

1 H.951

2 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 \* \* \* Purpose, Definitions, Legend \* \* \*

5 Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

6 (a) This bill may be referred to as the “BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2027  
7 Appropriations Act.”

8 Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

9 (a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of  
10 State government during fiscal year 2027. It is the express intent of the  
11 General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments,  
12 divisions, boards, offices, and commissions be limited to those that can be  
13 supported by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June  
14 30, 2026. Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing  
15 and service levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2027 so as to meet this  
16 condition unless otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other  
17 acts of the General Assembly.

18 Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

19 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the  
20 primary source and reference for appropriations for the operations of State  
21 government in fiscal year 2027.

1       (b) The sums herein stated are appropriated for the purposes specified in  
2       the following sections of this act. When no time is expressly stated during  
3       which any of the operating appropriations are to continue, the appropriations  
4       are single-year appropriations and only for the purpose indicated and shall be  
5       paid from funds shown as the source of funds. If in this act there is an error in  
6       either addition or subtraction, the totals shall be adjusted accordingly.  
7       Apparent errors in referring to section numbers of statutory titles within this  
8       act may be disregarded by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

9       (c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act  
10       apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2027.

11       Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

12       (a) As used in this act:

13               (1) “Encumbrances” means a portion of spending authority reserved for  
14       the subsequent payment of existing travel authorizations, purchase orders,  
15       grants, or contracts. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall  
16       make final decisions on the appropriateness of encumbrances.

17               (2) “Grants” means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to  
18       community and quasipublic agencies for providing local services, and to  
19       persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash  
20       or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

1           (3) “Operating expenses” means property management; repair and  
2           maintenance; rental expenses; insurance; postage; travel; energy and utilities;  
3           office and other supplies; equipment, including motor vehicles, highway  
4           materials, and construction; expenditures for the purchase of land and  
5           construction of new buildings and permanent improvements; and similar items.

6           (4) “Personal services” means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per  
7           diems, contracted third-party services, and similar items.

8           Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

9           (a) Except as specifically provided, this act shall not be construed in any  
10           way to negate or impair the full force and effect of existing laws.

11           Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

12           (a) In the absence of specific provisions to the contrary in this act, when  
13           total appropriations are offset by estimated receipts, the State appropriations  
14           shall control, notwithstanding receipts being greater or less than anticipated.

15           Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

16           (a) In fiscal year 2027, the Governor, with the approval of the General  
17           Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in  
18           session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including  
19           block grants in lieu of, or in addition to, funds herein designated as federal.  
20           The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal  
21           Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any

1 portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for  
2 which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

3 (b) If, during fiscal year 2027, federal funds available to the State and  
4 designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2026 session of the General  
5 Assembly are converted into block grants or are abolished under their current  
6 title in federal law and reestablished under a new title in federal law, the  
7 Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for any purpose consistent  
8 with the purposes for which the federal funds were appropriated. The  
9 Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for not more than 45 days  
10 prior to General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee approval. Notice shall be  
11 given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the Governor intends to  
12 use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall  
13 meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's request for approval.

14 Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

15 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of  
16 authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary  
17 positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during  
18 fiscal year 2027 except for new positions authorized by the General Assembly  
19 during the 2026 session. Limited service positions approved pursuant to  
20 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

1       Sec. A.108 LEGEND

2           (a) This act is organized by functions of government. The sections  
3           between B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming  
4           budget year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that  
5           relates to specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The  
6           function areas by section numbers are as follows:

7 <u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>	<u>General Government</u>
8 <u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>	<u>Protection to Persons and</u>
9	<u>Property</u>
10 <u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>	<u>Human Services</u>
11 <u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>	<u>Labor</u>
12 <u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>	<u>General Education</u>
13 <u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
14 <u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
15 <u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>	<u>Commerce and</u>
16	<u>Community Development</u>
17 <u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
18 <u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
19 <u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u>	<u>One-time and other</u>
20	<u>appropriation actions</u>

1        (b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year; the D  
2        sections contain fund allocations, transfers, reversions, and reservations for the  
3        upcoming budget year; the F sections contain the Pay Act; and the G section  
4        contains effective dates applicable to the act itself or specific sections within  
5        this act.

6                                \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2027 Base Appropriations \* \* \*

7                                \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2027 One-Time Appropriations \* \* \*

8        Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME  
9                                APPROPRIATIONS

10        (a) Agency of Administration Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2027,  
11        funds are appropriated for the following:

12                                (1) \$110,000 General Fund for the Office of Racial Equity to continue  
13        for an additional year the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership  
14        Vermont program.

15                                (2) \$900,000 General Fund to complete the work of the Truth and  
16        Reconciliation Commission.

17                                (3) Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. § 49, \$1,347,107 Community Resilience  
18        and Disaster Mitigation Fund for disaster relief assistance to communities  
19        impacted by severe flooding in calendar year 2025.

20        (b) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
21        appropriated for the following:

1           (1) \$300,000 General Fund and \$2,700,000 federal funds for  
2           information technology updates resulting from the federal (H.R.1) Medicaid  
3           changes.

4           (2) \$2,000,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants.

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

7           (1) \$21,183,809 General Fund for the provision of services,  
8           implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum, shelter  
9           development and operation, and supportive services, including case  
10          management to be allocated as follows:

11           (A) \$3,000,000 for shelter development.

12           (B) \$14,118,880 for emergency housing in hotels and motels.

13           (C) \$500,000 for grants to municipalities.

14           (D) \$1,500,000 for emergency cold weather shelters.

15           (E) \$2,064,929 for staffing, grants, and contracts.

16          (2) \$164,500 General Fund and \$29,873 Global Commitment for a grant  
17          to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

18          (3) \$180,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Parent Child  
19          Center Network for concrete supports programs.

20          (4) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to End Homelessness Vermont.

1           (5) \$130,000 General Fund for distribution to supervised visitation  
2 programs pursuant to Sec. E.317 of this act.

3           (6) \$4,000,000 General Fund for a temporary secure treatment facility  
4 for youth.

5           (d) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2027,  
6 funds are appropriated for the following:

7           (1) \$56,000 General Fund, \$44,000 federal funds, and \$100,000 Global  
8 Commitment for a grant to Vermont Legal Aid for the Vermont Legal Aid  
9 Helpline.

10           (2) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Legal Aid for an  
11 immigration attorney.

12           (3) \$500,000 General Fund and \$692,494 federal funds for the  
13 Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living Global  
14 Commitment appropriation in subdivision (k)(2) of this section to support  
15 Meals on Wheels programs.

16           (4) \$12,526 General Fund and \$17,347 federal funds for the Global  
17 Commitment appropriation in subdivision (c)(2) of this section for a grant to  
18 Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

19           (e) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2027, funds  
20 are appropriated for the following:

1           (1) \$500,000 General Fund for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic  
2           Collaborative grants.

3           (2) \$300,000 General Fund for the Serve Learn and Earn Program.

4           (f) Department of Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year  
5           2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

6           (1) \$800,000 General Fund for the Manufactured Home Improvement  
7           and Repair Program.

8           (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont State Housing  
9           Authority for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and  
10          Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

11          (g) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
12          appropriated for the following:

13          (1) \$150,000 General Fund for maintaining the current contract with the  
14          Canadian International Economic Development Partnership to provide in-  
15          market services to Montreal-based businesses seeking to expand into Vermont.

16          (2) \$75,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Professionals of  
17          Color Network.

18          (h) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated  
19          for the following:

20          (1) \$1,360,036 Transportation Fund for the FEMA 428 project  
21          relocating the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin.

1       (i) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for  
2       the following:

3               (1) \$150,000 General Fund for automated external defibrillators in  
4       schools.

5               (2) \$140,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont State Youth  
6       Council.

7       (j) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
8       appropriated for the following:

9               (1) \$160,000 General Fund for a grant to the Howard Center for the  
10       Community Outreach Program.

11               (2) \$469,000 General Fund for a grant to the Champlain Valley Office  
12       of Economic Opportunity to support operations of the Community Resource  
13       Center.

14       (k) Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. In fiscal  
15       year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

16               (1) \$235,000 General Fund for a grant to HomeShare Vermont.

17               (2) \$1,192,464 Global Commitment to support Meals on Wheels  
18       programs.

19       (l) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2027, funds  
20       are appropriated for the following:

1           (1) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming  
2           Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share  
3           programs.

4           (2) \$300,000 General Fund for grants to Vermont's 14 Natural Resource  
5           Conservation Districts.

6           (3) \$400,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank for the  
7           Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program.

8           (m) Office of the Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
9           appropriated for the following:

10           (1) \$90,000 General Fund for the Vermont Access Network's  
11           Community Radio Program.

12           (2) \$450,000 General Fund to support the costs of elections in calendar  
13           year 2026.

14           (3) \$50,000 General Fund for awards to support local civic journalism.

15           (n) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for  
16           the following:

17           (1) \$200,000 General Fund for a grant to Advance Vermont.

18           (o) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for  
19           the following:

20           (1) \$182,000 General Fund to provide healthy meals and snacks to  
21           children and adults receiving supervised care services.

1       (p) Agency of Commerce and Community Development. In fiscal year  
2       2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

3               (1) \$250,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Council on Rural  
4       Development for municipal technical assistance.

5               (2) \$50,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont 250th Anniversary  
6       Commission for the 250th celebration.

7       (q) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
8       appropriated for the following:

9               (1) \$2,320,000 General Fund for Freedom and Unity grants.

10       (r) Office of the State Treasurer. In fiscal year 2027, funds are  
11       appropriated for the following:

12               (1) \$150,000 General Fund for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance  
13       Program.

14               (2) \$75,000 General Fund for costs associated with the Pension and  
15       Benefits Funding Task Force.

16       (s) General Assembly. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the  
17       following:

18               (1) \$15,000 General Fund to support the work of the County and  
19       Regional Governance Study Committee.

20       Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL

21               INVESTMENTS; FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME CAPITAL

1                    APPROPRIATIONS

2                    (a) In fiscal year 2027, \$23,418,455 is appropriated from the Capital

3                    Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential

4                    Investments for the following:

5                    (1) Department of Buildings and General Services:

6                    (A) \$1,281,174 for statewide major maintenance;

7                    (B) \$225,000 for statewide physical security enhancements;

8                    (C) \$3,600,000 for Asa Bloomer roof replacement;

9                    (D) \$900,000 for Rutland multimodal garage renovation;

10                  (E) \$3,000,000 for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs;

11                  (F) \$1,050,000 for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC

12                  upgrades at correctional facilities;

13                  (G) \$225,000 for the Agency of Human Services for statewide

14                  correctional facilities security upgrades;

15                  (H) \$700,000 for the Agency of Human Services for door control

16                  upgrades at correctional facilities;

17                  (I) \$1,000,000 for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern

18                  State Correctional Facility boiler replacement;

19                  (J) \$772,557 for the Agency of Human Services for the Department

20                  for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility;

1                   (K) \$500,000 for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban  
2                   Search and Rescue (USAR) facility;

3                   (L) \$1,600,000 for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River  
4                   Junction courthouse; and

5                   (M) \$1,250,000 for the Agency of Human Services for replacement  
6                   women's reentry and correctional facilities.

7                   (2) Department of Environmental Conservation:

8                   (A) \$2,498,000 for the State match for federal Drinking Water State  
9                   Revolving Fund; and

10                  (B) \$150,000 for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns.

11                  (3) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

12                  (A) \$400,000 for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement,  
13                  and three-acre rule compliance.

14                  (4) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

15                  (A) \$200,000 for dam maintenance and safety planning.

16                  (5) Judiciary:

17                  (A) \$500,000 for the Essex County Courthouse connector project.

18                  (6) Vermont Historical Society:

19                  (A) \$566,724 for the replacement of a climate control unit.

20                  (7) Department of Corrections:

1           (A) \$3,000,000 to work with the Agency of Digital Services to install  
2           a Wi-Fi system in State correctional facilities that is appropriately designed to  
3           address the safety, security, and confidentiality risks of the correctional  
4           environment.

5           \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2026 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments \* \* \*

6           Sec. C.100 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 83(e) is amended to read:

7           (e) If funds previously appropriated to the Agency of Human Services are  
8           insufficient to provide the State match needed to make the payment adjustment  
9           in subsection (a) of this section, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308b, the  
10          Commissioner of Finance and Management shall unreserve an amount of funds  
11          equal to the deficiency from the Human Services Caseload Reserve and,  
12          ~~notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, transfer~~ an amount of funds equal to the  
13          deficiency shall be appropriated to the Agency of Human Services.

14          Sec. C.101 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.325(b), as amended by  
15          2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 81, is further amended to read:

16          (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$1,322,141  
17          ~~General Fund~~ shall be used by the Department for Children and Families'  
18          Office of Economic Opportunity for distribution to community partners  
19          providing services to prevent and address homelessness ~~for the purpose of~~  
20          ~~restoring these community partners to their fiscal year 2025 appropriation~~  
21          ~~level.~~ The \$1,322,141 shall be allocated as follows:

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Sec. C.102 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103, as amended by 2026  
Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 55, is further amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
2026, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds  
provided:

(1) General Fund.

\* \* \*

(D) The first ~~\$74,908,097~~ \$70,948,097 of any fiscal year-end balance  
otherwise subject to the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c(a) shall, instead, be  
reserved for addressing federal funding shortfalls, property tax relief, or any  
other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public in the subsequent  
fiscal year. Any proceeds reserved in accordance with the requirements of this  
subdivision (D) shall automatically be unreserved for use on July 1 of the  
subsequent fiscal year.

\* \* \*

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

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION

APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION GRANTS

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

4            (1) ~~\$200,000.00~~ \$1,452,500.00 for the purpose of awarding transition  
5        grants to school districts and cooperative educational service areas to support  
6        school boards transitioning the work required to transition to new governance  
7        and administrative models as contemplated in this act, pursuant to subsection  
8        (b) of this section, and in light of the continued analysis of the work necessary  
9        in the field to transition to new, operational school districts as contemplated by  
10       this act;

11           (2) \$562,500.00 for positions established in Sec. 33 of this act; and

12           (3) ~~\$2,102,500.00~~ \$850,000.00 for contracted services, subject to the  
13       restrictions contained in subsection (c) of this section, to support facilitate  
14       school districts boards to study the advisability of forming union school  
15       districts, as well as to support districts with administrative activities relating to  
16       consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to  
17       support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula,  
18       instructional materials, and teaching activities.

19           (b) The Agency shall use the funds appropriated in subdivision (a)(1) of  
20       this section to award transition facilitation grants to school districts and  
21       cooperative educational service areas to support the work required to transition

1 to new governance models. The Agency shall be prohibited from awarding  
2 grants pursuant to this subsection until new school district boundaries have  
3 been enacted.

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

6 (1) While this appropriation may be used to contract for data analysis  
7 necessary to support school districts with the administrative activities related to  
8 consolidation, it shall not be used to develop visualization tools, reports, or  
9 dashboards.

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

16 (3) This appropriation may be used to support the special education  
17 strategic plan required pursuant to Sec. 30 of this act. It is the intent of the  
18 General Assembly that the strategic plan addresses the supports and processes  
19 needed to be in place for the transition to the weighted funding model for  
20 special education as such funding model is contemplated in this act and as may  
21 be further amended by an act of the General Assembly after consideration of

1 the report required pursuant to Sec. 45a of this act. Any work or analysis done  
2 by the Agency regarding alternatives to the base amount or weights contained  
3 in this act shall not be funded from the appropriation contained in this section.

4 Sec. C.104 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.127.2 is amended to read:

5 Sec. E.127.2 FEDERAL FUNDING; CALCULATION OF  
6 APPROPRIATION REDUCTION; SECRETARY OF  
7 ADMINISTRATION; JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

8 (a) As used in this section:

9 (1) “Unduplicated function total” means the individual function totals  
10 set forth in this act excluding Global Commitment funds, Interdepartmental  
11 Transfer funds, and Internal Service funds. For purposes of this section, the  
12 determination of an unduplicated function total shall not include Education  
13 Funds.

14 (2) “Governmental function unit” refers to the governmental function  
15 areas set forth in Sec. A.108 of this act.

16 (b) In fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, in each instance that a  
17 reduction in federal revenues to the State results in a decrease of the  
18 unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit by:

19 (1) Less than 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total or  
20 \$2,000,000, whichever threshold amount is greater, the Secretary of  
21 Administration shall notify the Joint Fiscal Committee and may prepare and

1 implement a spending authority reduction plan without the approval of the  
2 Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations  
3 and transfers of funds are not greater than the reduction in the federal revenues.  
4 If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five percent to the  
5 total amount appropriated in any section or subsection of any appropriations  
6 act, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in  
7 32 V.S.A. § 704(b)(2).

8 (2) Greater than \$2,000,000 and 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function  
9 total for any governmental function unit, but less than 25 percent or  
10 \$50,000,000, whichever threshold amount is lower:

11 (A) the Secretary of Administration shall prepare a spending  
12 authority reduction and transfer plan for consideration and approval by the  
13 Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to the same process established in 32 V.S.A.  
14 § 704(e), notwithstanding the reference to subdivision (b)(1) of this section,  
15 provided that the total reductions to federal spending authority are not greater  
16 than the reductions in federal revenues; and

17 (B) to maintain a balanced State budget, to minimize the impact to  
18 Vermonters and to abide by the legislative intent set forth by the General  
19 Assembly in this act or future fiscal year appropriations acts or both, the Joint  
20 Fiscal Committee may make a recommendation to the Emergency Board to:

1 (i) utilize the appropriation in Sec. B.1101(b)(2) of this act to  
2 support impacted programs at not more than the current fiscal year funding  
3 level until the General Assembly is in session;

4 (ii) revert any unexpended and unobligated funds; and

5 (iii) make such reductions or transfers in appropriations necessary  
6 to support the priorities of the General Assembly.

7 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for the  
8 purpose of calculating any appropriation reduction that triggers the actions set  
9 forth in this section, the baseline federal funding amounts shall be the federal  
10 funding set forth in ~~this act~~ the general appropriations act for the fiscal year in  
11 which the reduction occurs. The Secretary of Administration shall monitor any  
12 changes in federal funding as the difference between the baseline federal  
13 funding amount ~~for use in fiscal year 2026~~ and any updated State federal funds  
14 revenue forecast adopted by the Emergency Board and shall calculate the  
15 percent reduction of the unduplicated function totals for each governmental  
16 function unit.

17 Sec. C.105 3 V.S.A. § 118 is amended to read:

18 § 118. COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF REVENUE

19 (a) There is hereby created a Secretary of State Services Fund. The Fund  
20 shall be used to provide appropriations for the operations of the Office of the  
21 Secretary of State, with the exception of those operations provided for in

1 chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title. The Fund shall be administered as a  
2 special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. ~~At the end of each~~  
3 ~~fiscal year, the unobligated balance in this Fund shall be transferred to the~~  
4 ~~General Fund.~~

5 (b) All revenues collected by the Secretary of State shall be deposited into  
6 the Secretary of State Services Fund except for the following revenues:

7 (1) any revenues collected by the Office of Professional Regulation set  
8 forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title; and

9 (2) any revenues collected pursuant to subsection 117(k) of this title.

10 (c) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to collect and deposit  
11 into the Secretary of State Services Fund revenues generated from optional  
12 services offered in the normal course of business, including for one-time or  
13 periodic sales of data by subscription or other contractual basis.

14 (d) The Secretary of State or designee shall report annually to the Joint  
15 Fiscal Committee at its September meeting on the prior fiscal year Fund  
16 balance at closeout. The report shall include projected revenues to and  
17 expenditures from the Fund in future fiscal years.

18 \* \* \* Fiscal Year 2026 Fund Transfers and Reserve Allocations \* \* \*

19 Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

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

4             (1) The sum of \$608,137 is allocated from the Current Use  
5       Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of  
6       the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c),  
7       amounts in excess of \$608,137 from the property transfer tax deposited into the  
8       Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred to the General  
9       Fund.

10            (2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of \$37,653,750  
11       from the property transfer tax and the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A.  
12       § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund  
13       shall be transferred to the General Fund.

14            (A) The dedication of \$2,500,000 in revenue from the property  
15       transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the  
16       affordable housing bond (10 V.S.A. § 314) shall be offset by the reduction of  
17       \$1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
18       Board and \$1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a.  
19       The fiscal year 2027 appropriation of \$37,653,750 to the Vermont Housing and  
20       Conservation Board reflects the \$1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing  
21       bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed

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

4 (3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2), amounts in excess of  
5 \$10,179,975 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and  
6 Regional Planning and Resilience Fund shall be transferred into the General  
7 Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3), the \$10,179,975 shall be  
8 allocated as follows:

9 (A) \$7,838,580 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in  
10 a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

11 (B) \$1,323,397 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner  
12 consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

13 (C) \$1,017,998 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont  
14 Center for Geographic Information.

15 Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

16 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts  
17 shall be transferred from the funds indicated:

18 (1) From the General Fund (#10000) to the:

19 (A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100):  
20 \$73,797,962.

1                   (B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital  
2                   and Essential Investments Fund (#21952): \$17,016,160.

3                   (C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909):  
4                   \$4,650,000.

5                   (D) Education Fund (#20205): \$104,908,097.

6                   (E) Vermont State Police Radio Equipment Replacement Special  
7                   Fund: \$500,000.

8                   (F) Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund (#21926):  
9                   \$350,000.

10                   (G) Information Technology Internal Service Fund (#58100):  
11                   \$1,000,000.

12                   (H) Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund (#21098):  
13                   \$1,347,107.

14                   (2) From the Transportation Fund (#20105) to the:

15                   (A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100):  
16                   \$294,775.

17                   (B) Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvements  
18                   Fund (#21575): \$523,966.

19                   (3) From the Education Fund (#20205) to the:

20                   (A) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909):  
21                   \$1,550,000.

1           (4) From the Clean Water Fund (#21932) to the:

2                   (A) Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (#21933): \$11,897,381.

3                   (B) Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (#21938):

4           \$120,000.

5           (5) From the Agency of Human Services Central Office Earned Federal  
6           Receipts (#22005) to the:

7                   (A) General Fund (#10000): \$5,000,000.

8           (6) From the AG-Fees and Reimbursement-Court Order Special Fund  
9           (#21638) to the:

10                   (A) General Fund (#10000): \$2,000,000.

11                   (B) Miscellaneous Fines & Penalties Fund (#21054): \$1,538,600.

12           (7) From the Insurance Reserve Fund (#21335) to the:

13                   (A) Transportation Fund (#20105): \$1,360,069, notwithstanding  
14           32 V.S.A. § 135.

15           (b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations  
16           provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year  
17           2027 budget and do not supersede the actual fiscal year-end transfer amounts.

18           (1) To the General Fund (#10000) from the:

19                   (A) 8 V.S.A. § 80(d). Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund  
20           (#21075): \$42,837,511.

1           (B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund  
2           (#21085): \$23,762,455.

3           (C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100):  
4           \$7,500,000.

5           (2) 8 V.S.A. § 6017(b). To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and  
6           Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

7           (A) General Fund (#10000): \$143,318.

8           (c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund  
9           (#10000), shall not exceed the actual fiscal year-end profits earned by the  
10           enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The  
11           following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year  
12           2027 budget only.

13           (1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): \$6,700,000.

14           (2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): \$20,871,297.

15           (d)(1) Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 3306, an amount equal to all interest  
16           earned on the Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951) in fiscal years  
17           2023, 2024, and 2025, estimated to be \$9,547,596, shall be transferred to the  
18           General Fund.

19           (2) The Department of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint  
20           Fiscal Committee at its July 2026 meeting on the amount transferred pursuant  
21           to subdivision (1) of this subsection and on the balances of the Technology

1 Modernization Special Fund and the Information Technology Internal Service  
2 Fund after the transfers in subdivisions (a)(1)(G) of this section and (1) of this  
3 subsection have been made.

4 Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

5 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
6 2027, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the  
7 accounts indicated:

8	<u>1100892208</u>	<u>AOA-VT Housing Finance Agency</u>	<u>1,000,000.00</u>
9	<u>1100892310</u>	<u>AOA-FEMA COVID Match</u>	<u>890,937.34</u>
10	<u>1100892402</u>	<u>AOA-High-Risk FEMA Denial Resv</u>	<u>5,184,452.41</u>
11	<u>1105892601</u>	<u>ADS-Redistricting Task Force</u>	<u>80,173.30</u>
12	<u>2200892301</u>	<u>AAFM-Ecosystems Services</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
13	<u>2200892307</u>	<u>AAFM-Conservation Districts</u>	<u>16,513.42</u>
14	<u>2200892408</u>	<u>AAFM-Dairy Risk Mgmt</u>	<u>35,496.73</u>
15	<u>2240892204</u>	<u>PSD-Affordable Comm Scale Ren</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>
16	<u>2240892404</u>	<u>PSD-SHARE</u>	<u>195,000.00</u>
17	<u>3150892302</u>	<u>DMH-Howard Center</u>	<u>790.68</u>
18	<u>3400892204</u>	<u>AHSCO-Workforce Retention</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>
19	<u>3400892304</u>	<u>AHS-Nurse Preceptor Grants</u>	<u>189,984.00</u>
20	<u>3410892502</u>	<u>DVHA-Technical Analysis</u>	<u>21,601.25</u>
21	<u>3440891905</u>	<u>Child Dev Assoc Credential</u>	<u>29,752.09</u>

1	<u>3440892401</u>	<u>DCF-Reach Ahead 2 Year Pilot</u>	<u>498.63</u>
2	<u>3480004000</u>	<u>DOC-Correctional Services</u>	<u>650,000.00</u>
3	<u>3480892501</u>	<u>DOC-Data Contract</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>
4	<u>5100892308</u>	<u>AOE-Universal Income Dec.</u>	<u>99,990.00</u>
5	<u>6140892402</u>	<u>DEC-Emissions Repair Program</u>	<u>598,269.10</u>
6	<u>7110892406</u>	<u>HCD-Mobile Home Condemnation</u>	<u>831,043.50</u>
7	<u>7110892106</u>	<u>HCD - Tech Serv Local Gov</u>	<u>1,056.73</u>
8	<u>7110892306</u>	<u>HCD-Designated Area Report</u>	<u>5,342.36</u>
9	<u>7120892204</u>	<u>ACCD-Technology Related Grants</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>

10 Sec. D.103 RESERVES

11 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
12 2027, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds  
13 provided:

14 (1) General Fund.

15 (A) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance  
16 with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, \$6,550,000 is  
17 expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2027.

18 (B) The \$30,000,000 General Fund reserved pursuant to 2025 Acts  
19 and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(4) is unreserved.

20 (C) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, any General Fund balance  
21 that would otherwise have been subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 308c

1 shall instead be reserved for use in the subsequent fiscal year for providing  
2 property tax relief, permanent housing initiatives, or any other uses determined  
3 to be in the best interests of the public.

4 \* \* \* General Government \* \* \*

5 **Sec. E.100 POSITIONS**

6 (a) The establishment of six permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year  
7 2027 for the following:

8 (1) Permanent classified positions:

9 (A) Office of the State Treasurer:

10 (i) one Program Technician III.

11 (B) Vermont Pension Investment Commission:

12 (i) one Financial Director III.

13 (C) Vermont Labor Relations Board:

14 (i) one Mediator.

15 (D) Office of the Secretary of State:

16 (i) one RIM Specialist; and

17 (ii) one Business Services Administrator.

18 (2) Permanent exempt positions:

19 (A) State Ethics Commission:

20 (i) one Staff Attorney.

1       (b) The conversion of four limited service positions to permanent classified  
2       status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

3           (1) Office of the Attorney General:

4               (A) one Assistant Director of Court Diversion and Pretrial Services;

5       and

6               (B) one Home Improvement Specialist.

7           (2) Office of the Secretary of State:

8               (A) one Administrative Services Coordinator IV.

9           (3) Department of Public Service:

10               (A) one Financial Director IV.

11       (c) The conversion of 26 limited service positions to permanent exempt  
12       status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

13           (1) Judiciary:

14               (A) one Database Administrator;

15               (B) two IT Help Desk Analysts;

16               (C) two Centralized Service Analysts;

17               (D) 10 Judicial Assistants; and

18               (E) 11 Judicial Officer II's.

19       Sec. E.100.1 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.100.3 is amended to read:

20           Sec. E.100.3 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT; CORONAVIRUS

21                       STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND APPROPRIATIONS;



1 resulting from this reversion shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance  
2 Reserve.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. E.100.2 SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION; REPORT ON  
5 STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDS

6 (a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal  
7 Committee at its July, September, and November 2026 meetings, and at other  
8 meetings as requested, on any reductions to federal revenues to the State and  
9 the status of any appropriations impacted by such reductions.

10 Sec. E.105 3 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

11 § 3306. TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND

12 (a) Creation. There is created the Technology Modernization Special Fund,  
13 to be administered by the Agency of Digital Services. Monies in the Fund  
14 shall be used to fund business process transformation and to purchase,  
15 implement, and upgrade technology platforms, systems, and cybersecurity  
16 services used by State agencies and departments to carry out their statutory  
17 functions.

18 (b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

19 (1) any amounts transferred to it by the General Assembly; and

20 (2) any interest earned by the Fund.

21 (c) Fund balance. ~~Any~~



1 revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the estimated Fund balance at  
2 fiscal year 2027 closeout.

3 Sec. E.106 32 V.S.A. § 307(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The budget shall also include in detail definite recommendations of the  
5 Governor relative to the amounts that should be appropriated to each of the  
6 activities referred to under this section. It shall also include definite  
7 recommendations of the Governor relative to the financing of the expenditures  
8 recommended and the appropriate amounts to be raised from ordinary revenue,  
9 direct taxes, bonds, or loans. The financing of the expenditures recommended,  
10 as proposed by the Governor, shall not include the funds from the Budget  
11 Stabilization Reserve as established in section 308 of this title. With the  
12 budget, the Governor shall submit to the General Assembly such messages,  
13 statements, or supplemental data with reference to the same, as the Governor  
14 may deem expedient; however, budget documentation shall include to the  
15 extent possible the following:

16 \* \* \*

17 (5) A document outlining reversions and approved carryforward by  
18 appropriation.

19 Sec. E.111 DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; POSITION POOL;

20 FUNDING

1       (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.111 of this act, \$135,000 General  
2       Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Business Analyst position to be taken  
3       from the position pool.

4       Sec. E.127 JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT

5       (a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Department of  
6       Finance and Management, provide a report with a general overview of special  
7       funds and their uses to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on  
8       or before December 15, 2026.

9       (b) In addition to the report outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the  
10       Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Office of Legislative Counsel  
11       and the Department of Finance and Management, submit the following reports  
12       to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

13       (1) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence  
14       the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by  
15       the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "general  
16       government," "labor," "general education," "commerce and community  
17       development," and "transportation." The report shall be submitted on or  
18       before December 15, 2026.

19       (2) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence  
20       the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by  
21       the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "human

1 services” and “natural resources.” The report shall be submitted on or before  
2 December 15, 2027.

3 (3) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence  
4 the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by  
5 the Department of Finance and Management’s accounting system as  
6 “protection to persons and property.” The report shall be submitted on or  
7 before December 15, 2028.

8 (4) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence  
9 the prior fiscal year that did not fall within any function areas of government  
10 identified in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection or that would fall within  
11 those function areas of government but were established after the relevant  
12 report was submitted. The report shall be submitted on or before December  
13 15, 2029.

14 (c) The reports required by subsection (b) of this section shall include, for  
15 each special fund identified, the following information, if available:

16 (1) the authorizing statute for the fund, its date of enactment, and any  
17 amendments to the statute;

18 (2) a description of revenue sources and expenditures, including stated  
19 purposes of expenditures;

20 (3) the prior fiscal year fund balance at closeout; and



1 COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

2 (a) Of the \$2,174,810 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, \$1,732,301  
3 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating  
4 budget, and \$442,509 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension  
5 Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal  
6 Employees' Retirement System.

7 Sec. E.135 3 V.S.A. § 922 is amended to read:

8 § 922. OFFICE SPACE; EMPLOYEES; MEDIATOR

9 (a) The Secretary of Administration shall, upon request by the State Labor  
10 Relations Board, allow the Board the responsible use of public buildings under  
11 ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's control and furnish heat, light, and furniture for any  
12 meeting or hearing called by the Board.

13 (b) The Board may employ such employees and agents as it deems  
14 necessary and may employ a reporter for taking and transcribing testimony in  
15 hearing before it.

16 (c)(1) The Board may employ a mediator to provide free mediation services  
17 to public and private sector collective bargaining units and employers upon  
18 reaching an impasse during collective bargaining.

19 (2) If the mediator has capacity, the mediator may provide free  
20 mediation services to public and private sector collective bargaining units and  
21 employers on grievances and unfair labor practice charges.



1 (1) Sec. 13 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1230, Commission procedure,  
2 rulemaking) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, except that the Commission  
3 may adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. § 1230(b) prior to July 1, 2028;

4 (2) Sec. 22 (creating Municipal Code of Ethics) shall take effect on  
5 January 1, 2025;

6 (3) Sec. 7 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1221(a), describing expansion of  
7 Commission powers) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028;

8 (4) Sec. 8 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1222; title redesignation) shall take  
9 effect on July 1, 2025;

10 (5) Sec. 9 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1223, Commission procedure for  
11 accepting and referring complaints) shall take effect on September 1, 2025;

12 (6) Secs. 10 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1227, Commission investigations),  
13 11 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1228, Commission hearings), 12 (adding 3 V.S.A.  
14 § 1229, Commission warnings, reprimands, recommended actions, and  
15 agreements), and 14 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1231, Commission public records  
16 regarding complaints) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028; and

17 (7) Sec. 1 (amending 17 V.S.A. § 2414, candidate disclosures) shall take  
18 effect on January 1, 2026.

19 Sec. E.136.3 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

21 This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

1 (1) Sec. 1 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1223, Commission procedure for  
2 accepting and referring complaints) shall take effect on September 1, 2025, and  
3 shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 171, Sec. 9  
4 that amended 3 V.S.A. § 1223 and that conflict with the language in this act;

5 (2) Sec. 2 (amending future version of 3 V.S.A. § 1223) shall take effect  
6 on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028; and

7 (3) Sec. 3 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1231, Commission public records  
8 regarding complaints) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028, and  
9 shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 171, Sec. 14  
10 that amended 3 V.S.A. § 1231 and that conflict with the language in this act.

11 Sec. E.136.4 3 V.S.A. § 1225 is amended to read:

12 § 1225. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GUIDANCE ~~AND~~ ADVISORY  
13 OPINIONS, AND ETHICS HANDBOOK

14 (a) Guidance.

15 (1) The Executive Director may provide guidance only to a person who  
16 is or will be subject to the provisions of this chapter, upon ~~his or her~~ the  
17 person's request, with respect to that person's duties regarding any provision  
18 of this chapter or regarding any other issue related to governmental ethics.

19 (2) The Executive Director may consult with members of the  
20 Commission and the Department of Human Resources in preparing this  
21 guidance.

1           (3) Guidance provided under this subsection shall be exempt from  
2 public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept  
3 confidential unless the receiving entity has publicly disclosed it.

4           (b) Advisory opinions.

5           (1) On the written request of a person who is or will be subject to the  
6 provisions of this chapter, the Executive Director may issue an advisory  
7 opinion to that person that provides general advice or interpretation with  
8 respect to that person's duties regarding any provision of this chapter or  
9 regarding any other issue related to governmental ethics.

10           (2) The Executive Director may consult with members of the  
11 Commission and the Department of Human Resources in preparing these  
12 advisory opinions.

13           (3) The Executive Director may seek comment from persons interested  
14 in the subject of an advisory opinion under consideration.

15           (4) The Executive Director shall post on the Commission's website any  
16 advisory opinions that ~~he or she~~ the Director issues.

17           (c) Ethics Handbook. The Executive Director shall publish an Ethics  
18 Handbook that shall provide a plain language guide to a person who is or will  
19 be subject to the provisions of this chapter regarding the application of the  
20 State Code of Ethics. The Ethics Handbook shall include information

1 regarding all of the following as provided for under the State Code of Ethics  
2 and as interpreted or applied by the Commission:

3 (1) standards of conduct;

4 (2) what constitutes a conflict of interest and how a person subject to the  
5 provisions of this chapter should respond if a conflict of interest is alleged or  
6 perceived;

7 (3) how to determine what is an acceptable gift, including criteria  
8 applied by the Commission to determine when reviewing whether a gift is  
9 acceptable for each category of acceptable gift;

10 (4) what constitutes a misuse of position, misuse of information, or  
11 misuse of government resources by a person subject to the provisions of this  
12 chapter and the criteria applied by the Commission to determine misuse;

13 (5) what constitutes an unauthorized commitment by a person subject to  
14 the requirements of this chapter;

15 (6) what employment restrictions exist for persons subject to this  
16 chapter and how such restrictions are enforced;

17 (7) the legal authority relied on by the Commission in developing the  
18 information and criteria for each subdivision (1)–(6) of this subsection; and

19 (8) any other information the Executive Director determines is relevant  
20 to the application of the State Code of Ethics and the operation of the  
21 Commission.

1       **Sec. E.136.5 PUBLICATION OF ETHICS HANDBOOK; REPORT**

2           (a) The Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission shall publish  
3       the Ethics Handbook required by 3 V.S.A. § 1225(c) on or before January 15,  
4       2027.

5           (b) The Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission shall submit a  
6       draft copy of the Ethics Handbook to the House Committee on Government  
7       Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government  
8       Operations on or before December 15, 2026.

9       **Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE**

10          (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), of the appropriation in Sec.  
11       B.139 of this act, \$70,000 shall be provided to the Department of Taxes’  
12       Division of Property Valuation and Review and used with any remaining funds  
13       from the amount previously transferred for final payment of expenses incurred  
14       by the Department or towns in defense of grand list appeals regarding the  
15       reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other expenses incurred to  
16       undertake utility property appraisals in Vermont.

17       **Sec. E.139.1 TAX DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION; PILOT FUND**

18           (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a) or any other provision of law to  
19       the contrary, the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act shall be made from the  
20       PILOT Special Fund.

21       **Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES**



1       (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a  
2       performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to  
3       provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the  
4       Commissioner of Public Safety and the Sheriff.

5       Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY; STATE POLICE

6       (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$35,000  
7       shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue  
8       Team, which is composed of the State Police, the Department of Fish and  
9       Wildlife, county sheriffs, and local law enforcement personnel in Bennington,  
10       Windham, and Windsor Counties, for snowmobile enforcement.

11       (b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$405,000 is  
12       allocated for grants in support of the Drug Task Force. Of this amount,  
13       \$190,000 shall be used by the Vermont Drug Task Force to fund three town  
14       task force officers. These town task force officers shall be dedicated to  
15       enforcement efforts with respect to both regulated drugs as defined in 18  
16       V.S.A. § 4201(29) and the diversion of legal prescription drugs. Any  
17       unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to fund the work of  
18       the Drug Task Force or carried forward.

19       (c) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, \$2,100,000  
20       is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of  
21       State Police vehicles.

1 Sec. E.209.1 20 V.S.A. § 1913a is added to read:

2 § 1913a. VERMONT STATE POLICE RADIO EQUIPMENT

3 REPLACEMENT SPECIAL FUND

4 (a) Creation. There is created the Vermont State Police Radio Equipment  
5 Replacement Special Fund, to be administered by the Vermont Department of  
6 Public Safety in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Monies in  
7 the Fund shall be used for the purchase of Vermont State Police radio  
8 equipment in accordance with the life cycle replacement schedule as approved  
9 by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

10 (b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

11 (1) any amounts transferred to it by the General Assembly; and

12 (2) the proceeds from the sale of any existing radio equipment.

13 (c) Fund balance. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall  
14 remain in the Fund.

15 (d) Receipts. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may  
16 anticipate receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

17 Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY; FIRE SAFETY

18 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.212 of this act, \$55,000  
19 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the  
20 purpose of designing dry hydrants.

21 Sec. E.215 MILITARY; ADMINISTRATION

1       (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.215 of this act, \$1,219,834  
2       shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the  
3       Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A.  
4       § 2857.

5       Sec. E.217 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; FEDERAL FUNDING

6       (a) Of the federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.217 of this act, \$442,247  
7       shall be the 75 percent federal share for the following six classified limited  
8       service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military  
9       Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and  
10       one Military Storekeeper.

11       Sec. E.218 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; STATE FUNDING

12       (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.218 of this act, \$147,411  
13       shall be the 25 percent State share for the following six classified limited  
14       service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military  
15       Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and  
16       one Military Storekeeper.

17       Sec. E.219 MILITARY; VETERANS' AFFAIRS

18       (a) Of the General Fund appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, \$1,000 shall  
19       be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; \$2,000 shall be used  
20       for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council; \$7,500 shall be  
21       used for the Veterans Day parade; \$10,000 shall be granted to the American

1 Legion for the Green Mountain Boys' State and Green Mountain Girls' State  
2 programs; and \$10,000 shall be used for the USS Vermont Support Group.

3 Sec. E.222 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS; POSITION POOL;  
4 FUNDING

5 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.222 of this act, \$95,740 General  
6 Fund, \$27,353 special funds, and \$13,677 federal funds shall be for a  
7 permanent, classified Administrative Services Manager III position to be taken  
8 from the position pool.

9 Sec. E.232 SECRETARY OF STATE; VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK  
10 BUDGET

11 (a) The Secretary of State shall grant the \$1,800,000 General Fund  
12 appropriation provided in Sec. B.232 of this act to the Vermont Access  
13 Network to maintain current operations and programming.

14 Sec. E.233 30 V.S.A. § 202d is amended to read:  
15 § 202d. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

16 \* \* \*

17 (f) The Department shall adopt a new Plan every ~~three~~ five years pursuant  
18 to the procedures established in subsection (e) of this section. The Plan shall  
19 outline significant deviations from the prior Plan. For good cause or upon  
20 request by a joint resolution passed by the General Assembly, an interim  
21 review and revision of any section of the Plan may be made after conducting

1 public hearings on the interim revision. At least one hearing shall be held  
2 jointly with committees of the General Assembly designated by the General  
3 Assembly for this purpose.

4 **Sec. E.236 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POSITION POOL;**

5 **FUNDING**

6 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.236 of this act, \$130,000 General  
7 Fund shall be for a permanent, exempt Staff Attorney Investigator position to  
8 be taken from the position pool.

9 **Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE**

10 **ADVOCATE, VERMONT LEGAL AID**

11 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

12 (1) \$2,450,406 shall be for the contract with the Office of the Health  
13 Care Advocate;

14 (2) \$1,717,994 shall be for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the  
15 Poverty Law Project and mental health services; and

16 (3) \$650,000 shall be for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont  
17 Legal Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services,  
18 including eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer  
19 debt.

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

1       (a) Monthly from August through December 2026, the Agency of Human  
2       Services, in consultation with the Departments for Children and Families and  
3       of Buildings and General Services, shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee  
4       and the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee on its plan to develop  
5       the Green Mountain Youth Campus, including its progress on a complete,  
6       unambiguous written analysis of the estimated costs of an annual operating  
7       budget for full utilization of the proposed 41-bed high-end system of care  
8       consistent with 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.300.1.

9       (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the  
10       Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services  
11       shall not expend funds for further development of the Green Mountain Youth  
12       Campus in fiscal year 2027 until either:

13       (1) the Joint Fiscal Committee, in consultation with the chairs of the  
14       House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee  
15       on Institutions, approves the resumption of expenditures for the Green  
16       Mountain Youth Campus upon reviewing one or more of the reports received  
17       pursuant to subsection (a) of this section while the General Assembly is  
18       adjourned sine die; or

19       (2) the General Assembly authorizes resumption of spending by  
20       legislative enactment.

21       Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

1       (a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec.  
2       B.301 of this act for payment required under the intergovernmental agreement  
3       between the Agency of Human Services and the managed care entity, the  
4       Department of Vermont Health Access, as provided for in the Global  
5       Commitment to Health Waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and  
6       Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

7       (b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a  
8       total estimated sum of \$28,368,715 is anticipated to be certified as State  
9       matching funds under the Global Commitment as follows:

10       (1) \$25,158,000 certified State match available from local education  
11       agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under  
12       Global Commitment. This amount, combined with \$34,842,000 of federal  
13       funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated  
14       expenditure of \$60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal  
15       matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services  
16       under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment  
17       Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A.  
18       § 2959a.

19       (2) \$3,210,715 certified State match available from local designated  
20       mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health  
21       services provided under Global Commitment.

1       (c) Up to \$4,997,210 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services  
2       Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund  
3       consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 (Secretary's Office;  
4       Global Commitment) of this act.

5       Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER;

6                               REPORT

7       (a) To facilitate fiscal year 2027 closeout, the Secretary of Human Services,  
8       with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, may make transfers  
9       among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver  
10       program expenses, including Global Commitment appropriations outside the  
11       Agency of Human Services. At least three business days prior to any transfer,  
12       the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Office a  
13       proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section. A final report on all  
14       transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee  
15       for review at the Committee's September 2027 meeting. The purpose of this  
16       section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to modify the  
17       appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the Global  
18       Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers  
19       for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security  
20       Act.

1 Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a, as amended by 2022  
2 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec.  
3 E.301.2, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.300.2, and 2025 Acts and  
4 Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.301.2, is further amended to read:

5 Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES  
6 (HCBS PLAN)

7 \* \* \*

8 (f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this  
9 section obligated in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026~~, and 2027 for the  
10 purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal years  
11 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026~~, and 2027, respectively. The funds appropriated in  
12 subsections (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral  
13 basis in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026~~, and 2027 in the same manner  
14 as the Global Commitment appropriations in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185,  
15 Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in  
16 September 2023, September 2024, September 2025, ~~and September 2026~~, and  
17 September 2027, respectively, on transfers of appropriations made and final  
18 amounts expended by each department in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and~~  
19 2026, and 2027, respectively, and any obligated funds carried forward to be  
20 expended in fiscal years 2024, 2025, ~~and 2026~~, and 2027, respectively.

21 Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT WAIVER AMENDMENT

1       (a) The Secretary of Human Services is authorized to seek an extension of  
2       Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration for the  
3       period of January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2032, from the Centers for  
4       Medicare and Medicaid Services.

5       Sec. E.306 REINSURANCE; AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE SECTION  
6               1332 WAIVER

7       (a) The Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with the  
8       Department of Financial Regulation, is authorized to submit a State Innovation  
9       Waiver pursuant to Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care  
10       Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and  
11       Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152, to establish a  
12       program for reinsurance and seek federal pass-through funding of amounts  
13       attributable to premium tax credits under 26 U.S.C. § 36B.

14       Sec. E.306.1 MEDICARE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

15       (a) Effective July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access  
16       shall terminate any contract for services for the Medicare Advocacy Program  
17       under 33 V.S.A. chapter 67 consistent with the provisions of 33 V.S.A.  
18       § 6703(b).

19       Sec. E.306.2 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;  
20               POSITION POOL; FUNDING

1       (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.306 of this act, \$497,077 of General  
2       Fund and \$497,077 of federal funds shall be for the following permanent,  
3       classified positions to be taken from the position pool: one Health Care  
4       Assistant Administrator I; one Digital Communications Specialist II; one  
5       Business Project Manager; four Vermont Healthcare Service Specialists I; and  
6       five Vermont Healthcare Service Specialists II.

7       Sec. E.307 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS;

8                   EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS

9       (a) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 2959a to the contrary, the  
10       payments ordinarily made by the Secretary of Education pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
11       § 2959a(c) and (d) shall instead be made by the Commissioner of Vermont  
12       Health Access.

13       Sec. E.307.1 33 V.S.A. § 1900 is amended to read:

14       § 1900. DEFINITIONS

15               As used in this subchapter, unless otherwise indicated:

16                                   \* \* \*

17               (12) “Supervisory union” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11  
18       and includes a supervisory district.

19       Sec. E.307.2 33 V.S.A. § 1904 is added to read:

20       § 1904. MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM

1       (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State of Vermont  
2       maximize its receipt of federal reimbursement for medically related services  
3       provided to students who are eligible under Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social  
4       Security Act.

5       (2) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that Vermont's School-  
6       Based Medical Assistance Program shall comply with all federal Medicaid  
7       requirements. As the State Medicaid agency, the Agency of Human Services  
8       shall have sole responsibility for determining and maintaining program  
9       compliance.

10       (b) The Agency of Education shall be responsible for coordination of the  
11       School-Based Medical Assistance Program with statewide education policy  
12       and objectives and for communicating with supervisory unions.

13       (c) The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules in accordance with  
14       3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to identify the services that are available through the  
15       School-Based Medical Assistance Program and to set forth the requirements  
16       for supervisory union participation. The rules shall include State and federal  
17       requirements for:

18               (1) Medicaid reimbursement;

19               (2) participation in a Random Moment Time Study and an electronic  
20       health records system;

21               (3) Medicaid cost reports;

- 1           (4) provider enrollment and trainings;  
2           (5) service documentation;  
3           (6) Medicaid eligibility; and  
4           (7) any other provisions necessary for compliance with the Medicaid  
5           program.

6           (d)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall support supervisory unions by  
7           funding and providing the technical elements of the Program necessary for  
8           federal compliance.

9           (2) Supervisory unions delivering medically related services pursuant to  
10           the Medicaid School-Based Services Program shall participate in a Random  
11           Moment Time Study and an electronic health records system as directed by the  
12           Agency of Human Services to enable Medicaid billing of direct health services  
13           and Medicaid administrative claiming activities.

14           Sec. E.307.3 33 V.S.A. § 1904a is added to read:

15           § 1904a. SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUND

16           (a) The School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund is established as a  
17           special fund to receive federal reimbursements for medically related services  
18           delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program described in  
19           section 1904 of this chapter. Monies received by the State pursuant to this  
20           section shall be transferred to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement

1 Fund, which shall be administered by the Agency of Human Services, and

2 Fund receipts shall be allocated in accordance with this section.

3 (b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall pay 55 percent of the  
4 federal reimbursement monies generated by the medically related services  
5 delivered in each supervisory union pursuant to the Medicaid school-based  
6 services program to the supervisory union based on the Medicaid cost reports,  
7 service claims, and Medicaid administrative costs submitted by the supervisory  
8 union.

9 (c)(1) Up to 25 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by  
10 services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program  
11 shall be available for the administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and  
12 of Human Services related to the collection, operations, and reporting of  
13 school-based medical assistance programs and statewide programs.

14 (2) The Agencies shall enter into a memorandum of understanding  
15 setting forth the processes by which Medicaid reimbursement monies available  
16 for administrative costs and statewide programs are allocated to the Agencies.

17 (3) The Secretaries of Education and of Human Services shall expend  
18 monies from the Fund only as appropriated by the General Assembly.

19 (d) At the close of each fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and  
20 Management shall transfer to and deposit any balance remaining in the School-  
21 Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund into the Education Fund.



1 ~~Medicaid bills for services reimbursement~~ Medicaid-compliant cost reports  
2 and service claims; and

3 (2) the Agencies of Education and of Human Services work with local  
4 school districts to maximize reimbursements, including services to non-IEP  
5 students.

6 ~~(b) A Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund is established within the~~  
7 ~~Agency of Education. Funds received by the State under this section shall be~~  
8 ~~transferred to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund. The Fund receipts~~  
9 ~~shall be allocated in accordance with this section.~~

10 ~~(c) At least annually, the Secretary of Education shall pay to each~~  
11 ~~supervisory union submitting Medicaid bills under this section 50 percent of~~  
12 ~~the reimbursed funds generated by the supervisory union's bill, excluding~~  
13 ~~claims generated by State placed students. Unless the supervisory union has~~  
14 ~~agreed to use the funds to operate a supervisory unionwide program or to~~  
15 ~~distribute the funds in a different manner, upon receipt, the supervisory union~~  
16 ~~shall distribute the funds to its member school districts based on how the funds~~  
17 ~~were generated. The Secretary may withhold payment due a supervisory union~~  
18 ~~pursuant to section 2950 of this title for a Medicaid-eligible State placed~~  
19 ~~student if the supervisory union has not submitted a Medicaid claim for~~  
20 ~~reimbursable services for that student.~~

1       ~~(d) If the amount of Medicaid reimbursement funds received for services~~  
2       ~~provided in the prior State fiscal year exceeds \$25,000,000.00, in addition to~~  
3       ~~the 50 percent of the funds paid to supervisory unions submitting Medicaid~~  
4       ~~bills, 25 percent of the amounts in excess of the \$25,000,000.00 shall be paid~~  
5       ~~into an incentive fund created in the Agency of Education. These funds shall~~  
6       ~~be used for an incentive payment to supervisory unions with student~~  
7       ~~participation rates of over 80 percent in accordance with a formula to be~~  
8       ~~developed by the Agency, in consultation with the Vermont Superintendents~~  
9       ~~Association. For any incentive payments made subsequent to fiscal year 2007,~~  
10       ~~the \$25,000,000.00 threshold of this subsection shall be increased by the~~  
11       ~~percentage increase of the most recent New England Economic Project~~  
12       ~~Cumulative Price Index, as of November 15, for state and local government~~  
13       ~~purchases of goods and services from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year~~  
14       ~~for which the payment is being determined, plus an additional one-tenth of one~~  
15       ~~percent.~~

16       ~~(e) Supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section to pay~~  
17       ~~for reasonable costs of administering the Medicaid claims process, and school~~  
18       ~~districts or supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section for~~  
19       ~~prevention and intervention programs in prekindergarten through grade 12.~~  
20       ~~The programs shall be designed to facilitate early identification of and~~  
21       ~~intervention with children with disabilities and to ensure all students achieve~~

1 ~~rigorous and challenging standards approved and adopted by the State Board or~~  
2 ~~locally adopted standards. A supervisory union shall provide annual written~~  
3 ~~justification to the Secretary of Education on how it or its member districts~~  
4 ~~used the funds. Such annual submission shall show how the funds' use is~~  
5 ~~expressly linked to those provisions of the supervisory union's action plan that~~  
6 ~~directly relate to improving student performance. A supervisory union shall~~  
7 ~~include in its annual report the amount of the prior year's Medicaid~~  
8 ~~reimbursement revenues and the use of Medicaid funds consistent with the~~  
9 ~~purposes set forth in this subsection.~~

10 ~~(f) Up to 30 percent of Medicaid reimbursements received under this~~  
11 ~~section shall be available for administrative costs of the Agencies of Education~~  
12 ~~and of Human Services related to the collection, processing, and reporting of~~  
13 ~~education Medicaid reimbursements and statewide programs. The Secretaries~~  
14 ~~of Education and of Human Services shall expend monies from the Fund only~~  
15 ~~as appropriated by the General Assembly.~~

16 ~~(g) Remaining reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the Education~~  
17 ~~Fund.~~

18 ~~Sec. E.307.6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION~~  
19 ~~OF CHANGES TO MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES~~  
20 ~~PROGRAM~~

1       (a) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with the Agency of  
2       Education, Vermont Association of School Business Officials, Vermont  
3       Council of Special Education Administrators, and school district officials in  
4       implementing changes to the Medicaid school-based services program in  
5       accordance with this act, including:

6               (1) providing structured opportunities for input during the phased  
7       implementation process in order to address challenges and risks in a timely  
8       manner and minimize disruptions; and

9               (2) focusing on geographic diversity to ensure that the implementation  
10       process is responsive to regional variations in needs and capacity.

11       Sec. E.307.7 SPECIAL FUND BALANCE TRANSFER

12       (a) Any outstanding fund balances, assets, or liabilities remaining in the  
13       Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
14       § 2959a shall be transferred and added to the fund balances, assets, and  
15       liabilities of the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund established  
16       pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1904a prior to the elimination of the Medicaid  
17       Reimbursement Special Fund by Sec. E.307.5 of this act.

18       Sec. E.307.8 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; FAMILY  
19                       PLANNING CODE IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

20       (a) On or before September 15, 2026, the Department of Vermont Health  
21       Access shall review its implementation of family planning codes in the

1 Medicaid program to ensure that all expenditures for family planning services  
2 and supplies that are eligible for federal match at a 90 percent federal medical  
3 assistance percentage are receiving that enhanced rate.

4 (b) On or before October 1, 2026, the Department shall provide a progress  
5 report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal  
6 Committee on:

7 (1) the Department's findings to date from its review;

8 (2) an estimate of any reductions in General Fund expenditures that can  
9 be realized by maximizing usage of the family planning codes to obtain the  
10 90 percent federal match for qualifying services and supplies; and

11 (3) proposals for ways in which the estimated savings can be reinvested  
12 into rate increases for family planning services and supplies as part of the fiscal  
13 year 2027 budget adjustment.

14 Sec. E.311 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155, Sec. 7a, as amended by 2021  
15 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec E.311.2, is further amended to read:

16 Sec. 7a. SUNSET

17 ~~18 V.S.A. § 33 (medical students; primary care) is repealed on July 1, 2027.~~

18 [Deleted.]

19 Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

20 (a) HIV/AIDS funding:

1           (1) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided in this section, the Department of  
2           Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$475,000 in AIDS Medication  
3           Rebates special funds to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support  
4           organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health  
5           AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory  
6           Group with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The  
7           funds shall be allocated according to a request for proposal process.

8           (2) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided by this section, the Department  
9           of Health shall provide grants in the amount of \$340,000 from the General  
10           Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

11                   (A) Vermont CARES: \$165,000;

12                   (B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: \$115,000; and

13                   (C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: \$60,000.

14           (3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont  
15           Medication Assistance Program shall be distributed in accordance with federal  
16           guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or services  
17           funded solely by the General Fund.

18                   (A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the  
19           Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in the  
20           Vermont Medication Assistance Program to assist all eligible individuals. The  
21           Secretary shall work in collaboration with persons living with HIV/AIDS to

1 develop a plan to continue access to Vermont Medication Assistance Program  
2 medications until such time as the General Assembly can take action.

3 (B) As provided in this section, the Secretary of Human Services  
4 shall work in collaboration with the Vermont Medication Assistance Program  
5 Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less than 50 percent of  
6 members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification to the Program's  
7 eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the Committee shall  
8 make recommendations regarding the Program's formulary of approved  
9 medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and eligibility  
10 for the Program.

11 (4) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall provide grants in  
12 the amount of \$400,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction  
13 Services on or before September 1, 2026. The method by which these  
14 prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of  
15 the Department of Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and  
16 other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

17 (5) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall not reduce any  
18 grants to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe  
19 service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels  
20 below those in fiscal year 2026 without receiving prior approval from the Joint  
21 Fiscal Committee.

1       Sec. E.313 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; OPIOID ABATEMENT

2                       SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS; REVIEW

3           (a) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Health shall review  
4           all previous appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund and make  
5           recommendations to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, the House  
6           Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and  
7           Welfare regarding which appropriations could be funded in future years by the  
8           Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.  
9           § 4812.

10       Sec. E.316 REPORT; REACH UP; RATABLE REDUCTION

11           (a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department for Children and  
12           Families shall submit a report to the House Committees on Appropriations and  
13           on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on  
14           Health and Welfare containing an actionable, phased plan that estimates the  
15           amount needed to remove the ratable reduction in the Reach Up program. The  
16           plan shall be designed to be phased in over a period not greater than five fiscal  
17           years and shall:

18                       (1) address the financial implications posed by removing the ratable  
19                       reduction;

20                       (2) address any anticipated changes to the Reach Up caseload as a result  
21                       of removing the ratable reduction; and

1           (3) identify any federal and State resources that may be utilized to  
2           remove the ratable reduction.

3           **Sec. E.317 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS**

4           (a)(1) \$137,500 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this  
5           act, the \$130,000 General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(c)(5) of this act,  
6           and \$100,000 of the federal funds appropriation in Sec. B.319 of this act shall  
7           be distributed by the Department for Children and Families to supervised  
8           visitation programs as follows:

9                   (A) \$199,300 to the six existing community-based supervised  
10                  visitation sites;

11                   (B) \$118,200 for start-up funding for additional sites in counties  
12                  where programs do not currently exist to ensure the programs are operational  
13                  on or before January 1, 2027; and

14                   (C) \$50,000 to the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and  
15                  Sexual Violence for a statewide supervised visitation coordinator who shall  
16                  initiate a needs assessment to assist in the development of a sustainable  
17                  coordinated system with equitable access to supervised visitation statewide.

18                  (2) The Department shall work with the Vermont Network Against  
19                  Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence to develop a funding formula for  
20                  supervised visitation sites, to identify the community partners to develop two  
21                  new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027, and to begin planning

1 for the creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to  
2 become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.

3 Sec. E.322 33 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

4 § 2605. BENEFIT AMOUNTS

5 \* \* \*

6 (h) ~~Households~~ A household receiving benefits from 3SquaresVT ~~whose~~  
7 ~~head of household that~~ is not otherwise eligible for a fuel benefit under this  
8 section shall be eligible for a nominal annual Home Heating Fuel Assistance  
9 benefit of \$21.00 if a member of the household is elderly or disabled under the  
10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program regulations.

11 Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE  
12 OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

13 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act,  
14 \$38,251,696 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office  
15 of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist  
16 individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services,  
17 increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds  
18 may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions  
19 Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in  
20 consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
21 Development recognized Continuum of Care programs.

1       Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE  
2                       OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; WEATHERIZATION  
3                       ASSISTANCE

4           (a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, \$750,000 is  
5       for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

6       Sec. E.329 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;  
7                       ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; REPORT

8           (a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Disabilities, Aging  
9       and Independent Living, in collaboration with the Departments of Health and  
10       of Mental Health and the Office of Health Care Reform in the Agency of  
11       Human Services, shall submit a plan to the House Committees on Health Care,  
12       on Human Services, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on  
13       Health and Welfare and on Appropriations for developing and conducting a  
14       data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for  
15       Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies that will include:

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

19           (2) providing opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of  
20       the engagement process by current, former, and prospective clients of  
21       designated and specialized service agencies; health care professionals and

1 health care providers, including employees of designated and specialized  
2 service agencies; and Vermonters who are diverse with respect to race, income,  
3 age, and disability status;

4 (3) providing the data, information, and analysis necessary to support  
5 the engagement process, including information and trends relating to the  
6 current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies and  
7 the workforce challenges they encounter; and

8 (4) establishing ways to assess the impact of any changes to the  
9 designated and specialized service agencies on providers, including on  
10 workforce recruitment and retention.

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

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

16 (a) For the fiscal year 2028 budget, the Department of Disabilities, Aging  
17 and Independent Living shall present as separate line items for the Choices for  
18 Care Program home- and community-based services and skilled nursing  
19 facility services.

20 Sec. E.329.2 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND

21 INDEPENDENT LIVING; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

1       (a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.329 of this act, \$130,000 General  
2       Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Disabilities Housing Coordinator  
3       position to be taken from the position pool.

4       Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS; CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

5       (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special fund appropriation of  
6       \$152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield  
7       shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

8       Sec. E.500 AGENCY OF EDUCATION; BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

9       (a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment and fiscal year 2028  
10       budget presentations, the Agency of Education shall include:

11           (1) a comprehensive account of fiscal year 2027 appropriations,  
12           including information on amounts expended or obligated at the time of the  
13           presentation's submission;

14           (2) a comprehensive account of anticipated fiscal year 2027  
15           carryforward, including information on the reasons for expenditures being  
16           lower than anticipated;

17           (3) information on all third-party contract agreements the Agency  
18           entered into in fiscal year 2027;

19           (4) organizational charts reflecting the current structure of the Agency  
20           and each division within the Agency;

1           (5) written explanation of any changes to the Agency’s organizational  
2           structure and personnel;

3           (6) a comprehensive account of any vacancies within the Agency,  
4           including information on the duration of each position vacancy and any  
5           recommendations for the elimination or redesignation of positions; and

6           (7) information on any changes to federal funding, rules, or policy that  
7           may affect the Agency and any action the Agency has taken or may take to  
8           address those changes.

9           Sec. E.500.1 EDUCATION; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

10           (a) The Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.501 of this act shall be  
11           used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized  
12           Education Programs. These services are intended to increase access to quality  
13           health care for uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid  
14           beneficiaries.

15           Sec. E.500.2 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 33 is amended to read:

16           Sec. 33. EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION; POOL POSITIONS

17           The General Fund appropriation in Sec. 32 of this act shall fund five ~~limited~~  
18           ~~service~~ permanent classified positions taken from the position pool. The pool  
19           positions shall be used to establish the following ~~limited-service~~ permanent  
20           classified positions at the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support  
21           education transformation work:

- 1 (1) one Business Operations Support Specialist;
- 2 (2) one Data Integration Support Specialist;
- 3 (3) one Curriculum and Education Quality Standards Integration  
4 Specialist;
- 5 (4) one Learning and Teaching Integration Specialist; and
- 6 (5) one School Facilities Field Support Specialist.

7 Sec. E.500.3 16 V.S.A. § 51 is amended to read:

8 § 51. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

9 (a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be  
10 managed by the Agency of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be  
11 deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Fund  
12 shall be used as follows:

13 (1) To establish a grant program that supports the expansion of universal  
14 afterschool and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the  
15 State.

16 (2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery  
17 system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be  
18 public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

19 (A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program  
20 implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

1 (B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low  
2 existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

3 (C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written  
4 agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require that a grantee  
5 does not discriminate, and prohibits its employees, agents, subcontractors, and  
6 other service providers from discriminating, on the basis of race, creed, color,  
7 national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or  
8 disability.

9 (D) The Agency may use up to ~~\$500,000.00~~ five percent of annually  
10 forecasted revenues for administrative costs to allow for the support of the  
11 grant program and technical assistance to communities. This could include  
12 subcontracts to support the grant program.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. E.502 EDUCATION; SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

15 (a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and  
16 notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to  
17 exceed \$5,336,200 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year  
18 2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds,  
19 the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A.  
20 § 2969(c) and (d).

1       (b) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and  
2       notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to  
3       exceed \$2,000,000 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year  
4       2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2975. In distributing such funds, the  
5       Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A.  
6       § 2969(c) and (d).

7       Sec. E.503 EDUCATION; STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

8       (a) The Independence Place Program of ANEW Place shall be considered a  
9       24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of education  
10       costs.

11       Sec. E.504 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

12       (a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$4,349,673 General Fund  
13       shall be granted to adult education and literacy providers, pursuant to the Adult  
14       Education and Secondary Credential Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 945.

15       Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

16       (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, of the Education Fund appropriation  
17       in Sec. B.504.1 of this act, the amount of:

18               (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding  
19               16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

20               (2) \$2,400,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

21               (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

1           (4) \$4,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
2           § 947(b); and

3           (5) \$2,899,782 is available for the Adult Education and Secondary  
4           Credential Program.

5           (b) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the  
6           General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

7           Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 4021 is added to read:

8           § 4021. ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING

9           (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

10           (1) “Local adult education and literacy provider” has the same meaning  
11           as in section 942 of this title.

12           (2) “Statewide AEL student count” means the average annual number of  
13           students statewide who complete the diagnostic portions of the adult education  
14           and secondary credential program over the previous two completed fiscal  
15           years.

16           (3) “Statewide AEL student-hours” means the average annual number of  
17           student-hours of instruction provided statewide for adult education and literacy  
18           activities over the previous two completed fiscal years.

19           (b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall  
20           appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an  
21           amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount multiplied by the

1 statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall appropriate  
2 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the funds  
3 from the General Fund.

4 (c) Payment allocations.

5 (1) Beginning in fiscal year 2029, the Secretary shall determine  
6 payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-  
7 county basis according to this subdivision.

8 (A) The Secretary shall first allocate \$80,000.00 to each county.

9 (B) The Secretary shall then allocate the remaining funds among the  
10 counties according to each county's share of the statewide AEL student count.

11 (2) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to each local adult education and  
12 literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult  
13 education and secondary credential program the amount determined pursuant  
14 to this section for each county in which the local adult education and literacy  
15 provider provides the county's adult education and secondary credential  
16 program.

17 (3) For each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the Secretary shall determine  
18 payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-  
19 county basis according to this subdivision.

20 (A) The Secretary shall first allocate \$80,000.00 to each county.

1           (B) The Secretary shall then allocate among the counties 85 percent  
2           of the remaining funds according to each county's share of the statewide AEL  
3           student count and 15 percent of the remaining funds according to each  
4           county's share of the statewide AEL student-hours.

5           Sec. E.504.3 REPEAL

6           16 V.S.A. § 4021(c)(3) (adult education funding transition language) is  
7           repealed on July 1, 2028.

8           Sec. E.504.4 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f) is amended to read:

9           ~~(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy~~  
10          ~~provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education~~  
11          ~~and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base~~  
12          ~~education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of~~  
13          ~~the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of~~  
14          ~~the previous two completed fiscal years. Forty percent of the payment required~~  
15          ~~under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the~~  
16          ~~Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection~~  
17          ~~shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund. [Repealed.]~~

18          Sec. E.504.5 16 V.S.A. § 4021(b) is amended to read:

19          (b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall  
20          appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an  
21          amount equal to 26 percent of the categorical base ~~education~~ amount

1 multiplied by the statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall  
2 appropriate 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of  
3 the funds from the General Fund.

4 Sec. E.507.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS; CATEGORICAL AID

5 (a) The funds appropriated in Sec. B.507.1 of this act shall be used to  
6 provide categorical aid to school districts for English Learner services,  
7 pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4013.

8 Sec. E.514 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

9 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to  
10 the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System shall be \$220,905,084, of  
11 which \$212,905,084 shall be the State's contribution and \$8,000,000 shall be  
12 contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16  
13 V.S.A. § 1944c.

14 (b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution,  
15 \$43,739,011 is the "normal contribution," and \$177,166,073 is the "accrued  
16 liability contribution."

17 Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

18 AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION;

19 OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

20 (a) Of the \$4,071,711 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, \$2,824,955  
21 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget,

1 and \$1,246,756 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment  
2 Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement  
3 System.

4 Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL  
5 BENEFITS

6 (a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2) and 16 V.S.A.  
7 § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and  
8 Medical Benefits plan shall be \$90,834,595, of which \$81,834,595 shall be the  
9 State's contribution and \$9,000,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher  
10 health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944d. Of the  
11 annual contribution, \$28,193,691 is the "normal contribution," and  
12 \$62,640,904 is the "accrued liability contribution."

13 Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

14 (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
15 pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of  
16 Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

17 (b) Of this appropriation, \$380,362 shall be transferred to the Experimental  
18 Program to Stimulate Competitive Research to comply with State matching  
19 fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private  
20 funds, or both.

21 Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

1       (a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to  
2       pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State  
3       Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

4       (b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont  
5       Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund  
6       requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or  
7       both.

8       Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; ALLIED HEALTH

9       (a) If Global Commitment Fund monies are unavailable, the total grant  
10       funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the  
11       General Fund or other State funding sources.

12       (b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment  
13       appropriation in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene,  
14       respiratory therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315  
15       health care providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality  
16       health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured  
17       persons.

18       Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

19       (a) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance  
20       Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act:

1           (1) \$25,000 shall be deposited into the trust fund established in 16

2           V.S.A. § 2845;

3           (2) not more than \$400,000 may be used by the Vermont Student

4           Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more

5           high schools; and

6           (3) not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to continue the Vermont

7           Trades Scholarship Program established in 2022 Act and Resolves No. 183,

8           Sec. 14.

9           (b) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance

10           Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act that remain after accounting for the

11           expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent

12           shall be used for direct student aid.

13           (c) After accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this

14           section, up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student

15           Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act or otherwise currently or

16           previously appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or

17           provided to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation by an agency or

18           department of the State for the administration of a program or initiative may be

19           used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for its costs of

20           administration. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation may recoup its

21           reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment. Funds shall

1 not be used for indirect costs. To the extent that any of these funds are federal  
2 funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be  
3 consistent with federal grant requirements.

4 Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND  
5 EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

6 (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the \$41,225 Education Fund and  
7 \$41,225 General Fund appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance  
8 Corporation in Sec. B.605.1 of this act is for dual enrollment and need-based  
9 stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for  
10 financially disadvantaged students enrolled in a dual enrollment course  
11 pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to  
12 be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees.  
13 The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for  
14 program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come,  
15 first-served basis until funds are depleted.

16 (b) On or before January 15, 2027, the Vermont Student Assistance  
17 Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on  
18 Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the  
19 Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development,  
20 Housing and General Affairs.

21 Sec. E.606 16 V.S.A. § 2885 is amended to read:

1 § 2885. VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

2 (a) A Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund is established in  
3 the Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:

4 (1) ~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly;

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 2807 is amended to read:

7 § 2807. LANDS AND FACILITIES TRUST FUND

8 (a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly finds and determines:

9 (1) The public lands, facilities, and recreational assets of Vermont  
10 represent both a priceless inheritance from the past and an enduring legacy for  
11 future generations.

12 (2) The lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by  
13 the ~~Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ Agency of Natural Resources  
14 are held as public assets for the citizens of Vermont, and require proper  
15 management to ensure that these natural resources and facilities remain viable  
16 and available for this and all future generations.

17 (b) Definitions. As used in this section:

18 (1) ~~“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and~~  
19 ~~Recreation or the Commissioner’s designee~~ “Secretary” means the Secretary of  
20 Natural Resources or the Secretary’s designee.

1           (2) “Eligible activity” means any activity undertaken, initiated, or  
2 supported by the ~~Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ Agency of  
3 Natural Resources, for State lands under the ownership of the Department of  
4 Forests, Parks and Recreation, that provides for the management of ~~State~~ lands,  
5 facilities, ~~and~~ recreational assets, including administrative support. “Eligible  
6 activity” includes but is not limited to: repair and maintenance of State parks;  
7 contract surveys and mapping; maintenance of State lands, including  
8 boundaries, roads, trails, and facilities; contract inventories of State land  
9 natural resources; repair of State-owned dams; ~~repair, replacement, and~~  
10 ~~maintenance of conservation camps; and~~ timber management in accordance  
11 with U.S.D.A. silvicultural guidelines; project management; contract  
12 development and administration; and business office support. “Eligible  
13 activity” does not include the acquisition of land.

14           (3) “Fund” means the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund.

15           (c) Creation and use of Fund.

16           (1) There is established in the State Treasury an income-producing fund  
17 to be known as the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund, to be managed by the State  
18 Treasurer, and from which expenditures shall be made by the ~~Commissioner~~  
19 Secretary in accordance with appropriations by the General Assembly for the  
20 benefit of lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by the  
21 Agency. Payments from the Fund may be made to meet costs for eligible

1 activities ~~that are not covered in operating budgets for management of Agency~~  
2 ~~lands, facilities, and recreational assets.~~

3 (2) The Fund shall be administered as part of the trust investment  
4 account established in 32 V.S.A. § 434. After the first three years of the  
5 Fund's existence, on July 1 of each year, the Treasurer shall distribute from the  
6 Fund ~~five~~ eight percent of the moving average of the market value of the Fund  
7 over the prior 12 quarters with the approval of the House and Senate.

8 Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the first three years of the Fund's  
9 existence, expenditures for immediate needs, not to exceed five percent of the  
10 principal, may be authorized by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, provided that  
11 such expenditures are consistent with the priorities established by the  
12 ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, pursuant to this section, and shall be subject to the  
13 approval of the General Assembly.

14 (3) ~~Annual expenditures from the Fund shall be limited to projects~~  
15 ~~approved by the Commissioner and shall be in accordance with appropriations~~  
16 ~~of the General Assembly. Project priorities shall be determined in accordance~~  
17 ~~with criteria established by the Commissioner and shall include consideration~~  
18 ~~of at least the following:~~ The Secretary may make expenditures from the Fund  
19 for eligible projects with a consideration towards cost; availability of funds;  
20 condition of the resource, facility, or infrastructure; level of use; level of public

1 need; the stated intent of the donor, when donated property is involved; and the  
2 ability to protect or enhance a public investment or public resource.

3 (4) There shall be deposited in the Fund monies received by the Agency  
4 that are related to management and administrative support of Agency lands,  
5 facilities, and recreational assets and that are received from a variety of public  
6 and private sources pertinent to the purposes of the Fund, including donations;  
7 grants; special use permits; federal funds specifically designated for uses  
8 compatible with the intent of the fund; timber sale receipts received after June  
9 30, 2001, from State forestland and all Agency lands otherwise not restricted;  
10 and such sums as may be appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly.

11 The Agency may solicit and accept aid or contributions consistent with the  
12 stated intent of the donor and deposited with the State Treasurer. Income  
13 earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund, and all balances in the  
14 Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of  
15 the Fund.

16 \* \* \*

17 **Sec. E.700.1 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section C.110 is**  
18 **amended to read:**

19 **Sec. C.110 IMPLEMENTATION OF PRELIMINARY**

20 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VERMONT CLIMATE**

21 **ACTION COMMISSION**

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\* \* \*  
  
\* \* \*

(b) Recommendations of the Commission and actions taken on them include:

~~(5) Electrify the transportation system: The direction concerning the use of Environmental Mitigation Trust monies resulting from the Volkswagen litigation set forth in Sec. E.700 of this act is designed to increase electrification of transportation.~~

Sec. E.700.2 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section E.700 is amended to read:

Sec. E.700 VOLKSWAGEN LITIGATION; ENVIRONMENTAL  
MITIGATION TRUST FOR STATE BENEFICIARIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Appendix D-2” means Appendix D-2 to the Environmental Mitigation Trust, entitled “Eligible Mitigation Actions and Mitigation Action Expenditures.”

(2) “Environmental Mitigation Trust” or “Trust” means the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries filed on October 2, 2017 in In re: Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, 3:16-CV-00295-CRB, MDL No. 2672 CRB (JSC) (N.D. Cal.).





1       (a) Fiscal year 2027. This act fully funds the first year of the collective  
2       bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees’  
3       Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers’ Association for the  
4       period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The collective bargaining  
5       agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2027 an  
6       average 1.9 percent step increase and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on  
7       July 12, 2026, and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on January 10, 2027,  
8       for a total of a 5.9 percent increase.

9       (b) Fiscal year 2028. This act fully funds the second year of the collective  
10       bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees’  
11       Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers’ Association for the  
12       period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028. The collective bargaining  
13       agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2028 an  
14       average 1.9 percent step increase and a 3.0 percent across-the-board increase  
15       for a total of a 4.9 percent increase.

16               \* \* \* Exempt Employees; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

17       Sec. F.101 EXEMPT EMPLOYEES; PERMITTED SALARY INCREASES;

18               FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

19       (a) Fiscal year 2027. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches  
20       may extend the fiscal year 2027 provisions of the collective bargaining  
21       agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the

1 bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance  
2 with the appropriations provided to each branch.

3 (b) Fiscal year 2028. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches  
4 may extend the fiscal year 2028 provisions of the collective bargaining  
5 agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the  
6 bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance  
7 with the appropriations provided to each branch.

8 Sec. F.102 EXECUTIVE BRANCH; EXEMPT AGENCY AND  
9 DEPARTMENT HEADS, DEPUTIES, AND EXECUTIVE  
10 ASSISTANTS; ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND  
11 SPECIAL SALARY INCREASE OR BONUS

12 (a) Fiscal year 2027. For purposes of determining annual salary  
13 adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b)  
14 and 1020(b), “the average rate of adjustment available to most classified  
15 employees under the collective bargaining agreement” shall be, in fiscal year  
16 2027, 5.9 percent.

17 (b) Fiscal year 2028. For purposes of determining annual salary  
18 adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b)  
19 and 1020(b), “the average rate of adjustment available to most classified  
20 employees under the collective bargaining agreement” shall be, in fiscal year  
21 2028, 4.9 percent.

1                   \* \* \* Executive Branch; Miscellaneous Statutory Salaries;  
2                                   Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

3       Sec. F.103 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

4       § 1003. STATE OFFICERS

5           (a) Each elective officer of the Executive Department is entitled to an  
6       annual salary as follows:

	<del>Annual</del>	<del>Annual</del>	<del>Annual</del>
	<del>Salary</del>	<del>Salary</del>	<del>Salary</del>
	<del>as of</del>	<del>as of</del>	<del>as of</del>
	<del>July 14,</del>	<del>July 13,</del>	<del>July 12,</del>
	<del>2024</del>	<del>2025</del>	<del>2024</del>
12 <del>(1) Governor</del>	<del>\$222,371</del>	<del>\$234,379</del>	<del>\$222,371</del>
13 <del>(2) Lieutenant Governor</del>	<del>\$94,392</del>	<del>\$99,489</del>	<del>\$94,392</del>
14 <del>(3) Secretary of State</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>	<del>\$148,617</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>
15 <del>(4) State Treasurer</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>	<del>\$148,617</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>
16 <del>(5) Auditor of Accounts</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>	<del>\$148,617</del>	<del>\$141,003</del>
17 <del>(6) Attorney General</del>	<del>\$168,837</del>	<del>\$177,954</del>	<del>\$168,837</del>
	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
	<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>	<u>July 11,</u>

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2027</u>	
1				
2	<u>(1) Governor</u>	<u>\$243,520</u>	<u>\$248,390</u>	<u>\$260,561</u>
3	<u>(2) Lieutenant Governor</u>	<u>\$103,369</u>	<u>\$105,436</u>	<u>\$110,602</u>
4	<u>(3) Secretary of State</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
5	<u>(4) State Treasurer</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
6	<u>(5) Auditor of Accounts</u>	<u>\$154,413</u>	<u>\$157,501</u>	<u>\$165,219</u>
7	<u>(6) Attorney General</u>	<u>\$184,894</u>	<u>\$188,592</u>	<u>\$197,833</u>

8 (b) The Governor may appoint each officer of the Executive Branch listed  
9 in this subsection at a starting salary ranging from the base salary stated for  
10 that position to a salary that does not exceed the maximum salary unless  
11 otherwise authorized by this subsection. The maximum salary for each  
12 appointive officer shall be 50 percent above the base salary. Annually, the  
13 Governor may grant to each of those officers an annual salary adjustment  
14 subject to the maximum salary. The annual salary adjustment granted to  
15 officers under this subsection shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment  
16 available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining  
17 agreement then in effect. In addition to the annual salary adjustment specified  
18 in this subsection, the Governor may grant a special salary increase subject to  
19 the maximum salary, or a bonus, to any officer listed in this subsection whose  
20 job duties have significantly increased, or whose contributions to the State in  
21 the preceding year are deemed especially significant. Special salary increases

1 or bonuses granted to any individual shall not exceed the average rate of  
2 adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective  
3 bargaining agreement then in effect.

4 (1) Heads of the following Departments and Agencies:

	Base	Base	
	Salary	Salary	
	as of	as of	
	July 14,	July 13,	
	2024	2025	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10	<del>(A) Administration</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
11	<del>(B) Agriculture,</del>		
12	<del>Food and</del>		
13	<del>Markets</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
14	<del>(C) Financial</del>		
15	<del>Regulation</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
16	<del>(D) Buildings and</del>		
17	<del>General Services</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
18	<del>(E) Children and</del>		
19	<del>Families</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
20	<del>(F) Commerce and</del>		
21	<del>Community</del>		

1	Development	\$134,466	\$141,727
2	<del>(G) Corrections</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
3	<del>(H) Defender</del>		
4	General	\$125,706	\$132,494
5	<del>(I) Disabilities,</del>		
6	<del>Aging, and</del>		
7	<del>Independent</del>		
8	Living	\$125,706	\$132,494
9	<del>(J) Economic</del>		
10	Development	\$114,031	\$120,189
11	<del>(K) Education</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
12	<del>(L) Environmental</del>		
13	Conservation	\$125,706	\$132,494
14	<del>(M) Finance and</del>		
15	Management	\$125,706	\$132,494
16	<del>(N) Fish and</del>		
17	Wildlife	\$114,031	\$120,189
18	<del>(O) Forests, Parks</del>		
19	and Recreation	\$114,031	\$120,189
20	<del>(P) Health</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
21	<del>(Q) Housing and</del>		

1	<del>Community</del>		
2	<del>Development</del>	<del>\$114,031</del>	<del>\$120,189</del>
3	<del>(R) Human</del>		
4	<del>Resources</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
5	<del>(S) Human Services</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
6	<del>(T) Digital Services</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
7	<del>(U) Labor</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
8	<del>(V) Libraries</del>	<del>\$114,031</del>	<del>\$120,189</del>
9	<del>(W) Liquor and</del>		
10	<del>Lottery</del>	<del>\$114,031</del>	<del>\$120,189</del>
11	<del>(X) [Repealed.]</del>		
12	<del>(Y) Mental Health</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
13	<del>(Z) Military</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
14	<del>(AA) Motor</del>		
15	<del>Vehicles</del>	<del>\$114,031</del>	<del>\$120,189</del>
16	<del>(BB) Natural</del>		
17	<del>Resources</del>	<del>\$134,466</del>	<del>\$141,727</del>
18	<del>(CC) Land Use Review</del>		
19	<del>Board Chair</del>	<del>\$114,031</del>	<del>\$120,189</del>
20	<del>(DD) Public Safety</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>
21	<del>(EE) Public Service</del>	<del>\$125,706</del>	<del>\$132,494</del>

1	<del>(FF) Taxes</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
2	<del>(GG) Tourism and</del>		
3	<del>Marketing</del>	\$114,031	\$120,189
4	<del>(HH) Transportation</del>	\$134,466	\$141,727
5	<del>(II) Vermont Health</del>		
6	<del>Access</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
7	<del>(JJ) Veterans' Home</del>	\$125,706	\$132,494
8		<u>Base</u>	<u>Base</u>
9		<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
10		<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
11		<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>
12		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
13	<u>(A) Administration</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>
14	<u>(B) Agriculture,</u>		
15	<u>Food and</u>		
16	<u>Markets</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>
17	<u>(C) Financial</u>		
18	<u>Regulation</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>
19	<u>(D) Buildings and</u>		
20	<u>General Services</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>
21	<u>(E) Children and</u>		

1	<u>Families</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
2	<u>(F) Commerce and</u>			
3	<u>Community</u>			
4	<u>Development</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
5	<u>(G) Corrections</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
6	<u>(H) Defender</u>			
7	<u>General</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
8	<u>(I) Disabilities,</u>			
9	<u>Aging, and</u>			
10	<u>Independent</u>			
11	<u>Living</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
12	<u>(J) Economic</u>			
13	<u>Development</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
14	<u>(K) Education</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
15	<u>(L) Environmental</u>			
16	<u>Conservation</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
17	<u>(M) Finance and</u>			
18	<u>Management</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
19	<u>(N) Fish and</u>			
20	<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
21	<u>(O) Forests, Parks</u>			

1	<u>and Recreation</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
2	<u>(P) Health</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
3	<u>(Q) Housing and</u>			
4	<u>Community</u>			
5	<u>Development</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
6	<u>(R) Human</u>			
7	<u>Resources</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
8	<u>(S) Human Services</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
9	<u>(T) Digital Services</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
10	<u>(U) Labor</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
11	<u>(V) Libraries</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
12	<u>(W) Liquor and</u>			
13	<u>Lottery</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
14	<u>(X) [Repealed.]</u>			
15	<u>(Y) Mental Health</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
16	<u>(Z) Military</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
17	<u>(AA) Motor</u>			
18	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
19	<u>(BB) Natural</u>			
20	<u>Resources</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
21	<u>(CC) Land Use Review</u>			

1	<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
2	<u>(DD) Public Safety</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
3	<u>(EE) Public Service</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
4	<u>(FF) Taxes</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
5	<u>(GG) Tourism and</u>			
6	<u>Marketing</u>	<u>\$124,876</u>	<u>\$127,374</u>	<u>\$133,615</u>
7	<u>(HH) Transportation</u>	<u>\$147,254</u>	<u>\$150,199</u>	<u>\$157,559</u>
8	<u>(II) Vermont Health</u>			
9	<u>Access</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>
10	<u>(JJ) Veterans' Home</u>	<u>\$137,661</u>	<u>\$140,414</u>	<u>\$147,294</u>

11 (2) [Repealed.]

12 (3) If the Chair of the Land Use Review Board is employed on less than  
13 a full-time basis, the hiring and salary maximums for that position shall be  
14 reduced proportionately.

15 (4) When a permanent employee is appointed to an exempt position, the  
16 Governor may authorize such employee to retain the present salary even  
17 though it is in excess of any salary maximum provided in statute.

18 \* \* \*

19 (d) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of  
20 this section, the Defender General shall not receive compensation in excess of  
21 the compensation established for the Attorney General in this section.

1 (e) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of  
2 this section, the maximum salary for the Commissioner of Health shall not  
3 exceed 100 percent above the base salary for this position.

4 \* \* \* Judicial Branch; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

5 Sec. F.104 32 V.S.A. § 1003(c) is amended to read:

6 (c) The officers of the Judicial Branch named in this subsection shall be  
7 entitled to annual salaries as follows:

	<del>Annual</del>	<del>Annual</del>
	<del>Salary</del>	<del>Salary</del>
	<del>as of</del>	<del>as of</del>
	<del>July 14,</del>	<del>July 13,</del>
	<del>2024</del>	<del>2025</del>
13 <del>(1) Chief Justice of</del>		
14 <del>Supreme Court</del>	<del>\$214,024</del>	<del>\$225,581</del>
15 <del>(2) Each Associate</del>		
16 <del>Justice</del>	<del>\$204,264</del>	<del>\$215,294</del>
17 <del>(3) Chief Superior</del>		
18 <del>Judge</del>	<del>\$204,264</del>	<del>\$215,294</del>
19 <del>(4) Each Superior</del>		
20 <del>Judge</del>	<del>\$194,185</del>	<del>\$204,671</del>
21 <del>(5) [Repealed.]</del>		

1	<del>(6) Each</del>			
2	<del>Magistrate</del>	<del>\$146,413</del>	<del>\$154,319</del>	
3	<del>(7) Each Judicial</del>			
4	<del>Bureau hearing</del>			
5	<del>officer</del>	<del>\$146,413</del>	<del>\$154,319</del>	
6		<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
7		<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
8		<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
9		<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>	<u>July 11,</u>
10		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2027</u>
11	<u>(1) Chief Justice of</u>			
12	<u>Supreme Court</u>	<u>\$234,379</u>	<u>\$239,067</u>	<u>\$250,781</u>
13	<u>(2) Each Associate</u>			
14	<u>Justice</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
15	<u>(3) Chief Superior</u>			
16	<u>Judge</u>	<u>\$223,690</u>	<u>\$228,164</u>	<u>\$239,344</u>
17	<u>(4) Each Superior</u>			
18	<u>Judge</u>	<u>\$212,653</u>	<u>\$216,906</u>	<u>\$227,534</u>
19	<u>(5) [Repealed.]</u>			
20	<u>(6) Each</u>			
21	<u>Magistrate</u>	<u>\$160,337</u>	<u>\$163,544</u>	<u>\$171,558</u>

1           (7) Each Judicial  
2                   Bureau hearing  
3                   officer                   \$160,337       \$163,544       \$171,558

4       Sec. F.105 32 V.S.A. § 1141 is amended to read:

5       § 1141. ASSISTANT JUDGES

6           (a)(1) Each assistant judge of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive  
7       compensation in the amount of ~~\$224.47 a day as of July 14, 2024 and \$236.59~~  
8       ~~a day as of July 13, 2025~~ \$245.82 a day as of July 12, 2026, \$250.74 a day as  
9       of January 10, 2027, and \$263.03 a day as of July 11, 2027, for time spent in  
10       the performance of official duties and necessary expenses as allowed to  
11       classified State employees. Compensation under this section shall be based on  
12       a two-hour minimum and hourly thereafter.

13           (2)(A) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this  
14       section shall be paid by the State except as provided in subdivision (B) of this  
15       subdivision (2).

16           (B) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this  
17       section shall be paid by the county at the State rate established in subdivision  
18       (a)(1) of this section when an assistant judge is sitting with a presiding  
19       Superior judge in the Civil or Family Division of the Superior Court.

1 (b) Assistant judges of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive pay  
2 for such days as they attend court when it is in actual session or during a court  
3 recess when engaged in the special performance of official duties.

4 Sec. F.106 32 V.S.A. § 1142 is amended to read:

5 § 1142. PROBATE JUDGES

6 (a) The Probate judges in the several Probate Districts shall be entitled to  
7 receive the following annual salaries, which shall be paid by the State in lieu of  
8 all fees or other compensation:

	Annual	Annual	
	Salary	Salary	
	as of	as of	
	July 14,	July 13,	
	2024	2025	
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14	(1) Addison	\$76,555	\$80,689
15	(2) Bennington	\$96,776	\$102,002
16	(3) Caledonia	\$67,891	\$71,557
17	(4) Chittenden	\$161,506	\$170,227
18	(5) Essex	\$18,966	\$19,990
19	(6) Franklin	\$76,555	\$80,689
20	(7) Grand Isle	\$18,966	\$19,990
21	(8) Lamoille	\$53,443	\$56,329

1	<del>(9) Orange</del>	<del>\$63,554</del>	<del>\$66,986</del>
2	<del>(10) Orleans</del>	<del>\$62,110</del>	<del>\$65,464</del>
3	<del>(11) Rutland</del>	<del>\$137,221</del>	<del>\$144,631</del>
4	<del>(12) Washington</del>	<del>\$105,441</del>	<del>\$111,135</del>
5	<del>(13) Windham</del>	<del>\$85,221</del>	<del>\$89,823</del>
6	<del>(14) Windsor</del>	<del>\$115,555</del>	<del>\$121,795</del>
7		<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
8		<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
9		<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
10		<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>
11		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
12	<u>(1) Addison</u>	<u>\$83,836</u>	<u>\$85,513</u>
13	<u>(2) Bennington</u>	<u>\$105,980</u>	<u>\$108,100</u>
14	<u>(3) Caledonia</u>	<u>\$74,348</u>	<u>\$75,835</u>
15	<u>(4) Chittenden</u>	<u>\$176,866</u>	<u>\$180,403</u>
16	<u>(5) Essex</u>	<u>\$20,770</u>	<u>\$21,185</u>
17	<u>(6) Franklin</u>	<u>\$83,836</u>	<u>\$85,513</u>
18	<u>(7) Grand Isle</u>	<u>\$20,770</u>	<u>\$21,185</u>
19	<u>(8) Lamoille</u>	<u>\$58,526</u>	<u>\$59,697</u>
20	<u>(9) Orange</u>	<u>\$69,598</u>	<u>\$70,990</u>
21	<u>(10) Orleans</u>	<u>\$68,017</u>	<u>\$69,377</u>

1	<u>(11) Rutland</u>	<u>\$150,272</u>	<u>\$153,277</u>	<u>\$160,788</u>
2	<u>(12) Washington</u>	<u>\$115,469</u>	<u>\$117,778</u>	<u>\$123,549</u>
3	<u>(13) Windham</u>	<u>\$93,326</u>	<u>\$95,193</u>	<u>\$99,857</u>
4	<u>(14) Windsor</u>	<u>\$126,545</u>	<u>\$129,076</u>	<u>\$135,401</u>

5 (b) Probate judges shall be entitled to be paid by the State for their actual  
6 and necessary expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State  
7 employees. The compensation for the Probate judge of the Chittenden District  
8 shall be for full-time service.

9 (c) All Probate judges, regardless of the number of hours worked annually,  
10 shall be eligible to participate in all employee benefits that are available to  
11 exempt employees of the Judicial Department.

12 \* \* \* Sheriffs; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*

13 Sec. F.107 32 V.S.A. § 1182 is amended to read:

14 § 1182. SHERIFFS

15 (a) The sheriffs of all counties except Chittenden shall be entitled to receive  
16 salaries in the amount of ~~\$104,010.00 as of July 14, 2024 and \$109,627.00 as~~  
17 ~~of July 13, 2025~~ \$113,902.00 as of July 12, 2026, \$116,180.00 as of January  
18 10, 2027, and \$122,873.00 as of July 11, 2027. The Sheriff of Chittenden  
19 County shall be entitled to an annual salary in the amount of ~~\$110,070.00 as of~~  
20 ~~July 14, 2024 and \$116,014.00 as of July 13, 2025~~ \$120,539.00 as of July 12,

1 2026, \$122,950.00 as of January 10, 2027, and \$128,975.00 as of July 11,  
2 2027.

3 (b) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by  
4 10 percent for any sheriff who has Level II but not obtained Level III law  
5 enforcement officer certification under 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

6 \* \* \*

7 \* \* \* State’s Attorneys; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 \* \* \*  
8 Sec. F.108 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:

9 § 1183. STATE’S ATTORNEYS

10 (a) The State’s Attorneys shall be entitled to receive annual salaries as  
11 follows:

	<del>Annual</del>	<del>Annual</del>
	<del>Salary</del>	<del>Salary</del>
	<del>as of</del>	<del>as of</del>
	<del>July 14,</del>	<del>July 13,</del>
	<del>2024</del>	<del>2025</del>
17 <del>(1) Addison County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
18 <del>(2) Bennington</del>		
19 <del>County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
20 <del>(3) Caledonia County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
21 <del>(4) Chittenden County</del>	<del>\$147,087</del>	<del>\$155,030</del>

1	<del>(5) Essex County</del>	<del>\$105,521</del>	<del>\$111,219</del>
2	<del>(6) Franklin County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
3	<del>(7) Grand Isle County</del>	<del>\$105,521</del>	<del>\$111,219</del>
4	<del>(8) Lamoille County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
5	<del>(9) Orange County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
6	<del>(10) Orleans County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
7	<del>(11) Rutland County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
8	<del>(12) Washington</del>		
9	<del>County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
10	<del>(13) Windham County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
11	<del>(14) Windsor County</del>	<del>\$140,691</del>	<del>\$148,288</del>
12		<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
13		<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary</u>
14		<u>as of</u>	<u>as of</u>
15		<u>July 12,</u>	<u>January 10,</u>
16		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
17	<u>(1) Addison County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>
18	<u>(2) Bennington</u>		
19	<u>County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>
20	<u>(3) Caledonia County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
21	<u>(4) Chittenden County</u>	<u>\$161,076</u>	<u>\$172,349</u>

1	<u>(5) Essex County</u>	<u>\$115,557</u>	<u>\$117,868</u>	<u>\$123,644</u>
2	<u>(6) Franklin County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
3	<u>(7) Grand Isle County</u>	<u>\$115,557</u>	<u>\$117,868</u>	<u>\$123,644</u>
4	<u>(8) Lamoille County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
5	<u>(9) Orange County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
6	<u>(10) Orleans County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
7	<u>(11) Rutland County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
8	<u>(12) Washington</u>			
9	<u>County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
10	<u>(13) Windham County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>
11	<u>(14) Windsor County</u>	<u>\$154,071</u>	<u>\$157,152</u>	<u>\$164,852</u>

12 (b) In settlement of their accounts, the Commissioner of Finance and  
13 Management shall allow the State's Attorneys the expense of printing briefs in  
14 cases in which the State's Attorney has represented the State and their  
15 necessary and actual expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State  
16 employees.

17 \* \* \* Appropriations \* \* \*

18 Sec. F.109 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND  
19 2028

20 (a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year  
21 agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees'

1 Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and  
2 Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's  
3 Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2026, through June  
4 30, 2028; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers'  
5 Association for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028; and salary  
6 increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining  
7 agreements shall be funded as follows:

8 (1) Fiscal year 2027.

9 (A) General Fund. The amount of \$23,918,820.00 is appropriated  
10 from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to  
11 departments to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and  
12 the requirements of this act.

13 (B) Transportation Fund. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is  
14 appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration  
15 for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public  
16 Safety to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the  
17 requirements of this act.

18 (C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional  
19 spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess  
20 receipts to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the

1 requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are \$27,184,607.00 from a  
2 special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

3 (D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other  
4 funds, for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from  
5 the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the  
6 Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be  
7 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported  
8 by State funds.

9 (2) Fiscal year 2028.

10 (A) General Fund. The amount of \$24,974,632.00 is appropriated  
11 from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to  
12 departments to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and  
13 the requirements of this act.

14 (B) Transportation Fund. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is  
15 appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration  
16 for distribution to the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Public  
17 Safety to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the  
18 requirements of this act.

19 (C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional  
20 spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess  
21 receipts to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the

1 requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are \$28,362,343.00 from a  
2 special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

3 (D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other  
4 funds, for fiscal year 2028, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from  
5 the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the  
6 Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be  
7 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported  
8 by State funds.

9 (3) This section shall include sufficient funding to ensure administration  
10 of exempt pay plans authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 1020(c).

11 (b) Judicial Branch.

12 (1) The Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court may extend the  
13 provisions of the Judiciary's collective bargaining agreement to Judiciary  
14 employees who are not covered by the bargaining agreement.

15 (2) Fiscal year 2027. The first year of the two-year agreements between  
16 the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the  
17 judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027,  
18 and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the  
19 bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of  
20 \$3,800,867.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of

1 \$277,316.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal  
2 year 2027 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

3 (3) Fiscal year 2028. The second year of the two-year agreements  
4 between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association  
5 for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30,  
6 2028, and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by  
7 the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of  
8 \$2,466,396.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of  
9 \$179,952.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal  
10 year 2028 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

11 (c) Legislative Branch.

12 (1) For the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the General  
13 Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as  
14 follows: the amount of \$914,634.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to  
15 the Legislative Branch.

16 (2) For the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028, the General  
17 Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as  
18 follows: the amount of \$778,939.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to  
19 the Legislative Branch.

20 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

21 Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

- 1        (a) This section and Secs. C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105,  
2        E.504.2, E.504.3, and E.504.4 shall take effect on passage.
- 3        (b) Secs. E.307.1, E.307.2, E.307.3, and E.307.5 shall take effect on  
4        October 1, 2026.
- 5        (c) Secs. E.307.4 and E.923 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.
- 6        (d) Sec. E.504.5 (16 V.S.A. § 4021(b)) shall take effect upon the  
7        occurrence of the contingencies set forth in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73,  
8        Sec. 70(f).
- 9        (e) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.