

State of Vermont
Agency of Administration
Office of the Secretary
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Montpelier, VT 05609-0201

Sarah Clark, Secretary

February 19, 2026

Vermont State House
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Sen. Andrew Perchlik
Sen. Virginia “Ginny” Lyons
Sen. Richard Westman
Rep. Robin Scheu
Rep. Martha Feltus
Rep. Tiffany Bluemle

Via email

To the Members of the H.790 Committee of Conference:

I write to provide the Administration’s comments on H.790 – *An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments* – as passed the Senate on February 17.

The Administration is in general agreement with the Senate’s version of H.790, including the revised language on developmental services payment reform and the contingency language regarding the potential use of the Secretary of Administration’s \$50 million appropriation to maintain financial support for section 8 Housing Choice vouchers. We support the Senate’s change to the House-passed version of H.790, which eliminates the \$5 million carve-out of the Secretary’s federal backfill appropriation with parameters for use to support Section 8 vouchers (Section 79). It is important to note, the House version was passed before the budget for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was signed into law on February 3, 2026. In HUD’s FY2026 budget, the Section 8 Housing Choice voucher program received a 6 percent increase over the FY2025 level, which may offset rising rents and greater demand for the program.

Considering the continued level of program uncertainty but also acknowledging the HUD programs were funded at increased amounts, the Senate wisely chose to eliminate the specific \$5 million carve-out while giving the Emergency Board authority to transfer a part of the Secretary’s \$50 million



appropriation if necessary. The Administration supports the Senate's approach as it allows Vermont to respond if necessary but to continue to maintain funds to support future federal funding changes.

I look forward to working with you to finalize the budget adjustment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark
Secretary of Administration

Cc: Senator Philip Baruth, State Senate, Senate President Pro Tempore
Representative Jill Krowinski, House of Representatives, Speaker
Catherine Benham, Joint Fiscal Office, Chief Fiscal Officer
Emily Byrne, Joint Fiscal Office, Deputy Fiscal Officer
Aimee Pope, Joint Fiscal Office, Associate Fiscal Officer
Adam Greshin, Department of Finance and Management, Commissioner

