



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

May 7, 2026

Nolan Langweil, Principal Fiscal Analyst

S.243 – An act relating to distributing funds to the Vermont Language Justice Project

As recommended by the House Committee on Human Services¹

Bill Summary

The bill as recommended by the House Committee on Human Services would require the Office of Racial Equity, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management, to contract with the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials at the request of State agencies and departments, as needed, to assist Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak, natural disaster, or other public health emergency, including ongoing personal and public health information. It would also require the Department of Buildings and General Services to assist the Vermont Language Justice Project in being named to the State’s list of approved contractors.

Background

The bill as passed by the Senate directed the Department of Health to distribute \$150,000 to the Vermont Language Justice Project, to the extent funds were appropriated for this purpose. The Senate proposal of amendment to H.951, the fiscal year 2027 budget, includes a one-time \$150,000 General Fund appropriation to the Department of Health for a grant to the Vermont Language Justice Project.

Act 78 (2023), the fiscal year 2024 budget, included a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2.3 million to the Agency of Administration (which houses the Office of Racial Equity) to create, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide language access plan.² As of the January 2026 Report on General Fund Carryforward and Reversions, that appropriation had roughly \$2 million remaining.³

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations. The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.*

² <https://jfo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/616a60f852/Act-78-As-Enacted.pdf>

³ Report on General Fund Carryforward and Reversions, submitted by Adam Greshin to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, January 16, 2026.