

1 Sec. 50. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

2 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

3 APPROPRIATIONS

4 * * *

5 (v) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated
6 for the following:

7 (1) ~~\$200,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to~~
8 ~~municipalities that were impacted by the August and December 2023 flooding~~
9 ~~events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management~~
10 ~~Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-~~
11 ~~VT and DR-4762-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local~~
12 ~~economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State~~
13 ~~to address the secondary economic impacts of the August and December 2023~~
14 ~~flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal~~
15 ~~Emergency Management Agency related projects~~

16 \$1,800,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to
17 municipalities in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations
19 DR-4810-VT and DR-4744-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that
20 these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout
21 the state to address the secondary economic impacts of 2023 and 2024 flooding
22 events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on FEMA-related
23 projects.

1 (A) The funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) for local
2 economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

3 (i) \$75,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has at least
4 \$5,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to
5 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

6 (ii) \$50,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less
7 than \$5,000,000 and at least \$2,000,000 in estimated reported damages to
8 public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

9 (iii) \$30,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less
10 than \$2,000,000 and at least \$1,000,000 in estimated reported damages to
11 public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

12 (iv) \$20,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less
13 than \$1,000,000 and at least \$250,000 in estimated reported damages to public
14 infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

15 (v) \$10,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less
16 than \$250,000 and at least \$100,000 in estimated reported damages to public
17 infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

18 (C) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision
19 (v)(1) have not been granted by June 30, 2025, they shall revert to the General
20 Fund and be transferred to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund

21 (D) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision
22 (v)(1) are insufficient to distribute grants to all eligible municipalities in their
23 full amount, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall, pursuant to

- 1 32 V.S.A. § 511, utilize excess receipt authority to expend funds from the
- 2 PILOT Special Fund for this purpose.

1 Sec. 51. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

2 Sec. D.100 ALLOCATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

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

6 (1) The sum of \$575,662 is allocated from the Current Use
7 Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of
8 the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c),
9 amounts in excess of \$575,662 from the property transfer tax deposited into the
10 Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred into the General
11 Fund.

12 (2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of ~~\$22,106,740~~
13 \$28,238,050 from the property transfer tax and surcharge established in
14 32 V.S.A. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation
15 Trust Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

16 (A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property
17 transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the
18 affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the
19 reduction of \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and
20 Conservation Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established in
21 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2025 appropriation of ~~\$22,106,740~~
22 \$28,238,050 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the
23 \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property

1 transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on
2 July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the \$1,500,000 reduction in the
3 appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be
4 restored.

5 (3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts in excess of
6 ~~\$7,772,373~~ \$9,052,113 from the property transfer tax deposited into the
7 Municipal and Regional Planning Fund shall be transferred into the General
8 Fund. The ~~\$7,772,373~~ \$9,052,113 shall be allocated as follows:

9 (A) ~~\$6,404,540~~ \$7,300,358 for disbursement to regional planning
10 commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

11 (B) ~~\$931,773~~ \$1,187,721 for disbursement to municipalities in a
12 manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

13 (C) ~~\$436,060~~ \$564,034 to the Agency of Digital Services for the
14 Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

1 Sec. 52. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

2 Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

3 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts are
4 transferred from the funds indicated:

5 (1) From the General Fund to the:

6 * * *

7 (P) Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Fund (#21884):

8 \$220,000.

9 * * *

10 (c)(1) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.3 of the Rules for State Matching Funds
11 under the Federal Public Assistance Program, in fiscal year 2025, the Secretary
12 of Administration may provide funding from the Emergency Relief and
13 Assistance Fund that was transferred pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(J) of this
14 section to subgrantees prior to the completion of a project. In fiscal years 2025
15 and 2026, up to 70 percent of the State funding match on the nonfederal share
16 of an approved project for municipalities that were impacted by the August and
17 December 2023 and 2024 flooding events in counties that are eligible for
18 Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under
19 federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT, and DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT,
20 DR-4816-VT, and DR-4826-VT may be advanced at the request of a
21 municipality.

22 (2) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.1 of the Rules for State Matching Funds
23 Under the Federal Public Assistance Program, the Secretary of Administration

1 shall increase the standard State funding match on the nonfederal share of an
2 approved project to the highest percentage possible given available funding for
3 municipalities in counties that were impacted by ~~the August and December~~
4 ~~2023 and 2024~~ flooding events and are eligible for Federal Emergency
5 Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster
6 declarations DR-4744-VT, ~~and DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT, DR-4816-VT, and~~
7 ~~DR-4826-VT.~~

1 Sec. 53. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.102 is amended to read:

2 Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

3 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year
4 2025, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the
5 accounts indicated:

6 * * *

7 1260892201 Treas. Bond Debt Service \$6,000,000

8 * * *

1 Sec. 55. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

2 Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

3 (a) The establishment of ~~43~~ **47** permanent positions is authorized in fiscal
4 year 2025 for the following:

5 (1) Permanent classified positions:

6 * * *

7 (H) Office of the Attorney General:

8 (i) one Court Diversion Assistant Director.

9 * * *

10 (2) Permanent exempt positions:

11 * * *

12 (G) Human Rights Commission:

13 (i) one Intake Specialist; and

14 (ii) one Staff Attorney Investigator.

15 (H) Office of the Attorney General:

16 (i) one Assistant Attorney General.

17 * * *

1 Sec. 66. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2024
 2 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 40 and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec.
 3 C.101, is further amended to read:

4 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME

5 APPROPRIATIONS

6 * * *

7 (l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds
 8 are appropriated for the following:

9 * * *

10 (2) \$8,834,000 General Fund and \$11,483,302 Federal Revenue Fund
 11 #22005 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke
 12 program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the
 13 program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic
 14 investments with community partners. Unexpended appropriations shall carry
 15 forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

16 * * *

17 (m) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2024, funds are
 18 appropriated for the following:

19 (1) \$366,066 General Fund and \$372,048 Federal Revenue Fund #22005
 20 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke
 21 program. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent
 22 fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

1 (2) \$15,583,352 Global Commitment Fund #20405 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot
 2 to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program. Unexpended
 3 appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain
 4 available for this purpose; and

* * *

6 (n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for
 7 the following:

8 (1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of
 9 Substance Use Programs for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for
 10 Health Hub and Spoke program. Unexpended appropriations shall carry
 11 forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

13 ~~(ee) Joint Fiscal Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the~~
 14 ~~following:~~

15 ~~(1) \$250,000 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses~~
 16 ~~for members of the Task Force on Economic Development Incentives and for~~
 17 ~~consulting services approved by the Task Force for consulting services related~~
 18 ~~to legislative needs identified in the 2025-2026 biennium, including analysis of~~
 19 ~~legislative staff compensation and organizational structure and implementation~~
 20 ~~of adjustments in accordance with policies adopted by the Joint Legislative~~
 21 ~~Management Committee.~~

* * *

1 Sec. 79. 32 V.S.A. § 308b is amended to read:

2 § 308b. HUMAN SERVICES CASELOAD RESERVE

3 (a) There is created within the General Fund a Human Services Caseload
4 Reserve. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be subject to an appropriation
5 by the General Assembly or approval by the Emergency Board. Expenditures
6 from the Reserve shall be limited to Agency of Human Services caseload-
7 related needs primarily in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program and the
8 Departments for Children and Families, of Health, of Mental Health, of
9 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, of Vermont Health Access, and
10 settlement costs associated with managing the Global Commitment waiver.

11 (b) The Secretary of Administration may transfer to the Human Services
12 Caseload Reserve any General Fund ~~carry forward~~ carryforward directly
13 attributable to Agency of Human Services caseload reductions and the
14 effective management of related federal receipts, with the exclusion of the
15 Department of Corrections.

16 (c) The Human Services Caseload Reserve shall contain two ~~sub-accounts~~
17 subaccounts:

18 (1) A ~~sub-account~~ subaccount for incurred but not reported Medicaid
19 expenses. Each fiscal year ~~beginning with fiscal year 2020~~, the Department of
20 Finance and Management shall adjust the amount reserved for incurred but not
21 reported Medicaid expenses to equal the amount specified in the
22 ~~Comprehensive~~ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year
23 occurring two years prior for the estimated amount of incurred but not reported

1 Medicaid expenses associated with the current Medicaid Global Commitment
2 waiver.

3 * * *

1 Sec. 81. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FACILITY WORK
2 PROGRAMS; STRATEGIC PLAN

3 (a) Findings and intent.

4 (1) The General Assembly finds that a significant budget deficit has
5 developed within previously existing programs despite a wage structure that
6 pays incarcerated individuals in Vermont at rates ranging from \$0.25 to \$1.35
7 per hour, significantly below the federal minimum wage.

8 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that all Department of
9 Corrections facility work programs operate in a manner that is fiscally
10 sustainable to the extent possible within current statutory limitations and
11 effective in preparing offenders for meaningful employment upon release.

12 (b) Strategic plan. On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of
13 Corrections shall, in consultation with the Department of Labor, submit a
14 strategic plan with proposed benchmarks for improvement to the House
15 Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the
16 Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Judiciary. The
17 strategic plan shall include:

18 (1) A business plan to improve program efficiency and self-
19 sustainability to ensure all facility work programs, including Vermont
20 Correctional Industries, vocational training programs, and other paid facility
21 duties, operate without recurring deficits or to clearly identify funding sources
22 to address the deficits.

1 (2) A comprehensive evaluation of the skills provided through facility
2 work programs to determine if those skills are transferable to employment
3 opportunities post-incarceration. The evaluation shall include consideration of
4 expanding technical training and certification opportunities that carry
5 recognized value in the labor market.

6 (3) An analysis of facility work programs to determine if each program
7 serves a sufficient portion of the incarcerated population to justify its
8 administration. The analysis shall also consider whether participants gain
9 meaningful and valuable work experiences.

10 (4) A review of wages paid to facility work program participants, the
11 implications of wage structures on program outcomes, and the appropriate use
12 of funds in relation to program objectives.

13 (c) In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the Department of Corrections shall
14 submit timely reports to the to the House Committees on Appropriations and
15 on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations,
16 on Institutions, and on Judiciary, or the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint
17 Legislative Justice Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in
18 session, on the development of facility work program deficits. The
19 Department shall include in these reports any financial or operational actions
20 taken to address deficits, increase oversight, and prevent future deficits.

1 Sec. 82. MEDICAID PROVIDERS WITH STABILIZATION NEEDS;
2 GRANT ELIGIBILITY

3 (a) All Vermont Medicaid participating providers with demonstrated
4 stabilization needs and a plan to achieve sustainability shall be eligible to apply
5 for funds appropriated pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec.
6 B.1100(o)(4), including substance use residential treatment facilities, federally
7 qualified health centers, residential mental health providers, and other
8 providers of health care and human services.

9 (b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health
10 Access shall submit a report to the House Committees on Health Care and on
11 Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on
12 Appropriations. The report shall include:

13 (1) A detailed account of grants distributed pursuant to the appropriation
14 made in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100(o)(4). This shall
15 include the dollar amount and recipient of each grant.

16 (2) A description of each grant recipient's financial status prior to
17 receipt of the grant, a summary of the impact of the grant for each recipient,
18 and a summary of a revised long-term sustainability plan for each grant
19 recipient.

20 (3) An analysis of the grant program's outcomes and any
21 recommendations for enhancing the financial stability of Vermont Medicaid
22 providers.