

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by music therapists Lynn Noble of Waitsfield, Shanna Meyer of Newbury, Maggie Connor of St. Albans Town, and Wrenn Compere of Waitsfield.

Bills Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, affecting the revenue of the State and materially affecting the revenue of one or more municipalities, pursuant to House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

S. 212

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to potable water supply and wastewater system connections

S. 328

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and common interest communities

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar Bill Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

S. 325

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 263**

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Brown of Richmond, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' basketball team

Whereas, prior to 2026, the top-seeded Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) Cougars girls' basketball program had never won an end-of-season championship, and

Whereas, securing a berth against second-seeded Rutland High School was simpler than the unusual championship game maze, which the Cougars successfully navigated on the hardwood floor at the University of Vermont's Patrick Gymnasium, and

Whereas, despite MMU's strong first-quarter offensive display, the Rutland team rebounded vigorously during the second and third quarters, leaving the Cougars to contend with a 22-point scoring deficit late in the third quarter, with only 8:46 remaining in the contest, and

Whereas, beginning with a 6–0 run during the third quarter's closing moments, the Cougars dominated fourth-quarter play, outscoring Rutland 30–6 to achieve a remarkable come-from-behind 62–60 victory and MMU's first Division I championship, and

Whereas, the amazing Cougar roster featured Emma Brownell, Morgan Campbell, Alyce Dorman, Victoria Farrell, Maya Guilmette, Allie Hamilton, Katie Hamilton, Delilah Locher, Maysa Long, Keeley Long, Margaret Morley, Nora Page, Madelyn Skar, Monae Taylor, and Genevieve Wasser, and

Whereas, Head Coach Mark Pfaff and assistant coaches Bruce Audette, Jen Hempey, Nan Campbell, Meghan O'Sullivan, Jenna Page, and Luke Stone inspired the team to surge ahead despite overwhelming odds, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2026 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' basketball team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to MMU.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 24, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to
Other Committee**

S. 206

Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of Professional Regulation

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Human Services, which was agreed to.

**Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of
Amendment Not Concurred in; Committee of Conference Requested and
Appointed; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

H. 951

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government
Was taken up for immediate consideration.

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

* * * Purpose, Definitions, Legend * * *

Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

(a) This bill may be referred to as the “BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Act.”

Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

(a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds during fiscal year 2027. It is the express intent of the General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments, divisions, boards, offices, and commissions be limited to those that can be supported by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2026. Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2027 so as to meet this condition unless

otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General Assembly.

Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the primary source and reference for appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds in fiscal year 2027.

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

(c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2027.

Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this act:

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

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

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

(4) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities; office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway

materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

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

Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

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

Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

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

Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including block grants in lieu of, or in addition to, funds herein designated as federal. The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

(b) If, during fiscal year 2027, federal funds available to the State and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2026 session of the General Assembly are converted into block grants or are abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for not more than 45 days prior to General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee approval. Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's request for approval.

Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during fiscal year 2027 except for new positions authorized by the General Assembly

during the 2026 session. Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

Sec. A.108 LEGEND

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

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

(b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year; the D sections contain fund allocations, transfers, reversions, and reservations for the upcoming budget year; the F sections contain the Pay Act; and the G section contains effective dates applicable to the act itself or specific sections within this act.

* * * Fiscal Year 2027 Base Appropriations * * *

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

Personal services	2,506,216
Operating expenses	266,559
Grants	<u>125,000</u>
Total	2,897,775

Source of funds	
General fund	1,861,224
Special funds	125,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>911,551</u>
Total	2,897,775
Sec. B.100.1 Secretary of administration - office of racial equity	
Personal services	1,568,041
Operating expenses	<u>95,802</u>
Total	1,663,843
Source of funds	
General fund	1,113,347
Internal service funds	<u>550,496</u>
Total	1,663,843
Sec. B.101 Secretary of administration - finance	
Personal services	1,557,057
Operating expenses	<u>185,178</u>
Total	1,742,235
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,742,235</u>
Total	1,742,235
Sec. B.102 Secretary of administration - workers' compensation insurance	
Personal services	896,646
Operating expenses	<u>104,349</u>
Total	1,000,995
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>1,000,995</u>
Total	1,000,995
Sec. B.103 Secretary of administration - general liability insurance	
Personal services	417,351
Operating expenses	<u>68,210</u>
Total	485,561
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>485,561</u>
Total	485,561
Sec. B.104 Secretary of administration - all other insurance	
Personal services	301,453
Operating expenses	<u>57,383</u>
Total	358,836

Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>358,836</u>
Total	358,836
Sec. B.104.1 Retired state employees pension plus funding	
Grants	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Sec. B.105 Agency of digital services - communications and information technology	
Personal services	33,055,594
Operating expenses	<u>16,188,998</u>
Total	49,244,592
Source of funds	
General fund	9,317,892
Special funds	1,031,998
Internal service funds	<u>38,894,702</u>
Total	49,244,592
Sec. B.105.1 Agency of digital services - demand driven services	
Personal services	32,005,770
Operating expenses	<u>15,300,212</u>
Total	47,305,982
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>47,305,982</u>
Total	47,305,982
Sec. B.106 Finance and management - budget and management	
Personal services	1,726,678
Operating expenses	<u>376,867</u>
Total	2,103,545
Source of funds	
General fund	1,320,303
Internal service funds	517,237
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>266,005</u>
Total	2,103,545
Sec. B.107 Finance and management - financial operations	
Personal services	3,263,811
Operating expenses	<u>835,537</u>

Total	4,099,348
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	3,880,186
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>219,162</u>
Total	4,099,348
Sec. B.108 Human resources - operations	
Personal services	12,618,652
Operating expenses	<u>1,683,153</u>
Total	14,301,805
Source of funds	
General fund	2,009,464
Special funds	180,668
Internal service funds	11,149,163
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>962,510</u>
Total	14,301,805
Sec. B.108.1 Human resources - VTHR operations	
Personal services	2,495,563
Operating expenses	<u>989,816</u>
Total	3,485,379
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	3,335,155
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>150,224</u>
Total	3,485,379
Sec. B.109 Human resources - employee benefits & wellness	
Personal services	1,470,728
Operating expenses	<u>765,201</u>
Total	2,235,929
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>2,235,929</u>
Total	2,235,929
Sec. B.110 Libraries	
Personal services	3,142,573
Operating expenses	548,504
Grants	<u>238,660</u>
Total	3,929,737
Source of funds	
General fund	2,470,909
Special funds	87,178
Federal funds	1,241,835

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>129,815</u>
Total	3,929,737
Sec. B.111 Tax - administration/collection	
Personal services	30,878,080
Operating expenses	<u>7,323,104</u>
Total	38,201,184
Source of funds	
General fund	25,818,400
Special funds	12,332,784
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>50,000</u>
Total	38,201,184
Sec. B.112 Buildings and general services - administration	
Personal services	1,090,871
Operating expenses	<u>228,872</u>
Total	1,319,743
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,319,743</u>
Total	1,319,743
Sec. B.113 Buildings and general services - engineering	
Personal services	102,231
Operating expenses	<u>1,114,195</u>
Total	1,216,426
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,216,426</u>
Total	1,216,426
Sec. B.113.1 Buildings and general services engineering - capital projects	
Personal services	3,489,916
Operating expenses	<u>500,000</u>
Total	3,989,916
Source of funds	
General fund	3,351,480
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>638,436</u>
Total	3,989,916
Sec. B.114 Buildings and general services - information centers	
Personal services	3,684,847
Operating expenses	<u>2,228,705</u>
Total	5,913,552

Source of funds	
General fund	723,210
Transportation fund	4,710,621
Special funds	<u>479,721</u>
Total	5,913,552
Sec. B.115 Buildings and general services - purchasing	
Personal services	3,189,478
Operating expenses	<u>266,883</u>
Total	3,456,361
Source of funds	
General fund	1,727,877
Internal service funds	1,386,959
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>341,525</u>
Total	3,456,361
Sec. B.116 Buildings and general services - postal services	
Personal services	892,320
Operating expenses	<u>173,126</u>
Total	1,065,446
Source of funds	
General fund	96,479
Internal service funds	<u>968,967</u>
Total	1,065,446
Sec. B.117 Buildings and general services - copy center	
Personal services	992,680
Operating expenses	<u>217,022</u>
Total	1,209,702
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>1,209,702</u>
Total	1,209,702
Sec. B.118 Buildings and general services - fleet management services	
Personal services	1,086,176
Operating expenses	<u>251,051</u>
Total	1,337,227
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,238,057
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>99,170</u>
Total	1,337,227

Sec. B.119 Buildings and general services - federal surplus property	
Operating expenses	<u>4,427</u>
Total	4,427
Source of funds	
Enterprise funds	<u>4,427</u>
Total	4,427
Sec. B.120 Buildings and general services - state surplus property	
Personal services	389,970
Operating expenses	<u>167,097</u>
Total	557,067
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>557,067</u>
Total	557,067
Sec. B.121 Buildings and general services - property management	
Personal services	1,250,068
Operating expenses	<u>722,602</u>
Total	1,972,670
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,830,898
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>141,772</u>
Total	1,972,670
Sec. B.122 Buildings and general services - fee for space	
Personal services	23,787,396
Operating expenses	<u>17,757,907</u>
Total	41,545,303
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>41,545,303</u>
Total	41,545,303
Sec. B.124 Executive office - governor's office	
Personal services	2,087,428
Operating expenses	<u>571,877</u>
Total	2,659,305
Source of funds	
General fund	2,086,338
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>572,967</u>
Total	2,659,305

Sec. B.125 Legislative counsel	
Personal services	5,562,384
Operating expenses	<u>305,246</u>
Total	5,867,630
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>5,867,630</u>
Total	5,867,630
Sec. B.126 Legislature	
Personal services	6,319,895
Operating expenses	<u>5,653,460</u>
Total	11,973,355
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>11,973,355</u>
Total	11,973,355
Sec. B.126.1 Legislative information technology	
Personal services	1,589,468
Operating expenses	<u>940,400</u>
Total	2,529,868
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>2,529,868</u>
Total	2,529,868
Sec. B.127 Joint fiscal committee	
Personal services	3,218,498
Operating expenses	<u>203,144</u>
Total	3,421,642
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,421,642</u>
Total	3,421,642
Sec. B.128 Sergeant at arms	
Personal services	1,738,030
Operating expenses	<u>215,269</u>
Total	1,953,299
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,953,299</u>
Total	1,953,299

Sec. B.129 Lieutenant governor	
Personal services	256,396
Operating expenses	<u>65,515</u>
Total	321,911
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>321,911</u>
Total	321,911
Sec. B.130 Auditor of accounts	
Personal services	4,914,039
Operating expenses	<u>159,245</u>
Total	5,073,284
Source of funds	
General fund	289,054
Special funds	53,145
Internal service funds	<u>4,731,085</u>
Total	5,073,284
Sec. B.131 State treasurer	
Personal services	7,459,970
Operating expenses	<u>378,493</u>
Total	7,838,463
Source of funds	
General fund	2,744,590
Special funds	4,713,210
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>380,663</u>
Total	7,838,463
Sec. B.132 State treasurer - unclaimed property	
Personal services	980,240
Operating expenses	<u>669,064</u>
Total	1,649,304
Source of funds	
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,649,304</u>
Total	1,649,304
Sec. B.133 Vermont state retirement system	
Personal services	231,345
Operating expenses	<u>3,536,781</u>
Total	3,768,126

Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	<u>3,768,126</u>
Total	3,768,126
Sec. B.134 Municipal employees' retirement system	
Personal services	234,016
Operating expenses	<u>1,980,939</u>
Total	2,214,955
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	<u>2,214,955</u>
Total	2,214,955
Sec. B.134.1 Vermont pension investment commission	
Personal services	2,696,175
Operating expenses	<u>286,820</u>
Total	2,982,995
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>2,982,995</u>
Total	2,982,995
Sec. B.135 State labor relations board	
Personal services	305,622
Operating expenses	<u>85,406</u>
Total	391,028
Source of funds	
General fund	377,202
Special funds	11,038
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,788</u>
Total	391,028
Sec. B.136 VOSHA review board	
Personal services	114,314
Operating expenses	<u>27,965</u>
Total	142,279
Source of funds	
General fund	91,275
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>51,004</u>
Total	142,279
Sec. B.136.1 Ethics commission	
Personal services	214,306
Operating expenses	<u>36,234</u>

Total	250,540
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>250,540</u>
Total	250,540
Sec. B.137 Homeowner rebate	
Grants	<u>17,500,000</u>
Total	17,500,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>17,500,000</u>
Total	17,500,000
Sec. B.138 Renter rebate	
Grants	<u>15,500,000</u>
Total	15,500,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>15,500,000</u>
Total	15,500,000
Sec. B.139 Tax department - reappraisal and listing payments	
Grants	<u>3,410,000</u>
Total	3,410,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>3,410,000</u>
Total	3,410,000
Sec. B.140 Municipal current use	
Grants	<u>21,650,000</u>
Total	21,650,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>21,650,000</u>
Total	21,650,000
Sec. B.142 Payments in lieu of taxes	
Grants	<u>12,200,000</u>
Total	12,200,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>12,200,000</u>
Total	12,200,000

Sec. B.144 Payments in lieu of taxes - correctional facilities

Grants	<u>40,000</u>
Total	40,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>40,000</u>
Total	40,000

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds	
General fund	152,333,175
Transportation fund	4,710,621
Special funds	37,647,737
Federal funds	1,241,835
Internal service funds	163,432,820
Interdepartmental transfers	7,979,570
Enterprise funds	4,427
Pension trust funds	5,983,081
Private purpose trust funds	<u>1,649,304</u>
Total	374,982,570

Sec. B.200 Attorney general

Personal services	17,117,330
Operating expenses	2,045,972
Grants	<u>20,000</u>
Total	19,183,302
Source of funds	
General fund	8,947,036
Special funds	2,976,044
Tobacco fund	434,660
Federal funds	1,956,258
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,869,304</u>
Total	19,183,302

Sec. B.201 Vermont court diversion

Personal services	1,250
Grants	<u>5,012,871</u>
Total	5,014,121
Source of funds	
General fund	4,756,124
Special funds	<u>257,997</u>
Total	5,014,121

Sec. B.202 Defender general - public defense	
Personal services	20,439,822
Operating expenses	<u>1,855,610</u>
Total	22,295,432
Source of funds	
General fund	21,705,779
Special funds	<u>589,653</u>
Total	22,295,432
Sec. B.203 Defender general - assigned counsel	
Personal services	8,277,975
Operating expenses	<u>64,500</u>
Total	8,342,475
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>8,342,475</u>
Total	8,342,475
Sec. B.204 Judiciary	
Personal services	67,540,550
Operating expenses	14,904,686
Grants	<u>121,030</u>
Total	82,566,266
Source of funds	
General fund	76,767,361
Special funds	1,970,905
Federal funds	1,580,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,248,000</u>
Total	82,566,266
Sec. B.205 State's attorneys	
Personal services	19,675,456
Operating expenses	<u>2,818,379</u>
Total	22,493,835
Source of funds	
General fund	21,865,234
Federal funds	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>597,601</u>
Total	22,493,835
Sec. B.206 Special investigative unit	
Personal services	151,063
Operating expenses	34,335

Grants	<u>2,174,400</u>
Total	2,359,798
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>2,359,798</u>
Total	2,359,798
Sec. B.206.1 Crime victims advocates	
Personal services	3,733,421
Operating expenses	<u>104,756</u>
Total	3,838,177
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,838,177</u>
Total	3,838,177
Sec. B.207 Sheriffs	
Personal services	6,738,595
Operating expenses	<u>475,338</u>
Total	7,213,933
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>7,213,933</u>
Total	7,213,933
Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration	
Personal services	6,697,580
Operating expenses	6,307,218
Grants	<u>278,285</u>
Total	13,283,083
Source of funds	
General fund	7,978,921
Special funds	162,545
Federal funds	1,108,908
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>4,032,709</u>
Total	13,283,083
Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police	
Personal services	85,401,432
Operating expenses	21,768,293
Grants	<u>5,105,175</u>
Total	112,274,900
Source of funds	
General fund	92,333,444
Special funds	3,272,346
Federal funds	15,200,575

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,468,535</u>
Total	112,274,900
Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services	
Personal services	5,274,841
Operating expenses	2,267,161
Grants	<u>47,775</u>
Total	7,589,777
Source of funds	
General fund	3,140,979
Special funds	3,502,099
Federal funds	<u>946,699</u>
Total	7,589,777
Sec. B.211 Public safety - emergency management	
Personal services	6,727,689
Operating expenses	1,030,786
Grants	<u>62,267,474</u>
Total	70,025,949
Source of funds	
General fund	1,717,693
Special funds	710,000
Federal funds	67,578,256
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>20,000</u>
Total	70,025,949
Sec. B.212 Public safety - fire safety	
Personal services	10,703,913
Operating expenses	4,581,165
Grants	<u>55,000</u>
Total	15,340,078
Source of funds	
General fund	2,339,163
Special funds	11,259,010
Federal funds	1,696,905
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>45,000</u>
Total	15,340,078
Sec. B.213 Public safety - forensic laboratory	
Personal services	4,643,753
Operating expenses	<u>1,465,076</u>
Total	6,108,829

Source of funds	
General fund	4,435,869
Special funds	70,131
Federal funds	1,087,429
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>515,400</u>
Total	6,108,829
Sec. B.215 Military - administration	
Personal services	1,179,336
Operating expenses	916,266
Grants	<u>1,219,834</u>
Total	3,315,436
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,315,436</u>
Total	3,315,436
Sec. B.216 Military - air service contract	
Personal services	12,390,019
Operating expenses	<u>1,476,497</u>
Total	13,866,516
Source of funds	
General fund	846,658
Federal funds	<u>13,019,858</u>
Total	13,866,516
Sec. B.217 Military - army service contract	
Personal services	45,572,956
Operating expenses	<u>8,116,785</u>
Total	53,689,741
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>53,689,741</u>
Total	53,689,741
Sec. B.218 Military - building maintenance	
Personal services	1,215,984
Operating expenses	<u>773,080</u>
Total	1,989,064
Source of funds	
General fund	1,926,564
Special funds	<u>62,500</u>
Total	1,989,064

Sec. B.219 Military - veterans' affairs	
Personal services	1,462,774
Operating expenses	189,912
Grants	<u>37,500</u>
Total	1,690,186
Source of funds	
General fund	1,511,104
Special funds	52,149
Federal funds	<u>126,933</u>
Total	1,690,186
Sec. B.220 Center for crime victim services	
Personal services	2,291,977
Operating expenses	349,027
Grants	<u>8,450,425</u>
Total	11,091,429
Source of funds	
General fund	1,562,398
Special funds	3,765,489
Federal funds	<u>5,763,542</u>
Total	11,091,429
Sec. B.221 Criminal justice council	
Personal services	2,691,167
Operating expenses	<u>1,987,866</u>
Total	4,679,033
Source of funds	
General fund	4,331,708
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>347,325</u>
Total	4,679,033
Sec. B.222 Agriculture, food and markets - administration	
Personal services	3,612,905
Operating expenses	<u>462,506</u>
Total	4,075,411
Source of funds	
General fund	1,650,272
Special funds	1,919,780
Federal funds	497,859
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>7,500</u>
Total	4,075,411

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

Personal services	6,110,557
Operating expenses	1,310,703
Grants	<u>2,780,000</u>
Total	10,201,260
Source of funds	
General fund	4,235,750
Special funds	3,830,620
Federal funds	2,122,890
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>12,000</u>
Total	10,201,260

Sec. B.224 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural development

Personal services	3,031,439
Operating expenses	720,667
Grants	<u>16,318,200</u>
Total	20,070,306
Source of funds	
General fund	3,232,484
Special funds	683,149
Federal funds	16,103,955
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>50,718</u>
Total	20,070,306

Sec. B.225 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural resource management and environmental stewardship

Personal services	3,112,283
Operating expenses	916,568
Grants	<u>555,000</u>
Total	4,583,851
Source of funds	
General fund	808,770
Special funds	2,977,583
Federal funds	411,751
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>385,747</u>
Total	4,583,851

Sec. B.225.1 Agriculture, food and markets - Vermont agriculture and environmental lab

Personal services	2,118,554
Operating expenses	<u>1,425,694</u>

Total	3,544,248
Source of funds	
General fund	1,657,622
Special funds	1,799,983
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>86,643</u>
Total	3,544,248
Sec. B.225.2 Agriculture, food and markets - clean water	
Personal services	4,302,930
Operating expenses	596,899
Grants	<u>13,704,381</u>
Total	18,604,210
Source of funds	
General fund	2,040,981
Special funds	13,143,719
Federal funds	899,994
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>2,519,516</u>
Total	18,604,210
Sec. B.226 Financial regulation - administration	
Personal services	3,191,764
Operating expenses	119,849
Grants	<u>100,000</u>
Total	3,411,613
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>3,411,613</u>
Total	3,411,613
Sec. B.227 Financial regulation - banking	
Personal services	2,626,530
Operating expenses	<u>489,061</u>
Total	3,115,591
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>3,115,591</u>
Total	3,115,591
Sec. B.228 Financial regulation - insurance	
Personal services	6,081,320
Operating expenses	<u>726,826</u>
Total	6,808,146
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>6,808,146</u>
Total	6,808,146

Sec. B.229 Financial regulation - captive insurance	
Personal services	5,852,030
Operating expenses	<u>485,166</u>
Total	6,337,196
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>6,337,196</u>
Total	6,337,196
Sec. B.230 Financial regulation - securities	
Personal services	1,484,957
Operating expenses	<u>236,805</u>
Total	1,721,762
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>1,721,762</u>
Total	1,721,762
Sec. B.232 Secretary of state	
Personal services	23,036,803
Operating expenses	3,553,687
Grants	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	28,390,490
Source of funds	
General fund	2,065,000
Special funds	21,682,168
Federal funds	<u>4,643,322</u>
Total	28,390,490
Sec. B.233 Public service - regulation and energy	
Personal services	13,710,252
Operating expenses	2,748,196
Grants	<u>16,375,000</u>
Total	32,833,448
Source of funds	
Special funds	12,654,322
Federal funds	18,595,869
Interdepartmental transfers	1,568,571
Enterprise funds	<u>14,686</u>
Total	32,833,448
Sec. B.233.1 VT Community broadband board	
Personal services	2,453,429
Operating expenses	816,431

Grants	<u>43,000,000</u>
Total	46,269,860
Source of funds	
Special funds	882,735
Federal funds	<u>45,387,125</u>
Total	46,269,860
Sec. B.234 Public utility commission	
Personal services	4,685,041
Operating expenses	<u>604,301</u>
Total	5,289,342
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>5,289,342</u>
Total	5,289,342
Sec. B.235 Enhanced 9-1-1 board	
Personal services	4,854,520
Operating expenses	<u>704,797</u>
Total	5,559,317
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>5,559,317</u>
Total	5,559,317
Sec. B.236 Human rights commission	
Personal services	1,352,987
Operating expenses	<u>178,128</u>
Total	1,531,115
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,531,115</u>
Total	1,531,115
Sec. B.236.1 Liquor and lottery commission	
Personal services	11,295,690
Operating expenses	<u>5,914,352</u>
Total	17,210,042
Source of funds	
Special funds	125,000
Tobacco fund	252,863
Interdepartmental transfers	70,000
Enterprise funds	<u>16,762,179</u>
Total	17,210,042

Sec. B.240 Cannabis control board

Personal services	4,669,174
Operating expenses	2,456,952
Grants	<u>15,000</u>
Total	7,141,126
Source of funds	
General fund	4,576,032
Special funds	<u>2,565,094</u>
Total	7,141,126

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds	
General fund	303,033,880
Special funds	123,157,988
Tobacco fund	687,523
Federal funds	252,448,869
Interdepartmental transfers	18,844,569
Enterprise funds	<u>16,776,865</u>
Total	714,949,694

Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office

Personal services	18,803,543
Operating expenses	8,491,902
Grants	<u>3,257,864</u>
Total	30,553,309
Source of funds	
General fund	12,150,921
Special funds	135,517
Federal funds	15,052,120
Global Commitment fund	2,875,929
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>338,822</u>
Total	30,553,309

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

Grants	<u>2,273,020,435</u>
Total	2,273,020,435
Source of funds	
General fund	743,830,685
Special funds	31,874,504
Tobacco fund	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,440,005,206

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>5,185,895</u>
Total	2,273,020,435
Sec. B.303 Developmental disabilities council	
Personal services	536,809
Operating expenses	91,194
Grants	<u>191,595</u>
Total	819,598
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>819,598</u>
Total	819,598
Sec. B.304 Human services board	
Personal services	837,298
Operating expenses	<u>103,145</u>
Total	940,443
Source of funds	
General fund	550,413
Federal funds	<u>390,030</u>
Total	940,443
Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund	
Personal services	330,000
Operating expenses	<u>13,170,000</u>
Total	13,500,000
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>13,500,000</u>
Total	13,500,000
Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration	
Personal services	147,234,611
Operating expenses	47,892,588
Grants	<u>3,112,301</u>
Total	198,239,500
Source of funds	
General fund	43,531,984
Special funds	11,408,238
Federal funds	135,473,624
Global Commitment fund	4,814,385
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>3,011,269</u>
Total	198,239,500

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - global commitment

Grants	<u>1,018,891,468</u>
Total	1,018,891,468
Source of funds	
Global Commitment fund	<u>1,018,891,468</u>
Total	1,018,891,468

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - state only

Grants	<u>87,719,396</u>
Total	87,719,396
Source of funds	
General fund	62,223,167
Special funds	20,025,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,471,229</u>
Total	87,719,396

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	<u>53,713,422</u>
Total	53,713,422
Source of funds	
General fund	13,976,890
Federal funds	<u>39,736,532</u>
Total	53,713,422

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	9,530,484
Operating expenses	9,699,306
Total	19,229,790
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	4,018,122
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>127,990</u>
Total	19,229,790

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	74,383,408
Operating expenses	9,332,917
Grants	<u>50,136,945</u>
Total	133,853,270
Source of funds	
General fund	16,897,106
Special funds	28,928,042
Tobacco fund	1,022,514
Federal funds	64,633,236
Global Commitment fund	19,796,403
Interdepartmental transfers	2,550,969
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>
Total	133,853,270

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

Personal services	6,228,331
Operating expenses	1,597,360
Grants	<u>62,995,881</u>
Total	70,821,572
Source of funds	
General fund	4,642,402
Special funds	11,594,473
Tobacco fund	949,917
Federal funds	16,490,182
Global Commitment fund	<u>37,144,598</u>
Total	70,821,572

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	15,045,226
Operating expenses	3,284,381
Grants	<u>284,925,309</u>
Total	303,254,916
Source of funds	
General fund	16,159,945
Special funds	1,006,836
Federal funds	13,679,245
Global Commitment fund	271,143,986
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,264,904</u>
Total	303,254,916

 Sec. B.315 Department of mental health - mental health facilities

Personal services	42,645,892
Operating expenses	<u>3,453,114</u>
Total	46,099,006
Source of funds	
General fund	23,627,954
Special funds	1,711,833
Global Commitment fund	<u>20,759,219</u>
Total	46,099,006

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

Personal services	53,504,671
Operating expenses	21,318,873
Grants	<u>5,145,047</u>
Total	79,968,591
Source of funds	
General fund	54,056,305
Special funds	2,695,360
Federal funds	20,162,623
Global Commitment fund	2,427,300
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>627,003</u>
Total	79,968,591

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

Personal services	53,086,776
Operating expenses	5,608,679
Grants	<u>101,038,145</u>
Total	159,733,600
Source of funds	
General fund	68,388,078
Special funds	729,150
Federal funds	37,280,968
Global Commitment fund	53,320,404
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,000</u>
Total	159,733,600

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

Personal services	7,080,069
Operating expenses	1,017,973
Grants	<u>225,731,684</u>
Total	233,829,726

Source of funds	
General fund	71,876,506
Special funds	104,967,803
Federal funds	42,948,970
Global Commitment fund	<u>14,036,447</u>
Total	233,829,726
Sec. B.319 Department for children and families - office of child support	
Personal services	14,842,317
Operating expenses	<u>3,753,380</u>
Total	18,595,697
Source of funds	
General fund	5,841,149
Special funds	453,110
Federal funds	11,913,838
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>387,600</u>
Total	18,595,697
Sec. B.320 Department for children and families - aid to aged, blind and disabled	
Personal services	2,611,765
Grants	<u>10,283,881</u>
Total	12,895,646
Source of funds	
General fund	7,452,643
Global Commitment fund	<u>5,443,003</u>
Total	12,895,646
Sec. B.321 Department for children and families - general assistance	
Personal services	15,000
Grants	<u>11,690,819</u>
Total	11,705,819
Source of funds	
General fund	11,504,245
Federal funds	11,098
Global Commitment fund	<u>190,476</u>
Total	11,705,819
Sec. B.322 Department for children and families - 3SquaresVT	
Grants	<u>53,077,812</u>
Total	53,077,812

Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>53,077,812</u>
Total	53,077,812
Sec. B.323 Department for children and families - reach up	
Operating expenses	23,821
Grants	<u>32,466,947</u>
Total	32,490,768
Source of funds	
General fund	17,904,212
Special funds	6,106,068
Federal funds	4,953,062
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,527,426</u>
Total	32,490,768
Sec. B.324 Department for children and families - home heating fuel assistance/LIHEAP	
Grants	<u>20,730,395</u>
Total	20,730,395
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,480,395
Federal funds	<u>19,250,000</u>
Total	20,730,395
Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity	
Personal services	1,872,257
Operating expenses	188,231
Grants	<u>54,772,640</u>
Total	56,833,128
Source of funds	
General fund	47,986,907
Special funds	83,135
Federal funds	5,139,585
Global Commitment fund	<u>3,623,501</u>
Total	56,833,128
Sec. B.326 Department for children and families - OEO - weatherization assistance	
Personal services	473,291
Operating expenses	277,072
Grants	<u>16,147,885</u>
Total	16,898,248

Source of funds	
Special funds	7,733,295
Federal funds	<u>9,164,953</u>
Total	16,898,248
Sec. B.327 Department for children and families - secure residential treatment	
Personal services	258,100
Operating expenses	38,870
Grants	<u>4,476,862</u>
Total	4,773,832
Source of funds	
General fund	4,743,832
Global Commitment fund	<u>30,000</u>
Total	4,773,832
Sec. B.328 Department for children and families - disability determination services	
Personal services	8,771,035
Operating expenses	<u>632,678</u>
Total	9,403,713
Source of funds	
General fund	141,599
Federal funds	<u>9,262,114</u>
Total	9,403,713
Sec. B.329 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - administration & support	
Personal services	54,488,657
Operating expenses	<u>7,899,745</u>
Total	62,388,402
Source of funds	
General fund	28,240,734
Special funds	3,476,056
Federal funds	29,054,031
Global Commitment fund	110,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,507,581</u>
Total	62,388,402
Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants	
Grants	<u>27,332,274</u>
Total	27,332,274

Source of funds	
General fund	8,769,909
Federal funds	10,541,896
Global Commitment fund	<u>8,020,469</u>
Total	27,332,274
Sec. B.331 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - blind and visually impaired	
Grants	<u>3,557,604</u>
Total	3,557,604
Source of funds	
General fund	639,154
Special funds	223,450
Federal funds	2,390,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>305,000</u>
Total	3,557,604
Sec. B.332 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - vocational rehabilitation	
Grants	<u>10,145,384</u>
Total	10,145,384
Source of funds	
General fund	371,845
Federal funds	9,616,000
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>157,539</u>
Total	10,145,384
Sec. B.333 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - developmental services	
Grants	<u>361,412,468</u>
Total	361,412,468
Source of funds	
General fund	132,732
Special funds	15,463
Federal funds	200,000
Global Commitment fund	360,997,607
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>66,666</u>
Total	361,412,468
Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver	
Grants	<u>7,617,804</u>
Total	7,617,804

Source of funds	
Global Commitment fund	<u>7,617,804</u>
Total	7,617,804
Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - long term care	
Grants	<u>363,402,885</u>
Total	363,402,885
Source of funds	
General fund	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>360,454,306</u>
Total	363,402,885
Sec. B.335 Corrections - administration	
Personal services	6,294,173
Operating expenses	<u>269,950</u>
Total	6,564,123
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>6,564,123</u>
Total	6,564,123
Sec. B.336 Corrections - parole board	
Personal services	546,911
Operating expenses	<u>60,112</u>
Total	607,023
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>607,023</u>
Total	607,023
Sec. B.337 Corrections - correctional education	
Personal services	4,229,246
Operating expenses	<u>255,064</u>
Total	4,484,310
Source of funds	
General fund	4,335,526
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>148,784</u>
Total	4,484,310
Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services	
Personal services	185,053,487
Operating expenses	28,640,294
Grants	<u>801,823</u>
Total	214,495,604

Source of funds	
General fund	205,731,635
Special funds	935,963
Federal funds	581,790
Global Commitment fund	6,849,901
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>396,315</u>
Total	214,495,604
Sec. B.338.1 Corrections - justice reinvestment II	
Grants	<u>11,189,702</u>
Total	11,189,702
Source of funds	
General fund	8,625,161
Global Commitment fund	<u>2,564,541</u>
Total	11,189,702
Sec. B.339 Corrections - correctional services - out of state beds	
Personal services	<u>4,130,378</u>
Total	4,130,378
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>4,130,378</u>
Total	4,130,378
Sec. B.340 Corrections - correctional facilities - recreation	
Personal services	694,135
Operating expenses	<u>457,555</u>
Total	1,151,690
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>1,151,690</u>
Total	1,151,690
Sec. B.341 Corrections - Vermont offender work program	
Personal services	515,893
Operating expenses	<u>160,570</u>
Total	676,463
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>676,463</u>
Total	676,463
Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services	
Personal services	24,295,479
Operating expenses	<u>7,265,907</u>

Total	31,561,386
Source of funds	
General fund	10,370,653
Special funds	12,153,730
Federal funds	<u>9,037,003</u>
Total	31,561,386
Sec. B.343 Commission on women	
Personal services	446,911
Operating expenses	<u>93,377</u>
Total	540,288
Source of funds	
General fund	536,228
Special funds	<u>4,060</u>
Total	540,288
Sec. B.344 Retired senior volunteer program	
Grants	<u>169,909</u>
Total	169,909
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>169,909</u>
Total	169,909
Sec. B.345 Green mountain care board	
Personal services	10,791,488
Operating expenses	<u>585,144</u>
Total	11,376,632
Source of funds	
General fund	4,403,223
Special funds	<u>6,973,409</u>
Total	11,376,632
Sec. B.346 Office of the child, youth, and family advocate	
Personal services	407,107
Operating expenses	<u>85,059</u>
Total	492,166
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>492,166</u>
Total	492,166
Sec. B.347 Total human services	
Source of funds	
General fund	1,516,094,725

Special funds	257,451,042
Tobacco fund	23,091,905
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	2,012,755,827
Global Commitment fund	2,214,433,524
Internal service funds	676,463
Interdepartmental transfers	29,286,337
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>
Total	6,084,889,595
Sec. B.400 Labor - programs	
Personal services	37,245,562
Operating expenses	5,944,271
Grants	<u>1,632,900</u>
Total	44,822,733
Source of funds	
General fund	11,854,490
Special funds	10,685,153
Federal funds	22,188,227
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>94,863</u>
Total	44,822,733
Sec. B.401 Total labor	
Source of funds	
General fund	11,854,490
Special funds	10,685,153
Federal funds	22,188,227
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>94,863</u>
Total	44,822,733
Sec. B.500 Education - education services	
Personal services	34,311,091
Operating expenses	6,389,982
Grants	<u>188,531,318</u>
Total	229,232,391
Source of funds	
General fund	20,194,009
Special funds	2,111,117
Tobacco fund	750,388
Education fund	3,937,725
Federal funds	200,665,386
Global Commitment fund	260,000

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,313,766</u>
Total	229,232,391
Sec. B.502 Education - special education: formula grants	
Personal services	1,083,000
Grants	<u>275,642,100</u>
Total	276,725,100
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>276,725,100</u>
Total	276,725,100
Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students	
Grants	<u>18,286,500</u>
Total	18,286,500
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>18,286,500</u>
Total	18,286,500
Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy	
Grants	<u>5,290,338</u>
Total	5,290,338
Source of funds	
General fund	4,349,673
Federal funds	<u>940,665</u>
Total	5,290,338
Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways	
Grants	<u>11,742,782</u>
Total	11,742,782
Source of funds	
General fund	921,500
Education fund	<u>10,821,282</u>
Total	11,742,782
Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment	
Grants	<u>2,070,324,298</u>
Total	2,070,324,298
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>2,070,324,298</u>
Total	2,070,324,298

Sec. B.506 Education - transportation

Grants	<u>26,925,382</u>
Total	26,925,382
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>26,925,382</u>
Total	26,925,382

Sec. B.507 Education - merger support grants

Grants	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	1,800,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	1,800,000

Sec. B.507.1 Education - EL categorical aid

Grants	<u>2,500,000</u>
Total	2,500,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>2,500,000</u>
Total	2,500,000

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

Grants	<u>18,300,000</u>
Total	18,300,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>18,300,000</u>
Total	18,300,000

Sec. B.509 Education - afterschool grant program

Personal services	484,293
Operating expenses	20,707
Grants	<u>9,595,000</u>
Total	10,100,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	<u>10,100,000</u>
Total	10,100,000

Sec. B.510 Education - essential early education grant

Grants	<u>9,552,240</u>
Total	9,552,240

Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>9,552,240</u>
Total	9,552,240
Sec. B.511 Education - technical education	
Grants	<u>19,636,750</u>
Total	19,636,750
Source of funds	
Education fund	<u>19,636,750</u>
Total	19,636,750
Sec. B.511.1 State board of education	
Personal services	54,208
Operating expenses	<u>16,500</u>
Total	70,708
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>70,708</u>
Total	70,708
Sec. B.513 Retired teachers pension plus funding	
Grants	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	15,000,000
Sec. B.514 State teachers' retirement system	
Grants	<u>212,905,084</u>
Total	212,905,084
Source of funds	
General fund	170,750,066
Education fund	<u>42,155,018</u>
Total	212,905,084
Sec. B.514.1 State teachers' retirement system administration	
Personal services	379,226
Operating expenses	<u>3,792,259</u>
Total	4,171,485
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	<u>4,171,485</u>
Total	4,171,485

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

Grants	<u>90,834,595</u>
Total	90,834,595
Source of funds	
General fund	62,640,904
Education fund	<u>28,193,691</u>
Total	90,834,595

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds	
General fund	273,926,860
Special funds	12,211,117
Tobacco fund	750,388
Education fund	2,529,157,986
Federal funds	201,606,051
Global Commitment fund	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,313,766
Pension trust funds	<u>4,171,485</u>
Total	3,023,397,653

Sec. B.600 University of Vermont

Grants	<u>59,099,447</u>
Total	59,099,447
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>59,099,447</u>
Total	59,099,447

Sec. B.602 Vermont state colleges

Grants	<u>54,042,753</u>
Total	54,042,753
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>54,042,753</u>
Total	54,042,753

Sec. B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

Grants	<u>1,806,000</u>
Total	1,806,000
Source of funds	
General fund	306,000
Global Commitment fund	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	1,806,000

 Sec. B.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

Grants	<u>27,897,494</u>
Total	27,897,494
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>27,897,494</u>
Total	27,897,494

Sec. B.605.1 VSAC - flexible pathways stipend

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

Sec. B.606 New England higher education compact

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

Sec. B.607 Total higher education

Source of funds	
General fund	141,473,439
Education fund	41,225
Global Commitment fund	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	143,014,664

Sec. B.700 Natural resources - agency of natural resources - administration

Personal services	6,881,451
Operating expenses	1,291,376
Grants	<u>5,000</u>
Total	8,177,827
Source of funds	
General fund	5,628,757
Special funds	687,843
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,861,227</u>
Total	8,177,827

 Sec. B.701 Natural resources - state land local property tax assessment

Operating expenses	<u>2,711,643</u>
Total	2,711,643
Source of funds	
General fund	2,290,143
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>421,500</u>
Total	2,711,643

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

Personal services	25,124,512
Operating expenses	7,287,815
Grants	<u>824,803</u>
Total	33,237,130
Source of funds	
General fund	10,313,811
Special funds	379,405
Fish and wildlife fund	10,864,047
Federal funds	10,133,967
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,545,900</u>
Total	33,237,130

Sec. B.703 Forests, parks and recreation - administration

Personal services	1,644,130
Operating expenses	<u>1,807,698</u>
Total	3,451,828
Source of funds	
General fund	3,207,811
Special funds	138,261
Federal funds	<u>105,756</u>
Total	3,451,828

Sec. B.704 Forests, parks and recreation - forestry

Personal services	10,669,963
Operating expenses	1,397,258
Grants	<u>2,517,648</u>
Total	14,584,869
Source of funds	
General fund	7,196,482
Special funds	1,553,980
Federal funds	5,657,787
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>176,620</u>
Total	14,584,869

Sec. B.705 Forests, parks and recreation - state parks

Personal services	14,447,858
Operating expenses	4,775,590
Grants	<u>598,307</u>
Total	19,821,755
Source of funds	
General fund	1,774,736
Special funds	<u>18,047,019</u>
Total	19,821,755

Sec. B.706 Forests, parks and recreation - lands administration and recreation

Personal services	8,459,029
Operating expenses	4,627,930
Grants	<u>2,469,865</u>
Total	15,556,824
Source of funds	
General fund	1,403,261
Special funds	2,430,801
Federal funds	11,180,116
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>542,646</u>
Total	15,556,824

Sec. B.708 Forests, parks and recreation - forest and parks access roads

Personal services	130,000
Operating expenses	<u>99,925</u>
Total	229,925
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>229,925</u>
Total	229,925

Sec. B.709 Environmental conservation - management and support services

Personal services	10,017,955
Operating expenses	5,850,830
Grants	<u>191,597</u>
Total	16,060,382
Source of funds	
General fund	2,207,896
Special funds	1,593,728
Federal funds	2,948,598
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>9,310,160</u>
Total	16,060,382

 Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management

Personal services	15,391,418
Operating expenses	5,574,446
Grants	<u>7,623,000</u>
Total	28,588,864
Source of funds	
General fund	1,476,577
Special funds	20,742,337
Federal funds	6,202,095
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>167,855</u>
Total	28,588,864

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services	43,817,953
Operating expenses	9,017,743
Grants	<u>104,714,537</u>
Total	157,550,233
Source of funds	
General fund	13,321,778
Special funds	34,702,513
Federal funds	108,412,378
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,113,564</u>
Total	157,550,233

Sec. B.713 Land use review board

Personal services	5,298,333
Operating expenses	<u>598,682</u>
Total	5,897,015
Source of funds	
General fund	4,364,343
Special funds	<u>1,532,672</u>
Total	5,897,015

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds	
General fund	53,415,520
Special funds	81,808,559
Fish and wildlife fund	10,864,047
Federal funds	144,640,697
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,139,472</u>
Total	305,868,295

 Sec. B.800 Commerce and community development - agency of commerce
 and community development - administration

Personal services	2,617,789
Operating expenses	921,911
Grants	<u>424,320</u>
Total	3,964,020
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>3,964,020</u>
Total	3,964,020

Sec. B.801 Economic development

Personal services	3,221,256
Operating expenses	1,306,125
Grants	<u>6,506,544</u>
Total	11,033,925
Source of funds	
General fund	6,105,922
Special funds	3,314,565
Federal funds	<u>1,613,438</u>
Total	11,033,925

Sec. B.802 Housing and community development

Personal services	6,568,853
Operating expenses	2,253,786
Grants	<u>45,303,523</u>
Total	54,126,162
Source of funds	
General fund	12,002,421
Transportation fund	1,000,000
Special funds	10,679,645
Federal funds	<u>30,444,096</u>
Total	54,126,162

Sec. B.806 Tourism and marketing

Personal services	2,284,798
Operating expenses	1,785,851
Grants	<u>1,020,000</u>
Total	5,090,649
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>5,090,649</u>
Total	5,090,649

Sec. B.808 Vermont council on the arts	
Grants	<u>1,071,800</u>
Total	1,071,800
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,071,800</u>
Total	1,071,800
Sec. B.809 Vermont symphony orchestra	
Grants	<u>158,795</u>
Total	158,795
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>158,795</u>
Total	158,795
Sec. B.810 Vermont historical society	
Grants	<u>1,245,583</u>
Total	1,245,583
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>1,245,583</u>
Total	1,245,583
Sec. B.811 Vermont housing and conservation board	
Grants	<u>100,358,842</u>
Total	100,358,842
Source of funds	
General fund	1,680,529
Special funds	39,341,857
Federal funds	<u>59,336,456</u>
Total	100,358,842
Sec. B.812 Vermont humanities council	
Grants	<u>327,818</u>
Total	327,818
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>327,818</u>
Total	327,818
Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development	
Source of funds	
General fund	31,647,537
Transportation fund	1,000,000
Special funds	53,336,067

Federal funds	<u>91,393,990</u>
Total	177,377,594
Sec. B.900 Transportation - finance and administration	
Personal services	19,147,814
Operating expenses	6,291,478
Grants	<u>50,000</u>
Total	25,489,292
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	24,169,252
Federal funds	<u>1,320,040</u>
Total	25,489,292
Sec. B.901 Transportation - aviation	
Personal services	5,289,467
Operating expenses	<u>7,691,413</u>
Total	12,980,880
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	6,710,146
Federal funds	<u>6,270,734</u>
Total	12,980,880
Sec. B.902 Transportation - buildings	
Operating expenses	<u>1,700,000</u>
Total	1,700,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>1,700,000</u>
Total	1,700,000
Sec. B.903 Transportation - program development	
Personal services	109,305,403
Operating expenses	304,422,913
Grants	<u>51,321,428</u>
Total	465,049,744
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	66,875,701
TIB fund	14,575,436
Special funds	280,000
Federal funds	363,035,876
Interdepartmental transfers	10,331,303
Local match	<u>9,951,428</u>
Total	465,049,744

Sec. B.904 Transportation - rest areas construction

Personal services	180,000
Operating expenses	<u>270,000</u>
Total	450,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	45,000
Federal funds	<u>405,000</u>
Total	450,000

Sec. B.905 Transportation - maintenance state system

Personal services	52,774,612
Operating expenses	<u>59,752,063</u>
Total	112,526,675
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	109,994,661
Federal funds	2,432,014
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>100,000</u>
Total	112,526,675

Sec. B.906 Transportation - policy and planning

Personal services	3,368,645
Operating expenses	299,526
Grants	<u>10,254,679</u>
Total	13,922,850
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	2,378,766
Federal funds	11,444,134
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>99,950</u>
Total	13,922,850

Sec. B.906.1 Transportation - environmental policy and sustainability

Personal services	14,855,456
Operating expenses	<u>89,082</u>
Total	14,944,538
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	371,589
Federal funds	11,025,693
Interdepartmental transfers	1,141,695
Local match	<u>2,405,561</u>
Total	14,944,538

Sec. B.907 Transportation - rail

Personal services	8,671,804
Operating expenses	51,567,606
Grants	<u>50,000</u>
Total	60,289,410
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	12,548,774
TIB fund	1,000,000
Federal funds	34,688,907
Interdepartmental transfers	6,854,052
Local match	<u>5,197,677</u>
Total	60,289,410

Sec. B.907.1 Transportation - Rail Trails Program

Personal services	3,577,763
Operating expenses	<u>57,266</u>
Total	3,635,029
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	478,272
Federal funds	1,769,326
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,387,431</u>
Total	3,635,029

Sec. B.908 Transportation - public transit

Personal services	136,840
Operating expenses	71,582
Grants	<u>57,646,725</u>
Total	57,855,147
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	9,947,447
Federal funds	46,607,700
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,300,000</u>
Total	57,855,147

Sec. B.909 Transportation - central garage

Personal services	6,345,376
Operating expenses	<u>19,725,126</u>
Total	26,070,502
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	<u>26,070,502</u>
Total	26,070,502

Sec. B.910 Department of motor vehicles

Personal services	39,906,668
Operating expenses	<u>11,738,708</u>
Total	51,645,376
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	46,545,599
Federal funds	4,978,081
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>121,696</u>
Total	51,645,376

Sec. B.911 Transportation - town highway structures

Grants	<u>7,394,400</u>
Total	7,394,400
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>7,394,400</u>
Total	7,394,400

Sec. B.912 Transportation - town highway local technical assistance program

Personal services	439,752
Operating expenses	28,700
Grants	<u>13,000</u>
Total	481,452
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	121,452
Federal funds	<u>360,000</u>
Total	481,452

Sec. B.913 Transportation - town highway class 2 roadway

Grants	<u>8,832,200</u>
Total	8,832,200
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>8,832,200</u>
Total	8,832,200

Sec. B.914 Transportation - town highway bridges

Personal services	9,168,000
Operating expenses	19,830,382
Grants	<u>1,280,000</u>
Total	30,278,382
Source of funds	
TIB fund	2,774,564
Federal funds	25,604,186

Interdepartmental transfers	255,672
Local match	<u>1,643,960</u>
Total	30,278,382
Sec. B.915 Transportation - town highway aid program	
Grants	<u>31,240,042</u>
Total	31,240,042
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>31,240,042</u>
Total	31,240,042
Sec. B.916 Transportation - town highway class 1 supplemental grants	
Grants	<u>128,750</u>
Total	128,750
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>128,750</u>
Total	128,750
Sec. B.917 Transportation - town highway: state aid for nonfederal disasters	
Grants	<u>1,150,000</u>
Total	1,150,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>1,150,000</u>
Total	1,150,000
Sec. B.918 Transportation - town highway: state aid for federal disasters	
Personal services	500,000
Operating expenses	50,000
Grants	<u>3,450,000</u>
Total	4,000,000
Source of funds	
Federal funds	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	4,000,000
Sec. B.919 Transportation - municipal mitigation assistance program	
Personal services	137,500
Operating expenses	310,500
Grants	<u>5,695,000</u>
Total	6,143,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	715,000
Special funds	4,000,000

Federal funds	<u>1,428,000</u>
Total	6,143,000
Sec. B.921 Transportation board	
Personal services	176,096
Operating expenses	<u>19,208</u>
Total	195,304
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	<u>195,304</u>
Total	195,304
Sec. B.922 Total transportation	
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	331,542,355
TIB fund	18,350,000
Special funds	4,280,000
Federal funds	515,369,691
Internal service funds	26,070,502
Interdepartmental transfers	21,591,799
Local match	<u>19,198,626</u>
Total	936,402,973
Sec. B.1000 Debt service	
Operating expenses	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000
Sec. B.1001 Total debt service	
Source of funds	
General fund	<u>675,000</u>
Total	675,000

* * * Fiscal Year 2027 One-Time Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$110,000 General Fund for the Office of Racial Equity to continue for an additional year the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Vermont program.

(2) \$900,000 General Fund to complete the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

(b) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$300,000 General Fund and \$2,700,000 federal funds for information technology updates resulting from the 2025 federal H.R.1 Medicaid changes.

(2) \$1,425,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants.

(3) \$3,708,562 Global Commitment for the per-member, per-month primary care case management payments to primary care providers pursuant to Sec. E.306.3 of this act.

(c) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$21,183,809 General Fund for the provision of services, implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum, shelter development and operation, emergency housing in hotels and motels, grants to municipalities, emergency cold weather shelters, and supportive services, including case management, staffing, grants, and contracts.

(2) \$164,500 General Fund and \$29,873 Global Commitment for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

(3) \$180,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network for concrete supports programs.

(4) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to End Homelessness Vermont to support housing navigation, case management, service coordination, technical assistance, appeals, and permanent housing support for individuals living with complex needs and disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

(5) \$130,000 General Fund for distribution to supervised visitation programs pursuant to Sec. E.317 of this act.

(6) \$4,000,000 General Fund for a temporary secure treatment facility for youth.

(7) \$697,000 General Fund for direct aid to the Vermont Foodbank's network partner food shelves and pantries through an equitable statewide distribution of food or subgrants, or both.

(8) \$293,866 Global Commitment for post permanency adoption services.

(d) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Legal Aid for an immigration attorney.

(2) \$375,000 General Fund and \$519,348 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (k)(2) of this section to support Meals on Wheels programs.

(3) \$12,526 General Fund and \$17,347 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (c)(2) of this section for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

(4) \$1,555,000 General Fund and \$2,153,562 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (b)(3) of this section for per-member, per-month primary care case management payments to primary care providers pursuant to Sec. E.306.3 of this act.

(5) \$123,218 General Fund and \$170,648 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (c)(8) of this section for post permanency adoption services.

(e) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative grants.

(2) \$300,000 General Fund for the Serve Learn Earn Program.

(f) Department of Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$800,000 General Fund for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program.

(2) \$1,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont State Housing Authority for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

(3) \$100,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency First Generation Homebuyer Program.

(4) \$25,000 General Fund for a grant to the South Hero Service Committee to design and construct a building.

(g) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$150,000 General Fund for maintaining the current contract with the Canadian International Economic Development Partnership to provide in-market services to Montreal-based businesses seeking to expand into Vermont.

(2) \$75,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Professionals of Color Network.

(3) \$50,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission for the 250th celebration.

(4) \$2,000,000 General Fund for the Rural Industry Development Program.

(5) \$100,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Law and Graduate School for its public education offerings and free legal support to small businesses through its Vermont Small Business Law Center.

(6) \$150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Small Business Development Center to support the continuation of its work in helping Vermonters start, acquire, and grow businesses and to increase business advising and educational workshops to meet increasing demands of entrepreneurs and small business owners post pandemic.

(h) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,360,069 Transportation Fund for the FEMA 428 project relocating the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin.

(2) \$1,347,107 General Fund for grants to municipalities that would have otherwise been eligible for federal aid if a presidential disaster declaration had been approved for damage incurred in Caledonia County during July 2025. Grants shall be provided on a reimbursement basis for actual costs incurred under the following conditions:

(A) Awards shall be for repairs made to infrastructure included in damage estimates conducted by the Agency of Transportation in March 2026 for the July 2025 disaster.

(B) Awards shall be for up to 50 percent of the repair costs estimated by the Agency of Transportation in March 2026.

(C) The repair conducted is compliant with all applicable Vermont statutes and regulations.

(D) The recipient agrees to maintain documentation as required by the Agency of Transportation.

(E) The recipient accepts other award terms and conditions as determined by the Agency of Transportation and required by Agency of Administration Bulletin 5 to ensure the funds are spent appropriately and effectively.

(3) \$300,000 General Fund for supplemental nonemergency medical transportation funding.

(4) \$3,000,000 PILOT Special Fund, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), to provide additional grants through the general State aid to town highways program pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306(a). The amount appropriated pursuant to this subdivision shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease any amounts appropriated pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(a) in fiscal year 2027.

(i) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$140,000 General Fund for the Vermont State Youth Council.

(2) \$150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials for Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak or other public health emergency.

(j) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$160,000 General Fund for a grant to the Howard Center for the Community Outreach Program.

(2) \$234,500 General Fund for a grant to the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity to support operations of the Community Resource Center.

(k) Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

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

(2) \$894,348 Global Commitment to support Meals on Wheels programs.

(3) \$100,000 General Fund for a grant to support the start-up costs of a new adult day program in Washington or Rutland county or to support the cost of an existing adult day program to expand its capacity to serve more individuals.

(l) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$125,000 General Fund for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs.

(2) \$300,000 General Fund for grants to Vermont's 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts.

(3) \$110,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program.

(m) Office of the Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$90,000 General Fund for the Vermont Access Network Community Radio Program.

(2) \$450,000 General Fund to support the costs of elections in calendar year 2026.

(3) \$50,000 General Fund for awards to support local civic journalism.

(n) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to Advance Vermont.

(o) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$150,000 General Fund to provide healthy meals and snacks to children and adults receiving supervised care services.

(2) \$150,000 General Fund for automated external defibrillators in schools.

(p) Department of Financial Regulation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$25,000 General Fund to support a study on the estimated amount that health insurance premiums would increase if Vermont were to enact legislation requiring health insurance coverage of biomarker testing.

(q) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$2,320,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, for Freedom and Unity grants.

(r) Office of the State Treasurer. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$150,000 General Fund for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

(2) \$75,000 General Fund for costs associated with the Pension and Benefits Funding Task Force.

(3) \$50,000 General Fund to support the work of the Public Employee Health Benefit Authority Study Committee, including the hiring of one or more consultants or firms to assist with facilitating meetings and public hearings and preparing its report.

(s) General Assembly. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$15,000 General Fund to support the work of the County and Regional Governance Study Committee.

(t) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$600,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, for the McClelland Hall housing transformation project.

(u) Department of Environmental Conservation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund for the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program.

(v) Land Use Review Board. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$100,000 General Fund for Act 250 public outreach and engagement in consultation with the Land Access and Opportunity Board.

(w) Department of Fish and Wildlife. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$25,000 General Fund for the Lake Champlain International Fishing Derby.

(x) University of Vermont. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$12,000,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, for the Multi-Purpose Center Project approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019. Any contract awarded for construction that is paid for with this spending authority shall adhere to the higher of:

(A) the prevailing wage requirements established in 29 V.S.A. § 161(b); or

(B) the prevailing local wage requirements as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act or related federal acts or regulations.

Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2026 CLOSEOUT; FISCAL YEAR 2027
CONTINGENT TRANSACTIONS

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2026 closeout, the Department of Finance and Management shall execute the requirements of 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103(a)(1)(D), as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 55 and further amended by Sec. C.102 of this act; 32 V.S.A. § 308; and 32 V.S.A. § 308f. The Department of Finance and Management shall then, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, calculate the maximum number of contingent transactions that can be funded, in the order provided in subsection (b) of this section, and designate that money to remain unallocated for such purpose in fiscal year 2027. Any residual balance remaining after such designations shall be reserved in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, the following contingent transactions shall be executed in the following order from the designated unallocated balance as determined in subsection (a) of this section:

(1) \$4,773,798 is transferred to the Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951).

(2) \$1,000,000 is transferred to the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund.

(3) \$5,000,000 is transferred to the Human Services Caseload Reserve.

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

Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL
INVESTMENTS; FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME CAPITAL
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2027, \$23,418,455 is appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the following:

(1) Department of Buildings and General Services:

(A) \$1,281,174 for statewide major maintenance;

(B) \$225,000 for statewide physical security enhancements;

(C) \$1,000,000 for statewide three-acre parcel stormwater compliance;

(D) \$3,600,000 for Asa Bloomer roof replacement;

(E) \$900,000 for Rutland multimodal garage renovation;

(F) \$3,000,000 for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs;

(G) \$1,050,000 for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC upgrades at correctional facilities;

(H) \$225,000 for the Agency of Human Services for statewide correctional facilities security upgrades;

(I) \$2,700,000 for the Agency of Human Services for door control upgrades at correctional facilities;

(J) \$1,000,000 for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern State Correctional Facility boiler replacement;

(K) \$500,000 for the Agency of Human Services for Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility sprinkler system upgrades;

(L) \$772,557 for the Agency of Human Services for the Department for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility;

(M) \$500,000 for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility;

(N) \$1,600,000 for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River Junction courthouse; and

(O) \$500,000 for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

(2) Department of Environmental Conservation:

(A) \$2,498,000 for the State match for federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; and

(B) \$150,000 for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns.

(3) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

(A) \$400,000 for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance.

(4) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(A) \$200,000 for dam maintenance and safety planning.

(5) Judiciary:

(A) \$500,000 for the Essex County Courthouse connector project.

(6) Vermont Historical Society:

(A) \$566,724 for the replacement of a climate control unit.

(7) Department of Corrections:

(A) \$250,000 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.

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. C.100 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 83(e) is amended to read:

(e) If funds previously appropriated to the Agency of Human Services are insufficient to provide the State match needed to make the payment adjustment in subsection (a) of this section, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308b, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall unreserve an amount of funds equal to the deficiency from the Human Services Caseload Reserve and, ~~notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, transfer~~ an amount of funds equal to the deficiency shall be appropriated to the Agency of Human Services.

Sec. C.101 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.325(b), as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 81, is further amended to read:

(b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$1,322,141 ~~General Fund~~ shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity for distribution to community partners providing services to prevent and address homelessness ~~for the purpose of restoring these community partners to their fiscal year 2025 appropriation level.~~ The \$1,322,141 shall be allocated as follows:

* * *

Sec. C.102 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 55, is further amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

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

(1) General Fund.

* * *

(D) The first ~~\$74,908,097~~ \$71,669,787 of any fiscal year-end balance otherwise subject to the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c(a) shall, instead, be reserved for addressing federal funding shortfalls, property tax relief, or any other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public in the subsequent fiscal year. Any proceeds reserved in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision (D) shall automatically be unreserved for use on July 1 of the subsequent fiscal year.

* * *

Sec. C.103 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 32 is amended to read:

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION
APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION GRANTS

(a) The sum of \$2,865,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work as follows:

(1) ~~\$200,000.00~~ \$1,452,500.00 for the purpose of awarding transition grants to support school boards transitioning the work required to transition to new governance and administrative models as contemplated in this act pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and in light of the continued analysis of the work necessary in the field to transition to new, operational school districts;

(2) \$562,500.00 for positions established in Sec. 33 of this act; and

(3) ~~\$2,102,500.00~~ \$850,000.00 for contracted services, subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (c) of this section, to support facilitate school districts boards to study the advisability of forming union school districts, as well as to support districts with administrative activities relating to consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to

support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula, instructional materials, and teaching activities.

(b) The Agency shall use the funds appropriated in subdivision (a)(1) of this section to award transition facilitation grants to support the work required to transition to new governance models.

(c) The appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(1) While this appropriation may be used to contract for data analysis necessary to support school districts with the administrative activities related to consolidation, it shall not be used to develop visualization tools, reports, or dashboards.

(2) This appropriation shall be used to provide direct support to school boards for the business processes that are required to be completed before new school districts become operational. Support and training for school business officials and other school district personnel shall be funded solely through the appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(1) of this section and the corresponding grants created in subsection (b) of this section.

(3) This appropriation may be used to support the special education strategic plan required pursuant to Sec. 30 of this act. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the strategic plan addresses the supports and processes needed to be in place for the transition to the weighted funding model for special education as such funding model is contemplated in this act and as may be further amended by an act of the General Assembly after consideration of the report required pursuant to Sec. 45a of this act. Any work or analysis done by the Agency regarding alternatives to the base amount or weights contained in this act shall not be funded from this appropriation.

Sec. C.104 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.127.2 is amended to read:

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

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Unduplicated function total” means the individual function totals set forth in this act excluding Global Commitment funds, Interdepartmental Transfer funds, and Internal Service funds. For purposes of this section, the determination of an unduplicated function total shall not include Education Funds.

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

(b) In fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, in each instance that a reduction in federal revenues to the State results in a decrease of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit by:

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) revert any unexpended and unobligated funds; and

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

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for the purpose of calculating any appropriation reduction that triggers the actions set forth in this section, the baseline federal funding amounts shall be the federal funding set forth in ~~this act~~ the general appropriations act for the fiscal year in which the reduction occurs. The Secretary of Administration shall monitor any changes in federal funding as the difference between the baseline federal funding amount ~~for use in fiscal year 2026~~ and any updated State federal funds

revenue forecast adopted by the Emergency Board and shall calculate the percent reduction of the unduplicated function totals for each governmental function unit.

Sec. C.105 3 V.S.A. § 118 is amended to read:

§ 118. COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF REVENUE

(a) There is hereby created a Secretary of State Services Fund. The Fund shall be used to provide appropriations for the operations of the Office of the Secretary of State, with the exception of those operations provided for in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title. The Fund shall be administered as a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. ~~At the end of each fiscal year, the unobligated balance in this Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.~~

(b) All revenues collected by the Secretary of State shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Services Fund except for the following revenues:

(1) any revenues collected by the Office of Professional Regulation set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title; and

(2) any revenues collected pursuant to subsection 117(k) of this title.

(c) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to collect and deposit into the Secretary of State Services Fund revenues generated from optional services offered in the normal course of business, including for one-time or periodic sales of data by subscription or other contractual basis.

(d) The Secretary of State or designee shall report annually to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its September meeting on the prior fiscal year Fund balance at closeout. The report shall include projected revenues to and expenditures from the Fund in future fiscal years.

Sec. C.106 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 79 is amended to read:

Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

* * *

(d) A housing authority shall notify the Department for Children and Families of its intent to request funds and submit a report on its financial need, including evidence that the request conforms to applicable HUD requirements and is a necessary and proper expense, to the Department ~~on or before April 15, 2026~~ within 10 business days after receiving official notice from HUD of its federal fiscal year 2026 funding amount.

(e) ~~On or before May 1, 2026~~ Not more than 20 business days after official notice from HUD of federal fiscal year 2026 funding amounts for housing

authorities in Vermont, the Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall:

(1) establish procedures for validating that such expenditures conform to applicable HUD requirements and are a necessary and proper expense prior to issuing funds; and

(2) establish guidelines to ensure that funds are distributed based upon need.

* * *

Sec. C.107 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1102(c) is amended to read:

(c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$50,000,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB):

(1) \$10,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for emergency shelter and permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness or who need supportive housing. The funds shall be used to expand Vermont's shelter capacity, provide homes for those experiencing homelessness, create housing for individuals eligible to receive Medicaid-funded developmental disabilities services, and decrease reliance on the General Assistance Emergency Housing hotel and motel program. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure new investments in homes and shelters are paired with appropriate support services for residents, including services supported through Medicaid. Funded projects may utilize a range of housing options, including the expansion of shelter capacity, the conversion of hotels to housing, creation of permanent supportive housing, and utilization of manufactured homes on infill sites.

* * *

Sec. C.108 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.110, as amended by 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. C.105, is further amended to read:

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

(a) The Secretary of Administration may reimburse up to \$14,300,000 of prior fiscal year federal funds expended through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to Grant Request #3034 with new General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments appropriations transferred from existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury. These

programs shall receive an amount of spending authority from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 Fund equal to the amount of General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments appropriation transferred.

(b) To the extent that qualifying General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments expenditures already incurred are transferred onto the spending authority established in subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A.

§ 706, transfer an equivalent amount of General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments spending authority to support programs established through Grant Request #3034 and subsequent Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant approvals by the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. C.109 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 51, is further amended to read:

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

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

* * *

(4) \$3,000,000 General Fund to ensure the appropriation made in Sec. B.514 of this act is sufficient to meet 100 percent of the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution. The appropriation made in Sec. B.513 of this act pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(13) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether the appropriation made in Sec. B.514 of this act is sufficient to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution requirement is funded at 100 percent in fiscal year 2026. Any remaining funds may be used, if necessary, to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution for the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System is 100 percent funded in fiscal year 2026. The appropriation made in Sec. B.104.1 of this act pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473(c)(8) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether fiscal year 2026 appropriations are sufficient to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution requirement is funded at 100 percent in fiscal year 2026. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted by an act of the General Assembly.

Sec. C.110 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE; REPORT

* * *

(i) Appropriations.

* * *

(2) The sum of ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$28,310.70 is appropriated to the Agency of Digital Services from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to cover costs associated with supporting the Task Force, or, if necessary, for the purposes of hiring one or more consultants to provide support to the Task Force.

* * *

Sec. C.111 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.338, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 41, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	184,910,113	184,260,113
Operating expenses	26,227,109	26,227,109
Grants	<u>801,823</u>	<u>801,823</u>
Total	211,939,045	211,289,045
Source of funds		
General fund	203,987,089	203,337,089
Special funds	990,963	990,963
Federal funds	516,600	516,600
Global Commitment fund	6,048,078	6,048,078
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>396,315</u>	<u>396,315</u>
Total	211,939,045	211,289,045

Sec. C.112 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.347, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 44, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	1,461,126,849	1,460,476,849
Special funds	232,655,939	232,655,939
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	31,074,772	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,993,089,108	1,993,089,108
Global Commitment fund	2,213,122,801	2,213,122,801
Internal service funds	403,853	403,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,694,090	32,694,090

Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,987,280,620	5,986,630,620

Sec. C.113 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115 and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 49, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

* * *

(3) \$2,540,000 shall be for a grant to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for the capital region communications system upgrade project.

(4) Any remaining amounts not obligated pursuant to subdivisions (1) ~~and~~, (2), and (3) of this subsection shall remain unobligated and unexpended until approval to expend the funds is authorized by further enactment of the General Assembly.

* * *

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

Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

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

(1) The sum of \$608,137 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of \$608,137 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of \$37,653,750 from the property transfer tax and the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) shall be offset by the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2027 appropriation of \$37,653,750 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2), amounts in excess of \$10,179,975 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3), the \$10,179,975 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) \$7,838,580 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) \$1,323,397 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) \$1,017,998 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

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

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

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): \$73,797,962.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21952): \$17,016,160.

(C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): \$4,650,000.

(D) Education Fund (#20205): \$100,908,097.

(E) Vermont State Police Radio Equipment and Firearm Replacement Special Fund: \$500,000.

(F) Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund (#21926): \$350,000.

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

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): \$294,775.

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

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

(A) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): \$1,550,000.

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

(A) Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (#21933): \$11,897,381.

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

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

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$5,000,000.

(6) From the AG-Fees and Reimbursement-Court Order Special Fund (#21638) to the:

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

(B) Miscellaneous Fines & Penalties Fund (#21054): \$1,538,600.

(7) From the Insurance Reserve Fund (#21335) to the:

(A) Transportation Fund (#20105): \$1,360,069, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 135.

(8) From the State PACE Reserve Fund (#21943) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$60,806.73, notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 3270.

(9) From the Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$9,547,596.39, notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 3306.

(b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget and do not supersede the actual fiscal year-end transfer amounts.

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

(A) 8 V.S.A. § 80(d). Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075): \$42,837,511.

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085): \$23,762,455.

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): \$7,500,000.

(2) 8 V.S.A. § 6017(b). To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): \$143,318.

(c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund (#10000), shall not exceed the actual fiscal year-end profits earned by the enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget only.

(1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): \$6,700,000.

(2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): \$20,871,297.

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>1100892208</u>	<u>AOA-VT Housing Finance Agency</u>	<u>1,000,000.00</u>
<u>1100892310</u>	<u>AOA-FEMA COVID Match</u>	<u>890,937.34</u>
<u>1100892402</u>	<u>AOA-High-Risk FEMA Denial Resv</u>	<u>5,184,452.41</u>
<u>2200892301</u>	<u>AAFM-Ecosystems Services</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
<u>2200892307</u>	<u>AAFM-Conservation Districts</u>	<u>16,513.42</u>
<u>2200892408</u>	<u>AAFM-Dairy Risk Mgmt</u>	<u>35,496.73</u>
<u>2240892204</u>	<u>PSD-Affordable Comm Scale Ren</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>
<u>2240892404</u>	<u>PSD-SHARE</u>	<u>195,000.00</u>
<u>3150892302</u>	<u>DMH-Howard Center</u>	<u>790.68</u>
<u>3400892204</u>	<u>AHSCO-Workforce Retention</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>
<u>3400892304</u>	<u>AHS-Nurse Preceptor Grants</u>	<u>189,984.00</u>
<u>3410892502</u>	<u>DVHA-Technical Analysis</u>	<u>21,601.25</u>

<u>3440891905</u>	<u>Child Dev Assoc Credential</u>	<u>29,752.09</u>
<u>3440892401</u>	<u>DCF-Reach Ahead 2 Year Pilot</u>	<u>498.63</u>
<u>3480892501</u>	<u>DOC-Data Contract</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>
<u>5100892308</u>	<u>AOE-Universal Income Dec.</u>	<u>99,990.00</u>
<u>6140892402</u>	<u>DEC-Emissions Repair Program</u>	<u>362,416.60</u>
<u>7110892406</u>	<u>HCD-Mobile Home Condemnation</u>	<u>831,043.50</u>
<u>7110892106</u>	<u>HCD - Tech Serv Local Gov</u>	<u>1,056.73</u>
<u>7110892306</u>	<u>HCD-Designated Area Report</u>	<u>5,342.36</u>
<u>7120892204</u>	<u>ACCD-Technology Related Grants</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds provided:

(1) General Fund.

(A) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, \$6,550,000 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2027.

(B) The \$30,000,000 General Fund reserved pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(4) is unreserved.

Sec. D.104 EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION FUNDING

(a) As part of the fiscal year appropriations and revenue decisions, this act reserves sufficient monies to fully fund education transformation initiatives established through legislation enacted in 2025 and 2026. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any specific appropriations, legislative language, and applicable adjustments, once developed, be incorporated in a specific bill or, if necessary, be added to this act.

* * * General Government * * *

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of seven permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2027 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

(A) Office of the State Treasurer:

(i) one Program Technician III; and

(ii) one Policy and Research Manager.

(B) Vermont Pension Investment Commission:

(i) one Financial Director III.

(C) Office of the Secretary of State:

(i) one RIM Specialist;

(ii) one Business Services Administrator; and

(iii) one Executive Officer.

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

(A) Office of the Secretary of State:

(i) one Staff Attorney.

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

(1) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Assistant Director of Court Diversion and Pretrial Services;

and

(B) one Home Improvement Specialist.

(2) Office of the Secretary of State:

(A) one Administrative Services Coordinator IV.

(3) Department of Public Service:

(A) one Financial Director IV.

(c) The conversion of 26 limited service positions to permanent exempt status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

(1) Judiciary:

(A) one Database Administrator;

(B) two IT Help Desk Analysts;

(C) two Centralized Service Analysts;

(D) 10 Judicial Assistants; and

(E) 11 Judicial Officer II's.

Sec. E.100.1 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.100.3 is amended to read:

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

(a) In fiscal ~~year~~ years 2026 and 2027, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of appropriations made from the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

- (A) the original amounts appropriated;
- (B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and
- (C) any remaining spending authority.

(b) In fiscal ~~year~~ years 2026, 2027, and 2028, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of any spending authority established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

- (A) the original amounts appropriated;
- (B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and
- (C) any remaining spending authority.

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

* * *

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

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July, September, and November 2026 meetings, and at other meetings as requested, on any reductions to federal revenues to the State and the status of any appropriations impacted by such reductions.

Sec. E.105.1 AGENCY OF DIGITAL SERVICES; INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; DEFICIT
MITIGATION PLAN

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Digital Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a written plan to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on how to reduce the fund deficit in the Information Technology Internal Service Fund established by 3 V.S.A. § 3304, including any recommended changes to revenue sources to and expenditures from the Fund. The report shall include information on revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the Fund's balance at fiscal year closeout for the previous 10 fiscal years. The report shall also include the most current available information on revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the estimated Fund balance at fiscal year 2027 closeout.

Sec. E.106 32 V.S.A. § 307(b) is amended to read:

(b) The budget shall also include in detail definite recommendations of the Governor relative to the amounts that should be appropriated to each of the activities referred to under this section. It shall also include definite recommendations of the Governor relative to the financing of the expenditures recommended and the appropriate amounts to be raised from ordinary revenue, direct taxes, bonds, or loans. The financing of the expenditures recommended, as proposed by the Governor, shall not include the funds from the Budget Stabilization Reserve as established in section 308 of this title. With the budget, the Governor shall submit to the General Assembly such messages, statements, or supplemental data with reference to the same, as the Governor may deem expedient; however, budget documentation shall include to the extent possible the following:

* * *

(5) A document outlining reversions and approved carryforward by appropriation.

Sec. E.108 STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION STUDY;
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Human Resources shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action on how and whether to amend the statutes governing State employee compensation, including what

State employee salary information should be set forth in statute and the method of determining appropriate pay increases for State employees. The report and recommendations shall be based on the Department's review and analysis of the following:

(1) those exempt position titles that set forth the associated salary in statute and the exempt position titles that do not set forth salary in statute;

(2) how the annual rate of adjustment is determined and applied for exempt employee salaries and how it compares to the annual rate of adjustment determination and application for classified employee salaries; and

(3) the salary advancement structure for exempt employees as compared to the salary advancement structure for classified employees.

Sec. E.111 DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; POSITION POOL;
FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.111 of this act, \$135,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Business Analyst position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.111.1 32 V.S.A. § 435 is amended to read:

§ 435. GENERAL FUND

(a) There is established the General Fund, which shall be the basic operating fund of the State. The General Fund shall be used to finance all expenditures for which no special revenues have otherwise been provided by law.

(b) The General Fund shall be composed of revenues from the following sources:

(1) alcoholic beverage tax levied pursuant to 7 V.S.A. chapter 15;

(2) 50 percent of the revenue from the cannabis excise tax levied pursuant to section 7902 of this title;

* * *

Sec. E.111.2 16 V.S.A. § 2885(a) is amended to read:

(a) A Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:

(1) appropriations made by the General Assembly;

(2) in any fiscal year in which a General Fund surplus exists and the General Fund Stabilization Reserve is funded to its required statutory level, funds raised by the estate tax levied under 32 V.S.A. chapter 190 that are more

than 125 percent of the amount projected by the Emergency Board in the July annual forecast made pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 305a; and

(3) 20 percent of the revenue from the cannabis excise tax levied pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902; and

(4) contributions from any other sources.

Sec. E.127 JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a report with a general overview of special funds and their uses to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on or before December 15, 2026.

(b) In addition to the report outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Department of Finance and Management, submit the following reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

(1) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "general government," "labor," "general education," "commerce and community development," and "transportation." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2026.

(2) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "human services" and "natural resources." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2027.

(3) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "protection to persons and property." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2028.

(4) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that did not fall within any function areas of government identified in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection or that would fall within those function areas of government but were established after the relevant report was submitted. The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2029.

(c) The reports required by subsection (b) of this section shall include, for each special fund identified, the following information, if available:

(1) the authorizing statute for the fund, its date of enactment, and any amendments to the statute;

(2) a description of revenue sources and expenditures, including stated purposes of expenditures;

(3) the prior fiscal year fund balance at closeout; and

(4) other relevant information on the general management and oversight of the fund.

Sec. E.127.1 FISCAL YEAR 2027 FEE REPORT; HUMAN SERVICES;
NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) Fiscal year 2027 fee information. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices that receive appropriations in Secs. B.300–399 and B.700–799 of this act shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a comprehensive fee report for each fee that is in effect in fiscal year 2027. The fee report shall contain the following information for each fee:

(1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;

(2) the current rate or amount of the fee and the date the fee was last set or adjusted by the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;

(3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;

(4) the amount of the revenues derived from the fee in each of the five fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2027;

(5) the number of times that the fee was paid in each of the two fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2027;

(6) a projection of the fee revenues in fiscal years 2027 and 2028;

(7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory function performed by the agency, department, board, or office supported by the fee;

(8) the amount of the fee if adjusted for inflation from the last time the fee amount was modified using an appropriate index chosen in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office. The inflation adjustment shall be calculated as the percentage change between the value of the index in the July of the year the fee was last adjusted by the General Assembly and July 2026;

(9) if any portion of the fee revenue is deposited into a special fund, the percentage of the special fund's revenues that the fee represents;

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

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

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

(b) Reports.

(1) The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide guidance as necessary to the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section on the methodology to be used for compiling the information requested in the fee reports. On or before October 15, 2026, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a draft report of the information required in subdivisions (a)(1)–(12) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office for review. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices shall work with the Joint Fiscal Office to finalize the report before submitting the report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) On or before December 15, 2026, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a final report to the Joint Fiscal Office.

(3) On or before January 15, 2027, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a consolidated report consisting of the final reports submitted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

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

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

(d) Executive Branch fee report moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal year 2027, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated Executive Branch fee annual report and request to the General Assembly.

Sec. E.131 HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND; USES;
REPORT

(a) In calendar year 2026, as part of the annual financial report on the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund required by 16 V.S.A. § 2885(e), the Office of the State Treasurer shall, in consultation with the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council, include recommendations on any changes to revenue sources to or expenditures from the Fund, including any expanded uses of the fund and adjustments to the current statutory allocation structure.

Sec. E.131.1 STATE PACE RESERVE FUND; REPEAL

(a) 24 V.S.A. § 3270 (state PACE reserve fund) is repealed.

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

(a) Of the \$3,768,126 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, \$2,526,938 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and \$1,241,188 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

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

(a) Of the \$2,214,955 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,772,446 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and \$442,509 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.138 RENTER REBATE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BASE INCREASE;
ONE-TIME

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the \$4,000,000 increase to the appropriation in Sec. B.138 of this act be a one-time increase in fiscal year 2027 that shall not recur in future fiscal years.

Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), of the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act, \$70,000 shall be provided to the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review and used with any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment of expenses incurred

by the Department or towns in defense of grand list appeals regarding the reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other expenses incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in Vermont.

Sec. E.139.1 TAX DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION; PILOT FUND

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act shall be made from the PILOT Special Fund.

Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

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

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

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

Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

(b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b)(4), \$2,263,600 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY; ADMINISTRATION

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

Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY; STATE POLICE

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

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

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

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

Sec. E.209.1 20 V.S.A. § 1913a is added to read:

§ 1913a. VERMONT STATE POLICE RADIO EQUIPMENT AND
FIREARM REPLACEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont State Police Radio Equipment and Firearm Replacement Special Fund, to be administered by the Department of Public Safety in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Monies in the Fund shall be used for the purchase of Vermont State Police radio equipment and firearms in accordance with the life cycle replacement schedule as approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred to it by the General Assembly; and

(2) the proceeds from the sale of any existing radio equipment and firearms.

(c) Fund balance. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the Fund.

(d) Receipts. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may anticipate receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY; FIRE SAFETY

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

Sec. E.215 MILITARY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.215 of this act, \$1,219,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

Sec. E.217 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; FEDERAL FUNDING

(a) Of the federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.217 of this act, \$442,247 shall be the 75 percent federal share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper.

Sec. E.218 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; STATE FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.218 of this act, \$147,411 shall be the 25 percent State share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper.

Sec. E.219 MILITARY; VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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

Sec. E.220 CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES; TRANSFER;
GRANTS TO VERMONT NETWORK

(a) Of the amount transferred from the General Fund to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund in Sec. D.101(a)(1)(F) of this act, the Center for Crime Victim Services shall distribute \$250,000 as grants to the member organizations of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

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

(a) The Secretary of State shall grant the \$1,800,000 General Fund appropriation provided in Sec. B.232 of this act to the Vermont Access Network to maintain current operations and programming.

Sec. E.233 30 V.S.A. § 202d is amended to read:

§ 202d. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

* * *

(f) The Department shall adopt a new Plan every ~~three~~ five years pursuant to the procedures established in subsection (e) of this section. The Plan shall outline significant deviations from the prior Plan. For good cause or upon request by a joint resolution passed by the General Assembly, an interim review and revision of any section of the Plan may be made after conducting public hearings on the interim revision. At least one hearing shall be held jointly with committees of the General Assembly designated by the General Assembly for this purpose.

Sec. E.233.1 30 V.S.A. § 209 is amended to read:

§ 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE

* * *

(e) Thermal energy and process fuel efficiency funding.

(1) Each of the following shall be used to deliver thermal energy and process fuel energy efficiency services in accordance with this section for unregulated fuels to Vermont consumers of such fuels. In addition, the Commission may authorize an entity appointed to deliver such services under subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section to use monies subject to this subsection for the engineering, design, and construction of facilities for the conversion of thermal energy customers using fossil fuels to district heat if the majority of the district's energy is from biomass sources, the district's distribution system is highly energy efficient, and such conversion is cost effective.

(A) Net revenues above costs associated with payments from the New England Independent System Operator (ISO-NE) for capacity savings resulting from the activities of the energy efficiency utility designated under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (e) ~~that are not transferred to the State PACE Reserve Fund under 24 V.S.A. § 3270(e)~~. These revenues shall be deposited into the Electric Efficiency Fund established by this section. In delivering services with respect to heating systems using the revenues subject to this subdivision (A), the entity shall give priority to incentives for the installation of high efficiency biomass heating systems and shall have a goal of offering an incentive that is equal to 25 percent of the installed cost of such a system. Provision of an incentive under this subdivision (A) for a biomass heating system shall not be contingent on the making of other energy efficiency improvements at the property on which the system will be installed.

* * *

Sec. E.236 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POSITION POOL;
FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.236 of this act, \$130,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, exempt Staff Attorney Investigator position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE
ADVOCATE, VERMONT LEGAL AID

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

(1) \$2,450,406 shall be for the contract with the Office of the Health Care Advocate;

(2) \$1,717,994 shall be for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty Law Project and mental health services; and

(3) \$650,000 shall be for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

Sec. E.300.1 HIGH-END SYSTEM FACILITIES FOR YOUTH

(a) Monthly from August through December 2026, the Agency of Human Services, in consultation with the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services, shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee on its plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Campus, including its progress on an analysis of the estimated costs of an annual operating budget for full utilization of the proposed 41-bed high-end system of care consistent with 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.300.1.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall not expend funds for further development of the Green Mountain Youth Campus in fiscal year 2027 until either:

(1) the Joint Fiscal Committee, in consultation with the chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, approves the resumption of expenditures for the Green Mountain Youth Campus upon reviewing one or more of the reports received pursuant to subsection (a) of this section while the General Assembly is adjourned sine die; or

(2) the General Assembly authorizes resumption of spending by legislative enactment.

Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act for payment required under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment to Health Waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of \$28,368,715 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under the Global Commitment as follows:

(1) \$25,158,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$34,842,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of \$60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment Fund to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 33 V.S.A. § 1904a.

(2) \$3,210,715 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

(c) Up to \$4,997,210 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 (Secretary's Office; Global Commitment) of this act.

Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER;
REPORT

(a) To facilitate fiscal year 2027 closeout, the Secretary of Human Services, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, may make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section. A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2027 meeting. The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the

Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.2, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.300.2, and 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.301.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
(HCBS PLAN)

* * *

(f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this section obligated in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026,~~ and 2027 for the purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal years 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026,~~ and 2027, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026,~~ and 2027 in the same manner as the Global Commitment appropriations in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in September 2023, September 2024, September 2025, ~~and September 2026,~~ and September 2027, respectively, on transfers of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026,~~ and 2027, respectively, and any obligated funds carried forward to be expended in fiscal years 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026,~~ and 2027, respectively.

Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT WAIVER AMENDMENT

(a) The Secretary of Human Services is authorized to seek an extension of Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration for the period of January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2032, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sec. E.306 REINSURANCE; AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE SECTION
1332 WAIVER

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with the Department of Financial Regulation, is authorized to submit a State Innovation Waiver pursuant to Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152, to establish a program for reinsurance and seek federal pass-through funding of amounts attributable to premium tax credits under 26 U.S.C. § 36B.

Sec. E.306.1 MEDICARE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(a) Effective July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access shall terminate any contract for services for the Medicare Advocacy Program under 33 V.S.A. chapter 67 consistent with the provisions of 33 V.S.A. § 6703(b).

Sec. E.306.2 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;
POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.306 of this act, \$497,077 of General Fund and \$497,077 of federal funds shall be for the following permanent, classified positions to be taken from the position pool: one Health Care Assistant Administrator I; one Digital Communications Specialist II; one Business Project Manager; four Vermont Healthcare Service Specialist I's; and five Vermont Healthcare Service Specialist II's.

Sec. E.306.3 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;
PRIMARY CARE CASE MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall establish and distribute per-member, per-month primary care case management payments to primary care providers in fiscal year 2027 in order to preserve access to primary care services.

Sec. E.307 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;
EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 2959a to the contrary, the payments ordinarily made by the Secretary of Education pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2959a(c) and (d) shall instead be made by the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access.

Sec. E.307.1 33 V.S.A. § 1900 is amended to read:

§ 1900. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter, unless otherwise indicated:

* * *

(12) "Supervisory union" has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11 and includes a supervisory district.

Sec. E.307.2 33 V.S.A. § 1904 is added to read:

§ 1904. MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM

(a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State of Vermont maximize its receipt of federal reimbursement for medically related services

provided to students who are eligible under Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act.

(2) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that Vermont's School-Based Medical Assistance Program shall comply with all federal Medicaid requirements. As the State Medicaid agency, the Agency of Human Services shall have sole responsibility for determining and maintaining program compliance.

(b) The Agency of Education shall be responsible for coordination of the School-Based Medical Assistance Program with statewide education policy and objectives and for communicating with supervisory unions.

(c) The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to identify the services that are available through the School-Based Medical Assistance Program and to set forth the requirements for supervisory union participation. The rules shall include State and federal requirements for:

(1) Medicaid reimbursement;

(2) participation in a Random Moment Time Study and an electronic health records system;

(3) Medicaid cost reports;

(4) provider enrollment and trainings;

(5) service documentation;

(6) Medicaid eligibility; and

(7) any other provisions necessary for compliance with the Medicaid program.

(d)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall support supervisory unions by funding and providing the technical elements of the Program necessary for federal compliance.

(2) Supervisory unions delivering medically related services pursuant to the Medicaid School-Based Services Program shall participate in a Random Moment Time Study and an electronic health records system as directed by the Agency of Human Services to enable Medicaid billing of direct health services and Medicaid administrative claiming activities.

Sec. E.307.3 33 V.S.A. § 1904a is added to read:

§ 1904a. SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUND

(a) The School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund is established as a special fund to receive federal reimbursements for medically related services

delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program described in section 1904 of this chapter. Monies received by the State pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund, which shall be administered by the Agency of Human Services, and Fund receipts shall be allocated in accordance with this section.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall pay 55 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by the medically related services delivered in each supervisory union pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program to the supervisory union based on the Medicaid cost reports, service claims, and Medicaid administrative costs submitted by the supervisory union.

(c)(1) Up to 25 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program shall be available for the administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, operations, and reporting of school-based medical assistance programs and statewide programs.

(2) The Agencies shall enter into a memorandum of understanding setting forth the processes by which Medicaid reimbursement monies available for administrative costs and statewide programs are allocated to the Agencies.

(3) The Secretaries of Education and of Human Services shall expend monies from the Fund only as appropriated by the General Assembly. The provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 511 shall not apply to this Fund.

(d) At the close of each fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transfer to and deposit any unencumbered available cash balance remaining in the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund net of accounts payable into the Education Fund.

Sec. E.307.4 33 V.S.A. § 1904a is amended to read:

§ 1904a. SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUND

* * *

(c)(1) Up to ~~25~~ 20 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program shall be available for the administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, operations, and reporting of school-based medical assistance programs and statewide programs.

* * *

Sec. E.307.5 16 V.S.A. § 2959a is amended to read:

§ 2959a. EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM; SUPERVISORY UNIONS AND SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State of Vermont shall maximize its receipt of federal Medicaid dollars available for reimbursement of for medically related services provided to students who are Medicaid eligible under Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) each supervisory union identify special education and other students eligible for Medicaid reimbursement and, to the extent possible, submit Medicaid bills for services reimbursement Medicaid-compliant cost reports and service claims; and

(2) the Agencies of Education and of Human Services work with local school districts to maximize reimbursements, including services to non-IEP students.

~~(b) A Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund is established within the Agency of Education. Funds received by the State under this section shall be transferred to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund. The Fund receipts shall be allocated in accordance with this section.~~

~~(c) At least annually, the Secretary of Education shall pay to each supervisory union submitting Medicaid bills under this section 50 percent of the reimbursed funds generated by the supervisory union's bill, excluding claims generated by State-placed students. Unless the supervisory union has agreed to use the funds to operate a supervisory unionwide program or to distribute the funds in a different manner, upon receipt, the supervisory union shall distribute the funds to its member school districts based on how the funds were generated. The Secretary may withhold payment due a supervisory union pursuant to section 2950 of this title for a Medicaid-eligible State-placed student if the supervisory union has not submitted a Medicaid claim for reimbursable services for that student.~~

~~(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, as of November 15, for state and local government purchases of goods and services from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the payment is being determined, plus an additional one-tenth of one percent.~~

~~(e) Supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section to pay for reasonable costs of administering the Medicaid claims process, and school districts or supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section for prevention and intervention programs in prekindergarten through grade 12. The programs shall be designed to facilitate early identification of and intervention with children with disabilities and to ensure all students achieve rigorous and challenging standards approved and adopted by the State Board or locally adopted standards. A supervisory union shall provide annual written justification to the Secretary of Education on how it or its member districts used the funds. Such annual submission shall show how the funds' use is expressly linked to those provisions of the supervisory union's action plan that directly relate to improving student performance. A supervisory union shall include in its annual report the amount of the prior year's Medicaid reimbursement revenues and the use of Medicaid funds consistent with the purposes set forth in this subsection.~~

~~(f) Up to 30 percent of Medicaid reimbursements received under this section shall be available for administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, processing, and reporting of education Medicaid reimbursements and statewide programs. The Secretaries of Education and of Human Services shall expend monies from the Fund only as appropriated by the General Assembly.~~

~~(g) Remaining reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the Education Fund.~~

Sec. E.307.6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION
OF CHANGES TO MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES
PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with the Agency of Education, Vermont Association of School Business Officials, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, and school district officials in implementing changes to the Medicaid school-based services program in accordance with this act, including:

(1) providing structured opportunities for input during the phased implementation process in order to address challenges and risks in a timely manner and minimize disruptions; and

(2) focusing on geographic diversity to ensure that the implementation process is responsive to regional variations in needs and capacity.

Sec. E.307.7 SPECIAL FUND BALANCE TRANSFER

(a) Any outstanding fund balances, assets, or liabilities remaining in the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2959a shall be transferred to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1904a prior to the elimination of the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund by Sec. E.307.5 of this act.

Sec. E.307.8 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; FAMILY PLANNING CODE IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

(a) On or before September 15, 2026, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall review its implementation of family planning codes in the Medicaid program to ensure that all expenditures for family planning services and supplies that are eligible for federal match at a 90 percent federal medical assistance percentage are receiving that enhanced rate.

(b) On or before October 1, 2026, the Department shall provide a progress report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on:

(1) the Department's findings to date from its review;

(2) an estimate of any reductions in General Fund expenditures that can be realized by maximizing usage of the family planning codes to obtain the 90 percent federal match for qualifying services and supplies; and

(3) proposals for ways in which the estimated savings can be reinvested into rate increases for family planning services and supplies as part of the fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment.

Sec. E.311 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155, Sec. 7a, as amended by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec E.311.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 7a. SUNSET

~~18 V.S.A. § 33 (medical students; primary care) is repealed on July 1, 2027. [Deleted.]~~

Sec. E.311.1 DIGITAL YOUTH-BASED BEHAVIORAL PREVENTION PROGRAM

(a) The Department of Health shall consider allocating \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 to support the implementation of a statewide, population-based youth behavioral prevention program for youth between 13 and 18 years of age. If it allocates funds for this purpose, the Department shall utilize a single, secure digital platform to provide access to evidence-informed behavioral health education resources, moderated peer support services, and confidential virtual sessions with coaches and mental health professionals who are licensed in Vermont. Services on the platform shall be accessible via mobile and web-based formats, available in English and Spanish, provided at no cost to participating youth and families, and not billed to Medicaid or a health insurance plan.

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided in this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory Group with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to a request for proposal process.

(2) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$340,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: \$165,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: \$115,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: \$60,000.

(3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont Medication Assistance Program shall be distributed in accordance with federal guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or services funded solely by the General Fund.

(A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in the Vermont Medication Assistance Program to assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to Vermont Medication Assistance Program medications until such time as the General Assembly can take action.

(B) As provided in this section, the Secretary of Human Services shall work in collaboration with the Vermont Medication Assistance Program Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less than 50 percent of members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification to the Program's eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the Committee shall make recommendations regarding the Program's formulary of approved medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and eligibility for the Program.

(4) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$400,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services on or before September 1, 2026. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

(5) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall not reduce any grants to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels below those in fiscal year 2026 without receiving prior approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.313 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is amended to read:

§ 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund is established and managed by the Vermont Department of Health in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 for the purpose of funding substance misuse prevention programming, including school-based prevention programming.

(b) Thirty percent of the revenues raised by the cannabis excise tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902, not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 per fiscal year, shall be deposited into this fund for substance misuse prevention costs.

* * *

Sec. E.316 REPORT; REACH UP

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department for Children and Families shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare evaluating the Reach Up Program, including any inefficiencies or gaps in services; an actionable, phased plan that estimates the amount needed to remove the ratable reduction in the Reach Up program; and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. E.316.1 PARENT CHILD CENTER NETWORK; RATE INCREASES;
INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in future fiscal years the Parent Child Center Network be included in inflationary rate increases and that such increases be calculated based on the Parent Child Center Network's integrated block grant to all 15 parent child centers to provide the eight core services required pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3701(d).

Sec. E.316.2 MEDICAID AND SNAP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

(a) On or before December 15, 2026, the Departments for Children and Families and of Vermont Health Access shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding a needs assessment related to the implementation of 2025 federal H.R.1 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid work requirements. The assessment shall include:

(1) the number of individuals, and number of impacted households, who have become ineligible for benefits due to federal work requirements policy changes;

(2) a summary of the benefit loss;

(3) information about individuals who later regained eligibility, if available; and

(4) an analysis of the reasons individuals are determined ineligible for benefits.

(b) The report shall include information regarding outreach and other efforts undertaken by the Departments for Children and Families and of Vermont Health Access to support impacted households and community partners in assisting households to maintain benefits, as well as information on SNAP error rates and recommendations for additional actions.

(c) In calendar years 2027 and 2028, the Departments for Children and Families and of Vermont Health Access shall, on a quarterly basis, provide an update to the report required by this section to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare while the General Assembly is in session and to the Joint Fiscal Committee while the General Assembly is not in session.

Sec. E.316.3 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES;
HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE BASE FUNDING

(a) In addition to the \$21,183,809 one-time General Fund appropriation made to the Department for Children and Families in Sec. B.1100(c)(1) of this act for the implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum, including shelter development and operation, emergency housing in hotels and motels, grants to municipalities, emergency cold weather shelters, and supportive services, and related case management, staffing, grants, and contracts, \$61,450,344 of the appropriations made in Secs. B.316, B.321, and B.325 of this act shall be base funding to support those purposes.

(b) Any spending authority referenced in subsection (a) of this section that remains at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall be carried forward for the same purpose for which it was originally appropriated.

Sec. E.317 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS

(a)(1) \$137,500 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act, the \$130,000 General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(c)(5) of this act, and \$100,000 of the federal funds appropriation in Sec. B.319 of this act shall be distributed by the Department for Children and Families to supervised visitation programs as follows:

(A) \$367,500 to the six existing community-based supervised visitation sites and the remainder shall be used for start-up funding for additional sites in counties where programs do not currently exist to ensure the programs are operational on or before January 1, 2027.

(2) The Department shall work with the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence to develop a funding formula for supervised visitation sites, to identify the community partners to develop two new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027, and to begin planning for the creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.

Sec. E.322 33 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

§ 2605. BENEFIT AMOUNTS

* * *

(h) Households A household receiving benefits from 3SquaresVT whose head of household that is not otherwise eligible for a fuel benefit under this section shall be eligible for a nominal annual Home Heating Fuel Assistance benefit of \$21.00 if a member of the household is elderly or disabled under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program regulations.

Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$38,251,696 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recognized Continuum of Care programs.

Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; WEATHERIZATION
ASSISTANCE

(a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

Sec. E.329 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;
ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; REPORT

(a) Between July 1, 2026, and December 15, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the designated and specialized service agency system. The stakeholder group shall include individuals with lived experience of receiving services from a designated or specialized service agency, members of relevant standing committees, commissioners from relevant Agency of Human Services departments or their designees, and representatives of Vermont Care Partners. The stakeholder group shall:

(1) conduct a comprehensive analysis of the designated and specialized service agency system, including:

(A) the scope of State-funded and State-required designated and specialized agency services;

(B) applicable statutory, contractual, and administrative requirements;

(C) the extent to which evolving community needs, system reforms, and State and federal mandates have expanded the responsibilities of designated and specialized service agencies over time;

(D) system sustainability;

(E) State and system workforce capacity;

(F) sufficiency of State financial resources; and

(G) administrative burden on the State and designated and specialized service agencies;

(2) identify and define essential services and establish alignment between State and federal requirements, community need, and available resources, and develop a transparent process for adding or expanding State or federally required responsibilities that considers prior agreements on funding, staffing, operational feasibility, and service delivery impact prior to the adoption or enforcement of these responsibilities; and

(3) submit findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on or before January 1, 2027.

(b) On or before January 15, 2028, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, in consultation with the Departments of Health and of Mental Health and the Office of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services, shall submit a plan that conforms with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9403 to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare for developing and conducting a data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies that shall include:

(1) hearing from and sharing data, information, trends, and insights with communities about the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies;

(2) providing opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of the engagement process by current, former, and prospective clients of the designated and specialized service agencies and health care providers, including employees of designated and specialized service agencies, including participation by individuals who reflect Vermont's diversity with regard to race, income, age, and disability status;

(3) providing the data, information, and analysis necessary to support the engagement process, including information and trends relating to the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies and the workforce challenges encountered by the agencies; and

(4) establishing mechanisms to assess the impact of any changes on the designated and specialized service agencies, including on workforce recruitment and retention initiatives.

(c) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living may include a request for an appropriation to hire one or more consultants to support the engagement process recommended pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. E.329.1 CHOICES FOR CARE; FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET

(a) For the fiscal year 2028 budget, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall present as separate appropriations in the Choices for Care Program home- and community-based services and skilled nursing facility services.

Sec. E.329.2 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.329 of this act, \$130,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Disabilities Housing Coordinator position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.332 LEGISLATIVE INTENT; HIREABILITY

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the General Assembly shall fund HireAbility Vermont through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. However, in fiscal year 2028 and thereafter, the General Assembly intends to fund HireAbility Vermont using General Fund monies.

Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS; CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special fund appropriation of \$152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.338.1 REENTRY SERVICES; GRANT

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.338 of this act, \$85,000 General Fund shall be for a grant to Jenna's Promise to support reentry services.

Sec. E.500 AGENCY OF EDUCATION; BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment and fiscal year 2028 budget presentations, the Agency of Education shall include:

(1) a comprehensive account of fiscal year 2027 appropriations, including information on amounts expended or obligated at the time of the presentation's submission;

(2) a comprehensive account of anticipated fiscal year 2027 carryforward, including information on the reasons for expenditures being lower than anticipated;

(3) information on all third-party contract agreements the Agency entered into in fiscal year 2027;

(4) organizational charts reflecting the current structure of the Agency and each division within the Agency;

(5) written explanation of any changes to the Agency's organizational structure and personnel;

(6) a comprehensive account of any vacancies within the Agency, including information on the duration of each position vacancy and any recommendations for the elimination or redesignation of positions; and

(7) information on any changes to federal funding, rules, or policy that may affect the Agency and any action the Agency has taken or may take to address those changes.

Sec. E.500.1 EDUCATION; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

(a) The Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.501 of this act shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized Education Programs. These services are intended to increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sec. E.500.2 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 33 is amended to read:

Sec. 33. EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION; POOL POSITIONS

The General Fund appropriation in Sec. 32 of this act shall fund five ~~limited servicee~~ permanent classified positions taken from the position pool. The pool positions shall be used to establish the following ~~limited servicee~~ permanent classified positions at the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work:

- (1) one Business Operations Support Specialist;
- (2) one Data Integration Support Specialist;
- (3) one Curriculum and Education Quality Standards Integration Specialist;
- (4) one Learning and Teaching Integration Specialist; and
- (5) one School Facilities Field Support Specialist.

Sec. E.500.3 16 V.S.A. § 51 is amended to read:

§ 51. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be managed by the Agency of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be

deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Fund shall be used as follows:

(1) To establish a grant program that supports the expansion of universal afterschool and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the State.

(2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

(A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

(B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

(C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require that a grantee does not discriminate, and prohibits its employees, agents, subcontractors, and other service providers from discriminating, on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

(D) The Agency may use up to \$500,000.00 five percent of annually forecasted revenues for administrative costs to allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant program.

* * *

Sec. E.502 EDUCATION; SPECIAL EDUCATION; FORMULA GRANTS

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$5,336,200 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

(b) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2975. In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

Sec. E.503 EDUCATION; STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

(a) The Independence Place Program of ANEW Place shall be considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of education costs.

Sec. E.504 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$4,349,673 General Fund shall be granted to adult education and literacy providers, pursuant to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 945.

Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, of the Education Fund appropriation in Sec. B.504.1 of this act, the amount of:

(1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

(2) \$2,400,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

(3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

(4) \$4,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 947(b); and

(5) \$2,899,782 is available for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program.

(b) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 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.

Sec. E.507.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS; CATEGORICAL AID

(a) The funds appropriated in Sec. B.507.1 of this act shall be used to provide categorical aid to school districts for English Learner services, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4013.

Sec. E.514 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System shall be \$220,905,084, of which \$212,905,084 shall be the State's contribution and \$8,000,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, \$43,739,011 is the "normal contribution," and \$177,166,073 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;
OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the \$4,171,485 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,872,185 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget, and \$1,299,300 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System.

Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL
BENEFITS

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2) and 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits plan shall be \$99,834,595, of which \$90,834,595 shall be the State's contribution and \$9,000,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher

health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944d. Of the annual contribution, \$30,987,156 is the “normal contribution,” and \$68,847,439 is the “accrued liability contribution.”

Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$380,362 shall be transferred to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; ALLIED HEALTH

(a) If Global Commitment Fund monies are unavailable, the total grant funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the General Fund or other State funding sources.

(b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

(a) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act:

(1) \$25,000 shall be deposited into the trust fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845;

(2) not more than \$400,000 may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools; and

(3) not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program established in 2022 Act and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

(b) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act that remain after accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent shall be used for direct student aid.

(c) After accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act or otherwise currently or previously appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or provided to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation by an agency or department of the State for the administration of a program or initiative may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for its costs of administration. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment. Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent that any of these funds are federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be consistent with federal grant requirements.

Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the \$41,225 Education Fund and \$41,225 General Fund appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605.1 of this act is for dual enrollment and need-based stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially disadvantaged students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(b) On or before January 15, 2027, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. E.606 16 V.S.A. § 2885 is amended to read:

§ 2885. VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

(a) A Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:

- (1) ~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly;

* * *

Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 2807 is amended to read:

§ 2807. LANDS AND FACILITIES TRUST FUND

(a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly finds and determines:

- (1) The public lands, facilities, and recreational assets of Vermont represent both a priceless inheritance from the past and an enduring legacy for future generations.

- (2) The lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by the ~~Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ Agency of Natural Resources are held as public assets for the citizens of Vermont, and require proper management to ensure that these natural resources and facilities remain viable and available for this and all future generations.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

- (1) ~~“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or the Commissioner’s designee~~ “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary’s designee.

- (2) “Eligible activity” means any activity undertaken, initiated, or supported by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Agency of Natural Resources, for State lands under the ownership of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, that provides for the management of State lands, facilities, and recreational assets, including administrative support. “Eligible activity” includes but is not limited to: repair and maintenance of State parks; contract surveys and mapping; maintenance of State lands, including boundaries, roads, trails, and facilities; contract inventories of State land natural resources; repair of State-owned dams; repair, replacement, and maintenance of conservation camps; and timber management in accordance with U.S.D.A. silvicultural guidelines; project management; contract development and administration; and business office support. “Eligible activity” does not include the acquisition of land.

- (3) “Fund” means the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund.

(c) Creation and use of Fund.

(1) There is established in the State Treasury an income-producing fund to be known as the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund, to be managed by the State Treasurer, and from which expenditures shall be made by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary in accordance with appropriations by the General Assembly for the benefit of lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by the Agency. Payments from the Fund may be made to meet costs for eligible activities ~~that are not covered in operating budgets for management of Agency lands, facilities, and recreational assets.~~

(2) The Fund shall be administered as part of the trust investment account established in 32 V.S.A. § 434. After the first three years of the Fund's existence, on July 1 of each year, the Treasurer shall ~~may~~ distribute from the Fund ~~five up to eight~~ percent of the moving average of the market value of the Fund over the prior 12 quarters with the approval of the House and Senate, ~~provided that the Fund balance does not go below the prior fiscal year's ending fund balance.~~ Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the first three years of the Fund's existence, expenditures for immediate needs, not to exceed five percent of the principal, may be authorized by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, provided that such expenditures are consistent with the priorities established by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, pursuant to this section, and shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

(3) ~~Annual expenditures from the Fund shall be limited to projects approved by the Commissioner and shall be in accordance with appropriations of the General Assembly. Project priorities shall be determined in accordance with criteria established by the Commissioner and shall include consideration of at least the following: The Secretary may make expenditures from the Fund for eligible projects with a consideration towards cost; availability of funds; condition of the resource, facility, or infrastructure; level of use; level of public need; the stated intent of the donor, when donated property is involved; and the ability to protect or enhance a public investment or public resource.~~

(4) There shall be deposited in the Fund monies received by the Agency that are related to management and administrative support of Agency lands, facilities, and recreational assets and that are received from a variety of public and private sources pertinent to the purposes of the Fund, including donations; grants; special use permits; federal funds specifically designated for uses compatible with the intent of the fund; timber sale receipts received after June 30, 2001, from State forestland and all Agency lands otherwise not restricted; and such sums as may be ~~appropriated~~ transferred to the Fund by the General Assembly. The Agency may solicit and accept aid or contributions consistent with the stated intent of the donor and deposited with the State Treasurer.

Income earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund, and all balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of the Fund.

* * *

Sec. E.700.1 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section C.110 is amended to read:

Sec. C.110 IMPLEMENTATION OF PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VERMONT CLIMATE
ACTION COMMISSION

* * *

(b) Recommendations of the Commission and actions taken on them include:

* * *

~~(5) Electrify the transportation system: The direction concerning the use of Environmental Mitigation Trust monies resulting from the Volkswagen litigation set forth in Sec. E.700 of this act is designed to increase electrification of transportation.~~

Sec. E.700.2 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section E.700 is amended to read:

Sec. E.700 VOLKSWAGEN LITIGATION; ENVIRONMENTAL
MITIGATION TRUST FOR STATE BENEFICIARIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Appendix D-2” means Appendix D-2 to the Environmental Mitigation Trust, entitled “Eligible Mitigation Actions and Mitigation Action Expenditures.”

(2) “Environmental Mitigation Trust” or “Trust” means the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries filed on October 2, 2017 in In re: Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, 3:16-CV-00295-CRB, MDL No. 2672 CRB (JSC) (N.D. Cal.).

(3) “Mobile source” means any vehicle, freight switcher, ferry, tug, vessel, or equipment that qualifies under an eligible mitigation action listed in Appendix D-2.

(b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall administer Environmental Mitigation Trust monies pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 554(15) and, in administering the Trust monies appropriated under Sec. B.710 of this act, shall:

~~(1) Dedicate at least 15 percent of those monies for the purchase of light duty electric supply equipment and associated allowable administrative costs in accordance with Appendix D-2.~~

~~(2) Dedicate the remainder of the monies to the replacement of mobile sources that consume fossil fuels with all-electric mobile sources or the repowering of mobile sources that consume fossil fuels with all-electric engines, or both, and associated allowable administrative costs. The expenditures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Appendix D-2.~~

Sec. E.702 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; EQUIPMENT
REPLACEMENT FUNDING; FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET
PRESENTATION

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall include information on the cost and schedule of radio equipment and firearm life cycle replacement and any recommendations for future funding, including the establishment of a designated special fund for that purpose.

Sec. E.711 AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; POSITION POOL;
FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.711 of this act, \$300,000 General Fund shall be for two permanent, classified positions to be taken from the position pool: two Environmental Analysts.

Sec. E.915 32 V.S.A. § 3709 is amended to read:

§ 3709. PILOT SPECIAL FUND

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

* * *

(c) If the local option tax revenues deposited in the PILOT Special Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 in any State fiscal year exceed the full amount of all payments made under subchapters 4 and 4C of this chapter plus any additional State payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities and any amounts appropriated from the PILOT Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for expenses related to grand list and appraisal assistance, three-fourths of the excess amount shall be transferred to the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund established pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306b.

Sec. E.915.1 19 V.S.A. § 306b is added to read:

§ 306b. LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund is established in the Agency of Transportation and shall be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. The purpose of the Fund is to provide additional State aid for town highways pursuant to the provisions of section 306 of this chapter.

(b) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) transfers from the PILOT Special Fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709(c);

(2) any gifts, grants, or contributions made to the Fund; and

(3) any amounts transferred to the Fund by the General Assembly.

(c)(1) All interest earned on Fund balances shall be credited to the Fund.

(2) The Secretary may seek and accept gifts, donations, and grants from any source, public or private, to be dedicated for deposit into the Fund.

(3) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall anticipate receipts to the Fund and shall issue warrants based on the anticipated amounts.

(4)(A) Monies in the Fund shall be used solely to provide State aid to municipalities pursuant to subsections 306(a), (e), and (h) of this chapter and for any administrative costs incurred in administering the Fund.

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections 306(a), (e), and (h) of this chapter to the contrary, the aggregate amount of monies appropriated from the Fund pursuant to those subsections in any given State fiscal year shall not exceed 95 percent of the anticipated receipts to the Fund for that fiscal year.

Sec. E.915.2 19 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(3) The funds appropriated shall be distributed to towns as follows:

(A) Six percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 1 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 1 town highways of the total class 1 town highway mileage in the State.

(B) Forty-four percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 2 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 2 town highways of the total class 2 town highway mileage in the State.

(C) Fifty percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 3 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 3 town highways of the total class 3 town highway mileage in the State.

(D) Monies apportioned under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection (a) shall be distributed to each town in quarterly payments beginning July 15 in each year.

(E) Each town shall use the monies apportioned to it solely for town highway construction, improvement, and maintenance purposes or as the nonfederal share for public transit assistance. These funds may also be used for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes and sidewalks. The members of the selectboard shall be personally liable to the State, in a civil action brought by the Attorney General, for making any unauthorized expenditures from money apportioned to the town under this section.

(4)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (a), a portion of the anticipated annual revenue of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for class 1, 2, and 3 town highways in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter.

Amounts appropriated from the Fund shall be apportioned, distributed, and used in the same manner as provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection (a).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (4) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (a) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection (a).

* * *

(e) State aid for town highway structures.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for maintenance (, including actions to extend life expectancy), and for construction of bridges and culverts; for maintenance and construction of other structures, including causeways and retaining walls, intended to preserve the integrity of the traveled portion of class 1, 2, and 3 town highways; and for alternatives that eliminate the need for a bridge, culvert, or other structure, such as the construction or reconstruction of a highway, the purchase of parcels of land that would be landlocked by closure of a bridge, the payment of damages for loss of highway access, and the substitution of other means of access. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(5) Funds received as grants for State aid for town highway structures may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

(6)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), a portion of the anticipated annual revenue of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for town highway structures in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter. Amounts appropriated from the Fund shall be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as provided pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (5) of this subsection (e).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (6) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection (e).

* * *

(h) Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of paved or unpaved class 2 town highways. Municipalities that have no State highways or class 1 town highways within their borders may use the grants for such activities with respect to both class 2 and class 3 town highways. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects.

(5) Funds received as grants for State aid under the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

(6)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (h), a portion of the anticipated annual revenue of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for town highway structures in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter. Amounts appropriated from the Fund shall be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as provided pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (5) of this subsection (h).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (6) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (h) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection (h).

* * *

Sec. E.923 19 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. TRANSPORTATION FUND

The Transportation Fund shall comprise the following:

* * *

(8) other miscellaneous sources, including the sale of maps, plans, and reports; fees collected by the Travel Information Council; leases for property at State-owned airports and railroads; proceeds from the sale of State surplus property under the provisions of 29 V.S.A. §§ 1556 and 1557; and proceeds from the sale of recycled materials; and

(9) all interest earned in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308a(e) and interest earned upon the nondedicated component of the Transportation Fund.

Sec. E.923.1 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

No transportation funds shall be appropriated for the support of government other than for the Agency, the Board, Transportation Pay Act Funds, construction of transportation capital facilities, transportation debt service, the purchase of level 1 and 2 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) charging ports by the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes provided in 23 V.S.A. § 361, and the operation of information centers by the Department of Buildings and General Services.

* * * 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 average increase of 5.9 percent for those employees receiving step increases during the fiscal year.

(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 average increase of 4.9 percent for those employees receiving step increases during the fiscal year.

* * * 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:

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
(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 Salary as of July 12, 2026</u>	<u>Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027</u>	<u>Annual Salary as of July 11, 2027</u>
(1) <u>Governor</u>	<u>\$243,520</u>	<u>\$248,390</u>	<u>\$260,561</u>
(2) <u>Lieutenant Governor</u>	<u>\$103,369</u>	<u>\$105,436</u>	<u>\$110,602</u>
(3) <u>Secretary of State</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
(4) <u>State Treasurer</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
(5) <u>Auditor of Accounts</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
(6) <u>Attorney General</u>	<u>\$184,894</u>	<u>\$188,592</u>	<u>\$197,833</u>

(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
(A) Administration	\$134,466	\$141,727
(B) Agriculture, Food and Markets	\$134,466	\$141,727
(C) Financial Regulation	\$125,706	\$132,494
(D) Buildings and General Services	\$125,706	\$132,494
(E) Children and Families	\$125,706	\$132,494
(F) Commerce and Community Development	\$134,466	\$141,727
(G) Corrections	\$125,706	\$132,494
(H) Defender General	\$125,706	\$132,494
(I) Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living	\$125,706	\$132,494
(J) Economic Development	\$114,031	\$120,189
(K) Education	\$134,466	\$141,727

(L) Environmental Conservation	\$125,706	\$132,494
(M) Finance and Management	\$125,706	\$132,494
(N) Fish and Wildlife	\$114,031	\$120,189
(O) Forests, Parks and Recreation	\$114,031	\$120,189
(P) Health	\$125,706	\$132,494
(Q) Housing and Community Development	\$114,031	\$120,189
(R) Human Resources	\$125,706	\$132,494
(S) Human Services	\$134,466	\$141,727
(T) Digital Services	\$134,466	\$141,727
(U) Labor	\$125,706	\$132,494
(V) Libraries	\$114,031	\$120,189
(W) Liquor and Lottery	\$114,031	\$120,189
(X) [Repealed.]		
(Y) Mental Health	\$125,706	\$132,494
(Z) Military	\$125,706	\$132,494
(AA) Motor Vehicles	\$114,031	\$120,189
(BB) Natural Resources	\$134,466	\$141,727
(CC) Land Use Review Board Chair	\$114,031	\$120,189
(DD) Public Safety	\$125,706	\$132,494
(EE) Public Service	\$125,706	\$132,494
(FF) Taxes	\$125,706	\$132,494

(GG) Tourism and Marketing	\$114,031		\$120,189
(HH) Transportation	\$134,466		\$141,727
(II) Vermont Health Access	\$125,706		\$132,494
(JJ) Veterans' Home	\$125,706		\$132,494
	<u>Base Salary as of July 12, 2026</u>	<u>Base Salary as of January 10, 2027</u>	<u>Base Salary as of July 11, 2027</u>
(A) Administration	\$147,254	\$150,199	\$157,559
(B) Agriculture, Food and Markets	\$147,254	\$150,199	\$157,559
(C) Financial Regulation	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(D) Buildings and General Services	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(E) Children and Families	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(F) Commerce and Community Development	\$147,254	\$150,199	\$157,559
(G) Corrections	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(H) Defender General	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(I) Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living	\$137,661	\$140,414	\$147,294
(J) Economic Development	\$124,876	\$127,374	\$133,615
(K) Education	\$147,254	\$150,199	\$157,559

(L) <u>Environmental Conservation</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(M) <u>Finance and Management</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
(N) <u>Fish and Wildlife</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(O) <u>Forests, Parks 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 Community Development</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(R) <u>Human 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>
(V) <u>Libraries</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(W) <u>Liquor and Lottery</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(X) [Repealed.]			
(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 Vehicles</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
(BB) <u>Natural Resources</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
(CC) <u>Land Use Review 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>

<u>(GG) Tourism and Marketing</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
<u>(HH) Transportation</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
<u>(II) Vermont Health Access</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
<u>(JJ) 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
(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court	\$214,024	\$225,581
(2) Each Associate Justice	\$204,264	\$215,294
(3) Chief Superior Judge	\$204,264	\$215,294

(4) Each Superior Judge	\$194,185	\$204,671	
(5) [Repealed.]			
(6) Each Magistrate	\$146,413	\$154,319	
(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer	\$146,413	\$154,319	
	<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>
<u>(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court</u>	<u>\$234,379</u>	<u>\$239,067</u>	<u>\$250,781</u>
<u>(2) Each Associate Justice</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
<u>(3) Chief Superior Judge</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
<u>(4) Each Superior Judge</u>	<u>\$212,653</u>	<u>\$216,906</u>	<u>\$227,534</u>
(5) [Repealed.]			
(6) Each Magistrate	\$160,337	\$163,544	\$171,558
(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer	\$160,337	\$163,544	\$171,558

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) Addison	\$76,555	\$80,689
(2) Bennington	\$96,776	\$102,002
(3) Caledonia	\$67,891	\$71,557
(4) Chittenden	\$161,506	\$170,227
(5) Essex	\$18,966	\$19,990
(6) Franklin	\$76,555	\$80,689
(7) Grand Isle	\$18,966	\$19,990
(8) Lamoille	\$53,443	\$56,329
(9) Orange	\$63,554	\$66,986
(10) Orleans	\$62,110	\$65,464
(11) Rutland	\$137,221	\$144,631

(12) Washington	\$105,441	\$111,135
(13) Windham	\$85,221	\$89,823
(14) Windsor	\$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) Addison	\$83,836	\$85,513	\$89,703
(2) Bennington	\$105,980	\$108,100	\$113,397
(3) Caledonia	\$74,348	\$75,835	\$79,551
(4) Chittenden	\$176,866	\$180,403	\$189,243
(5) Essex	\$20,770	\$21,185	\$22,223
(6) Franklin	\$83,836	\$85,513	\$89,703
(7) Grand Isle	\$20,770	\$21,185	\$22,223
(8) Lamoille	\$58,526	\$59,697	\$62,622
(9) Orange	\$69,598	\$70,990	\$74,469
(10) Orleans	\$68,017	\$69,377	\$72,776
(11) Rutland	\$150,272	\$153,277	\$160,788
(12) Washington	\$115,469	\$117,778	\$123,549
(13) Windham	\$93,326	\$95,193	\$99,857
(14) Windsor	\$126,545	\$129,076	\$135,401

(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
(1) Addison County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(2) Bennington County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(3) Caledonia County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(4) Chittenden County	\$147,087	\$155,030
(5) Essex County	\$105,521	\$111,219
(6) Franklin County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(7) Grand Isle County	\$105,521	\$111,219
(8) Lamoille County	\$140,691	\$148,288

(9) Orange County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(10) Orleans County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(11) Rutland County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(12) Washington County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(13) Windham County	\$140,691	\$148,288
(14) Windsor County	\$140,691	\$148,288

	<u>Annual Salary as of July 12, 2026</u>	<u>Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027</u>	<u>Annual Salary as of July 11, 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.

Sec. F.108.1 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:

§ 1183. STATE'S ATTORNEYS

* * *

(c) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by 30 percent for any State's Attorney who is not licensed or authorized to practice law in the State pursuant to the administrative orders issued by the Vermont Supreme Court.

* * * 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 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 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.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105, C.106, C.107, C.108, C.109, C.110, C.111, C.112, C.113, E.504.2, E.504.3, E.504.4, and F.108.1 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.111.1, E.111.2, 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) Secs. E.100, E.111, E.236, E.306.2, E.329.2, and E.711 shall take effect on August 15, 2026, provided that:

(1) the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund approved by the Emergency Board at its July 2026 meeting has not been reduced by one percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations; or

(2) the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund approved by the Emergency Board at its July 2026 meeting has been reduced by one percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations and the Joint Fiscal Committee approves a rescission plan at its July 2026 meeting that does not rescind the funding for the establishment of the positions in Secs. E.100, E.111, E.236, E.306.2, E.329.2, and E.711. Any position in Secs. E.100, E.111, E.236, E.306.2, E.329.2, and E.711 for which funding has been rescinded shall not be established.

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

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Scheu of Middlebury** moved that the House refuse to concur and ask for a Committee of Conference, which was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury
Rep. Feltus of Lyndon
Rep. Bluemle of Burlington

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Message from the Senate No. 51

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 considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 940. An act relating to miscellaneous public utility subjects.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 902

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Third Reading;**Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

S. 142

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians and medical graduates

S. 179

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act

S. 227

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to creating immigration protocols in Vermont schools

S. 230

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to fair employment practices

S. 298

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to creating the Vermont Voting Rights Act

Action on Bill Postponed**S. 223**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury**, action on the bill was postponed two legislative days.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to;**Third Reading Ordered****S. 327**

Rep. Duke of Burlington, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic development

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

Sec. 4. [Deleted.]

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

* * * Business Resources and Growth Study * * *

Sec. 7. BUSINESS RESOURCES AND GROWTH; INVENTORY; STUDY;
REPORT

(a) Business growth and development study. The Commissioner of Economic Development, in consultation with the stakeholders set forth in subsection (b) of this section, for the purpose of determining how the State can better enable and support the growth of Vermont businesses, shall:

(1) clearly define each stage of business development in order to provide business leaders, investors, and the General Assembly with an understanding of the resources businesses need at each stage of development;

(2) identify the public and private resources available to businesses and determine how the resources are currently communicated to businesses;

(3) create an inventory of resources, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, that are poised to serve businesses for each stage of development;

(4) determine how best to communicate the inventory of resources created pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection to Vermonters and the business community;

(5) determine how to better communicate succession planning options for businesses;

(6) identify what resources are available to businesses to access capital;

(7) determine the state of capital access opportunities, including the:

(A) investment environment in Vermont and the New England region;

- (B) availability of tax credits to leverage private capital; and
(C) requirements to maintain Vermont's Tech Hub designation; and
(8) identify investor education opportunities for high net worth individuals interested in investing in Vermont businesses.

(b) Stakeholders. The Commissioner shall consult and convene with stakeholders to assist in the Commissioner's work pursuant to subsection (a) of this section that have relevant experience in business growth and access to capital, including representation from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Vermont Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, regional development corporations, regional planning commissions, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Professionals of Color Network, the Vermont Small Business Law Center, the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, a regional community action agency, postsecondary institutions, and local and regional chambers of commerce.

(c) Report. On or before December 15, 2026, the Commissioner shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the Commissioner's findings pursuant to the business resources and growth study set forth in this section along with any recommendations for legislative action and a list of the stakeholders consulted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

* * * Convention Center Task Force * * *

Sec. 8. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF
 CONVENTION CENTER AND PERFORMANCE VENUE

* * *

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

- (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;
- (3) the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or designee;
- (4) the President of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce or designee;

(5) the Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce or designee;

(6) the President of the Vermont Regional Development Corporations or designee; ~~and~~

(7) the Chair of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or designee; and

(8) the President of the University of Vermont or designee.

* * *

(e) Reports. On or before November 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit an interim report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with an update on its work pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. On or before ~~November~~ December 1, 2026, the Task Force shall submit a final written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

* * *

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on ~~December 1, 2026~~ July 1, 2027.

~~(5) The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.~~

(g) Reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than ~~six~~ 14 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than ~~six~~ 14 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

* * *

* * * Repeal of VEGI Prospective Repeal * * *

Sec. 9. 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 157, Sec. H.12, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Sec. 5, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. 39, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 176, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

Sec. H.12. ~~VEGI; REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD
INCENTIVES~~

~~Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall not accept or approve an application for a Vermont Employment Growth Incentive under 32 V.S.A. chapter 105, subchapter 2 on or after January 1, 2027. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Study of Culinary and Hospitality Education * * *

Sec. 10a. ~~CULINARY AND HOSPITALITY EDUCATION; STUDY;
REPORT~~

~~(a) Purpose and findings. The State of Vermont lost a significant contributor to its culinary and hospitality workforce pipeline when the New England Culinary Institute closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The General Assembly finds that the establishment of postsecondary educational programs in the fields of culinary arts and hospitality is critical for the long-term workforce needs in those sectors and for the economic health of the State.~~

~~(b) Task. The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, shall engage with the stakeholders set forth in subsection (c) of this section to determine how best to develop postsecondary educational programs in the fields of culinary arts and hospitality by:~~

- ~~(1) investigating suitable locations that could host the programs;~~
- ~~(2) researching and identifying possible educational and business models;~~
- ~~(3) identifying organizations that could stand up, administer, or operate the programs;~~
- ~~(4) gauging the interest from private investors to determine whether there is interest in private funding for the programs;~~
- ~~(5) establishing relationships with culinary and hospitality businesses in Vermont that have or will have workforce needs;~~
- ~~(6) cataloging opportunities currently available for culinary and hospitality training and certification;~~

(7) determining whether there are gaps in the availability of culinary and hospitality training and certification programs; and

(8) conducting any additional research or outreach that would promote the development of the programs.

(c) Stakeholders. The Department shall consult and convene with stakeholders to assist in its work pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that have relevant experience in the food and hospitality sectors, including representation from the State Workforce Development Board, Office of Workforce Strategy and Development, Vermont Association of Career and Technical Directors, Vermont Professionals of Color, Vermont Independent Restaurants, Vermont Specialty Foods Association, Vermont Lodging Association, University of Vermont, Vermont State Colleges System, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Vermont Employee Ownership Center, and an institutional food and beverage provider.

(d) Report. On or before December 1, 2026, the Department shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and information gathered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section along with any recommendations concerning the development of postsecondary educational programs for culinary arts and hospitality. The report shall also list the stakeholders consulted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

* * * Culinary Apprenticeship Pilot Program * * *

Sec. 10b. HOSPITALITY AND CULINARY APPRENTICESHIP PILOT;
REPORT

(a) Creation and purpose; coordination.

(1) The Department of Labor, through the Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program, shall establish and maintain a two-year hospitality and culinary apprenticeship pilot that develops and evaluates a new registered apprenticeship training program specific to accommodation and food services. The pilot shall be structured as a regional, multi-employer model, with the goal of the program being to strengthen workforce pathways and improve job quality in the hospitality and culinary services, which have been identified as priority sectors by the State Workforce Development Board.

(2) The Department shall coordinate its work on the pilot with the Department of Tourism and Marketing, Department of Economic Development, Office of Workforce Strategy and Development, and Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

(b) Pilot details.

(1) The Department shall:

(A) implement the pilot in a hospitality-based regional economy and include multiple employers, including at least one large employer, located within the same regional economy;

(B) incorporate an intermediary or coordinating entity;

(C) include structured work-based learning across more than one employer;

(D) align with education and training providers, including secondary and adult career technical education programs;

(E) be structured to rely on existing resources, including the physical assets of schools, technical centers, and restaurants;

(F) be built around not more than two apprenticeable occupations, as that term is defined in 21 V.S.A. § 1111(4); and

(G) establish specific numeric targets and track outcomes including completion, retention, and wage progression.

(2) The pilot shall be designed to achieve, at minimum:

(A) participation of multiple employers;

(B) enrollment of at least one apprentice cohort; and

(C) measurable completion outcomes.

(c) Funding. The Department shall implement the pilot using existing State and federal funds to the extent practicable and may seek additional grants or funding as such funds become available.

(d) Report. The Department shall, based on its work on the hospitality and culinary apprenticeship pilot set forth in this section, submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs:

(1) on or before December 15, 2026, an interim written report on the progress of the pilot program that includes the design, participation, and preliminary results of the pilot; and

(2) on or before December 15, 2028, a final written report on the pilot program, including outcomes, evaluation of effectiveness, and recommendations for future legislative action.

Sec. 11. [Deleted.]

* * * Rural Industry Development Grant Program * * *

Sec. 12a. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. F.8 is amended to read:

Sec. F.8 ~~RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM~~

~~(a) Creation; purpose.~~

~~(1) A Rural Industry Development Grant Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to provide grant funding through local development corporations for business relocation and expansion efforts, including the purchase, demolition, and renovation of property for industrial use.~~

~~(2)(A) To the extent funding is appropriated, the Agency shall make grants through the Program to assist local development corporations with business relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.~~

~~(B) The Agency shall ensure an accounting of the respective State and Grantee shares of investment in any property be maintained to refund to the State an appropriate share of any net proceeds resulting from future sale or transfer of such property acquired or improved through a grant awarded under this program.~~

~~(b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall consider:~~

~~(1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including nonprofit organizations, in the applicant's region;~~

~~(2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;~~

~~(3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a grant award; and~~

~~(4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.~~

~~(c) Eligible applicants; priority.~~

~~(1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this State.~~

~~(2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.~~

- ~~(d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient may use funding for the following:~~
- ~~(1) to purchase land for potential industrial use;~~
 - ~~(2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing infrastructure for property the recipient owns;~~
 - ~~(3) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 3; or~~
 - ~~(4) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant consistent with this section.~~
- ~~(e) Application; market assessment.~~
- ~~(1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth opportunities.~~
 - ~~(2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to begin and complete the proposed project:~~
 - ~~(A) community and regional support for the project;~~
 - ~~(B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;~~
 - ~~(C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a plan for fiscal viability; and~~
 - ~~(D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the project and a plan for obtaining the permits.~~
- ~~(f) Awards; amount.~~
- ~~(1) An award shall not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 20 percent of the total project cost.~~
 - ~~(2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other sources.~~
 - ~~(3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.~~
 - ~~(4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but eligible use.~~
- ~~(g) Deed restrictions; property sales. The Agency shall include deed restrictions that require the return of the principal amount to the state and may require the payment of a percentage of the sales profit. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 12b. 10 V.S.A. § 6 is added to read:

§ 6. RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Creation; purpose.

(1) The Rural Industry Development Grant Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to provide grant funding through local development corporations for the purpose of business relocation and expansion activities set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

(2) To the extent funding is appropriated, the Agency shall make grants through the Program fund to assist local development corporations with business relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.

(3) As used in this section, “federally impacted property” means real property that is:

(A) owned by the United States or by any federal agency or an instrumentality thereof; or

(B) under the custody or control of a federally appointed receiver, trustee, or conservator, and includes property subject to federal court jurisdiction.

(b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall consider:

(1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including nonprofit organizations, in the applicant’s region;

(2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;

(3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a grant award; and

(4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.

(c) Eligible applicants; priority.

(1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this State.

(2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.

(d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient shall use any funding provided through this section only for the following:

(1) to purchase real property for potential industrial, commercial, or, in the case of a federally impacted property, residential use;

(2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing infrastructure for property the recipient owns;

(3) for a project that supports future commercial or industrial development as outlined in a development agreement;

(4) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 3;

(5) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant consistent with this section; or

(6) for the purchasing, holding, and renovation of property for the repurposing or redevelopment of a federally impacted property.

(e) Application; market assessment.

(1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth opportunities.

(2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to begin and complete the proposed project:

(A) community and regional support for the project;

(B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;

(C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a plan for fiscal viability; and

(D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the project and a plan for obtaining the permits.

(f) Awards; amount.

(1)(A) An award shall not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000.00 or 50 percent of the total project cost, subject to the exception in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1).

(B) An award may exceed \$1,000,000.00 but shall not exceed \$2,000,000.00 if the property is classified as a federally impacted property and the Secretary certifies that the project is located in:

- (i) a designated downtown development district; and
- (ii) a rural economic area partnership program (REAP Zone); or
- (iii) a federally declared natural disaster area, provided the declaration was made not more than five years from the application date.

(2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other sources.

(3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.

(4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but eligible use.

(g) Deed restrictions. Any deed restriction requiring a Rural Industry Development Grant Program award recipient to return to the State the principal amount of the grant or a percentage of the sales profit is void and shall not be enforced.

(h) Retroactive project cost. An applicant that received a Rural Industry Development Grant Program award before the effective date of this act shall:

(1) be eligible to have the applicant's invoices that are submitted on or after the effective date of this act to the Agency reimbursed at 50 percent of the total project cost, pursuant to subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section; and

(2) not be eligible for an increased award amount.

* * * Nickel Rounding * * *

Sec. 13a. PURPOSE

The purpose of this act is to authorize the rounding of cash transactions to the nearest five cents where one-cent coins are unavailable or impractical, while ensuring legal clarity and consumer fairness.

Sec. 13b. 9 V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 1. MONEY OF ACCOUNT

§ 1. DOLLAR, CENT, AND MILL

The money of account in the State shall be the dollar, cent, and mill; and accounts in public offices and proceedings in court shall be in conformity herewith; but this section shall not affect an account, charge, or entry

originally made or a contract expressed in other money of account, but the same shall be reduced to dollars and parts of a dollar in an action thereon.

§ 2. NICKEL ROUNDING; AUTHORIZED

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Cash" means coins or paper currency of the United States offered in physical form.

(2) "Cash transaction" means a sale of goods or services where payment is made entirely or partially in cash.

(3) "Rounding" means adjusting the final total amount due, after taxes and fees, to the nearest five-cent increment.

(b) Rounding authorization.

(1) A person or business engaged in a cash transaction may round the final amount due to the nearest \$0.05 as follows:

(A) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.01, \$0.02, \$0.06, or \$0.07, rounded down to the nearest amount divisible by five.

(B) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.03, \$0.04, \$0.08, or \$0.09, rounded up to the nearest amount divisible by five.

(2) If a person or business rounds a cash transaction under this section, any cash refund of the amount paid shall be issued to the purchaser in the exact amount initially paid for the goods or service.

(c) Exclusions. This section shall not apply to:

(1) electronic and other noncash payments;

(2) payment of wages as that term is defined in 21 V.S.A. § 341;

(3) rebates or cash disbursements; and

(4) transactions governed by federal law that prohibits rounding.

(d) Application. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, rounding under this section shall not constitute an unlawful price increase, surcharge, unfair or deceptive act or practice in commerce, or discrimination.

(e) Notice requirements.

(1) On or before July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery shall prepare and provide individuals and businesses with a model notice pursuant to this section that, at minimum, includes a reference to the Vermont Consumer Assistance Program. The notice provided by the Commissioner shall be available for free.

(2) A person or business rounding transactions under this section shall post the model notice developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may issue a penalty for the failure to provide the notice required under this subsection in accordance with 6 V.S.A. § 687.

(f) Taxes and fees. All taxes and fees shall be calculated and remitted based on the prerounding amount.

* * * C-PACE Program * * *

Sec. 14a. 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy

§ 3275. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY-ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY

DISTRICTS; APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE BODY

(a) The legislative body of a town, city, or incorporated village may vote to designate the municipality as a commercial property-assessed clean energy district or C-PACE district. In a district, only those property owners who have entered into written agreements with the municipality under section 3276 of this title would be subject to a special assessment, as set forth in section 3255 of this title.

(b) Upon a vote of approval by a majority of the legislative body of the municipality voting at a duly warned meeting, the municipality shall allow for the imposition of a special assessment to secure private financing for property owners of commercial or industrial buildings within the boundaries of the municipality for renewable energy projects as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17), energy efficiency projects as defined by section 3267 of this title, water conservation projects, and resiliency improvement projects.

(c) As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Commercial or industrial building” means any building other than a residential dwelling with fewer than five units.

(2) “District” means a commercial property-assessed clean energy district which includes the entire municipality.

(3) “Resilience” means the ability of interconnected ecological, social, physical, and economic systems to anticipate, adapt, withstand, respond, and thrive in the face of current and future conditions and disasters.

(4) “Resiliency improvement” means improvements that increase the resilience of a property, including air quality and stormwater infrastructure improvements, snow and flood mitigation, energy storage and microgrids, alternative vehicle charging infrastructure, and fire and wind resistance.

(5) “Water conservation improvement” means measures, equipment, or devices that decrease the consumption of or demand for water, address safe drinking water, or eliminate lead from water used for drinking or cooking.

§ 3276. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS; CONSENT OF PROPERTY

OWNERS; ENERGY SAVINGS ANALYSIS; LENDER CONSENT

(a) Upon an affirmative vote made pursuant to section 3275 of this title and the performance of an analysis pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, an owner of a commercial or industrial building, within the boundaries of a district, may enter into a written agreement with the municipality that shall constitute the owner’s consent to be subject to a special assessment, as set forth in section 3255 of this title. Entry into such an agreement may occur only after January 1, 2027.

(b) Prior to entering into a written agreement, a property owner shall have an analysis performed that includes the following components:

(1) where energy or water usage improvements are proposed, an energy analysis by a licensed professional engineer or engineering firm stating that the proposed qualified improvements will result in either more efficient use or conservation of energy or water, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or the addition of renewable sources of energy or water;

(2) where renewable energy is proposed, an engineering study showing that the improvements are feasible;

(3) where resiliency improvements are proposed, certification by a licensed professional engineer stating that the qualified improvements will result in improved resilience; or

(4) for new construction, certification by a licensed professional engineer or engineering firm stating that the proposed qualified improvements will enable the project to meet or exceed the energy efficiency or water efficiency or renewable energy or water usage requirements of the current building code and the Commercial Building Energy Standards established under 30 V.S.A. § 53.

(c) A written agreement shall provide that:

(1) The length of time allowed for the property owner to repay the assessment shall not exceed the life expectancy of the improvement. In

instances where multiple improvements have been installed, the length of time shall not exceed the average lifetime of all improvements, weighted by cost.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(A) A lien under this section:

(i) is a first and prior lien on the property, subordinate only to a lien for property taxes, from the date on which the notice of special assessment is recorded until the assessment, interest, or penalty is paid; and

(ii) runs with the land, and that portion of the assessment under the assessment contract that is not yet due shall not be accelerated or extinguished by foreclosure of a property tax lien or any other foreclosure.

(B) In the event of a foreclosure action, all payments on an assessment under this subchapter that are due and unpaid as of the date the action is filed, and all payments on the assessment that become due after that date and that accrue up to and including the date title to the property is transferred to the mortgage holder, the lienholder, or a third party in the foreclosure action shall be paid in order for title to transfer.

(3) A capital provider shall disclose to participating property owners each of the following:

(A) the risks associated with participating in the program, including risks related to the failure of participating property owners to make payments and the risk of foreclosure; and

(B) the provisions of subsection (h) of this section that pertain to prepayment of the assessment.

(d) The notice of an agreement shall include at least each of the following:

(1) the name of the property owner as grantor;

(2) the name of the municipality as grantee;

(3) the date of the agreement;

(4) a legal description of the real property against which the assessment is made pursuant to the agreement;

(5) the amount of the assessment and the period during which the assessment will be made on the property;

(6) a statement that the assessment will remain a lien on the property until paid in full or released; and

(7) the location at which the original agreement may be examined.

(e) Prior to entering into the written assessment contract, the property owner shall obtain and furnish to the municipality a written statement, executed by each holder of a mortgage or deed of trust on the property securing indebtedness, in their sole and absolute discretion, that consents to the assessment and indicates that the assessment does not constitute an event of default under the mortgage or deed of trust.

(f) The combined amount of the assessment plus any outstanding mortgage obligations for the property shall not exceed 90 percent of the appraised real property value of that property, as stabilized or as complete.

(g) With respect to an agreement under this section:

(1) the assessments to be repaid under the agreement, when calculated as if they were the repayment of a loan, shall not violate 9 V.S.A. §§ 41a, 43, 44, and 46–50; and

(2) the maximum length of time for the owner to repay the assessment shall not exceed 30 years.

(h) For projects under subchapter 2 of this chapter, there shall be no penalty or premium for prepayment of the outstanding balance of an assessment under this subchapter if the balance is prepaid in full. Projects under this subchapter 3 are not subject to these provisions, but shall be subject to the private agreement for the financing of improvements.

(i) Property may be eligible for financing if otherwise qualified improvements were completed and operational not more than 36 months prior to submission of the application to the Program. Waivers to the 36-month requirement may be granted in the sole discretion of the program administrator.

§ 3277. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

(a) An entity that administers the commercial property-assessed clean energy program or C-PACE Program under this subchapter shall be referred to as a program administrator. A municipality, a public agency, or a private entity may serve as a program administrator.

(b) A municipality that has adopted a C-PACE district may:

(1) enter into a contract with an entity to serve as the program administrator and to administer the functions of the C-PACE Program for the municipality; or

(2) serve as the program administrator itself, to administer the functions of a C-PACE Program, including entering into C-PACE agreements with commercial property owners in its jurisdiction and collecting C-PACE assessments.

(c) An entity may:

(1) enter into a contract with a C-PACE municipality where the entity shall serve as the program administrator in the municipality; and

(2) collect fees necessary to administer the C-PACE Program.

(d) Other than the fulfillment of its obligations specified in a C-PACE agreement, neither the program administrator nor a municipality has any liability to a commercial property owner for or related to energy savings or resiliency improvements financed under a C-PACE Program.

Sec. 14b. 24 V.S.A. § 3263 is amended to read:

§ 3263. COSTS OF OPERATION OF DISTRICT

The owners of real property who have entered into written agreements with the municipality under section 3262 of this title shall be obligated to cover the costs of operating the district. A municipality may use other available funds to operate the district. A municipality may charge fees to cover the operation of the C-PACE Program under subchapter 3 of this chapter.

Sec. 14c. 24 V.S.A. § 3264 is amended to read:

§ 3264. RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS

A property owner who has entered into a written agreement with the municipality under section 3262 or section 3276 of this title may enter into a private agreement for the installation or construction of a project relating to renewable energy, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17), relating to resiliency improvements as defined in section 3275 of this title, or relating to energy efficiency as defined in section 3267 of this title.

Sec. 14d. 24 V.S.A. § 3265 is amended to read:

§ 3265. LIABILITY OF MUNICIPALITY

(a) A municipality that incurs indebtedness for or otherwise finances projects under this subchapter shall not be liable for the failure of performance of a project.

(b) A municipality that incurs indebtedness for bonding under this subchapter shall pledge the full faith and credit of the municipality.

(c) A municipality that enters into a written agreement with a property owner under subchapter 3 of this chapter shall not incur any indebtedness or otherwise finance projects under this chapter, nor shall be liable for the failure of the performance of a project, nor shall pledge the full faith and credit of the municipality.

Sec. 14e. 24 V.S.A. § 3268 is amended to read:

§ 3268. RELEASE OF LIEN

(a) A municipality shall release a participating property owner of the lien on the property against which the assessment under this subchapter or subchapter 3 of this chapter is made upon full payment of the value of the assessment.

(b) Notice of a release of a lien for an assessment under this subchapter or subchapter 3 of this chapter shall be filed with the clerk of the applicable municipality for recording in the land records of that municipality.

Sec. 14f. 24 V.S.A. § 3255 is amended to read:

§ 3255. COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS; LIENS

(a) Special assessments under this chapter shall constitute a lien on the property against which the assessment is made in the same manner and to the same extent as taxes assessed on the grand list of a municipality, and all procedures and remedies for the collection of taxes shall apply to special assessments.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a lien for an assessment under subchapter 2 of this chapter shall be subordinate to all liens on the property in existence at the time the lien for the assessment is filed ~~on~~ in the land records, shall be subordinate to a first mortgage on the property recorded after such filing, and shall be superior to any other lien on the property recorded after such filing. In no way shall this subsection affect the status or priority of any municipal lien other than a lien for an assessment under subchapter 2 of this chapter. A lien for an assessment under subchapter 3 of this chapter shall be exempt from the provisions of this section and, upon receipt of consent from lenders, pursuant to subsection 3276(e) of this title, shall not be subordinate to all liens on the property in existence at the time the lien for the assessment is filed in the land records.

Sec. 14g. 9 V.S.A. § 46 is amended to read:

§ 46. EXCEPTIONS

Section 43 of this title, relating to deposit requirements, and section 45 of this title, relating to prepayment penalties, shall not apply and the parties may

contract for a rate of interest in excess of the rate provided in section 41a of this title in the case of:

(1) obligations of corporations, including municipal and nonprofit corporations; ~~or~~

(2) obligations incurred by any person, partnership, association, or other entity to finance in whole or in part income-producing business or activity, but not including obligations incurred to finance family dwellings of four units or fewer when used as a residence by the borrower or to finance real estate that is devoted to agricultural purposes as part of an operating farming unit when used as a residence by the borrower; ~~or~~

(3) obligations to finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of property for seasonal or part-time occupancy and not as a place of legal residence; ~~or~~

(4) obligations guaranteed or insured by the United States of America or any agency thereof; or

(5) obligations incurred for commercial property-assessed clean energy projects pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development be amended as follows:

First: By adding a new reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 9a to read as follows:

* * * VEGI Annual Cap * * *

Sec. 9a. 32 V.S.A. § 3342 is amended to read:

§ 3342. ANNUAL PROGRAM CAP

(a) In each calendar year the Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve one or more incentives under this subchapter, the total value of which shall not exceed:

(1) ~~\$15,000,000.00~~ \$10,000,000.00 for one or more initial approvals;
and

(2) ~~\$10,000,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00 for one or more final approvals.

(b) The Council may increase the cap imposed in subdivision (a)(2) of this section by not more than \$5,000,000.00 upon application by the Governor to, and approval of, the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(c) In evaluating the Governor's request, the Committee shall consider the economic and fiscal condition of the State, including recent revenue forecasts and budget projections.

(d) The Council shall provide the Committee with testimony, documentation, company-specific data, and any other information the Committee requests to demonstrate that increasing the cap will create an opportunity for return on investment to the State.

Second: In Sec. 12b, 10 V.S.A. § 6, by striking out subsection (h) in its entirety.

Third: By adding a new section to be Sec. 12c to read as follows:

Sec. 12c. INTENT AND RETROACTIVITY

The intent of Secs. 12a and 12b of this act is to move the Rural Industry Development Grant Program from its original placement in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. F.8 to Title 10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. The move is intended to increase the visibility of the Program. Any person that was awarded a grant through the Program before the effective date of this act shall:

(1) not have its award rescinded solely due to the Program language being moved to Title 10;

(2) if the award has not been fully paid out, be eligible to have the applicant's invoices that are submitted on or after the effective date of this act to the Agency reimbursed at a rate of 50 percent; and

(3) not be eligible for an increased total award amount.

Fourth: In Sec. 13a, purpose, by striking out "The purpose of this act" and inserting in lieu thereof "The purpose of Sec. 13b of this act"

Fifth: In Sec. 13b, 9 V.S.A. chapter 1, in section 2, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) Rounding authorization.

(1) A person engaged in a cash transaction may round the final amount due to the nearest \$0.05 as follows:

(A) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.01, \$0.02, \$0.06, or \$0.07, rounded down to the nearest amount divisible by five.

(B) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.03, \$0.04, \$0.08, or \$0.09, rounded up to the nearest amount divisible by five.

(2) If a person rounds a cash transaction under this section, any cash refund of the amount paid shall be issued to the purchaser in the exact amount initially paid for the goods or service.

Sixth: In Sec. 13b, 9 V.S.A. chapter 1, in section 2, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (e) to read as follows:

(e) Notice requirements.

(1) On or before July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery shall prepare and provide individuals and businesses with a model notice pursuant to this section that shall also include a reference to the Vermont Consumer Assistance Program.

(2) A person rounding transactions under this section shall post the model notice developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection in a clear and conspicuous manner at the point of sale or at the entrance to the business.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may issue a penalty for the failure to provide the notice required under this subsection in accordance with 6 V.S.A. § 687.

Seventh: In Sec. 14a, 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3, in section 3276, in subsection (a), by striking out the last sentence.

Eighth: In Sec. 14a, 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3, in section 3276, by adding a new subsection to be subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) This section shall not be construed to affect a taxpayer's liability, or municipality's responsibility for payment, under 32 V.S.A. § 5402.

Ninth: By adding four new sections to be Sec. 10, Sec. 12, Sec. 13, and Sec. 14 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. [Deleted.]

Sec. 12. [Deleted.]

Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, when further amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development was amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, as amended, was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 519

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont State Employees' Retirement System Group G membership

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 455, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

§ 455. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(11) “Member” means any employee included in the membership of the Retirement System under section 457 of this title.

* * *

(F) “Group G member” means:

(i) the following employees who are first employed in the positions listed in this subdivision (F)(i) on or after July 1, 2023, or who are members of the System as of June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023, and make an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before June 30, 2023, pursuant to the terms set by the Board: facility employees of the Department of Corrections, as Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community, employees of a facility for justice-involved youth, and employees of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital or its successor in interest, who provide direct patient care; ~~and~~

(ii) the following employees who are first employed in the positions listed in this subdivision (F)(ii) or first included in the membership of the System on or after January 1, 2025, or who are members of the System as of December 31, 2024, and make an irrevocable election to join Group G on or before December 31, 2024, pursuant to the terms set by the Board:

-
- (I) all sheriffs; and
 - (II) deputy sheriffs who:
 - (aa) are employed by county sheriff's departments that participate in the Vermont Employees' Retirement System;
 - (bb) have attained Level II or Level III law enforcement officer certification from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council;
 - (cc) are required to perform law enforcement duties as the primary function of their employment; and
 - (dd) are not full-time deputy sheriffs compensated by the State of Vermont whose primary function is transports as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 290(b) and eligible for Group C pursuant to subdivision (9)(B) of this subsection (a); and

(iii) the following employees who are first employed in the positions listed in this subdivision (F)(iii) or first included in the membership of the System on or after January 1, 2027, or who are members of the System as of December 31, 2026, and make an irrevocable election to join Group G on or before December 31, 2026, pursuant to the terms set by the Board and who:

(I) are employed by a municipal employer that participates in the Vermont Employees' Retirement System;

(II) have attained Level II or Level III law enforcement officer certification from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council; and

(III) are required to perform law enforcement duties as the primary function of their employment.

* * *

(13) "Normal retirement date" means:

* * *

(E) with respect to a Group G member:

(i) for facility employees of the Department of Corrections, Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community, employees of a facility for justice-involved youth, or employees of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital or its predecessor or successor in interest, who provide direct patient care, who were first included in the membership of the System on or before June 30, 2008, who were employed as of June 30, 2022 2023, and who made an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on

or before July 1, 2023, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 62 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) completion of 30 years of creditable service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service;

(ii) for facility employees of the Department of Corrections, Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community, as employees of a facility for justice-involved youth, or employees of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital or its predecessor or successor in interest, who provide direct patient care, who were first included in the membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who were employed as of June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023, and who made an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before July 1, 2023, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) attainment of 87 points reflecting a combination of the age of the member and number of years of service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service;

(iii) for facility employees of the Department of Corrections, Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community, employees of a facility for justice-involved youth, or employees of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital or its predecessor or successor in interest, who provide direct patient care, who first become a Group G member on or after July 1, 2023, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) attainment of 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service; or

(II) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(iv) for all sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(ii) of this subsection (a), who were first included in the membership of the System on or before June 30, 2008, who were employed as of December 31, 2024, and who made an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1, 2025, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 62 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) completion of 30 years of creditable service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service;

(v) for all sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(ii) of this subsection (a), who were first included in the membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who were employed as of December 31, 2024, and who made an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1, 2025, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) attainment of 87 points reflecting a combination of the age of the member and number of years of service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service; or

(vi) for all sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(ii) of this subsection (a), who first become a Group G member on or after January 1, 2025, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) attainment of 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service; or

(II) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(vii) for all municipal law enforcement officers who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(iii) of this subsection (a), who were first included in the membership of the System on or before June 30, 2008, who were employed as of December 31, 2026, and who made an

irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1, 2027, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 62 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) completion of 30 years of creditable service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service;

(viii) for all municipal law enforcement officers who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(iii) of this subsection (a), who were first included in the membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008, who were employed as of December 31, 2026, and who made an irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1, 2027, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service;

(II) attainment of 87 points reflecting a combination of the age of the member and number of years of service; or

(III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service; or

(ix) for all municipal law enforcement officers who meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(iii) of this subsection (a) who first become a Group G member on or after January 1, 2027, the first day of the calendar month next following the earlier of:

(I) attainment of 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of creditable service; or

(II) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of creditable service.

* * *

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 762

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled
An act relating to the County and Regional Governance Study Committee

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

First: In Sec. 1, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 118, Sec. 1, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read:

(e) Report. On or before November 1, ~~2025~~ 2027, the Committee shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

Second: In Sec. 1, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 118, Sec. 1, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read:

(f) Meetings.

* * *

~~(2) The Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chair of the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Government Operations. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

~~(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on July 1, 2026~~ November 2, 2027.

* * *

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 30th day of April, 2026, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 723 An act relating to posting of land

H. 927 An act relating to technical corrections for the 2026 legislative session

Adjournment

At one o'clock and fifty-one minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.