

# Journal of the House

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Thursday, March 26, 2026

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

## Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotional.

## Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

### S. 89

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding survivor benefits

To the Committee on General and Housing.

### S. 154

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for biomarker testing

To the Committee on Health Care.

### S. 220

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the excess spending threshold

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

## Ceremonial Readings

### H.C.R. 170

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, McCoy of Poughkeepsie, Priestley of Bradford, and Pritchard of Pawlet

Offered by Senators Benson, Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating Robert Kilburn of Fair Haven on winning the 2024 Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award

*Whereas*, in the northern New England motor racing community, the white-haired and bearded, and red and white cap-wearing, Bob Kilburn is affectionately known as Santa Bob Kilburn, and he has developed an adoring fan base populated in good measure with children, and

*Whereas*, Santa Bob Kilburn was an enthusiastic young motor racing fan, but other than occasional go-kart driving, his motor racing career only started at fifty-seven and a half years of age, and

*Whereas*, despite this dubious and potentially reckless decision, Santa Bob Kilburn had the encouragement and support of his wife, Kris, and his audacious debut occurred at the Canaan (New Hampshire) Fair Speedway driving the racer Josh Constantine's former coupe, reminiscent of vintage 1960s and 1970s cars, and

*Whereas*, although he started in last place, Santa Bob Kilburn completed the race with his car in one piece, a major personal achievement, and

*Whereas*, Bear Ridge Speedway, a dirt track in Bradford, was his next venue, and the following year, he honed his driving skills at the then-paved Devil's Bowl Speedway, located just minutes from his Fair Haven home, and

*Whereas*, the next year, his perseverance at Devil's Bowl resulted in Rookie of the Year honors, and his fellow drivers saluted him with their peer-selected sportsmanship award, and

*Whereas*, on August 25, 2018, on a return visit to Bear Ridge Speedway, the then 62-year-old Santa Bob Kilburn realized his dream of clinching a race victory, and

*Whereas*, he and the far-younger drivers enjoy their mutual competition, and Santa Bob Kilburn, who has no biological children, boasts about his hundreds of children, meaning his numerous cheering young fans whom he befriends, and

*Whereas*, since 2012, the publication *Speedway Illustrated* has presented the Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award, which recognizes "a special individual who demonstrates the ideal representation of being a 'Real Racer'," and in 2024, Santa Bob Kilburn was the deserved honoree, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Robert Kilburn of Fair Haven on winning the 2024 Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Santa Bob Kilburn.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 23, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**H.C.R. 223**

Offered by Representatives Mihaly of Calais and Chapin of East Montpelier

House concurrent resolution honoring former Public Service Board Chair and East Montpelier Town Moderator Michael Dworkin

*Whereas*, Michael Dworkin was born in Philadelphia, and while attending Middlebury College, he interrupted his studies to work at the former Brandon Training School, where he observed the misguided warehousing of individuals with developmental disabilities and worked on innovative programming, and

*Whereas*, he also learned that toxins, such as lead, were a significant factor affecting the Brandon residents' cognitive abilities, a key factor that influenced his decision to pursue an environmental law career, and

*Whereas*, after graduating from Middlebury College summa cum laude in 1975, Michael Dworkin earned his law degree at Harvard Law School, cum laude, and clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, and

*Whereas*, as an appellate attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, his supervisors awarded him a medal of commendation, and

*Whereas*, after his 1983 marriage to Loring Starr, Michael Dworkin became a telecommunications attorney at the former Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) and subsequently served as the PSB's general counsel, and

*Whereas*, in 1995, Michael Dworkin entered the private sector as general counsel and managing partner at Riser Management Systems, providing telecommunications support services for high-rise buildings, and

*Whereas*, in 1999, Governor Howard Dean appointed Michael Dworkin as PSB chair, and in addition to presiding over energy and telecommunications regulatory proceedings, including the sale of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, he oversaw the Board's establishment of Efficiency Vermont, the nation's first energy efficiency utility, and

*Whereas*, in the midst of his hectic professional duties, Michael Dworkin was elected East Montpelier town moderator for several terms, presiding adroitly and knowledgeably at town meetings, and

*Whereas*, after chairing the PSB, Michael Dworkin was the founder and director of the Vermont Law and Graduate School's (VLGS) Institute for Energy and the Environment, creating a legal education program in these interconnected specialties, and internationally, he taught seminars in China for Pacific Rim attorneys and served as a visiting professor at the Te Piringa

School of Law, Politics, and Philosophy at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand, and

*Whereas*, upon leaving VLGS, he served as a director at both the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and the Vermont Electric Power Company, and as an academic and energy consultant, capping a stellar career of leadership and service, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors former Public Service Board Chair and East Montpelier Town Moderator Michael Dworkin, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Michael Dworkin and to members of his family.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 13, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**H.C.R. 229**

Offered by Representatives Dodge of Essex and Ode of Burlington

House concurrent resolution in memory of respected legal community leader, linguist, and musician Robert D. Rachlin

*Whereas*, during his long and active life, Bob Rachlin pursued diverse professional and personal interests with curiosity, discipline, devotion, and intellectual rigor, and

*Whereas*, whether engaged as an attorney, a role which ranged from the representation of individuals, small businesses, and major corporations before the Vermont Judiciary to working pro bono on behalf of federal terrorism detainees held at Guantanamo, Cuba; serving as a visiting associate professor and trustee at Vermont Law School; performing a piano concerto or sonata in a chamber ensemble or as a soloist; teaching college students a foreign language (he was proficient in six); serving as an adjunct lecturer in the German, Russian, and Hebrew Program at the University of Vermont; or engaged in Jewish studies with the Burlington Chabad community, he brought an enthusiastic passion to all these endeavors, and

*Whereas*, born in West Hartford, Connecticut, Bob Rachlin graduated from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School, and

*Whereas*, in 1959, he moved to St. Johnsbury and established a legal partnership with John Downs, and with the later addition of Allen Martin, the three attorneys grew their law firm, Downs Rachlin Martin (DRM), into one of Vermont's largest and most respected; he was instrumental in developing the

firm's Burlington office and, for over 60 years, was one of the State's leading legal practitioners, and

*Whereas*, Bob Rachlin's adventurous curiosity motivated him to earn not only a pilot's license, but also the more advanced instrument-landing rating; he also served as a flight instructor and, for many years, owned his own plane, and

*Whereas*, when welcoming new attorneys to DRM, he would offer tidbits of legal-practicing wisdom, such as higher expectations lead to improved performance, integrity is more important than winning, take the time to communicate clearly and concisely, have fun and don't take yourself too seriously, keep your mouth shut when you are winning, and the sage advice that there is more to life than billing time, and

*Whereas*, on his death at 89 years of age on December 27, 2025, Bob Rachlin left an enduring legacy, and his survivors include his wife of 45 years, Catherine; his children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues will fondly miss him, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Robert D. Rachlin, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Bob Rachlin and to DRM.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 20, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading; Bill Amended  
Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 951**

**Rep. Scheu of Middlebury** spoke for the Committee on Appropriations.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government

**Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill ought to pass.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Bluemle of Burlington, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Feltus of Lyndon, Kascenska of Burke, Laroche of Franklin, Mrowicki of Putney, Nigro of Bennington, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Yacavone of Morristown** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. A.108, legend, in subsection (b), following “the F” by inserting “sections contain the Pay Act; and the G”

Second: By striking out Sec. B.301, Secretary’s office - global commitment, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.301 to read as follows:

Sec. B.301 Secretary’s office - global commitment

Grants	<u>2,271,638,242</u>
Total	2,271,638,242
Source of funds	
General fund	743,251,131
Special funds	31,874,504
Tobacco fund	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,439,202,567
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>5,185,895</u>
Total	2,271,638,242

Third: By striking out Sec. B.311, health - administration and support, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.311 to read as follows:

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	9,530,484
Operating expenses	9,699,306
Grants	<u>600,918</u>
Total	19,830,708
Source of funds	
General fund	3,988,804
Special funds	1,584,462
Tobacco fund	70,101
Federal funds	9,440,311
Global Commitment fund	4,619,040
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>127,990</u>
Total	19,830,708

Fourth: By striking out Sec. B.316, Department for children and families - administration & support services, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.316 to read as follows:

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

Personal services	53,338,671
Operating expenses	21,318,873
Grants	<u>5,365,092</u>
Total	80,022,636
Source of funds	
General fund	54,276,350
Special funds	2,695,360
Federal funds	20,162,623
Global Commitment fund	2,261,300
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>627,003</u>
Total	80,022,636

Fifth: By striking out Sec. B.347, total human services, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.347 to read as follows:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds	
General fund	1,516,760,216
Special funds	256,576,042
Tobacco fund	23,091,905
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	2,011,953,188
Global Commitment fund	2,213,051,331
Internal service funds	676,463
Interdepartmental transfers	29,286,337
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>
Total	6,082,495,254

Sixth: By adding four new sections to be Secs. E.504.2–E.504.5 to read as follows:

Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 4021 is added to read:

§ 4021. ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Local adult education and literacy provider” has the same meaning as in section 942 of this title.

(2) “Statewide AEL student count” means the average annual number of students statewide who complete the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program over the previous two completed fiscal years.

(3) “Statewide AEL student-hours” means the average annual number of student-hours of instruction provided statewide for adult education and literacy activities over the previous two completed fiscal years.

(b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount multiplied by the statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall appropriate 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the funds from the General Fund.

(c) Payment allocations.

(1) Beginning in fiscal year 2029, the Secretary shall determine payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-county basis according to this subdivision.

(A) The Secretary shall first allocate \$80,000.00 to each county.

(B) The Secretary shall then allocate the remaining funds among the counties according to each county’s share of the statewide AEL student count.

(2) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to each local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program the amount determined pursuant to this section for each county in which the local adult education and literacy provider provides the county’s adult education and secondary credential program.

(3) For each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the Secretary shall determine payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-county basis according to this subdivision.

(A) The Secretary shall first allocate \$80,000.00 to each county.

(B) The Secretary shall then allocate among the counties 85 percent of the remaining funds according to each county’s share of the statewide AEL student count and 15 percent of the remaining funds according to each county’s share of the statewide AEL student-hours.

Sec. E.504.3 REPEAL

16 V.S.A. § 4021(c)(3) (adult education funding transition language) is repealed on July 1, 2028.

Sec. E.504.4 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f) is amended to read:

~~(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of the previous two completed fiscal years. Forty percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. E.504.5 16 V.S.A. § 4021(b) is amended to read:

(b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an amount equal to 26 percent of the categorical base education amount multiplied by the statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall appropriate 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the funds from the General Fund.

Seventh: By adding 10 new sections to be Secs. F.100–F.109 and their reader assistance headings to read as follows:

\* \* \* Collective Bargaining Agreements; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.100 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS; FISCAL  
YEARS 2027 AND 2028

(a) Fiscal year 2027. This act fully funds the first year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2027 an average 1.9 percent step increase and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on July 12, 2026, and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on January 10, 2027, for a total of a 5.9 percent increase.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. This act fully funds the second year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2028 an average 1.9 percent step increase and a 3.0 percent across-the-board increase for a total of a 4.9 percent increase.

\* \* \* Exempt Employees; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.101 EXEMPT EMPLOYEES; PERMITTED SALARY INCREASES;  
FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

(a) Fiscal year 2027. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2027 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2028 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

Sec. F.102 EXECUTIVE BRANCH; EXEMPT AGENCY AND  
DEPARTMENT HEADS, DEPUTIES, AND EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANTS; ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND  
SPECIAL SALARY INCREASE OR BONUS

(a) Fiscal year 2027. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b) and 1020(b), “the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement” shall be, in fiscal year 2027, 5.9 percent.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b) and 1020(b), “the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement” shall be, in fiscal year 2028, 4.9 percent.

\* \* \* Executive Branch; Miscellaneous Statutory Salaries;

Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.103 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS

(a) Each elective officer of the Executive Department is entitled to an annual salary as follows:

	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 14,</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 13,</u> <u>2025</u>
(1) Governor	\$222,371	\$234,379
(2) Lieutenant Governor	\$94,392	\$99,489
(3) Secretary of State	\$141,003	\$148,617
(4) State Treasurer	\$141,003	\$148,617
(5) Auditor of Accounts	\$141,003	\$148,617
(6) Attorney General	\$168,837	\$177,954

	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 12,</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>January 10,</u> <u>2027</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 11,</u> <u>2027</u>
(1) Governor	\$243,520	\$248,390	\$260,561
(2) Lieutenant Governor	\$103,369	\$105,436	\$110,602
(3) Secretary of State	\$154,413	\$157,501	\$165,219
(4) State Treasurer	\$154,413	\$157,501	\$165,219
(5) Auditor of Accounts	\$154,413	\$157,501	\$165,219
(6) Attorney General	\$184,894	\$188,592	\$197,833

(b) The Governor may appoint each officer of the Executive Branch listed in this subsection at a starting salary ranging from the base salary stated for that position to a salary that does not exceed the maximum salary unless otherwise authorized by this subsection. The maximum salary for each appointive officer shall be 50 percent above the base salary. Annually, the Governor may grant to each of those officers an annual salary adjustment subject to the maximum salary. The annual salary adjustment granted to officers under this subsection shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect. In addition to the annual salary adjustment specified in this subsection, the Governor may grant a special salary increase subject to

the maximum salary, or a bonus, to any officer listed in this subsection whose job duties have significantly increased, or whose contributions to the State in the preceding year are deemed especially significant. Special salary increases or bonuses granted to any individual shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect.

(1) Heads of the following Departments and Agencies:

	Base Salary as of July 14, 2024	Base Salary as of July 13, 2025
<del>(A) Administration</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
<del>(B) Agriculture, Food and Markets</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
<del>(C) Financial Regulation</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
<del>(D) Buildings and General Services</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
<del>(E) Children and Families</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
<del>(F) Commerce and Community Development</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
<del>(G) Corrections</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
<del>(H) Defender General</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>

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(I) <del>Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(J) <del>Economic Development</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(K) <del>Education</del>	\$134,466	\$141,727
(L) <del>Environmental Conservation</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(M) <del>Finance and Management</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(N) <del>Fish and Wildlife</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(O) <del>Forests, Parks and Recreation</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(P) <del>Health</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(Q) <del>Housing and Community Development</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(R) <del>Human Resources</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(S) <del>Human Services</del>	\$134,466	\$141,727
(T) <del>Digital Services</del>	\$134,466	\$141,727
(U) <del>Labor</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(V) <del>Libraries</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(W) <del>Liquor and Lottery</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
(X) <del>[Repealed.]</del>		
(Y) <del>Mental Health</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
(Z) <del>Military</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494

<del>(AA) Motor</del>			
Vehicles	\$114,031		\$120,189
<del>(BB) Natural</del>			
Resources	\$134,466		\$141,727
<del>(CC) Land Use Review</del>			
Board Chair	\$114,031		\$120,189
<del>(DD) Public Safety</del>	\$125,706		\$132,494
<del>(EE) Public Service</del>	\$125,706		\$132,494
<del>(FF) Taxes</del>	\$125,706		\$132,494
<del>(GG) Tourism and</del>			
Marketing	\$114,031		\$120,189
<del>(HH) Transportation</del>	\$134,466		\$141,727
<del>(II) Vermont Health</del>			
Access	\$125,706		\$132,494
<del>(JJ) Veterans' Home</del>	\$125,706		\$132,494
	<u>Base</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Base</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
	<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>	<u>July 11,</u>
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2027</u>
<u>(A) Administration</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
<u>(B) Agriculture,</u>			
<u>Food and</u>			
<u>Markets</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
<u>(C) Financial</u>			
<u>Regulation</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
<u>(D) Buildings and</u>			
<u>General Services</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
<u>(E) Children and</u>			
<u>Families</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>

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(F) <u>Commerce and</u>			
<u>Community</u>			
<u>Development</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(G) <u>Corrections</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(H) <u>Defender</u>			
<u>General</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(I) <u>Disabilities,</u>			
<u>Aging, and</u>			
<u>Independent</u>			
<u>Living</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(J) <u>Economic</u>			
<u>Development</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(K) <u>Education</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(L) <u>Environmental</u>			
<u>Conservation</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(M) <u>Finance and</u>			
<u>Management</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(N) <u>Fish and</u>			
<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(O) <u>Forests, Parks</u>			
<u>and Recreation</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(P) <u>Health</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(Q) <u>Housing and</u>			
<u>Community</u>			
<u>Development</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(R) <u>Human</u>			
<u>Resources</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(S) <u>Human Services</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(T) <u>Digital Services</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(U) <u>Labor</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>

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(V) <u>Libraries</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(W) <u>Liquor and</u>			
<u>Lottery</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(X) <u>[Repealed.]</u>			
(Y) <u>Mental Health</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(Z) <u>Military</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(AA) <u>Motor</u>			
<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(BB) <u>Natural</u>			
<u>Resources</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(CC) <u>Land Use Review</u>			
<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(DD) <u>Public Safety</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(EE) <u>Public Service</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(FF) <u>Taxes</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(GG) <u>Tourism and</u>			
<u>Marketing</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(HH) <u>Transportation</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(II) <u>Vermont Health</u>			
<u>Access</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(JJ) <u>Veterans' Home</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>

(2) [Repealed.]

(3) If the Chair of the Land Use Review Board is employed on less than a full-time basis, the hiring and salary maximums for that position shall be reduced proportionately.

(4) When a permanent employee is appointed to an exempt position, the Governor may authorize such employee to retain the present salary even though it is in excess of any salary maximum provided in statute.

\* \* \*

(d) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the Defender General shall not receive compensation in excess of the compensation established for the Attorney General in this section.

(e) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the maximum salary for the Commissioner of Health shall not exceed 100 percent above the base salary for this position.

\* \* \* Judicial Branch; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.104 32 V.S.A. § 1003(c) is amended to read:

(c) The officers of the Judicial Branch named in this subsection shall be entitled to annual salaries as follows:

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
<del>(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court</del>	<del>\$214,024</del>	<del>\$225,581</del>
<del>(2) Each Associate Justice</del>	<del>\$204,264</del>	<del>\$215,294</del>
<del>(3) Chief Superior Judge</del>	<del>\$204,264</del>	<del>\$215,294</del>
<del>(4) Each Superior Judge</del>	<del>\$194,185</del>	<del>\$204,671</del>
<del>(5) [Repealed.]</del>		
<del>(6) Each Magistrate</del>	<del>\$146,413</del>	<del>\$154,319</del>
<del>(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer</del>	<del>\$146,413</del>	<del>\$154,319</del>

	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 12,</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>January 10,</u> <u>2027</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 11,</u> <u>2027</u>
(1) <u>Chief Justice of</u> <u>Supreme Court</u>	<u>\$234,379</u>	<u>\$239,067</u>	<u>\$250,781</u>
(2) <u>Each Associate</u> <u>Justice</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
(3) <u>Chief Superior</u> <u>Judge</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
(4) <u>Each Superior</u> <u>Judge</u>	<u>\$212,653</u>	<u>\$216,906</u>	<u>\$227,534</u>
(5) <u>[Repealed.]</u>			
(6) <u>Each</u> <u>Magistrate</u>	<u>\$160,337</u>	<u>\$163,544</u>	<u>\$171,558</u>
(7) <u>Each Judicial</u> <u>Bureau hearing</u> <u>officer</u>	<u>\$160,337</u>	<u>\$163,544</u>	<u>\$171,558</u>

Sec. F.105 32 V.S.A. § 1141 is amended to read:

§ 1141. ASSISTANT JUDGES

(a)(1) Each assistant judge of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive compensation in the amount of ~~\$224.47 a day as of July 14, 2024 and \$236.59 a day as of July 13, 2025~~ \$245.82 a day as of July 12, 2026, \$250.74 a day as of January 10, 2027, and \$263.03 a day as of July 11, 2027, for time spent in the performance of official duties and necessary expenses as allowed to classified State employees. Compensation under this section shall be based on a two-hour minimum and hourly thereafter.

(2)(A) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the State except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2).

(B) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the county at the State rate established in subdivision (a)(1) of this section when an assistant judge is sitting with a presiding Superior judge in the Civil or Family Division of the Superior Court.

(b) Assistant judges of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive pay for such days as they attend court when it is in actual session or during a court recess when engaged in the special performance of official duties.

Sec. F.106 32 V.S.A. § 1142 is amended to read:

§ 1142. PROBATE JUDGES

(a) The Probate judges in the several Probate Districts shall be entitled to receive the following annual salaries, which shall be paid by the State in lieu of all fees or other compensation:

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
(1) <del>Addison</del>	\$76,555	\$80,689
(2) <del>Bennington</del>	\$96,776	\$102,002
(3) <del>Caledonia</del>	\$67,891	\$71,557
(4) <del>Chittenden</del>	\$161,506	\$170,227
(5) <del>Essex</del>	\$18,966	\$19,990
(6) <del>Franklin</del>	\$76,555	\$80,689
(7) <del>Grand Isle</del>	\$18,966	\$19,990
(8) <del>Lamoille</del>	\$53,443	\$56,329
(9) <del>Orange</del>	\$63,554	\$66,986
(10) <del>Orleans</del>	\$62,110	\$65,464
(11) <del>Rutland</del>	\$137,221	\$144,631
(12) <del>Washington</del>	\$105,441	\$111,135
(13) <del>Windham</del>	\$85,221	\$89,823
(14) <del>Windsor</del>	\$115,555	\$121,795

	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 12,</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>January 10,</u> <u>2027</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Salary</u> <u>as of</u> <u>July 11,</u> <u>2027</u>
(1) <u>Addison</u>	<u>\$83,836</u>	<u>\$85,513</u>	<u>\$89,703</u>
(2) <u>Bennington</u>	<u>\$105,980</u>	<u>\$108,100</u>	<u>\$113,397</u>
(3) <u>Caledonia</u>	<u>\$74,348</u>	<u>\$75,835</u>	<u>\$79,551</u>
(4) <u>Chittenden</u>	<u>\$176,866</u>	<u>\$180,403</u>	<u>\$189,243</u>
(5) <u>Essex</u>	<u>\$20,770</u>	<u>\$21,185</u>	<u>\$22,223</u>
(6) <u>Franklin</u>	<u>\$83,836</u>	<u>\$85,513</u>	<u>\$89,703</u>
(7) <u>Grand Isle</u>	<u>\$20,770</u>	<u>\$21,185</u>	<u>\$22,223</u>
(8) <u>Lamoille</u>	<u>\$58,526</u>	<u>\$59,697</u>	<u>\$62,622</u>
(9) <u>Orange</u>	<u>\$69,598</u>	<u>\$70,990</u>	<u>\$74,469</u>
(10) <u>Orleans</u>	<u>\$68,017</u>	<u>\$69,377</u>	<u>\$72,776</u>
(11) <u>Rutland</u>	<u>\$150,272</u>	<u>\$153,277</u>	<u>\$160,788</u>
(12) <u>Washington</u>	<u>\$115,469</u>	<u>\$117,778</u>	<u>\$123,549</u>
(13) <u>Windham</u>	<u>\$93,326</u>	<u>\$95,193</u>	<u>\$99,857</u>
(14) <u>Windsor</u>	<u>\$126,545</u>	<u>\$129,076</u>	<u>\$135,401</u>

(b) Probate judges shall be entitled to be paid by the State for their actual and necessary expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees. The compensation for the Probate judge of the Chittenden District shall be for full-time service.

(c) All Probate judges, regardless of the number of hours worked annually, shall be eligible to participate in all employee benefits that are available to exempt employees of the Judicial Department.

\* \* \* Sheriffs; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.107 32 V.S.A. § 1182 is amended to read:

§ 1182. SHERIFFS

(a) The sheriffs of all counties except Chittenden shall be entitled to receive salaries in the amount of ~~\$104,010.00 as of July 14, 2024 and \$109,627.00 as of July 13, 2025~~ \$113,902.00 as of July 12, 2026, \$116,180.00

as of January 10, 2027, and \$122,873.00 as of July 11, 2027. The Sheriff of Chittenden County shall be entitled to an annual salary in the amount of ~~\$110,070.00 as of July 14, 2024 and \$116,014.00 as of July 13, 2025~~ \$120,539.00 as of July 12, 2026, \$122,950.00 as of January 10, 2027, and \$128,975.00 as of July 11, 2027.

(b) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by 10 percent for any sheriff who has Level II but not obtained Level III law enforcement officer certification under 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* State's Attorneys; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

Sec. F.108 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:

§ 1183. STATE'S ATTORNEYS

(a) The State's Attorneys shall be entitled to receive annual salaries as follows:

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
<del>(1) Addison County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(2) Bennington County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(3) Caledonia County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(4) Chittenden County</del>	<del>\$147,087</del>	<del>\$155,030</del>
<del>(5) Essex County</del>	<del>\$105,521</del>	<del>\$111,219</del>
<del>(6) Franklin County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(7) Grand Isle County</del>	<del>\$105,521</del>	<del>\$111,219</del>
<del>(8) Lamoille County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(9) Orange County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(10) Orleans County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
<del>(11) Rutland County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>

<del>(12) Washington</del>			
County	\$140,691		\$148,288
(13) Windham County	\$140,691		\$148,288
(14) Windsor County	\$140,691		\$148,288
	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
	<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>	<u>July 11,</u>
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2027</u>
(1) Addison County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(2) Bennington			
County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(3) Caledonia County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(4) Chittenden County	\$161,076	\$164,298	\$172,349
(5) Essex County	\$115,557	\$117,868	\$123,644
(6) Franklin County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(7) Grand Isle County	\$115,557	\$117,868	\$123,644
(8) Lamoille County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(9) Orange County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(10) Orleans County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(11) Rutland County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(12) Washington			
County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(13) Windham County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852
(14) Windsor County	\$154,071	\$157,152	\$164,852

(b) In settlement of their accounts, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall allow the State's Attorneys the expense of printing briefs in cases in which the State's Attorney has represented the State and their necessary and actual expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees.

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\* \* \* Appropriations \* \* \*

Sec. F.109 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND  
2028

(a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:

(1) Fiscal year 2027.

(A) General Fund. The amount of \$23,918,820.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are \$27,184,607.00 from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

(2) Fiscal year 2028.

(A) General Fund. The amount of \$24,974,632.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are \$28,362,343.00 from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2028, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

(3) This section shall include sufficient funding to ensure administration of exempt pay plans authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 1020(c).

(b) Judicial Branch.

(1) The Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court may extend the provisions of the Judiciary's collective bargaining agreement to Judiciary employees who are not covered by the bargaining agreement.

(2) Fiscal year 2027. The first year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of \$3,800,867.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of \$277,316.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

(3) Fiscal year 2028. The second year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028, and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of \$2,466,396.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of \$179,952.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

(c) Legislative Branch.

(1) For the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of \$914,634.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.

(2) For the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of \$778,939.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. F.100, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section to be Sec. G.100 to read as follows:

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105, E.504.2, E.504.3, and E.504.4 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. E.307.1, E.307.2, E.307.3, and E.307.5 shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

(c) Secs. E.307.4 and E.923 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(d) Sec. E.504.5 (16 V.S.A. § 4021(b)) shall take effect upon the occurrence of the contingencies set forth in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 70(f).

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

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

**Recess**

At four o'clock and nine minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At four and forty-one minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

**Message from the Senate No. 33**

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

**S. 197.** An act relating to establishing a primary care payment reform program.

**S. 232.** An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries.

**S. 327.** An act relating to economic development.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

**Committee Bill; Consideration Resumed; Favorable Report;  
Second Reading; Amendment Offered; Amendment Offered and  
Withdrawn; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**

### H. 933

Consideration resumed from the prior legislative day on House bill, entitled

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

**Rep. Nigro of Bennington** provided the report of the Committee on Appropriations.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Tagliavia of Corinth** moved to amend the bill by striking out Secs. 18 and 19 (federal tax credit for SGO contributions) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 18 and 19 to read as follows:

Sec. 18. 3 V.S.A. § 24 is added to read:

#### § 24. GOVERNOR'S LIST OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING

##### ORGANIZATIONS

Annually on December 1, the Governor, or designee, may elect to provide a list of organizations 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 taxpayer contributions to Vermont scholarship granting organizations 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 26 U.S.C. § 25F.

Sec. 19. [Deleted.]

Which was disagreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Priestley of Bradford and Cole of Hartford** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 61a to read as follows:

\* \* \* Income Tax Brackets \* \* \*

Sec. 61a. 32 V.S.A. § 5822 is amended to read:

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

(a) A tax is imposed for each taxable year upon the taxable income earned or received in that year by every individual, estate, and trust, subject to income taxation under the laws of the United States, in an amount determined by the following tables, and adjusted as required under this section:

(1) Married individuals filing joint returns and surviving spouses:

If taxable income is:	The tax is:
Not over <del>\$64,600.00</del> <u>\$84,700.00</u>	3.35% of taxable income
Over <del>\$64,600.00</del> <u>\$84,700.00</u> but not over <del>\$156,150.00</del> <u>\$204,750.00</u>	<del>\$2,164.00</del> <u>\$2,837.00</u> plus 6.6% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$64,600.00</del> <u>\$84,700.00</u>
Over <del>\$156,150.00</del> <u>\$204,750.00</u> but not over <del>\$237,950.00</del> <u>\$312,050.00</u>	<del>\$8,206.00</del> <u>\$10,761.00</u> plus 7.6% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$156,150.00</del> <u>\$204,750.00</u>
Over <del>\$237,950.00</del> <u>\$312,050.00</u> but not over <del>\$500,000.00</del>	<del>\$14,423.00</del> <u>\$18,916.00</u> plus 8.75% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$237,950.00</del> <u>\$312,050.00</u>
Over <del>\$500,000.00</del> but not over <del>\$1,000,000.00</del>	<del>\$35,361.00</del> plus <u>11.75%</u> of the <u>amount of taxable income over</u> <u>\$500,000.00</u>
Over <del>\$1,000,000.00</del>	<del>\$94,111.00</del> plus <u>13.75%</u> of the <u>amount of taxable income over</u> <u>\$1,000,000.00</u>

## (2) Heads of households:

If taxable income is:	The tax is:
Not over <del>\$51,850.00</del> <u>\$68,000.00</u>	3.35% of taxable income
Over <del>\$51,850.00</del> <u>\$68,000.00</u> but not over <del>\$133,850.00</del> <u>\$175,500.00</u>	<del>\$1,737.00</del> <u>\$2,278.00</u> plus 6.6% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$51,850.00</del> <u>\$68,000.00</u>
Over <del>\$133,850.00</del> <u>\$175,500.00</u> but not over <del>\$216,700.00</del> <u>\$284,150.00</u>	<del>\$7,149.00</del> <u>\$9,373.00</u> plus 7.60% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$133,850.00</del> <u>\$175,500.00</u>
Over <del>\$216,700.00</del> <u>\$284,150.00</u> of <u>but not over \$455,300.00</u>	<del>\$13,446.00</del> <u>\$17,630.00</u> plus 8.75% the amount of taxable income over <del>\$216,700.00</del> <u>\$284,150.00</u>
<u>Over \$455,300.00 but not over \$910,600.00</u>	<del>\$32,606.00</del> plus 11.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$455,300.00</u>
<u>Over \$910,600.00</u>	<del>\$86,103.00</del> plus 13.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$910,600.00</u>

## (3) Unmarried individuals (other than surviving spouse or head of household):

If taxable income is:	The tax is:
Not over <del>\$38,700.00</del> <u>\$50,750.00</u>	3.35% of taxable income
Over <del>\$38,700.00</del> <u>\$50,750.00</u> but the not over <del>\$93,700.00</del> <u>\$122,850.00</u>	<del>\$1,296.00</del> <u>\$1,700.00</u> plus 6.6% of amount of taxable income over <del>\$38,700.00</del> <u>\$50,750.00</u>
Over <del>\$93,700.00</del> <u>\$122,850.00</u> but the not over <del>\$195,450.00</del> <u>\$256,300.00</u>	<del>\$4,926.00</del> <u>\$6,459.00</u> plus 7.6% of amount of taxable income over <del>\$93,700.00</del> <u>\$122,850.00</u>

Over <del>\$195,450.00</del> <u>\$256,300.00</u> but of <u>not over \$410,650.00</u>	<del>\$12,659.00</del> <u>\$16,601.00</u> plus 8.75%  the amount of taxable income over <del>\$195,450.00</del> <u>\$256,300.00</u>
Over <u>\$410,650.00</u> but not over <u>\$821,350.00</u>	<u>\$30,108.00</u> plus 11.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$410,650.00</u>
Over <u>\$821,350.00</u>	<u>\$78,362.00</u> plus 13.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$821,350.00</u>

## (4) Married individuals filing separate returns:

If taxable income is:	The tax is:
Not over <del>\$32,300.00</del> <u>\$42,350.00</u>	3.35% of taxable income
Over <del>\$32,300.00</del> <u>\$42,350.00</u> but the not over <del>\$78,075.00</del> <u>\$102,375.00</u>	<del>\$1,082.00</del> <u>\$1,419.00</u> plus 6.6% of amount of taxable income over <del>\$32,300.00</del> <u>\$42,350.00</u>
Over <del>\$78,075.00</del> <u>\$102,375.00</u> but the not over <del>\$118,975.00</del> <u>\$156,025.00</u>	<del>\$4,103.00</del> <u>\$5,380.00</u> plus 7.6% of amount of taxable income over <del>\$78,075.00</del> <u>\$102,375.00</u>
Over <del>\$118,975.00</del> <u>\$156,025.00</u> but not over <u>\$250,000.00</u>	<del>\$7,212.00</del> <u>\$9,458.00</u> plus 8.75% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$118,975.00</del> <u>\$156,025.00</u>
Over <u>\$250,000.00</u> but not over <u>\$500,000.00</u>	<u>\$17,681.00</u> plus 11.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$250,000.00</u>
Over <u>\$500,000.00</u>	<u>\$47,056.00</u> plus 13.75% of the amount of taxable income over <u>\$500,000.00</u>

## (5) Estates and trusts:

If taxable income is:	The tax is:
<del>\$2,600.00</del> <u>\$3,400.00</u> or less	3.35% of taxable income
Over <del>\$2,600.00</del> <u>\$3,400.00</u> but not over <del>\$6,100.00</del> <u>\$8,000.00</u>	<del>\$87.00</del> <u>\$114.00</u> plus 6.6% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$2,600.00</del> <u>\$3,400.00</u>
Over <del>\$6,100.00</del> <u>\$8,000.00</u> but not over <del>\$9,350.00</del> <u>\$12,250.00</u>	<del>\$318.00</del> <u>\$418.00</u> plus 7.6% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$6,100.00</del> <u>\$8,000.00</u>
Over <del>\$9,350.00</del> <u>\$12,250.00</u>	<del>\$565.00</del> <u>\$741.00</u> plus 8.75% of the amount of taxable income over <del>\$9,350.00</del> <u>\$12,250.00</u>

(6) If the federal adjusted gross income of the taxpayer exceeds \$150,000.00, then the tax calculated under this subsection shall be the greater of the tax calculated under subdivisions (1)–(5) of this subsection or three percent of the taxpayer’s federal adjusted gross income.

## (b) As used in this section:

(1) “Married individuals,” “surviving spouse,” “head of household,” “unmarried individual,” “estate,” and “trust” have the same meaning as under the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) The amounts of taxable income shown in the tables in this section shall be adjusted annually for inflation by the Commissioner of Taxes using the Consumer Price Index adjustment percentage, in the manner prescribed for inflation adjustment of federal income tax tables for the taxable year by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, beginning with taxable year ~~2003~~ 2026; provided, however, notwithstanding 26 U.S.C. § 1(f)(3), that as used in this subdivision, “consumer price index” means the last Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

\* \* \*

Second: By striking out Sec. 64, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 64 to read as follows:

## 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. 20 (grand list definition of parcel) shall take effect on April 1, 2027, and shall apply to grand lists lodged on and after that date.

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

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

(6) Sec. 56 (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.

(7) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 61a (income tax brackets) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2026, and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2026.

(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.

Thereupon, **Rep. Cole of Hartford** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock and Kornheiser of Brattleboro** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 55, 32 V.S.A. § 5811, in subdivision (21)(B)(ii), following “as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1(h)” by striking out “, but excluding any gain specifically included in taxable income under subdivision (A)(v) of this subdivision (21),”

Second: In Sec. 55, 32 V.S.A. § 5811, in subdivision (28)(B)(ii), following “as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1(h)” by striking out “, but excluding any gain specifically included in taxable income as described in subdivision (A)(vi) of this subdivision (28),”

Third: By striking out Sec. 64, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 64 to read as follows:

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. 20 (grand list definition of parcel) shall take effect on April 1, 2027, and shall apply to grand lists lodged on and after that date.

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

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

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

**Amendment Offered and Withdrawn; Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 949**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Logan of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, and Tomlinson of Winooski** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be Secs. 5a and 5b to read as follows:

\* \* \* Wealth Proceeds Tax \* \* \*

Sec. 5a. 32 V.S.A. chapter 149 is added to read:

CHAPTER 149. WEALTH PROCEEDS TAX

§ 5701. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Federal modified adjusted gross income” means modified adjusted gross income as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1411(d).

(2) “Threshold amount” has the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 1411(b).

(3) “Wealth proceeds” has the same meaning as net investment income in 26 U.S.C. § 1411(c) as adjusted by section 5703 of this chapter.

§ 5702. IMPOSITION OF VERMONT WEALTH PROCEEDS TAX

(a) A Vermont wealth proceeds tax is imposed for each taxable year on individuals, estates, and trusts subject to the personal income tax under chapter 151 of this title as follows:

(1) individuals filing as single or head of household with federal modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$200,000.00;

(2) married individuals filing jointly with federal modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$250,000.00;

(3) individuals filing as married filing separately with federal modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$125,000.00; and

(4) estates and trusts with adjusted gross income, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 67(e), exceeding the dollar amount at which the highest tax bracket begins for the taxable year under 26 U.S.C. § 1(e).

(b)(1) For individuals, tax is imposed at the rate of four percent of the lesser of:

(A) wealth proceeds for the taxable year; or

(B) federal modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year, reduced by the threshold amount.

(2) For estates and trusts, tax is imposed at the rate of four percent of the lesser of:

(A) undistributed wealth proceeds for the taxable year; or

(B) the dollar amount at which the highest tax bracket begins for the taxable year under 26 U.S.C. § 1(e).

(c) The tax imposed under this section shall be in addition to any other tax imposed under this title.

(d) For part-year and nonresident individuals, estates, and trusts, the tax imposed by this section shall be calculated by multiplying a taxpayer's total amount of wealth proceeds for the taxable year by the percentage of wealth proceeds allocable to Vermont under section 5823 of this title.

#### § 5703. DETERMINATION OF VERMONT WEALTH PROCEEDS

The wealth proceeds of an individual, estate, or trust means net investment income, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1411(c), and:

(1) increased by the following to the extent they are excluded from net investment income:

(A) income from state and local obligations outside Vermont;

(B) net gain excluded under 26 U.S.C. § 1202;

(C) net gain excluded under 26 U.S.C. § 1400Z-2;

(D) net gain attributable to disposition of property held in trade or business not described under 26 U.S.C. § 1411(c)(2);

(E) net gain described under the exception in 26 U.S.C. § 1411(c)(4);

(F) net gain excluded under 26 U.S.C. § 1411(c)(5), provided it is attributable to net unrealized appreciation within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. § 402(e)(4); and

(G) for a taxpayer who transferred property to an incomplete gift nongrantor trust, any amounts recognized as wealth proceeds under this section held by the trust, but reduced by any deductions of the trust, to the extent the wealth proceeds and deductions of the trust would be taken into account in computing the taxpayer's federal taxable income if the trust in its entirety were treated as a grantor trust for federal tax purposes; and

(2) decreased by the following to the extent they are included in net investment income:

(A) income from U.S. government obligations; and

(B) any amount exempted from state taxation under the laws of the United States.

§ 5704. ADMINISTRATION

The tax imposed under this chapter shall be administered and enforced under this chapter in the same manner as the income tax imposed under section 5822 of this title, including all provisions relating to deficiencies, assessments, refunds, appeals, enforcement, and collection under chapter 151, subchapters 8 and 9 of this title.

Sec. 5b. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

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

\* \* \*

(10) wind-powered electric generating facilities tax deposited pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402c; and

(11) revenues from the short-term rental surcharge under 32 V.S.A. § 9301; and

(12) revenues raised by the wealth proceeds tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 149.

\* \* \*

Second: By striking out Sec. 6, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, except Secs. 5a and 5b (wealth proceeds tax) shall take effect on January 1, 2027, and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2027.

Thereupon, **Rep. Logan of Burlington** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Thereafter, the bill was read the third time and passed.

**Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** presiding.

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Question Divided; Bill Amended;  
Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 944**

**Rep. Walker of Swanton** spoke for the Committee on Transportation.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the fiscal year 2027 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation

**Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended the bill ought to pass when amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 14, 32 V.S.A. § 3709, PILOT Special Fund, and Sec. 15, 19 V.S.A. § 306, appropriation; State aid for town highways, and the associated reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new Secs. 14 and 15 to read as follows:

Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 19, 23 V.S.A. chapter 43, mileage-based user fee, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 19 to read as follows:

Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. chapter 43 is added to read:

#### CHAPTER 43. ROAD USAGE CHARGES

##### Subchapter 1. Mileage-Based User Fee

#### § 4301. PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to impose a mileage-based user fee for battery electric vehicle pleasure cars to ensure that battery electric vehicles contribute to the Transportation Fund in an amount that reflects the annual miles traveled by each vehicle.

#### § 4302. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Account manager” means a person that the Agency of Transportation or Department of Motor Vehicles contracts with to administer and manage the mileage-based user fee.

(2) “Annual vehicle miles traveled” means the total number of miles that a BEV is driven during the mileage reporting period.

(3) “BEV” means a battery electric vehicle pleasure car.

(4) “Mileage-based user fee” means the fee charged for the annual vehicle miles traveled by a BEV pursuant to section 4303 of this chapter.

(5) “Mileage-based user fee rate” means the per-mile usage fee charged to the owner or lessee of a BEV pursuant to section 4303 of this chapter.

(6) "Mileage reporting period" means:

(A) the time period between annual inspections; or

(B) the time period between the most recent annual inspection and a terminating event.

(7) "Terminating event" means any of the following:

(A) the registering of a BEV that had been registered in Vermont in a different state;

(B) a change in ownership or lesseeship of a BEV; or

(C) the termination of a BEV's registration.

§ 4303. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE; ASSESSMENT; CALCULATION;  
PAYMENT; EXEMPTIONS

(a) Annual mileage-based user fee.

(1) The Commissioner shall, for each BEV registered in Vermont, calculate pursuant to subsection (b) of this section a mileage-based user fee within 14 days after the conclusion of the BEV's mileage reporting period.

(2) As soon as practicable after calculating the amount of the mileage-based user fee due for a BEV, the Commissioner shall mail to the registered owner or lessee of the BEV a statement of the amount of the mileage-based user fee assessed pursuant to this section.

(3) Not more than 45 days after a mileage-based user fee assessment is mailed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the owner or lessee of the BEV shall:

(A) remit the full amount of the mileage-based user fee to the Commissioner; or

(B) enter into an agreement with the Commissioner to pay the amount of the mileage-based user fee in quarterly or monthly installments.

(b) Calculation of the mileage-based user fee. The Commissioner shall calculate the mileage-based user fee of each BEV by multiplying the miles traveled by the BEV during the applicable period by the rate established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The number of miles traveled for a mileage reporting period shall be equal to the difference between the mileage shown on the BEV's odometer at the end of the mileage reporting period and the mileage shown on the BEV's odometer at the beginning of the mileage reporting period.

(c) Mileage-based user fee rate. The mileage-based user fee rate shall be \$0.014 per mile traveled by a BEV during its mileage reporting period.

(d) Exemptions. The mileage-based user fee assessed pursuant to this section shall not apply to:

- (1) BEVs owned or operated by the government of the United States;
- (2) BEVs that are owned or operated by the State; and
- (3) BEVs that are used in short-term rentals.

(e) Fee in addition to other fees and taxes. A mileage-based user fee assessed pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any other fees and taxes imposed by this title.

(f) Review of amount assessed. A person may, within 45 days after an assessment is mailed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, appeal the amount of the assessment to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall establish procedures for filing and hearing appeals pursuant to this subsection that are consistent with the provisions of sections 105–107 of this title. The procedures shall include a process by which an appellant can resolve the dispute prior to the issuance of a final administrative decision on the appeal.

(g) Refunds. Upon occurrence of a terminating event, the Commissioner shall issue a refund to the owner or lessee of a BEV for any amounts paid by the owner or lessee that are in excess of the amount due pursuant to this chapter.

#### § 4304. REPORTS

(a) Upon completion of an inspection of a BEV pursuant to section 1222 of this title, an inspection mechanic shall report the mileage shown on the BEV's odometer to the Department in the manner required by the Commissioner.

(b) Upon the occurrence of a terminating event, the owner or lessee of a BEV shall report the mileage shown on the BEV's odometer at the time of the terminating event to the Department in the time and manner required by the Commissioner.

#### § 4305. FAILURE TO PAY FEE WHEN DUE; INTEREST

(a) Any person who fails to pay the mileage-based user fee when due shall owe, in addition to the mileage-based user fee, interest calculated at one and one-half percent per month on the amount of the mileage-based user fee that remains unpaid. The maximum amount of interest that may accrue pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed 18 percent of the amount of the unpaid fee.

(b)(1) An individual may request at any time that the Commissioner waive some or all of the amount of the overdue fee or interest due, or both, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(2) The Commissioner may, upon receiving a request pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection or on the Commissioner's own motion, waive some or all of the amount of the overdue fee and interest required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section if the Commissioner determines that good cause existed for the delay in payment or that requiring repayment would constitute an economic hardship.

#### § 4306. FAILURE TO FILE REPORT; PENALTY RATE

If the Commissioner is unable to determine the annual vehicle miles traveled for a BEV because a person failed to file a report required by section 4304 of this chapter or failed to have the BEV inspected as required pursuant to section 1222 of this title within a reasonable period of time after the report or inspection is due, the Commissioner shall calculate the mileage-based user fee for the BEV based on the 98th percentile of the miles traveled by BEVs registered in Vermont during mileage reporting periods ending in the preceding calendar year.

#### § 4307. REGISTRATION; SUSPENSION OR REFUSAL

(a) Suspension of registration. The Commissioner may suspend or refuse to renew the registration of a BEV if the Commissioner determines, following notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, that the owner or lessee of the BEV:

(1) failed to file a report required pursuant to section 4304 of this chapter;

(2) filed a report containing an intentional misrepresentation, misstatement, or omission of material information required by this chapter; or

(3) is delinquent at the time of renewal in the payment amount due pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Notice and opportunity for hearing. The Commissioner shall provide the owner or lessee of a BEV with not less than 15 days' notice of the intent to suspend or not to renew the registration of the BEV pursuant to the provisions of this section. The owner or lessee shall be provided with the opportunity for a hearing and shall be permitted to be represented by counsel at the hearing.

#### § 4308. POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER

(a) General authority. The Commissioner shall have the authority to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Additional powers. In addition to any powers or authority specifically granted to the Commissioner pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the Commissioner may do the following:

(1) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as the Commissioner determines necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Prescribe forms appropriate to the purposes of this chapter.

(3) Contract with an account manager to administer and manage the mileage-based user fee.

#### § 4309. APPEALS; JUDICIAL REVIEW

(a) Administrative appeal. An aggrieved person may appeal any final decision, order, or finding of the Commissioner under this chapter within not more than 45 days after the decision is issued or the order or finding is made. The Commissioner shall establish procedures for filing and hearing appeals pursuant to this subsection that are consistent with the provisions of sections 105–107 of this title.

(b) Appeal to superior court. Following a final decision on an appeal pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or subsection 4303(f) of this chapter, the appellant may appeal the decision pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The appeal shall be to the Washington Superior Court or, in the discretion of the appellant, to the Superior Court in the county where the appellant resides or has a principal place of business.

(c) Exclusivity of remedies. The appeals provided by this section and subsection 4303(f) of this chapter shall be the exclusive remedies available to any person for review of an assessment, decision, or order or finding of the Commissioner under this chapter.

#### Subchapter 2. BEV Rental Vehicle Road Usage Charge

#### § 4321. BEV RENTAL VEHICLE ROAD USAGE CHARGE

(a) For any BEV pleasure car subject to use tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 8903(d), there is imposed on each rental transaction for a BEV a road usage charge equal to one percent of the rental charge, which shall be collected by the rental company from the renter and remitted to the Commissioner. Amounts collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Transportation Fund.

(b) As used in this section, rental charge has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 8903(d).

Third: By striking out Sec. 21, mileage-based user fee; transition, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 21 to read as follows:

Sec. 21. MILEAGE BASED USER FEE; TRANSITION

BEV pleasure cars that are registered in Vermont on December 31, 2026, shall transition to the mileage-based user fee established pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 43, subchapter 1 as follows:

(1) The initial mileage reporting period for each BEV shall commence on its first annual inspection occurring on or after January 1, 2027.

(2) If the initial mileage reporting period for a BEV begins before the BEV is required to renew its registration, the BEV shall receive a credit equal to \$89.00 towards the amount of the mileage-based user fee due pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 4303 for the initial mileage reporting period.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 22, allocation of fiscal year 2027 mileage-based user fee revenues, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 22 and 23 to read as follows:

Sec. 22. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE; PAY-AS-YOU-GO OPTION;  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN; REPORT

On or before February 15, 2027, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Transportation and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Finance regarding the potential for offering a pay-as-you-go option for the mileage-based user fee established pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 43, subchapter 1. The report shall provide a plan for implementation of a pay-as-you-go program as well as detailed information regarding:

(1) anticipated staffing, administration, and information technology necessary to implement and operate a pay-as-you-go program;

(2) anticipated costs related to the implementation and operation of a pay-as-you-go program; and

(3) legislative language necessary to enable a pay-as-you-go program.

Sec. 23. TRANSFER

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of 19 V.S.A. § 11f to the contrary, in State fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$2,200,000.00 is transferred from the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund to the Transportation Fund.

(b) Of the amount transferred, \$1,700,000.00 shall be allocated in State fiscal year 2027 to general State aid for town highways pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306(a). The amount allocated pursuant to this subsection shall be appropriated for class 1, 2, and 3 town highways and shall be apportioned, distributed, and used in the same manner as provided pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306(a)(3). The amount allocated pursuant to this subsection shall not decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306(a)(1) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in 19 V.S.A. § 306(a)(1) and (2).

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

**Speaker** presiding.

**Rep. Kascenska of Burke**, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means?, **Rep. Parsons of Newbury** asked that the question be divided to first consider the first instance of amendment and then consider the remainder of the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Speaker ruled the question was divisible in that manner.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means in the first instance of amendment?, **Rep. Bartley of Fairfax** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means in the first instance of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 84. Nays, 46.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Emmons of Springfield	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Feltus of Lyndon	Morris of Springfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Morrow of Weston
Berbeco of Winooski	Goldman of Rockingham	Mrowicki of Putney
Birong of Vergennes	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Nigro of Bennington
Bishop of Colchester	Graning of Jericho	North of Ferrisburgh
Black of Essex	Greer of Bennington	Noyes of Wolcott
Bluemle of Burlington	Harple of Glover	Ode of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Headrick of Burlington	Olson of Starksboro
Brady of Williston	Holcombe of Norwich	Page of Newport City
Branagan of Georgia	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pezzo of Colchester

Brown of Richmond	Howard of Rutland City	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burke of Brattleboro	Hoyt of Hartford	Rachelson of Burlington
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Hunter of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	James of Manchester	Scheu of Middlebury
Canfield of Fair Haven	Kimbell of Woodstock	Sibilia of Dover
Casey of Montpelier	Kleppner of Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Cina of Burlington	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Stevens of Waterbury
Cole of Hartford	Krasnow of South Burlington	Stone of Burlington
Conlon of Cornwall	Lalley of Shelburne	Tomlinson of Winooski
Cooper of Pownal	LaLonde of South Burlington	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	Logan of Burlington	Walker of Swanton
Critchlow of Colchester	Long of Newfane	Waszazak of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction	Marcotte of Coventry	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Donahue of Northfield	Masland of Thetford	Wells of Brownfield
Duke of Burlington	McGill of Bridport	White of Waitsfield *
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mihaly of Calais	White of Bethel
Eastes of Guilford		Wood of Waterbury
		Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton
Bosch of Clarendon	Gregoire of Fairfield	Morgan, M. of Milton
Boutin of Barre City	Hango of Berkshire	Morrissey of Bennington
Burditt of West Rutland	Harvey of Castleton	Nelson of Derby
Burrows of West Windsor	Higley of Lowell	Nielsen of Brandon
Carris Duncan of Whitingham	Hooper of Randolph	Nugent of South Burlington
Casey of Hubbardton	Howland of Rutland Town	Oliver of Sheldon
Charlton of Chester	Kascenska of Burke	Parsons of Newbury
Coffin of Cavendish	Keyser of Rutland City	Pinsonault of Dorset
Demar of Enosburgh	Labor of Morgan	Powers of Waterford
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Laroche of Franklin	Priestley of Bradford
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Lipsky of Stowe	Pritchard of Pawlet
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	Lueders of Lincoln	Quimby of Lyndon
Galfetti of Barre Town	Maguire of Rutland City	Sweeney of Shelburne
	McCoy of Poultney	Tagliavia of Corinth
	McFaun of Barre Town	Taylor of Mendon

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bailey of Hyde Park	Dodge of Essex	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bos-Lun of Westminster	LaMont of Morristown	Sheldon of Middlebury
Brigham of St. Albans Town	Luneau of St. Albans City	Southworth of Walden
Burt of Cabot	Malay of Pittsford	Steady of Milton
Chapin of East Montpelier	McCann of Montpelier	Taylor of Milton
Christie of Hartford	Micklus of Milton	Winter of Ludlow

**Rep. White of Waitsfield** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote in support of the Ways and Means Committee amendment, deleting the transfer of half the PILOT surplus fund to Town Highway Aid. However, towns across Vermont need assistance maintaining their roads and structures now and in the coming years. As a body, we need to address this growing problem.”

Thereafter, the remainder of the report of the Committee on Ways and Means was agreed to, and third reading ordered.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 941**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to municipal regulation of agriculture

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 657**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to enabling unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain certain services without parental consent

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Donahue of Northfield**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 727**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to sustainable data center deployment

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Sibilias of Dover**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 935**

House Committee bill, entitled

An act relating to emergency management

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Hango of Berkshire**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 938**

House Committee bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Maguire of Rutland City**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 67**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to legislative operations and government accountability

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 567**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to unclaimed property, State retirement systems, and capital debt

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Birong of Vergennes**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 650**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to educational technology products

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Graning of Jericho**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

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**Action on Bill Postponed****H. 772**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to residential rental agreements, eviction procedures, and the creation of the positive rental payment credit reporting pilot program

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Mihaly of Calais**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

**Remarks Journalized**

On motion by **Rep. Garofano of Essex**, the following remarks, from earlier in the day, by **Rep. Wood of Waterbury** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

I would like to take a brief moment to honor a dear friend and trusted colleague, Representative Topper McFaun. I only met Topper when I joined this legislative family eleven years ago, but he is one of those people you feel like you have known a lifetime. We’ve shared many laughs, triumphs, and a few tears.

Topper is a fixture in our legislative family but his service to Vermont started a long time ago, before he was elected to the Legislature. Topper’s roots in Vermont run deep, even though he still has that Massachusetts accent. Long before he was walking the halls of the Golden Dome, he was invested in his community of Barre Town. Whether it was through his years as an educator, his involvement in local town government, coaching youth hockey, or his devotion to his beautiful wife, Maryann, and their whole family.

Topper has also had a statewide impact as Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity in State government where he had a distinguished career helping low-income Vermonters. In a current world where politics seems like a series of finger pointing and blaming, Topper has consistently been the quiet, steady hand on the wheel. He is a man who understands that serving the public isn’t about winning an argument; its about solving a problem, but when the issue needed a strong, vocal, voice in the State House, he brought that too.

Topper has been an incredible advocate for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities, he sat with local parents as they went through the Human Services Board hearings time- and- time- again, and sat in their living rooms, and ultimately brought their challenges to the State House. He worked to establish new housing initiatives, and convinced people in the building the importance of housing for all people including people with disabilities.

In his twenty-two years in the State House, Topper represented a brand of politician that is increasingly rare. One defined by pragmatism, common sense, and a genuine care for the health and safety and well-being of all people. In the House, Topper has never been afraid to work with anyone who had an interest in tackling an issue. He famously coauthored legislation with one of the youngest Democratic House members to increase access to reproductive health education in schools, arguing that everybody could see the value in prevention. It is that kind of honest leadership that has earned him the respect of his colleagues, no matter the party.

From his work on the Human Services Committee to his work on the House Health Care Committee, to his tireless advocacy for Barre Town, he has shown us that you can be firm in your principles while remaining open to collaboration.

Topper, we thank you for your many years of dedication. You've taught us that public service is a marathon, not a sprint, and that the best way to lead is by listening. You are the true epitome of a statesman. We are not only a better state because of your work, but we are better people for knowing you. And I love you."

### **Adjournment**

At seven o'clock and fifteen minutes in the evening, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.