § 3618(c)(2) is amended to read:

(2) "Net book value" of property means the cost less depreciation of the property as shown on the federal income tax return required to be filed with the federal authorities on or nearest in advance of ~~April~~ January 1 in any year.

Sec. 32. 32 V.S.A. § 3651 is amended to read:

§ 3651. GENERAL RULE

Taxable real estate shall be set in the list to the last owner or possessor thereof on ~~April~~ January 1 in each year in the town, village, school, and fire district where it is situated.

Sec. 33. 32 V.S.A. § 3691 is amended to read:

§ 3691. GENERAL RULE

Taxable tangible personal estate shall be set in the list to the last owner thereof on ~~April~~ January 1 in each year, in the town, village, school, and fire district where such property is situated, with the exception that such personal estate situated within this State owned by persons residing outside the State or

by persons unknown to the listers shall be set in the list to the person having the same in charge, in the town, village, school, and fire district where the same is situated and shall be holden for all taxes assessed on such list. However, tangible personal estate owned by nonresident persons or corporation, and used in this State by the State or a department or institution thereof, under lease, contract or other agreement, written or oral, may be set in the list in the town where so used, to such nonresident owner.

Sec. 34. 32 V.S.A. § 3692(b) is amended to read:

(b) A trailer coach shall be taxed as real property by the town in which it is located notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section if it is situated in the town on the same trailer site or camp site for more than 180 days during the 365 days prior to ~~April~~ January 1. A trailer coach shall not be taxed as real property if it is stored on property on which the owner resides in another dwelling as a permanent residence.

Sec. 35. 32 V.S.A. § 3708 is amended to read:

§ 3708. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR LANDS HELD BY THE AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

* * *

(b) The State shall annually pay on or before October 31 to each municipality a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) that shall be the base payment as set forth under this section, for all ANR land, excluding buildings or other improvements thereon, as of ~~April~~ January 1 of the current year.

(c) The State shall establish the base payment for all ANR land, excluding buildings or other improvements thereon, as follows~~;~~:

(1) ~~On~~ on parcels acquired before April 1, 2016, 0.60 percent of the fair market value as appraised by the Director of Property Valuation and Review as of April 1 of fiscal year 2015;

(2) ~~On~~ on parcels acquired on or after April 1, 2016, the municipal tax rate of the fair market value as assessed on ~~April~~ January 1 in the year of acquisition by the municipality in which it is located.

* * *

Sec. 36. 32 V.S.A. § 3755(b) is amended to read:

(b) Managed forestland shall be eligible for use value appraisal under this chapter only if:

(1) The land is subject to a forest management plan, subject to a conservation management plan in the case of lands certified under 10 V.S.A.

§ 6306(b), that is filed in the manner and form required by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and that:

* * *

(D) Provides for continued conservation management, reserve forestland management, or forest crop production on the parcel for 10 years. An initial forest management plan or conservation management plan must be filed with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation on or before October 1 and shall be effective for a 10-year period beginning the following ~~April~~ January 1. Prior to expiration of a 10-year plan and on or before ~~April~~ January 1of the year in which the plan expires, the owner shall file a new conservation or forest management plan for the next succeeding 10 years to remain in the program.

* * *

(2) A management report of whatever activity has occurred, signed by an owner or forester working on behalf of an owner, has been filed with the Department of Taxes' Director of Property Valuation and Review on or before February 1 of the year following the year when the management activity occurred.

(3) There has not been filed with the Director an adverse inspection report by the Department stating that the management of the tract is contrary to the forest management plan, conservation management plan, or contrary to the minimum acceptable standards for forest or conservation management. The management activity report shall be on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes and shall be signed by all the owners and shall contain the tax identification numbers of all the owners. All information contained within the management activity report shall be forwarded to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, except for any tax identification number included in the report. If any owner satisfies the Department that ~~he or she~~ the owner was prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing an initial or revised management plan that is required to be filed on or before October 1, or a management plan update that is required to be filed on or before ~~April~~ January 1 of the year in which the plan expires, or a management activity report that is required to be filed on or before February 1 of the year following the year when the management activity occurred, the owner may submit that management plan or management activity report at a later date; provided, however, no initial or revised management plan shall be received later than December 31, and no management plan update shall be received later than one

year after ~~April~~ January 1of the year the plan expires, and no management activity report shall be received later than March 1.

Sec. 37. 32 V.S.A. § 3802a is amended to read:

§ 3802a. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INSURANCE INFORMATION

Before ~~April~~ January 1 of each year, owners of property exempt from taxation under subdivisions 3802(4), (6), (9), (12), and (15) and under subdivisions 5401(10)(D), (F), (G), and (J) of this title shall provide their local assessing officials with information regarding the insurance replacement cost of the exempt property or with a written explanation of why the property is not insured.

Sec. 38. 32 V.S.A. § 3850(d) is amended to read:

(d) If a dwelling unit is certified as blighted under subsection (b) of this section, the exemption shall take effect on the ~~April~~ January 1 following the certification of the dwelling unit.

Sec. 39. 32 V.S.A. § 4001(a) is amended to read:

(a) Annually on ~~April~~ January 1, at the expense of the State, the Director shall furnish to the several ~~town~~ municipal clerks and boards of appraisers for unorganized towns and gores inventory forms sufficient in number to meet the requirements of this chapter. Such forms shall be formulated by the Director and, among other things, shall contain suitable interrogatories requiring each taxpayer to furnish therein a brief statement of all of each taxpayer's taxable property, real and personal, and such other information, including income and expense information with respect to any income-producing properties, as will enable the listers or appraisers to appraise such part thereof as is required by law to be by them appraised, and to make up the abstract of individual lists and grand list in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 40. 32 V.S.A. § 4004 is amended to read:

§ 4004. RETURN OF INVENTORIES BY INDIVIDUALS

On or before ~~April~~ January 20, unless otherwise required, every taxable person shall procure such inventory form, make full answers to all interrogatories therein, subscribe the same, make oath thereto, and deliver or forward the same to one of the listers in the town wherein such person owns or possesses property required by law to be set to ~~him or her~~ the person in the grand list. When notice in writing to file, deliver, or forward such inventory on or before a given date is delivered by one of the listers to a person, or mailed postage prepaid to ~~him or her~~ the person at ~~his or her~~ the person's last known post office address, such person, within the time therein specified, shall

properly fill out such inventory and deliver or forward the same to one of the listers, notwithstanding ~~he or she~~ the person may not own or possess property subject to taxation. Persons taxable only for real estate shall not be required to file such inventory unless notified so to do as herein provided.

Sec. 41. 32 V.S.A. § 4041 is amended to read:

§ 4041. EXAMINATION OF PROPERTY; APPRAISAL

On ~~April~~ January 1, the listers and assessors shall proceed to take up such inventories and make such personal examination of the property that they are required to appraise as will enable them to appraise it at its fair market value. When a board of listers is of the opinion that expert advice or assistance is needed in making any appraisal required by law, it may, with approval of ~~selectboard~~ the legislative body of the municipality or by vote of the ~~town~~ municipality, employ such assistance.

Sec. 42. 32 V.S.A. § 4044 is amended to read:

§ 4044. APPRAISAL OF PERSONALTY ON ~~APRIL~~ JANUARY 1

Unless otherwise provided, the taxable personal estate contained in the inventory shall be appraised by the listers at its fair market value on ~~April~~ January 1.

Sec. 43. 32 V.S.A. § 4045 is amended to read:

§ 4045. APPRAISAL ON OTHER THAN ~~APRIL~~ JANUARY 1

If any business is normally operated for a period less than 12 consecutive months and is not in operation on ~~April~~ January 1, an inventory shall be filed with the listers at least 15 days prior to the anticipated annual suspension of such business and the stock in trade shall be appraised for the period of operation so as to represent an average of values of such property during that period in which the business has been carried on.

Sec. 44. 32 V.S.A. § 4605 is amended to read:

§ 4605. ASSESSMENT WHEN APPRAISAL ON OTHER THAN ~~APRIL~~ JANUARY 1

* * *

Sec. 45. 32 V.S.A. § 5401(7) is amended to read:

(7) "Homestead":

(A) "Homestead" means the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by a resident individual as the individual's domicile or owned and fully leased on ~~April~~ January 1, provided

the property is not leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year or, for purposes of the renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title, is rented and occupied by a resident individual as the individual's domicile.

* * *

(G) For purposes of homestead declaration and application of the homestead property tax rate, "homestead" also means a residence that was the homestead of the decedent at the date of death and, from the date of death through the next ~~April~~ January 1, is held by the estate of the decedent and not rented.

* * *

Sec. 46. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) An exemption of a portion of the value of a qualified rental unit parcel. An owner of a qualified rental unit parcel shall be entitled to an exemption on the education property tax grand list of 10 percent of the grand list value of the parcel, multiplied by the ratio of square footage of improvements used for or related to residential rental purposes to total square footage of all improvements, multiplied by the ratio of qualified rental units to total residential rental units on the parcel. "Qualified rental units" means residential rental units that are subject to rent restriction under provisions of State or federal law but excluding units subject to rent restrictions under only one of the following programs: Section 8 moderate rehabilitation, Section 8 housing choice vouchers, or Section 236 or Section 515 rural development rental housing. A municipality shall allow the percentage exemption under this subsection upon presentation by the taxpayer to the municipality, by ~~April~~ January 1, of a certificate of education grand list value exemption obtained from the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA). VHFA shall issue a certificate of exemption upon presentation by the taxpayer of information that VHFA and the Commissioner shall require. A certificate of exemption issued by VHFA under this subsection shall expire upon transfer of the building, upon expiration of the rent restriction, or after 10 years, whichever first occurs; provided, however, that the certificate of exemption may be renewed after 10 years and every 10 years thereafter if VHFA finds that the property continues to meet the requirements of this subsection.

Sec. 47. 32 V.S.A. § 5405 is amended to read:

§ 5405. DETERMINATION OF EQUALIZED EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND LIST AND COEFFICIENT OF DISPERSION

(a) Annually, on or before April 1, the Commissioner shall determine the equalized education property tax grand list and coefficient of dispersion for

each municipality in the State; provided, however, that for purposes of equalizing grand lists pursuant to this section, the equalized education property tax grand list of a municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district shall include the fair market value of the property in the district and not the original taxable value of the property, and further provided that the unified towns and gores of Essex County may be treated as one municipality for the purpose of determining an equalized education property grand list and a coefficient of dispersion, if the Director determines that all such entities have a uniform appraisal schedule and uniform appraisal practices.

* * *

(c) In determining the fair market value of property that is required to be listed at fair market value, the Commissioner shall take into consideration those factors required by section 3481 of this title. The Commissioner shall value property as of ~~April~~ January 1 preceding the determination and shall take account of all homestead declaration information available before October 1 each year.

* * *

Sec. 48. 32 V.S.A. § 5410 is amended to read:

§ 5410. DECLARATION OF HOMESTEAD

(a) A homestead owner shall declare ownership of a homestead for purposes of education property tax.

(b) Annually, on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension, each homestead owner shall, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, which shall be verified under the pains and penalties of perjury, declare the owner's homestead, if any, as of, or expected to be as of, ~~April~~ January 1 of the year in which the declaration is made.

* * *

(d) The Commissioner shall provide a list of homesteads in each town to the ~~town~~ municipal listers and assessors by May 15. The listers and assessors shall notify the Commissioner by June 1 of any residences on the Commissioner's list that do not qualify as homesteads. The listers and assessors shall separately identify homesteads in the grand list.

* * *

* * * Municipal Tax Collection; State Oversight * * *

Sec. 49. 32 V.S.A. chapter 133, subchapter 9 is amended to read:

Subchapter 9. Delinquent Taxes

§ 5131. ~~SUPERVISION BY DIRECTOR~~

~~The Director shall supervise the collection of delinquent taxes by officials of towns and other municipal corporations.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 5132. ~~CONFERENCES; BULLETINS; FORMS~~

~~The Director may examine a tax list in the hands of a collector; shall confer from time to time with collectors, advise them concerning their official duties, and furnish them printed instructions and directions relating thereto; shall issue such bulletins as in the Director's judgment will aid in enforcing the law; and shall formulate and furnish the necessary forms for the use of officials required to make returns to the Director.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 5133. ~~MEETINGS OF TAX COLLECTORS~~

~~The Director shall call meetings of collectors of taxes to be held at such places and at such times as he or she shall designate for the purpose of instruction as to the law governing their official duties and concerning the collection of delinquent taxes.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 5134. ~~FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS; COMPENSATION~~

~~Collectors shall attend all meetings for instruction to which they are summoned in writing by the Director. When a collector is unable to attend, he or she shall notify forthwith the Director stating the cause of such inability and, in his or her discretion, the Director may summon such collector to attend such other meeting as he or she may designate. Collectors attending such meetings shall receive therefor from the treasury of their municipality not less than $10.00 per day and their necessary expenses.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 5135. ~~RETURNS TO DIRECTOR~~

~~Collectors and other officials named in this chapter shall render such assistance, furnish such information, and make such returns to the Director in relation to the subject of delinquent taxes and the administration of the law in reference thereto as he or she may require.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 50. [Deleted.]

Sec. 51. [Deleted.]

Sec. 52. [Deleted.]

Sec. 53. [Deleted.]

* * * 10-Year Tax Study * * *

Sec. 54. VERMONT 10-YEAR TAX STUDY

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office, with assistance from the Office of Legislative Counsel, and under the direction of the Joint Fiscal Committee, shall conduct a decennial study of Vermont State taxes.

(b) In conducting the study, the Joint Fiscal Office shall:

(1) Starting with 2015, analyze historical trends comparing Vermont taxes to the tax systems of other states, including a comparison of the percentage of Vermont revenue from each State-level source to the percentage of revenue from each state-level source in other states.

(2) Analyze Vermont's taxation levels and tax responsibilities per capita, per income level, and by incidence on typical Vermont families of varying incomes, and on typical Vermont business enterprises of varying sizes and types, and analyze trends in the taxpayer revenue bases for various tax types.

(3) Analyze and identify any issues or trends relating to tax flight, tax avoidance, and gaps in enforcement.

(4) Recommend areas for further research and analysis, including ways to further research the topics of wealth and income in Vermont's aging demographic.

(c) Based upon the information resulting from the study in subsection (b) of this section, the Joint Fiscal Office shall, as part of the study or separately, review income eligibility criteria for various tax provisions and benefit programs to assess where potential gaps in eligibility or benefits cliffs may exist under Vermont's existing tax laws.

(d) For purposes of the study conducted under this section, the Department of Taxes shall provide assistance as requested by the Joint Fiscal Office.

(e) In fiscal year 2027, $100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Joint Fiscal Office for consultant assistance, data analysis, and other expenses related to the study conducted under this section. The duty to implement this Sec. 54 of this act is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the Joint Fiscal Office for the specific purposes described in this section.

(f) The Joint Fiscal Office shall submit the Vermont 10-year tax study to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15, 2027.

* * * Link-Up and Decoupling from Federal Income Tax Laws * * *

Sec. 55. 32 V.S.A. § 5811 is amended to read:

§ 5811. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter ~~unless the context requires otherwise~~:

* * *

(18) "Vermont net income" means, for any taxable year and for any corporate taxpayer:

(A) the taxable income of the taxpayer for that taxable year under the laws of the United States, ~~without regard to 26 U.S.C. § 168(k), and~~ excluding income that under the laws of the United States is exempt from taxation by the states:

(i) increased by:

(I) the amount of any deduction for State and local taxes on or measured by income, franchise taxes measured by net income, franchise taxes for the privilege of doing business and capital stock taxes; ~~and~~

(II) to the extent such income is exempted from taxation under the laws of the United States ~~by~~, the amount received by the taxpayer on and after January 1, 1986, as interest income from state and local obligations, other than obligations of Vermont and its political subdivisions, and any dividends or other distributions from any fund to the extent such dividend or distribution is attributable to such Vermont State or local obligations;

(III) the amount of any deduction for a federal net operating loss; ~~and~~

(IV) an amount equal to the bonus depreciation deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(V) for any taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer, an amount equal to any deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under 26 U.S.C. § 174A and Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2). For purposes of this subdivision (V), the term "eligible taxpayer" means any taxpayer (other than a tax shelter prohibited from using the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting under 26 U.S.C. § 448(a)(3)) that meets the gross receipts test of 26 U.S.C. § 448(c) for the taxable year; and

(VI) an amount equal to the amount of income deducted under Section 250 of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year to the extent deducted from net income; and

(ii) decreased by:

(I) the "gross-up of dividends" required by the federal Internal Revenue Code to be taken into taxable income in connection with the taxpayer's election of the foreign tax credit;

(II) the amount of income that results from the required reduction in salaries and wages expense for corporations claiming the Targeted Job or WIN credits; ~~and~~

(III) any federal deduction or credit that the taxpayer would have been allowed for the cultivation, testing, processing, or sale of cannabis or cannabis products as authorized under 7 V.S.A. chapter 33 or 37, but for 26 U.S.C. § 280E;

(IV) for the taxable year in which the bonus depreciation deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the depreciation deduction that would be allowed on that property if the taxpayer had made the election under Section 168(k)(7) or (n)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code to not claim depreciation on that property. In the taxable year that property is sold or otherwise disposed of, an additional deduction shall be allowed to the extent the amount of depreciation claimed under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code on that property has not been recovered through the additional deductions provided under this subdivision (18). The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (18)(A)(ii)(IV) in all taxable years for any one piece of property shall not exceed the amount of the bonus depreciation deduction taken on that property on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the additional modifications taken for that property on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (i)(IV) of this subdivision (18)(A);

(V) for a taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year, as defined under subdivision (i)(V) of this subdivision (18)(A), for the taxable year in which a deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under 26 U.S.C. § 174A, or Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2), or both, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the deduction that would be allowed under 26 U.S.C. § 174 applied as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (18)(A)(ii)(V) in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken on that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (i)(V) of this subdivision (18)(A);

(VI) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (i)(V) of this subdivision (18)(A) and has domestic research or experimental expenditures, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 174A, as added by subsection 174A(a), which are paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021, and before January 1, 2025, and which was charged to capital account pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 174 as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024, and further elected under Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(1) to substitute "December 31, 2021" for "December 31, 2024" as the applicable effective date for certain provisions in 26 U.S.C. § 174A and accordingly filed an amended federal return for each taxable year affected by such election, for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, a taxpayer may elect to deduct any remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures in the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024, or to deduct such remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures ratably over the two-taxable year period beginning with the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (A)(ii)(VI) when combined with any other deduction for the domestic research or experimental expenditure allowed pursuant to Vermont's adoption of the statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax under section 5824 of this chapter in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(VII) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (i)(V) of this subdivision (18)(A) and has made an addition modification under subdivision (i)(V) in a prior tax year, an amount equal to the subtraction modification that would have been allowed in this taxable year under subdivision (A)(ii)(V) of this subdivision (18) but for the taxpayer's current status as an eligible taxpayer. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (18)(A)(ii)(VII) in all taxable years for any expenditure may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (i)(V) of this subdivision (18)(A) for expenditures paid or incurred in taxable years on or after January 1, 2025.

* * *

(21) "Taxable income" means, in the case of an individual, federal adjusted gross income ~~determined without regard to 26 U.S.C. § 168(k)~~ and:

(A) increased by the following items of income (to the extent such income is excluded from federal adjusted gross income):

(i) interest income from non-Vermont state and local obligations; ~~and~~

(ii) dividends or other distributions from any fund to the extent they are attributable to non-Vermont state or local obligations; ~~and~~

(iii) an amount equal to the bonus depreciation deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code, including any amount of bonus depreciation deduction carried over on the taxpayer's federal income tax return as part of a net operating loss from a prior taxable year that is deducted in the current taxable year;

(iv) for any taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer, an amount equal to any deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under 26 U.S.C. § 174A, or Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2), or both, and any amount of these deductions carried over on the taxpayer's federal income tax return as part of a net operating loss from a prior tax year that is deducted in the current taxable year. For purposes of this subdivision (iv), the term "eligible taxpayer" means any taxpayer (other than a tax shelter prohibited from using the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting under 26 U.S.C. § 448(a)(3)) that meets the gross receipts test of 26 U.S.C. § 448(c) for the taxable year; and

(v) an amount equal to any income or gain from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock excluded from federal gross income for the taxable year under Section 1202(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(B) decreased by the following items of income (to the extent such income is included in federal adjusted gross income):

(i) income from U.S. government obligations;

(ii)(I) with respect to adjusted net capital gain income as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1(h) reduced by the total amount of any qualified dividend income: either the first $5,000.00 of such adjusted net capital gain income or 40 percent of adjusted net capital gain income from the sale of assets held by the taxpayer for more than three years, except not adjusted net capital gain income from:

~~(I)~~(aa) the sale of any real estate or portion of real estate used by the taxpayer as a primary or nonprimary residence; or

~~(II)~~(bb) the sale of depreciable personal property other than farm property and standing timber; or stocks or bonds publicly traded or traded on an exchange, or any other financial instruments; regardless of whether sold by an individual or business; and provided that the total amount of decrease under this subdivision (21)(B)(ii) shall not exceed 40 percent of federal taxable income or $350,000.00, whichever is less;

(II) notwithstanding the limitation under subdivision (I)(bb) of this subdivision (ii) relating to "stocks or bonds publicly traded or traded on an exchange, or any other financial instruments," gains from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock added to taxable income under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (21) may be decreased pursuant to this subdivision (ii); accordingly, for the purposes of this subdivision (ii), adjusted net capital gain income, federal adjusted gross income, and federal taxable income shall include any amounts added to a taxpayer's taxable income pursuant to subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (21); and

(iii) recapture of State and local income tax deductions not taken against Vermont income tax;

(iv) the portion of certain retirement income and federally taxable benefits received under the federal Social Security Act that is required to be excluded under section 5830e of this chapter;

(v) the amount of any federal deduction or credit that the taxpayer would have been allowed for the cultivation, testing, processing, or sale of cannabis or cannabis products as authorized under 7 V.S.A. chapter 33 or 37, but for 26 U.S.C. § 280E; ~~and~~

(vi) the amount of interest paid by a qualified resident taxpayer during the taxable year on a qualified education loan for the costs of attendance at an eligible educational institution;

(vii) for the taxable year in which the bonus depreciation deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the depreciation deduction that would be allowed on that property if the taxpayer had made the election under Section 168(k)(7) or (n)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code to not claim bonus depreciation on that property. In the taxable year that property is sold or otherwise disposed of, an additional deduction shall be allowed to the extent the amount of depreciation claimed under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code on that property has not been recovered through the additional deductions provided under this subdivision (21). The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (21)(B)(vii) in all taxable years for any one

piece of property shall not exceed the amount of the bonus depreciation deduction taken on that property on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken for that property on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(iii) of this subdivision (21); and

(viii) for a taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year, as defined under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21), for the taxable year in which a deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under 26 U.S.C. § 174A, or Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2), or both, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the deduction that would be allowed under 26 U.S.C. § 174 applied as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (21)(B)(viii) in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken on that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21);

(ix) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21) and has domestic research or experimental expenditures, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 174A, as added by subsection 174A(a), which are paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021, and before January 1, 2025, and which was charged to capital account pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 174 as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024, and elected under Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(1) to substitute "December 31, 2021" for "December 31, 2024" as the applicable effective date for certain provisions in 26 U.S.C. § 174A and accordingly filed an amended federal return for each taxable year affected by such election, for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, a taxpayer may elect to deduct any remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures in the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024, or to deduct such remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures ratably over the two-taxable year period beginning with the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (21)(B)(ix) when combined with any other deduction for the domestic research or experimental expenditure allowed pursuant to Vermont's adoption of the statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax under section 5824 of this chapter in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken

for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(x) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21) and has made an addition modification under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21) in a prior tax year, an amount equal to the subtraction modification that would have been allowed in this taxable year under subdivision (viii) of this subdivision (21)(B) but for the taxpayer's current status as an eligible taxpayer. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (21)(B)(x) in all taxable years for any expenditure may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (21) for expenditures paid or incurred in taxable years on or after January 1, 2025.

* * *

(28) "Taxable income" means, in the case of an estate or a trust, federal taxable income ~~determined without regard to 26 U.S.C. § 168(k)~~ and:

(A) increased by the following items of income:

(i) interest income from non-Vermont state and local obligations;

(ii) dividends or other distributions from any fund to the extent they are attributable to non-Vermont state or local obligations; and

(iii) the amount of State and local income taxes deducted from federal gross income for the taxable year; ~~and~~

(iv) an amount equal to the bonus depreciation deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code, including any amount of bonus depreciation deduction carried over on the taxpayer's federal income tax return as part of a net operating loss from a prior tax year that is deducted in the current taxable year;

(v) for any taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer, an amount equal to any deduction taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year under 26 U.S.C. § 174A or Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2), or both, and any amount of these deductions carried over on the taxpayer's federal income tax return as part of a net operating loss from a prior tax year that is deducted in the current taxable year. For purposes of this subdivision (v), the term "eligible taxpayer" means any

taxpayer (other than a tax shelter prohibited from using the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting under 26 U.S.C. § 448(a)(3)) that meets the gross receipts test of 26 U.S.C. § 448(c) for the taxable year; and

(vi) an amount equal to any income or gain from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock excluded from federal gross income for the taxable year under Section 1202(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(B) decreased by the following items of income:

(i) income from U.S. government obligations;

(ii)(I) with respect to adjusted net capital gain income as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1(h) reduced by the total amount of any qualified dividend income: either the first $5,000.00 of such adjusted net capital gain income or 40 percent of adjusted net capital gain income from the sale of assets held by the taxpayer for more than three years, except not adjusted net capital gain income from:

~~(I)~~(aa) the sale of any real estate or portion of real estate used by the taxpayer as a primary or nonprimary residence; or

~~(II)~~(bb) the sale of depreciable personal property other than farm property and standing timber; or stocks or bonds publicly traded or traded on an exchange, or any other financial instruments; regardless of whether sold by an individual or business; and provided that the total amount of decrease under this subdivision (28)(B)(ii) shall not exceed 40 percent of federal taxable income or $350,000.00, whichever is less;

(II) notwithstanding the limitation under subdivision (I)(bb) of this subdivision (ii) relating to "stocks or bonds publicly traded or traded on an exchange, or any other financial instruments," gains from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock added to taxable income under subdivision (A)(vi) of this subdivision (28) may be decreased pursuant to this subdivision (ii); accordingly, for the purposes of this subdivision (ii), adjusted net capital gain income, federal adjusted gross income, and federal taxable income shall include any amounts added to a taxpayer's taxable income pursuant to subdivision (A)(vi) of this subdivision (28); and

(iii) recapture of State and local income tax deductions not taken against Vermont income tax;

(iv) for the taxable year in which the bonus depreciation deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the depreciation deduction that would be allowed on that property if the taxpayer had made the election under Section

168(k)(7) or (n)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code to not claim bonus depreciation on that property. In the taxable year that property is sold or otherwise disposed of, an additional deduction shall be allowed to the extent the amount of depreciation claimed under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code on that property has not been recovered through the additional deductions provided under this subdivision (28). The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (28)(B)(iv) in all taxable years for any one piece of property shall not exceed the amount of the bonus depreciation deduction taken on that property on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under Section 168(k) or (n) of the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken on that property on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(iv) of this subdivision (28);

(v) for a taxpayer that does not qualify as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year, as defined under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28), for the taxable year in which a deduction is taken on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under 26 U.S.C. § 174A, or Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(2), or both, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, an amount equal to the deduction that would be allowed under 26 U.S.C. § 174 applied as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken on that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28);

(vi) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28) and has domestic research or experimental expenditures, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 174A, as added by subsection 174A(a), which are paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021, and before January 1, 2025, and which was charged to capital account pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 174 as those provisions were in effect on December 31, 2024, and elected under Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (2025) § 70302(f)(1) to substitute "December 31, 2021" for "December 31, 2024" as the applicable effective date for certain provisions in 26 U.S.C. § 174A and accordingly filed an amended federal return for each taxable year affected by such election, for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and for each applicable taxable year thereafter, a taxpayer may elect to deduct any remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures in the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024, or to deduct such remaining unamortized amount with respect to such expenditures ratably over the two-taxable year period beginning with the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024. The

aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision (28)(B)(vi) when combined with any other deduction for the domestic research or experimental expenditure allowed pursuant to Vermont's adoption of the statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax under section 5824 of this chapter in all taxable years may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(vii) for a taxpayer that qualifies as an eligible taxpayer for the taxable year as defined under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28) and has made an addition modification under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28) in a prior tax year, an amount equal to the subtraction modification that would have been allowed in this taxable year under subdivision (v) of this subdivision (28)(B) but for the taxpayer's current status as an eligible taxpayer. The aggregate amount deducted under this subdivision in all taxable years for any expenditure may not exceed the amount of the deduction taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's federal income tax return under the Internal Revenue Code, or exceed the amount of the addition modifications taken for that expenditure on the taxpayer's Vermont income tax return under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (28) for expenditures paid or incurred in taxable years on or after January 1, 2025.

* * *

Sec. 56. 32 V.S.A. § 5822 is amended to read:

§ 5822. TAX ON INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES

* * *

(e) The tax determined under subsections (a) through (d) of this section shall be reduced by a percentage equal to the portion of adjusted gross income that is not Vermont income; provided, however, that if a taxpayer's Vermont income exceeds the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, no reduction shall be made and provided, further, that if a taxpayer has zero or negative Vermont income and the taxpayer's Vermont income computed without regard to the reductions in subsection 5823(a) of this chapter does not equal or exceed the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, no tax shall be due under this section. For the purposes of this subsection, adjusted gross income means federal adjusted gross income modified by the additions and subtractions provided for in subdivisions 5811(21)(A) and (B) of this chapter for an individual, and federal adjusted gross income modified by the additions and subtractions provided for in subdivisions 5811(28)(A) and (B) of this chapter for an estate or a trust.

Sec. 57. 32 V.S.A. § 5823 is amended to read:

§ 5823. VERMONT INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, ESTATES, AND TRUSTS

* * *

(b) For any taxable year, the Vermont income of a nonresident individual, estate, or trust is the sum of the following items of income to the extent they are required to be included in the federal adjusted gross income of the individual after the value of those items are modified by the additions and subtractions provided for in subdivisions 5811(21)(A) and (B) of this chapter or the ~~gross~~ federal adjusted gross income of an estate or trust after the value of those items are modified by the additions and subtractions provided for in subdivisions (28)(A) and (B) of this chapter for that taxable year:

* * *

Sec. 58. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ii is amended to read:

§ 5930ii. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

(a) A taxpayer of this State shall be eligible for a credit against the tax imposed under this chapter in an amount equal to ~~27~~ 75 percent of the amount of the federal tax credit allowed in the taxable year for eligible research and development expenditures under 26 U.S.C. § 41(a) that are made within this State.

(b) Any unused credit available under subsection (a) of this section may be carried forward for up to 10 years.

(c) Each year, on or before January 15, the Department of Taxes shall publish a list containing the names of the taxpayers who have claimed a credit under this section during the most recent completed calendar year.

Sec. 59. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ee is amended to read:

§ 5930ee. LIMITATIONS

Beginning in fiscal year 2010 and thereafter, the State Board may award tax credits to all qualified applicants under this subchapter, provided that:

(1) the total amount of tax credits awarded annually, together with sales tax reallocated under section 9819 of this title, does not exceed ~~$3,000,000.00~~ $3,500,000.00;

* * *

Sec. 60. 32 V.S.A. § 5824 is amended to read:

§ 5824. ADOPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS

The statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax, as in effect on December 31, ~~2024~~ 2025, but without regard to federal income tax rates under 26 U.S.C. § 1, are hereby adopted for the purpose of computing the tax liability under this chapter and shall continue in effect as adopted until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

Sec. 61. 32 V.S.A. § 7402(8) is amended to read:

(8) "Laws of the United States" means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, ~~2024~~ 2025. As used in this chapter, "Internal Revenue Code" has the same meaning as "laws of the United States" as defined in this subdivision. The date through which amendments to the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are adopted under this subdivision shall continue in effect until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

* * * Revenue Deposits; Purchase and Use and Meals and Rooms Taxes * * *

Sec. 62. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

(a) The Education Fund is established to comprise the following:

* * *

(4) ~~25~~ 29 percent of the revenues from the meals and rooms taxes imposed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 225;

(5) ~~one-third~~ 27 percent of the revenues raised from the purchase and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 219, notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 11(1);

* * *

Sec. 63. 32 V.S.A. § 435(b)(7) is amended to read:

(7) ~~69~~ 65 percent of the meals and rooms taxes levied pursuant to chapter 225 of this title;

* * * Burlington Waterfront TIF * * *

Sec. 63a. BURLINGTON WATERFRONT TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT; FINDINGS; INTENT

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) 1985 Acts and Resolves No. 87 authorized municipalities to create tax increment financing districts and to retain municipal tax increment pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5.

(2) The City of Burlington created the Burlington Waterfront Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in the Lake Street area of the City on January 22, 1996, prior to the creation of the statewide education property tax in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60.

(3) 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 45, created a statewide education property tax and authorized each municipality with an existing tax increment financing district under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5, to expand the existing district by June 30, 1997, and "to collect *all* state and local property taxes on properties within the tax increment financing district and apply those revenues to repayment of debt issued to finance improvements within the tax increment financing district" (emphasis added). This provision authorized the City of Burlington to retain 100 percent of the Burlington Waterfront TIF District's municipal and education property tax increment.

(4) The City of Burlington voted to expand the Burlington Waterfront TIF District on June 23, 1997, to include property extending along Cherry Street from Battery Street to Church Street.

(5) 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 83, extended the City of Burlington's authority to incur indebtedness for the TIF district by five years beginning January 1, 2010, and tasked the City of Burlington with submitting to the Joint Fiscal Committee "a proposal for implementation of a payment to the education fund in lieu of tax increment which would approximate 25 percent of the new incremental education property tax revenue and the mechanism for payment by the City to the education fund, including payment dates."

(6) The City of Burlington submitted the proposal to the Joint Fiscal Committee on August 31, 2009, and explained that the payment in lieu of tax increment was intended to reduce the administrative complexity that would result from having "two TIF rates and two 'original taxable bases' within the same district." The proposal provided for a payment to the Education Fund of 25 percent of "the new incremental *education* property taxes" (emphasis added) on properties within the Burlington Waterfront TIF District other than 35 Cherry Street and 41 Cherry Street. For these two properties, the City proposed to retain 100 percent of the property tax increment.

(7) The Joint Fiscal Committee approved the City of Burlington's proposal on September 10, 2009, and the General Assembly enacted the terms of the proposal in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 45, Sec.16. This legislation left untouched the municipal property tax increment retention percentage.

(8) 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 80 codified the City of Burlington's authorization to use education tax increment financing for the Burlington

Waterfront TIF District at 24 V.S.A. § 1892(d), extended the City's authority to incur indebtedness for the TIF district for five years beginning January 1, 2015, and clarified that the extension of the City's debt incurrence period did not extend the City's tax increment retention period.

(9) 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 134, Sec. 9a, extended the period to incur indebtedness for an additional one and a half years for three properties located at 49 Church Street and 75 Cherry Street, as designated on the City of Burlington's Tax Parcel Maps as Parcel ID# 044-4-004-000, Parcel ID# 044-4-004-001, and Parcel ID# 044-4-033-000. For these three properties, the General Assembly further authorized the City of Burlington to extend the City's tax increment retention period until June 30, 2035.

(10) 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 175, Sec. 29, further extended the period to incur indebtedness for these same three properties to June 30, 2022, provided that certain contingencies were met, and clarified that the extension of the City's debt incurrence period for these three properties did not extend the City's tax increment retention period.

(11) 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 26a, further extended the period to incur indebtedness for these same three properties to June 30, 2023.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify that the City of Burlington may retain until June 30, 2035, 75 percent of the State education tax increment and 100 percent of the municipal tax increment for the following three properties located at 49 Church Street and 75 Cherry Street, as designated on the City of Burlington's Tax Parcel Maps:

(1) Parcel ID# 044-4-004-000;

(2) Parcel ID# 044-4-004-001; and

(3) Parcel ID# 044-4-033-000.

(c) This section shall not be construed to modify the tax increment retention percentages for the Burlington Waterfront TIF District.

Sec. 63b. ADJUSTMENT OF RETENTION PERCENTAGES

On or before November 15, 2029, the City of Burlington shall submit an updated tax increment financing plan for the Burlington Waterfront Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. The plan shall include adjustments and updates of appropriate data and information sufficient for the Council to determine, based on tax increment financing debt actually incurred and the history of increment generated, whether the municipal tax increment and State education tax increment percentages should be continued or adjusted to a lower percentage

to be retained for the remaining duration of the retention period and still provide sufficient municipal and State education tax increment to service the remaining debt.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 64. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage except:

(1) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 1 (credit for taxes paid in another state by an S corporation) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025, and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

(2) Secs. 3 and 4 (current use; land use change tax) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

(3) Sec. 6 (communications property) shall take effect on January 1, 2027, and apply to grand lists lodged beginning on April 1, 2027.

(4) Sec. 20 (grand list definition of parcel) shall take effect on April 1, 2028, and shall apply to grand lists lodged on and after that date.

(5) Sec. 22 (Department of Fish and Wildlife rule on fees) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(6) Secs. 24–48 (grand list assessment date) shall take effect on July 1, 2031, and shall apply to grand lists lodged after that date.

(7) Sec. 58 (Vermont research and development tax credit) shall take effect on January 1, 2027, and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2027.

(8) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. 55–57 (decoupling from select provisions of IRC) and Secs. 60 and 61 (annual link-up) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2026, and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 26, 2026, pages 3601-3607 and March 27, 2026, page 3673)

Reported favorably by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Appropriations.

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

(Committee vote: 4-3-0)

H. 949.

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1, property dollar equivalent yield, income dollar equivalent yield, and nonhomestead property tax rate for fiscal year 2027, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. PROPERTY DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD, INCOME DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD, AND NONHOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

For fiscal year 2027 only:

(1) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b), the property dollar equivalent yield shall be $9,395.00.

(2) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b), the income dollar equivalent yield shall be $12,942.00.

(3) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5402(a)(1) and any other provision of law to the contrary, the nonhomestead property tax rate shall be $1.648 per $100.00 of equalized education property value.

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, Education Fund reserve; property tax rate offset, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 2 and 2a to read as follows:

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

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(6) "Education spending" means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising,

federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.

(A) [Repealed.]

(B) ~~For all bonds approved by voters prior to July 1, 2024, voter-approved~~ Voter-approved bond payments toward principal and interest shall not be included in "education spending" for purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12).

* * *

Sec. 2a. 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12) "Excess spending" means:

(A) The per pupil spending amount of the district's education spending, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), plus any amount required to be added from a capital construction reserve fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b).

(B) In excess of ~~118~~ 112 percent of the statewide average district per pupil education spending increased by inflation, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date. As used in this subdivision (B), "increased by inflation" means increasing the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025 by the most recent New England Economic Project cumulative price index, as of November 15, for state and local government purchases of goods and services, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined.

(C) A school district's excess spending shall be zero if any of the following conditions are met:

(i) the district's education spending is not greater than the district's educating spending for the preceding school year;

(ii) the district's per pupil education spending is not greater than the district's per pupil education spending for the preceding school year; or

(iii) the Secretary of Education, with the advice of three business managers and three superintendents selected by the Secretary, determines that the increase in the district's per pupil education spending above the excess spending threshold was for good cause or beyond the district's control, such as

due to emergency capital expenditures or substantial loss of pupils or offsetting revenues.

* * *

Third: By striking out Sec. 6, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof five new sections to be Secs. 6–10 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 6066(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed ~~$2,500.00~~ $3,250.00, to be calculated as follows:

(A) If the claimant's income is less than or equal to the extremely low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of fair market rent.

(B) If the claimant's income is greater than the extremely low-income limit but less than or equal to the very low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a percentage of the credit that is proportional to the claimant's income that is less than the very low-income limit, determined by:

(i) subtracting the claimant's income from the very low-income limit;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (1)(B) by the difference between the extremely low-income limit and the very low-income limit; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (1)(B) by ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of fair market rent.

(C) If the claimant's income is greater than the very low-income limit, the claimant shall not be entitled to a renter credit.

(D) A claimant who is eligible for a renter credit, including pursuant to this subsection (b), and who receives a rental subsidy shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of gross rent paid.

(E) A renter credit shall be prorated by the number of calendar months in the taxable year during which the claimant rented the homestead, except for a credit based on gross rent paid under subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(1), and by the portion of the principal dwelling used for business purposes, if the portion used for business purposes includes more than 25 percent of the floor space of the dwelling.

(2) The Commissioner shall calculate the credit under subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) using the fair market rent corresponding to a number of

bedrooms equal to the number of personal exemptions allowed under subdivision 5811(21)(C) of this title for the taxable year, provided that for claimants who resided with any person who was neither the claimant's dependent nor jointly filing spouse at any time during the taxable year, the Commissioner shall reduce the credit by 50 percent.

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 6067 is amended to read:

§ 6067. CREDIT LIMITATIONS

Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a property tax credit under this chapter. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter. No taxpayer shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of ~~$2,500.00~~ $3,250.00. No taxpayer shall receive a property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title greater than $2,400.00 or cumulative credit under subdivisions ~~6066(a)(1)-(2)~~ 6066(a)(1), (2), and (4) of this title greater than $5,600.00.

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 6066(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed ~~$3,250.00~~ $2,500.00, to be calculated as follows:

(A) If the claimant's income is less than or equal to the extremely low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of fair market rent.

(B) If the claimant's income is greater than the extremely low-income limit but less than or equal to the very low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a percentage of the credit that is proportional to the claimant's income that is less than the very low-income limit, determined by:

(i) subtracting the claimant's income from the very low-income limit;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (1)(B) by the difference between the extremely low-income limit and the very low-income limit; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (1)(B) by ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of fair market rent.

(C) If the claimant's income is greater than the very low-income limit, the claimant shall not be entitled to a renter credit.

(D) A claimant who is eligible for a renter credit, including pursuant to this subsection (b), and who receives a rental subsidy shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of gross rent paid.

(E) A renter credit shall be prorated by the number of calendar months in the taxable year during which the claimant rented the homestead, except for a credit based on gross rent paid under subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(1), and by the portion of the principal dwelling used for business purposes, if the portion used for business purposes includes more than 25 percent of the floor space of the dwelling.

(2) The Commissioner shall calculate the credit under subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) using the fair market rent corresponding to a number of bedrooms equal to the number of personal exemptions allowed under subdivision 5811(21)(C) of this title for the taxable year, provided that for claimants who resided with any person who was neither the claimant's dependent nor jointly filing spouse at any time during the taxable year, the Commissioner shall reduce the credit by 50 percent.

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 6067 is amended to read:

§ 6067. CREDIT LIMITATIONS

Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a property tax credit under this chapter. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter. No taxpayer shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of ~~$3,250.00~~ $2,500.00. No taxpayer shall receive a property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title greater than $2,400.00 or cumulative credit under subdivisions 6066(a)(1), (2), and (4) of this title greater than $5,600.00.

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 1 (yields), 3 (statewide adjustment correction), 4 (Barre TIF overpayment refund), 5 (census grant inflator), 6 (renter credit expansion), and 7 (renter credit cap increase) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Secs. 2 (exclusion of capital indebtedness from excess spending), 2a (excess spending threshold), 8 (renter credit narrowing), and 9 (renter credit cap reduction) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 25, 2026, pages 3567-3571)

Reported favorably by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Appropriations.

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

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 951.

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

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Appropriations.

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:

(For text of Report of Committee on Appropriations see Addendum to Senate Calendar for April 22, 2026)

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 26, 2026, pages 3581-3600, and March 27, 2026, page 3629)

Reported favorably by Senator Chittenden 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 Appropriations.

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

H. 952.

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

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Harrison for the Committee on Institutions.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~$111,965,288.44~~ $123,564,624.67 authorized in Secs. 2–16 this act, not more than ~~$61,969,761.44~~ $61,569,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

* * *

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

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

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

* * *

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

* * *

(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: ~~$1,500,000.00~~ $1,100,000.00

* * *

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

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: ~~$8,500,000.00~~ $8,538,413.18

* * *

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

* * *

(7) Montpelier, State House replacement of ~~historic~~ interior finishes: $50,000.00

(8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation: ~~$2,000,000.00~~ $1,000,000.00

* * *

(12) Montpelier, State House entryway upgrades, design documents, including comprehensive parking plan and delivery truck access, and second-floor egress design: $1,325,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026 ~~$13,726,680.44~~ $13,326,680.44

Appropriation – FY 2027 ~~$15,925,000.00~~ $15,188,413.18

Total Appropriation – Section 2 ~~$28,951,680.44~~ $28,515,093.62

Third: By striking out Sec. 3, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

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

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

* * *

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

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: ~~$1,000,000.00~~ $9,426,254.21

* * *

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

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

(7) Recovery House, Inc., residential treatment center, renovations: $220,000.00

(8) Maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other facilities serving the incarcerated women's population: $598,850.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2027 ~~$4,800,000.00~~ $14,245,104.21

Total Appropriation – Section 3 ~~$13,025,000.00~~ $22,470,104.21

Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 4a to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

* * *

(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~~ $400,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: ~~$300,000.00~~ $400,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2027 ~~$2,100,000.00~~ $2,300,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 5 ~~$4,200,000.00~~ $4,400,000.00

Fifth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a to read as follows:

Sec. 5a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

* * *

(g) The sum of $100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for technical support to municipalities to design and implement stormwater utilities.

Appropriation – FY 2026 $5,805,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 ~~$5,319,360.00~~ $5,419,360.00

Total Appropriation – Section 9 ~~$11,124,360.00~~ $11,224,360.00

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 8, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

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

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

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(r) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(3) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(3), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 11 (120 State Street renovation), $1,500,000.00 is reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

Bonded Dollars ~~$5,074,938.48~~ $9,816,118.67

Cash ~~$1,700,000.00~~ $7,136,711.70

Total Reallocations, Reversions, and Transfers – Section 17 ~~$6,774,938.48~~ $16,083,980.37

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 9, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

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

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

* * *

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

(f) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2027, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: $1,281,173.60

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

(3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: $1,000,000.00

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

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

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

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

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

(9) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for door control upgrades at correctional facilities: $2,700,000.00

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

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

(12) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility: $500,000.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(22) to the Department of Corrections to work with the Agency of Digital Services to install a Wi-Fi system in State correctional facilities that is appropriately designed to address the safety, security, and confidentiality risks of the correctional environment: $250,000.00

Eighth: In Sec. 13, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Little River State Park lease, following "Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166, in fiscal year 2027, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to" by striking out the words "enter into" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "negotiate"

Ninth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 14a to read as follows:

Sec. 14a. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO SELL 110 STATE STREET

2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22(a) (authority for BGS to sell 110 State Street, Montpelier) is repealed.

Tenth: By striking out Sec. 18, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof two new reader assistance headings and three new sections to be Secs. 18–20 to read as follows:

* * * Stormwater Utilities * * *

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4414(9) is amended to read:

(9) Stormwater management and control. Any municipality may adopt bylaws to implement stormwater management and control consistent with the program developed by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264. The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from

regulating stormwater under this subdivision, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw establishing a municipal stormwater utility. Municipalities shall not charge an impervious surface fee or other stormwater fee under this subdivision or under other provisions of this title on property regulated under the Required Agricultural Practices for discharges of agricultural waste or agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Sec. 19. 24 V.S.A. § 3626 is added to read:

§ 3626. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE AND OPERATE STORMWATER UTILITY

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

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House Amendments)

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 89.

An act relating to expanding survivor benefits.

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. 20 V.S.A. § 3171 is amended to read:

§ 3171. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) "Emergency personnel" means:

(A) firefighters as defined in subdivision 3151(3) of this title; ~~and~~

(B) emergency medical personnel and volunteer personnel as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651;

(C) law enforcement officers who have been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to section 2358 of this title;

(D) facility employees of the Department of Corrections and Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community;

(E) classified family services employees in the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families; and

(F) classified medical employees of State-operated therapeutic community residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units.

(4) "Line of duty" means:

(A) ~~answering or returning from~~ with respect to firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and volunteer personnel:

(i) service in answer to a call of the department or service for a fire or emergency ~~or~~, including going to and returning from a fire or emergency or participating in a fire or emergency training drill; or

~~(B)~~(ii) similar service in another town or district to which the department or service has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes;

(B) with respect to law enforcement officers:

(i) service as a law enforcement officer in answer to a complaint lodged with the department or in response to a disorder, including going to, returning from, and investigating or responding to the complaint or disorder; or

(ii) service under orders from the department or in any emergency for which the law enforcement officer serves as a law enforcement officer;

(C) with respect to covered employees of the Department of Corrections, discharging their duties as employees;

(D) with respect to classified family services employees in the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families, discharging their duties as employees; and

(E) with respect to classified medical employees of State-operated therapeutic community residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units, discharging their duties as employees.

* * *

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3172 is amended to read:

§ 3172. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL SURVIVORS BENEFIT REVIEW BOARD

(a)(1) There is created the Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board, which shall consist of the State Treasurer or designee, the Attorney General or designee, the Chief Fire Service Training Officer of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council or designee, and one member of the public to represent the interests of emergency personnel appointed by the Governor for a term of two years.

(2) Survivors of emergency personnel, employed by or who volunteer for the State of Vermont, a county or municipality of the State, or a nonprofit entity that provides services in the State, who die in the line of duty or of an occupation-related illness may request the Board award a monetary benefit under section 3173 of this ~~title~~ chapter, except survivors of emergency personnel as defined in subdivisions 3171(3)(C)–(F) of this chapter may request the monetary benefit only for deaths that occur on or after July 1, 2026.

(3) The Board shall be responsible for determining whether to award monetary benefits under section 3173 of this chapter. To assist the Board with applications involving deaths from occupation-related illness, the Board may pay reasonable fees from the Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Special Fund for a medical expert and other services as necessary to review applications and make recommendations to the Board.

(4) A decision to award monetary benefits shall be made by unanimous vote of the Board and shall be made within 60 days after the receipt of all information necessary to enable the Board to determine eligibility.

(5) The Board may request any information necessary for the exercise of its duties under this section. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Board from initiating the investigation or determination of a claim before being requested by a survivor or employer of emergency personnel.

* * *

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 3175 is amended to read:

§ 3175. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL SURVIVORS BENEFIT SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Special Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer for the purpose of the payment of claims distributed pursuant to this chapter. The Fund shall comprise

~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly, amounts transferred by the Emergency Board when the General Assembly is not in session, and contributions or donations from any other source. Expenses incurred pursuant to subdivision 3172(a)(3) of this chapter shall be paid from the Fund. All balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned shall remain in the Fund.

(b) In the event that the balance of the Fund is insufficient to pay monetary benefits awarded by the Board when the General Assembly is not in session, the Emergency Board may, pursuant to its authority under 32 V.S.A. § 133, transfer into the Fund additional amounts necessary to pay the monetary benefits.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 26.

An act relating to prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school.

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.

S.C.R. 11 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for April 23, 2026)

H.C.R. 262-270 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for April 23, 2026)

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 and the Cannabis Control Board, underlined below, shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Dani Delaini of Brattleboro, VT – Public Member of the State Infrastructure Bank Board – By Senator Hardy for the Committee on Finance (April 28, 2026)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Announcement: Public Hearing on Access to Primary Care

https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-health-care.

The House Committee on Healthcare will hold a **public hearing on Thursday, April 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in Room 11 of the State House. Those interested in testifying may attend the hearing in person or virtually.

The Committee will hear testimony on access to primary care and invites individuals to share their experiences, recommendations, and insights to inform members as they consider legislation related to primary care. **Anyone interested in testifying must sign up in advance of the hearing through the following online form no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 29.** For those planning to testify, instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent the morning of the hearing. Each participant will be given 2.5 minutes to testify.

Online sign-up form:

For those not planning to testify, the hearing will be available to watch live on YouTube using the following link: https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-health-care.

Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted through email to testimony@leg.state.vt.us or mailed to the House/Senate Committee on Healthcare, c/o Megan Cannella, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633. For more information about the format of this event, contact Megan Cannella at Megan.Cannella@vtleg.gov.

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 #3276: Twelve (12) limited-service positions to the Agency of Human Services, various departments, to staff the Rural Health Transformation Initiative. The Rural Health Transformation grant, JFO #3272 was approved at

the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting on February 6, 2026. All limited-service positions are expected to be funded through 9/30/2031.
[Received March 31, 2026]

JFO #3277: $36,000.00 to the Vermont Legislature, Sergeant at Arms office from the National Conference of State Legislatures. The grant will extend up to $500.00 to each member of the General Assembly to secure their homes. Funds would be available once as a reimbursement during the lawmaker's service for expenses incurred after June 1, 2026.
[Received April 14, 2026]

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 13, 2026**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day. Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 13, 2026.**

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 20, 2026**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

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).