

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Institutions to which was referred House Bill No. 494  
3 entitled “An act relating to capital construction and State bonding” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate  
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 1, legislative intent, by striking out subsection (a) in its  
7 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the \$111,965,288.44  
9 authorized in this act, not more than \$62,314,761.44 shall be appropriated in  
10 the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the  
11 second year.

12 Second: By striking out Sec. 2, State buildings, in its entirety and inserting  
13 in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

15 (a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Buildings  
16 and General Services, and the Commissioner is authorized to direct funds  
17 appropriated in this section to the projects contained in this section; however,  
18 no project shall be canceled unless the Chairs of the Senate Committee on  
19 Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions are  
20 notified before that action is taken.

21 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026:

|    |                                                                               |                       |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | <u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u>                                      | <u>\$7,138,401.00</u> |
| 2  | <u>(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u>                | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| 3  | <u>(3) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u>                         | <u>\$75,000.00</u>    |
| 4  | <u>(4) Rutland, Asa Bloomer Building roof repair and sewage system</u>        |                       |
| 5  | <u>upgrades:</u>                                                              | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| 6  | <u>(5) Rutland, multimodal garage renovation:</u>                             | <u>\$600,000.00</u>   |
| 7  | <u>(6) Middlesex, Print and Postal uninterruptable power supply upgrade:</u>  |                       |
| 8  |                                                                               | <u>\$58,279.44</u>    |
| 9  | <u>(7) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u>    |                       |
| 10 |                                                                               | <u>\$2,000,000.00</u> |
| 11 | <u>(8) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u>                  | <u>\$1,500,000.00</u> |
| 12 | <u>(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:</u>                    |                       |
| 13 | <u>(1) Statewide, major maintenance:</u>                                      | <u>\$8,500,000.00</u> |
| 14 | <u>(2) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency:</u>                       | <u>\$250,000.00</u>   |
| 15 | <u>(3) Statewide, physical security enhancements:</u>                         | <u>\$250,000.00</u>   |
| 16 | <u>(4) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance:</u>                | <u>\$850,000.00</u>   |
| 17 | <u>(5) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program:</u>                         | <u>\$75,000.00</u>    |
| 18 | <u>(6) Montpelier, State House replacement of historic interior finishes:</u> |                       |
| 19 |                                                                               | <u>\$50,000.00</u>    |
| 20 | <u>(7) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior</u>           |                       |
| 21 | <u>renovation:</u>                                                            | <u>\$2,000,000.00</u> |

|   |                                                                            |                        |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | <u>(8) Middlesex, Vermont State Archives roof replacement, main</u>        |                        |
| 2 | <u>building:</u>                                                           | <u>\$1,000,000.00</u>  |
| 3 | <u>(9) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement:</u> |                        |
| 4 |                                                                            | <u>\$2,000,000.00</u>  |
| 5 | <u>(10) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs:</u>              |                        |
| 6 |                                                                            | <u>\$250,000.00</u>    |
| 7 | <u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>                                             | <u>\$14,371,680.44</u> |
| 8 | <u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>                                             | <u>\$15,225,000.00</u> |
| 9 | <u>Total Appropriation – Section 2</u>                                     | <u>\$29,596,680.44</u> |

10 Third: By striking out Sec. 4, commerce and community development, in  
11 its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

13 (a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of  
14 Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

|    |                                                                        |                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 15 | <u>(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:</u>              | <u>\$550,000.00</u> |
| 16 | <u>(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves:</u>                      | <u>\$46,000.00</u>  |
| 17 | <u>(3) Roadside historic site markers:</u>                             | <u>\$25,000.00</u>  |
| 18 | <u>(4) Bennington, Battle Monument, maintenance of safety fencing,</u> |                     |
| 19 | <u>restoration, planning, and design:</u>                              | <u>\$425,000.00</u> |

20 (b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of  
21 Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

|   |                                                           |                       |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | <u>(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:</u> | <u>\$550,000.00</u>   |
| 2 | <u>(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves:</u>         | <u>\$46,000.00</u>    |
| 3 | <u>(3) Roadside historic site markers:</u>                | <u>\$25,000.00</u>    |
| 4 | <u>Appropriation – FY 2026</u>                            | <u>\$1,046,000.00</u> |
| 5 | <u>Appropriation – FY 2027</u>                            | <u>\$621,000.00</u>   |
| 6 | <u>Total Appropriation – Section 4</u>                    | <u>\$1,667,000.00</u> |

7 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 5, grant programs, in its entirety and inserting  
8 in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

10 (a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 for the Building  
11 Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

12 (1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,  
13 Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant  
14 Program: \$250,000.00

15 (2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,  
16 Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant  
17 Program: \$250,000.00

18 (3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant  
19 Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made  
20 available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital

funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program:

\$250,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the  
Recreational Facilities Grant Program:

\$250,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human  
Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program:

\$250,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the  
Regional Economic Development Grant Program:

\$250,000.00

(7) To the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural  
Fairs and Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 for the Building  
Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,  
Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant

Program: \$300,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,  
Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant

Program: \$300,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant  
Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made

available from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the Cultural Facilities Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(7) To the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program:

\$300,000.00

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the sums appropriated in subdivisions (a)(5) and (b)(5) of this section be equally allocated between grants for human services and grants for educational facilities.

Appropriation – FY 2026

\$1,800,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027

\$2,100,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 5

\$3,900,000.00

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 14, judiciary, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 14 to read as follows:

Sec. 14. JUDICIARY

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Judiciary for the following projects:

(1) Woodstock Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system: \$100,000.00

(2) Essex County Courthouse, connector and security upgrades:  
\$3,685,910.00

(3) Lamoille County Courthouse, purchase and installation of backup power system: \$190,000.00

(b) The sum of \$1,100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$5,075,910.00

Total Appropriation – Section 14 \$5,075,910.00

Sixth: In Sec. 19, FY 2026 and 2027; capital projects; FY 2026 appropriations act; intent; authorizations, by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

VT LEG #382871 v.5

1           (10) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for  
2           Barre, Prospect Heights housing infrastructure:                               \$1,000,000.00

3           (11) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for  
4           Brattleboro, Winston Prouty Center housing infrastructure:                               \$1,000,000.00

5           (12) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a  
6           grant to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to support a site  
7           study focused on economic development, parking, housing, and flood  
8           mitigation for the 1.6-acre parcel at 87 State Street and parcels at 89 State  
9           Street and 42 Court Street:                                                       \$100,000.00

10           (13) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a  
11           competitive grant to establish a new recovery residence, per the criteria of the  
12           Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan:                               \$250,000.00

13           (14) to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purchase  
14           of a fire apparatus:                                                               \$275,000.00

15           (15) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lake Champlain  
16           Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the Walleye rearing,  
17           restoration, and stocking infrastructure:                                                       \$25,000.00

18           (16) to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire  
19           Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program:                                                       \$35,000.00

20           Seventh: By adding a new section to be Sec. 22a to read as follows:

1      Sec. 22a. CASH FUND; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; REPORT

2            On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a  
3            report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on  
4            Corrections and Institutions on considerations for use of the Cash Fund for  
5            Capital and Essential Investments under 32 V.S.A. § 1001b that:

6            (1) provides the historical context, including the economic rationale, for  
7            the Cash Fund;

8            (2) compares financial management practices for expenditures made  
9            through cash and through bonded dollars, including long-term financial  
10           impacts;

11           (3) distinguishes between the intended uses of the Capital Infrastructure  
12           subaccount and the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves  
13           subaccount;

14           (4) describes, for each year since the Cash Fund's inception:

15           (A) the sources of funds; and

16           (B) the annual expenditures from the Capital Infrastructure  
17           subaccount; and

18           (5) outlines the current legislative process by which appropriations are  
19           made from the Cash Fund.

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5 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE