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Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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

As passed by the Senate¹ⁱ

Bill Summary

This bill as recommended would explicitly add libraries to list of the eligible receipts for funding from the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund and give the Agency of Education (AOE) the ability to allocate a portion of fund revenues to the Department of Libraries for the purpose of providing subgrants to public libraries to sustain or create summer and afterschool programming. It would also explicitly enable libraries to receive early education grants from AOE.

The bill would repeal the Audio-Visual Revolving Fund established in 22 V.S.A. § 608.

Fiscal Impact

Under current law, cannabis sales tax revenue is allocated to the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund, which is used by AOE to “support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming.” Eligible recipients of funding can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations, including libraries. The bill would give AOE the ability to allocate a portion of these revenues to grants for libraries and allow coalitions or groups of libraries to apply for funding.

Table 1: Cannabis Sales Tax Revenue through Fiscal Year 2031 (\$ millions)²

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Estimated Sales Tax Revenue	\$10.1	\$10.4	\$10.8	\$11.1	\$11.3

Early education grants through 16 V.S.A. § 4041 are voluntary and are limited to a maximum of \$30,000. Since AOE currently does not make grants through this Program, there is no fiscal impact of this provision.

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.

² <https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Consensus-Revenue-Forecasts-Legislative-Economic-Outlook/2026-January-Economic-Review-and-Revenue-Forecast.pdf>

Background and Details

Section 3: Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund

The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund was created by Act 78 of 2024 to manage cannabis sales tax revenues allocated to afterschool programming. The Agency of Education uses these funds for a grant program for afterschool programs and centers.

In fiscal year 2025, the total awarded amount through the grant program was \$2.4 million. Each fiscal year's awardees receive funding for multiple fiscal years – awardees in the program track receive funding for three and a half years. Centers receive funding for five years. Overall, \$10.5 million in funding is obligated through fiscal year 2030.³

To date, no libraries have applied for funding through the program.

Section 8: Repeal of Audio-Visual Revolving Fund

The Audio-Visual Revolving Fund is located within the Department of Libraries and covers the expenses of audio-visual material distribution. Postage or delivery charges assessed by the Department to users of materials from this unit generate revenues for the fund. This fund is no longer relevant as audio-visual material are treated the same as other library materials.

ⁱ 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.

³ <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/edu-act-78-afterschool-report-2025.pdf>