Sec. C.103 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 32 is amended to read:

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION GRANTS

(a) The sum of ~~$2,865,000.00~~ $3,647,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work as follows:

(1) ~~$200,000.00~~ $982,000.00 for the purpose of awarding transition grants to support ~~school boards transitioning~~ the work required to transition to new governance and administrative models ~~as contemplated in this act~~ pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and in light of the continued analysis of the work necessary in the field to transition to new, operational school districts;

(2) $562,500.00 for positions established in Sec. 33 of this act; and

(3) $2,102,500.00 for contracted services, subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (c) of this section, to ~~support~~ facilitate school ~~districts~~ boards to study the advisability of forming union school districts, as well as to support districts with administrative activities relating to consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula, instructional materials, and teaching activities.

(b) The Agency shall use the funds appropriated in subdivision (a)(1) of this section to award transition facilitation grants to support the work required to transition to new governance and administrative models.

(c) The appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(1) While this appropriation may be used to contract for data analysis necessary to support school districts with the administrative activities related to consolidation, it shall also be used for developing data analysis tools to support merger committees in consultation with the Department of Taxes.

(2) This appropriation shall be used to provide direct support to school boards for the business processes that are required to be completed before new school districts become operational. Support and training for school business officials and other school district personnel shall be funded solely through the appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(1) of this section and the corresponding grants created in subsection (b) of this section.

(3) This appropriation may be used to support the special education strategic plan required pursuant to Sec. 30 of this act. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the strategic plan addresses the supports and processes needed to be in place for the transition to the weighted funding model for special education as such funding model is contemplated in this act and as may be further amended by an act of the General Assembly after consideration of the report required pursuant to Sec. 45a of this act. Any work or analysis done by the Agency regarding alternatives to the base amount or weights contained in this act shall not be funded from this appropriation.

Adds Read Vermont appropriation to Sec. B.1100(o)(3)

(3) $700,000 General Fund for the Read Vermont Program.

Adds a $130,000 for a position at the State Board of Education

Sec. B.511.1 State board of education	
Personal services	184,208
Operating expenses	16,500
Total	200,708
Source of funds	
General fund	200,708
Total	200,708

Sec. E.511.1 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATON; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriated in Sec. B.511.1 of this act, $130,000] shall be for a limited service exempt position to be taken from the position pool.