Add language to B.1100(c)(4) and add intent section.

(c) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(4) $200,000 General Fund for a grant to End Homelessness Vermont to continue providing statewide housing navigation, case management, service coordination, technical assistance, appeals, and permanent housing support for individuals living with complex needs and disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Sec. E.321 END HOMELESSNESS VERMONT; GRANT; HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CONTINUUM

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont ranks fourth per capita in the United States for homelessness;

(2) Vermont's unhoused population has risen dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) Vermont's shelter, housing, and supportive services capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of its unhoused population;

(4) repeated changes in program scope and eligibility requirements for programs, including emergency housing provided through General Assistance program have made it difficult for Vermonters seeking housing assistance to access and maintain support;

(5) the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum may not be fully implemented in fiscal year 2027; and

(6) End Homelessness Vermont has provided essential services to unhoused Vermonters including service navigation and coordination from crisis through housing stability, technical assistance, and concrete supports.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the grant to End Homelessness Vermont in Sec. B.1100(c)(4) of this act support its continued statewide work of providing essential services to individuals living with complex needs and disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Add two reports: one from ADS on estimates for sources and uses of services funds, compliance with new procedures, and any advantages of new budgeting approach; one from F&M on IT project expenditure tracking

Sec. E.105.1 AGENCY OF DIGITAL SERVICES; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORTS

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Digital Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a written plan to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on how to reduce the fund deficit in the Information Technology Internal Service Fund established by 3 V.S.A. § 3304, including any recommended changes to revenue sources to and expenditures from the Fund. The report shall include information on revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the Fund's balance at fiscal year closeout for the previous 10 fiscal years. The report shall also include the most current available information on revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the estimated Fund balance at fiscal year 2027 closeout.

(b) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Digital Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on the approach and assumptions used for estimating sources and uses for the Core Enterprise Services Fund (#58100), Enterprise Offerings Fund (#58110), Professional Services Fund (#58120), and Customized Services Fund (#58130) for the purposes of building the fiscal year 2027 budget. The report shall include information on the Agency's adaptation to and compliance with new procedures on the part of various State agencies and departments and any managerial or organizational advantages to the fiscal year 2027 budgeting approach.

(c) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Finance and Management shall provide a report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on the establishment and consistent use of the State's Chart of Accounts to uniformly track expenditures associated with major IT projects by agency and department. It is the intent of the General Assembly that project level tracking include contracts with IT implementation vendors, business process contracts that support project delivery, and internal staffing and operating costs.

Revised language for E.300.1 on the Green Mountain Youth Facility and ability for DCF and BGS to approve designs or leases

Sec. E.300.1 HIGH-END SYSTEM FACILITIES FOR YOUTH

(a) At the August, October, and December 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall report on their plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, before the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services approve design documents for construction and prior to approval of the lease for the facility, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall submit their approved design to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Health and Welfare. At the same time, the Department for Children and Families shall submit a draft operating budget.

Report on rate increases for statutorily-identified providers

Sec. E.316.1 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS; RATE INCREASES; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding community-based organizations, community partners, and service providers identified in Title 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated that are not included in the budgetary inflation increase reports required by 33 V.S.A. § 125 and 33 V.S.A. § 506. The report shall include:

(1) a list of these entities organized by type of service;

(2) to the extent possible, and in collaboration with these entities, information on the total budgetary growth of these entities over the prior five fiscal years organized by type of service;

(3) a cost estimate for adding a one percent increase over the previous fiscal year's funding for each service type group identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

(4) proposed statutory language for annual reporting on budgetary inflation increases for the service type groups identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. E.316.3 33 V.S.A. § 1703 is amended to read:

§ 1703. CHANGES TO PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

(a)~~(1)~~ The Department shall report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare ~~and~~, community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, any other interested stakeholders, and if the General Assembly is adjourned, the Joint Fiscal Committee, within 30 days after any substantive change in the federal law governing SNAP that:

~~(A)~~(1) restricts or improves eligibility;

~~(B)~~(2) increases or reduces barriers or creates or eliminates hardships to access; ~~or~~

(3) identifies anticipated impacts on the administrative burden or costs to the Department, community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, or federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont; or

~~(C)~~(4) inhibits or increases benefit usage.

~~(2)~~(b) ~~Within~~ Not less than 90 days ~~after~~ prior to the implementation of a substantive voluntary change ~~described pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection~~ to Vermont's SNAP program, the Department shall ~~provide an analysis to the Chairs of any anticipated administrative costs to the Department and any impacts on SNAP applicants and participants as a result of the change.~~:

(1) convene a meeting with community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, and any other interested stakeholders to describe the proposed change to Vermont's SNAP program, including the anticipated impact on eligibility, benefit level, administrative burden or costs, and any other relevant impact of the proposed change; and

(2) consult with and consider input from community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, and any other interested stakeholders on the impacts of the Department's voluntary change to Vermont's SNAP program.

~~(b) The Commissioner may convene a meeting of interested stakeholders to discuss a change listed in subsection (a) of this section.~~

Technical corrections to supervised visitation program language

Sec. E.317 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS

(a)(1) $137,500 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act, the $130,000 General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(c)(5) of this act, and $100,000 of the federal funds appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act shall be granted by the Department for Children and Families to supervised visitation programs as follows:

(A) $367,500 to the six existing community-based supervised visitation sites.

(2) The Department shall work with the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence to develop a funding formula for supervised visitation sites, to identify the community partners to develop two new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027, and to begin planning for the creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.

Revised language requiring a working group for examining DAs and SSAs

Sec. E.329 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKING GROUP; ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; REPORT

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with Vermont Care Partners, shall convene a working group to support the ongoing coordination and a shared understanding of the designated and specialized service agency support system, including the system's functioning and capacity. The Agency, Vermont Care Partners, and the working group shall meet at least twice during fiscal year 2027. The Agency and Vermont Care Partners shall jointly develop the agenda in advance of each meeting.

(1) The meetings may include a discussion of State and federal requirements, system operations and service delivery, workforce and provider capacity, fiscal pressures, administrative burden, the definition of essential services, and the extent to which evolving community needs and system reforms have affected the responsibilities and long-term sustainability of designated and specialized service agencies.

(2) At the first meeting, the Agency and Vermont Care Partners shall develop a transparent process to communicate about and implement necessary changes necessitated by State or federal requirements, including changes related to funding, staffing, operational feasibility, and service delivery.

(3) The working group shall discuss alignment with the State's health care delivery system planning efforts, including ongoing hospital and health system transformation work.

(4) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with Vermont Care Partners, shall provide an update to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding the activities of the working group.

(b) On or before January 15, 2028, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, in consultation with the Departments of Health and of Mental Health and the Office of Health Care Reform, shall submit a plan to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare for developing and conducting a data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies that conforms with the Statewide Health Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9403. Development of the plan shall include participation by individuals who reflect Vermont's diversity with regard to race, income, age, and disability status. Specifically, the plan shall include:

(1) hearing from and sharing data, information, trends, and insights with communities about the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies;

(2) providing opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of the engagement process by current, former, and prospective clients of the

designated and specialized service agencies and health care providers, including employees of designated and specialized service agencies;

(3) providing the data, information, and analysis necessary to support the engagement process, including information and trends relating to the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies and the workforce challenges encountered by the agencies; and

(4) establishing mechanisms to assess the impact of any changes on the designated and specialized service agencies, including on workforce recruitment and retention initiatives.

(c) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living may include a request for an appropriation to hire one or more consultants to support the engagement process recommended pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Report on Choices for Care expenditures

Sec. E.329.1 CHOICES FOR CARE; FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET PRESENTATION

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall report to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on appropriations for the Choices for Care Program in the prior five fiscal years, including detailed information on expenditures for home and community based services and skilled nursing facility services.

Amend session law to extend HRS ISF State Ethics Commission surcharge through FY27.

Sec. C.XXX 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 13, as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.8, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 2, and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.136.1 is further amended to read:

Sec. 13. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCE SURCHARGE; REPEAL

(a) Surcharge.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c) setting forth the purpose and rate of charges collected in the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund, in fiscal year 2018 and thereafter, a surcharge ~~of up to 2.3 percent, but~~ no greater than the cost of the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this act, on the per-position portion of the charges authorized in 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c)(2) shall be assessed to all Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices and shall be paid by all assessed entities solely with State funds.

(2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of funding the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this act.

(b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~July 1, 2025~~ July 1, 2027.

Amend session law to retroactively extend HRS ISF State Ethics Commission surcharge through FY27 (this section will be effective June 30, 2024).

Sec. E.100.1 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY; RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY PANEL; FUNDING SOURCE; SURCHARGE; REPEAL

(a) Surcharge.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c) setting forth the purpose and rate of charges collected in the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund, in fiscal year 2019, a surcharge ~~of up to 1.65 percent, and in fiscal year 2020 and thereafter, a surcharge of up to 3.3 percent, but~~ not greater than the cost of both the Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the ~~position of Executive Director~~ activities of the Office of Racial Equity set forth in Sec. 3 of this act, on the ~~perposition~~ per-position portion of the charges authorized in 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c)(2) shall be assessed to all Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices and shall be paid by all assessed entities solely with State funds.

(2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of funding the Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the position of the Executive Director of Racial Equity set forth in Sec. 3 of this act.

(b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~June 30, 2024~~ July 1, 2027.

Amend statute to allow for ORE and State Ethics Commission allowable uses of HRS ISF.

Sec. E.108 3 V.S.A. § 2283 is amended to read:

§ 2283. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

* * *

(c)(1) There is established in the Department of Human Resources a Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund to consist of revenues from charges to agencies, departments, and similar units of Vermont State government and to be available to fund the costs of the consolidated human resource, Office of Racial Equity, and State Ethics Commission services in the Department of Human Resources.

(2) The rate of the charges shall be proposed by the Commissioner of Human Resources, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration. Proposed rates of charges shall be based upon the cost of operations associated with human resource, Office of Racial Equity, and State Ethics Commission services provided to agencies, departments, and similar units of Vermont State government.