

04/23/2025

Chief Recovery Officer, Douglas Farnham

### Testimony Notes

I would like to begin by stating support for the language edits proposed by Director Forand of Vermont Emergency Management. Title 20 should avoid direct references to temporary structures like the Chief Recovery Officer or long-term recovery groups where possible. If there is a desire to put more specifics related to individual recovery planning, it would be better through session law as opposed to referencing title and should be led by the Agency of Human Services as they are the lead on individual recovery. The current incumbent at AHS best able to speak to this matter is Jason Gosselin. An effort to build out the planning and structures for individual recovery is beginning in earnest as several positions were recently authorized through the joint fiscal committee process as part of a disaster case management grant application. Stakeholder engagement in this effort will be holistic and the administration intends to proceed but, if the committee would prefer to provide framing for the one-time exercise, the administration is open to that.

I would request that a separate effective date of October 1, 2025, be added for Sec. 13a to allow the Tax Department time to test and implement changing the 70/30 split to 75/25. While the administration does not support or oppose this section, it does appear from the fiscal note produced by the Joint Fiscal Office that there is sufficient revenue to support the change. The question of going to 80/20 was raised during my testimony and, based on the fiscal note and current revenue trends, I believe that it might be excessive and limiting the change to 5% would be prudent.

I have no other significant feedback to offer on the content of the bill at this time and would like to thank the Senate Government Operations committee for their time and attention on this bill.