



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 26, 2025

Dear Representative Scheu,

Please find this letter as the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (HGOMA) response to the Governor's Recommended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget as it relates to areas that touch on our jurisdiction. We have reviewed and discussed these proposals and offer the following recommendations.

We are fully in support of the following requests and recommend that these appropriations are made:

Vermont Access Network (B 2322)	\$1,350,000
Wildland Fire Program	\$275,000
Urban Search and Rescue	\$950,000
Vermont Broadcasters Assoc.	\$250,000
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (B 131)	\$548,000
RPC Funding (VAPDA) (D.100(a)(3)(A))	\$7,740,546
Municipal Technical Assistance Program (VAPDA) (B 1100(a)(3))	\$3,000,000
Brownfields Assessment Grant to RPCs (VAPDA)	\$1,000,000
Brownfields Clean-Up Grants (VAPDA) (B 1100(o)(2))	\$3,000,000
VT Infrastructure Sustainability Fund (VAPDA) (B 100(n)(2))	\$9,100,000
VT Youth Council	\$119,819
PILOT Special Fund (E 142.1/E.142.2)	\$1,000,000
VT Medal Program (E 219)	\$1,000
Governors' Veterans Advisory Council (E 219)	\$2,000
Veterans Day Parade (E 219)	\$7,500
American Legion Boys and Girls State (E 219)	\$10,000
VSERS (incl VPIC) (E 133)	\$3,293,134
VMERS (incl VPIC) (E 134)	\$1,886,562
VSTERS (incl VPIC) (E 514)	\$212,752,627
VSTERS Operating Budget (E 514.1)	\$3,820,073
VSTERS Healthcare and Medical Benefits (E 515)	\$79,952,589
NOFA-VT Crop Cash & Farmshare	\$500,000
Vermont Criminal Justice Council	

curriculum	\$300,000
language access	\$8,000
Cannabis Regulation Fund transfer to GF (D101(a)(8))	\$4,035,000
Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund transfer to GF (D 101(c))	\$7,600,000
Liquor Control Fund transfer to GF (D 101(c))	\$14,849,754
3 Squares SNAP 3 Squares SNAP	
restaurant meals	\$175,000
base and 1-time funding meal sites, food pantries	\$5,000,000
base GF Meals on Wheels (Area Agencies on Aging)	\$2,000,000

HGOMA recommends the following adjustments:

Ethics Commission:	
2 positions requested, adjusted to one staff position at Vermont Criminal Justice Council:	\$125,000
3 positions requested, adjust to two positions at Cannabis Equity Coalition:	\$221,333
cannabis excise tax revenue to cannabis business development fund, maintain at	\$500,000

HGOMA takes no position on the following budget requests at this time:

Secretary of State Doula certification	\$25,000
Secretary of State Mental Health Executive Officer	\$170,000
Secretary of State Early Childhood Educators	
2 staff attorneys/executive officer	\$262,000
Set up profession	\$45,000
2 cycles of licensure reimbursement	\$1,300,000
Vermont Criminal Justice Council	
RFPs	\$700,000
3 additional RFPs	\$103,000

HGOMA does not recommend appropriating the following:

Vermont Secretary of State Voter Guide	\$1,500,000
Land Access and Opportunity Board	\$5,600,000

Sincerely,

Representative Matt Birong
Chair, House Government Operations & Military Affairs Committee