JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT

BIENNIAL SESSION, 2025

VOLUME 2

May 13, 2025 through Adjournment

(Including Appendices A & B, and General Index)

Published by Authority

STATE OF VERMONT

BUILDINGS AND GENERAL SERVICES, MIDDLESEX, VERMONT

Compiled and Edited by:

BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House and Theresa Utton-Jerman, House Journal Clerk

(h) Unless notice has been waived or consent given for the adoption, a copy of the petition and notice of a proceeding under this section shall be served upon any person entitled to notice within 30 days after the petition is filed. The notice shall include the address and telephone number of the court where the petition is pending and a statement that the person served with the notice and petition shall file a written appearance in the proceeding within 20 days after service in order to participate in the proceeding and to receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice of the time and place of any hearing. Service of the notice and petition shall be made in a manner appropriate under the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure unless the court otherwise directs. Proof of service on each person entitled to receive notice shall be on file with the court before the court acts on the petition.

(i) A petition to adopt a child pursuant to this section shall not be denied on the basis that any of the petitioners' parentage is already presumed or legally recognized in Vermont.

(j) When parentage is presumed or legally recognized pursuant to 15C V.S.A. § 201, the fact that a person did not petition for adoption pursuant to this section shall not be considered as evidence when two or more presumptions conflict, nor in determining the best interests of the child.

Sec. 2. 14 V.S.A. § 2622 is amended to read:

§ 2622. DEFINITIONS

As used in this article:

(1) "Child" means an individual who is under 18 years of age and who is the subject of a petition for guardianship filed pursuant to section 2623 of this title.

(2) "Child in need of guardianship" means:

(A) A child who the parties consent is in need of adult care because of any one of the following:

(i) The child's custodial parent has a serious or terminal illness.

(ii) A custodial parent's physical or mental health prevents the parent from providing proper care and supervision for the child.

(iii) The child's home is no longer habitable as the result of a natural disaster.

(iv) A custodial parent of the child is incarcerated.

(v) A custodial parent of the child is on active military duty.

(vi) A custodial parent of the child is unavailable to care for the child because the parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action.

(vii) The parties have articulated and agreed to another reason that guardianship is in the best interests of the child.

(B) A child who is:

(i) abandoned or abused by the child's parent;

(ii) without proper parental care, subsistence, education, medical, or other care necessary for the child's well-being; or

(iii) without or beyond the control of the child's parent.

(3) "Custodial parent" means a parent who, at the time of the commencement of the guardianship proceeding, has the right and responsibility to provide the routine daily care and control of the child. The rights of the custodial parent may be held solely or shared and may be subject to the court-ordered right of the other parent to have contact with the child. If physical parental rights and responsibilities are shared pursuant to court order, both parents shall be considered "custodial parents" for purposes of this subdivision.

(4) "Nonconsensual guardianship" means a guardianship with respect to which:

(A) a parent is opposed to establishing the guardianship; or

(B) a parent seeks to terminate a guardianship that the parent previously agreed to establish.

(5) "Noncustodial parent" means a parent who is not a custodial parent at the time of the commencement of the guardianship proceeding.

(6) "Parent" means a child's biological or adoptive parent, including custodial parents; noncustodial parents; parents with legal or physical responsibilities, or both; and parents whose rights have never been adjudicated.

(7) "Parent-child contact" means the right of a parent to have visitation with the child by court order.

(8) "Standby guardianship" means a consensual guardianship agreement between the custodial parent and their chosen guardian that meets the requirements of section 2626a of this title, in which the custodial parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action that has rendered the parent unavailable to care for their child.

(9) "Adverse immigration action" means:

(A) arrest or apprehension by any federal law enforcement officer for an alleged violation of federal immigration law;

(B) arrest, detention, or custody by the Department of Homeland Security, or a federal, state, or local agency authorized by or acting on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, for an alleged violation of federal immigration law;

(C) departure from the United States under an order of removal, deportation, exclusion, voluntary departure, or expedited removal or a stipulation of voluntary departure;

(D) the denial, revocation, or delay of the issuance of a visa or transportation letter by the Department of State;

(E) the denial, revocation, or delay of the issuance of a parole document or reentry permit by the Department of Homeland Security; or

(F) the denial of admission or entry into the United States by the Department of Homeland Security or other local or state officer acting on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security.

Sec. 3. 14 V.S.A. § 2623 is amended to read:

§ 2623. PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR; SERVICE

(a) A parent or a person interested in the welfare of a minor may file a petition with the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the appointment of a guardian for a child. The petition shall state:

(1) the names and addresses of the parents, the child, and the proposed guardian;

(2) the proposed guardian's relationship to the child;

(3) the names of all members of the proposed guardian's household and each person's relationship to the proposed guardian and the child;

(4) that the child is alleged to be a child in need of guardianship;

(5) specific reasons with supporting facts why guardianship is sought;

(6) whether the parties agree that the child is in need of guardianship and that the proposed guardian should be appointed as guardian;

(7) the child's current school and grade level;

(8) if the proposed guardian intends to change the child's current school, the name and location of the proposed new school and the estimated date when the child would enroll;

(9) the places where the child has lived during the last five years, and the names and present addresses of the persons with whom the child has lived during that period; ~~and~~

(10) any prior or current court proceedings, child support matters, or parent-child contact orders involving the child;

(11) whether the petition seeks a standby guardianship and the reasons for the request, including the adverse immigration action that the custodial parent is subject to; and

(12) whether the petition is an emergency petition filed pursuant to subdivision 2625(f)(1) of this title.

(b)(1) A petition for guardianship of a child under this section shall be served on all parties and interested persons as provided by Rule 4 of the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

(2)(A) The Probate Division may waive the notice requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) with respect to a parent if the court finds that:

(i) the identity of the parent is unknown; ~~or~~

(ii) the location of the parent is unknown and cannot be determined with reasonable effort; or

(iii)(I) the custodial parent is detained as the result of an adverse immigration action; and

(II) the guardian and the custodial parent's attorney are unable to contact the custodial parent after making reasonable efforts.

(B) After a guardianship for a child is created, the Probate Division shall reopen the proceeding at the request of a parent of the child who did not receive notice of the proceeding as required by this subsection (b).

Sec. 4. 14 V.S.A. § 2625 is amended to read:

§ 2625. HEARING; COUNSEL; GUARDIAN AD LITEM

(a) The Probate Division shall schedule a hearing upon the filing of the petition and shall provide notice of the hearing to all parties and interested persons who were provided notice under subdivision 2623(c)(1) of this title.

(b) The child shall attend the hearing if ~~he or she~~ the child is 14 years of age or older unless the child's presence is excused by the court for good cause. The child may attend the hearing if ~~he or she~~ the child is less than 14 years of age.

(c) The court shall appoint counsel for the child if the child will be called as a witness. In all other cases, the court may appoint counsel for the child.

(d)(1) The child may be called as a witness only if the court finds after hearing that:

(A) the child's testimony is necessary to assist the court in determining the issue before it;

(B) the probative value of the child's testimony outweighs the potential detriment to the child; and

(C) the evidence sought is not reasonably available by any other means.

(2) The examination of a child called as a witness may be conducted by the court in chambers in the presence of such other persons as the court may specify and shall be recorded.

(e) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child on motion of a party or on the court's own motion.

(f)(1) The court may grant an emergency guardianship petition filed ex parte by the proposed guardian, or by the custodial parent's attorney in the case of a standby guardianship petition filed pursuant to section 2626a of this title, if the court finds that:

(A)(i) both parents are deceased or medically incapacitated; ~~and~~ or

(ii) in the case of a standby guardianship petition filed pursuant to section 2626a of this title, the custodial parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action that renders the parent unavailable to care for the child; and

(B) the best interests of the child require that a guardian be appointed without delay and before a hearing is held.

(2) If the court grants an emergency guardianship petition pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (f), it shall schedule a hearing on the petition as soon as practicable and in no event more than three business days after the petition is filed.

Sec. 5. 14 V.S.A. § 2626a is added to read:

§ 2626a. CONSENSUAL STANDBY GUARDIANSHIP

(a)(1) If the petition requests a consensual standby guardianship, the petition shall include or be accompanied by a consent signed by the custodial parent attesting that the custodial parent understands the nature of the standby

guardianship and knowingly and voluntarily consents to the standby guardianship.

(2) The consent required by this subsection shall be on a form approved by the Court Administrator.

(b)(1) The court shall schedule a hearing on the petition within 14 days. The custodial parent shall be permitted to appear at and participate in the hearing remotely.

(2) On or before the date of the hearing, the parties shall file an agreement between the proposed guardian and the custodial parents. The agreement shall provide:

(A) that the parties are creating a standby guardianship that is effective only if the custodial parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action that renders the custodial parent unavailable to care for the child;

(B) the responsibilities of the guardian;

(C) the responsibilities of the parents;

(D) the expected duration of the guardianship, if known;

(E) parent-child contact and parental involvement in decision making; and

(F) that the guardianship shall presumptively terminate if the custodial parent is released from custody and reunited with the child.

(3) Any party may notify the court that the guardianship is presumptively terminated pursuant to subdivision (2)(F) of this subsection.

(c) Vermont Rule of Probate Procedure 43 (relaxed rules of evidence in probate proceedings) shall apply to hearings under this section.

(d) The court shall grant the petition if it finds after the hearing by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) the child is a child in need of guardianship as defined in subdivision 2622(2)(A) of this title because the parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action that renders the parent unavailable to care for the child;

(2) the child's custodial parents knowingly and voluntarily consented to the standby guardianship;

(3) the guardian or the custodial parent's attorney made reasonable efforts to notify the parent of the proceeding;

(4) the agreement is voluntary;

(5) the proposed guardian is suitable; and

(6) the guardianship is in the best interests of the child.

(e) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the guardianship is in the best interests of the child if:

(1) the custodial parent has been subject to an adverse immigration action and is unavailable to care for their child;

(2) all parties consented to the guardianship; and

(3) the custodial parent is represented by an attorney.

(f) If the court grants the petition, it shall approve the agreement at the hearing and issue an order establishing a guardianship under section 2628 of this title within 45 days after the petition was filed, unless the court extends the time for issuing the order for good cause shown. The order shall be consistent with the terms of the parties' agreement unless the court finds that the agreement was not reached voluntarily or is not in the best interests of the child.

Sec. 6. 14 V.S.A. § 2628 is amended to read:

§ 2628. GUARDIANSHIP ORDER

(a) If the court grants a petition for guardianship of a child under subsection 2626(d), 2626a(d), or 2627(d) of this title, the court shall enter an order establishing a guardianship and naming the proposed guardian as the child's guardian.

(b) A guardianship order issued under this section shall include provisions addressing the following matters:

(1) the powers and duties of the guardian consistent with section 2629 of this title;

(2) the expected duration of the guardianship, if known;

(3) a family plan on a form approved by the Court Administrator that:

(A) in a consensual case is consistent with the parties' agreement; or

(B) in a nonconsensual case includes, at a minimum, provisions that address parent-child contact consistent with section 2630 of this title; and

(4) the process for reviewing the order consistent with section 2631 of this title.

Sec. 7. 14 V.S.A. § 2629 is amended to read:

§ 2629. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIAN

(a) The court shall specify the powers and duties of the guardian in the guardianship order.

(b) The duties of a custodial guardian shall include the duty to:

(1) take custody of the child and establish ~~his or her~~ the child's place of residence, provided that a guardian shall not change the residence of the child to a location outside the State of Vermont without prior authorization by the court following notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing;

(2) make decisions related to the child's education;

(3) make decisions related to the child's physical and mental health, including consent to medical treatment and medication;

(4) make decisions concerning the child's contact with others, provided that the guardian shall comply with all provisions of the guardianship order regarding parent-child contact and contact with siblings;

(5) receive funds paid for the support of the child, including child support and government benefits; and

(6) file an annual status report to the Probate Division, with a copy to each parent at ~~his or her~~ the parent's last known address, including the following information:

(A) the current address of the child and each parent;

(B) the child's health care and health needs, including any medical and mental health services the child received;

(C) the child's educational needs and progress, including the name of the child's school, day care, or other early education program, the child's grade level, and the child's educational achievements;

(D) contact between the child and ~~his or her~~ the child's parents, including the frequency and duration of the contact and whether it was supervised;

(E) how the parents have been involved in decision making for the child;

(F) how the guardian has carried out ~~his or her~~ the guardian's responsibilities and duties, including efforts made to include the child's parents in the child's life;

(G) the child's strengths, challenges, and any other areas of concern; and

(H) recommendations with supporting reasons as to whether the guardianship order should be continued, modified, or terminated.

(c) In the case of a standby guardianship petition filed pursuant to section 2626a of this title, the guardian shall provide status reports to the custodial parent at the parent's last known email address and to the custodial parent's attorney at the attorney's last known address.

Sec. 8. 14 V.S.A. § 2632 is amended to read:

§ 2632. TERMINATION

(a) A parent may file a motion to terminate a guardianship at any time. The motion shall be filed with the Probate Division that issued the guardianship order and served on all parties and interested persons.

(b)(1) If the motion to terminate is made with respect to a consensual guardianship established under section 2626 of this title or a standby guardianship established under section 2626a of this title, the court shall grant the motion and terminate the guardianship unless the guardian files a motion to continue the guardianship within 30 days after the motion to terminate is served. In the case of a standby guardianship established under section 2626a of this title, the court may, for good cause shown, accept filings that do not meet the format and signing requirements for the motion under Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure 10 and 11.

(2) If the guardian files a motion to continue the guardianship, the matter shall be set for hearing and treated as a nonconsensual guardianship proceeding under section 2627 of this title. The parent shall not be required to show a change in circumstances, and the court shall not grant the motion to continue the guardianship unless the guardian establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the minor is a child in need of guardianship under subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title. In the case of a standby guardianship established under section 2626 of this title, the custodial parent shall be permitted to appear at and participate in the hearing remotely.

(3) If the court grants the motion to continue, it shall issue an order establishing a guardianship under section 2628 of this title.

(c)(1) If the motion to terminate the guardianship is made with respect to a nonconsensual guardianship established under section 2627 or subdivision 2632(b)(3) of this title, the court shall dismiss the motion unless the parent establishes that a change in circumstances has occurred since the previous guardianship order was issued.

(2) If the court finds that a change in circumstances has occurred since the previous guardianship order was issued, the court shall grant the motion to terminate the guardianship unless the guardian establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the minor is a child in need of guardianship under subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b) Secs. 2–8 and this section shall take effect on passage.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Message from the Senate No. 57

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 339. An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230.

H. 364. An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 396. An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award.

H. 461. An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave.

H. 481. An act relating to stormwater management.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 26. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 16, 2025.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 13th day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H.13 An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers

H.96 An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need

H.206 An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code

H.218 An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

H.463 An act relating to technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and fifty-eight minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Gretchen Wertlieb, student at South Burlington High School and 2025 Vermont Poetry Out Loud Contest runner-up.

House Bill Introduced

H. 516

By Reps. Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, and Garofano of Essex

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar
Bills Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

Senate bills of the following titles, pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, were referred to the Committee on Appropriations pending entry on the Notice Calendar:

S. 53

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services

S. 127

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 26

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 26. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 16, 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, May 16, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 7

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team

Whereas, the 2024 third-seeded Slaters were pleased to reach the season's decisive game against the top-seeded Green Knights of Rice Memorial High School, and

Whereas, in this high-scoring gridiron contest, played in St. Johnsbury, Rice assumed a 12–7 first-quarter lead that sparked Fair Haven's football prowess, resulting in a Slaters' 21–15 halftime lead, and the second half, despite Rice's attempted comeback, concluded in a 35–22 Fair Haven triumph, as the team clinched the school's first divisional football championship since 2017, and

Whereas, the victorious Slaters were Jack Almeida, Bryson Kelly, Mason Gutel, Tylor Jackson, Evan Spanos, Logan Knipes, Derek Webb, Sam Kyhill, Phil Bean, Cody Adams, Devin LaFrancois, Adam Williams, Konner Savage, Easton Adams, Aydin Long, Jacob Torrey, Connor LaFrancois, Aden Wilkins, Caleb Long, Max Kyhill, Anthony Szabo, Cole Belden, Jonathan Hutchins, Alex Messer, Aiden Goyette, Tommy Buxton, Colbi Clark, Caden Lynch, Seth Czachor, Jackson Beckwith, Aiden St. Armour, Tanner Raymond, Porter Silva, Gabe Barrows, Ty Ferguson, Jeremiah Kirby, Gabe Bache, Gavin Spencer, Austin Williams, Lamont Jones, and Jacob Jamieson, and

Whereas, Head Coach Adam Perry and assistant coaches Keith Hier, PJ Szabo, Hunter Muzzy, Chris Parker, Joel Perry, Caleb Lisai, and DJ Perry were great contributors to the Slaters' achievement, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 24, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 82

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team

Whereas, during the 2024–2025 season on the bowling lanes, the second-seeded Fair Haven Slaters experienced its strongest challenge from the top-ranked Randolph Union High Galloping Ghosts, and after defeating South Burlington and Essex in the quarter-final and semifinal rounds, the Slaters confronted their archrival for the State title at the Spare Time bowling facility in Colchester, and

Whereas, despite losing the opening game to Randolph (172–150), the Slaters immediately rebounded, winning the second (161–146), the third (243–177), the fifth (217–168), and the sixth (233–164), and with four victories, Fair Haven clinched the best-of-seven final round and won the 2025 State bowling championship, and

Whereas, a caravan of over 20 cars greeted the victorious team in Castleton and escorted the jubilant Slaters back to school, and

Whereas, the championship Slater bowlers were Wyatt DeLance, Aiden Goyette, Nathan Bessette, Inshik Adams-Silva, Emma Eckler, Eli Donaldson, Dylan Bania, Michael Towle, Korbin Hayes, George Stamp, Madison Stamp, and Amberlyn Haley, and

Whereas, Head Coach Joe Donaldson and Assistant Coach Ron Carrrara were superb guides for the team, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team, *and be it further*

***Resolved*:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 11, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 89

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Harvey of Castleton, McCoy of Poultney, and Toof of St. Albans Town

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship

Whereas, the Division II girls' basketball ultimate playoff game at Barre Auditorium proved to be a contest between two closely matched and defensively focused squads, and

Whereas, the top-seeded North Country Falcons narrowly led the second-ranked and defending titleholder, Fair Haven Slaters, 22–21, with roughly three minutes remaining in the third period, a score that left the final outcome unknown to all the fans watching at the Barre Auditorium, and

Whereas, recognizing that they were perilously close to losing their championship title, the Slaters charged full steam ahead, igniting a 9–0 scoring spree that reset the scenario with an encouraging 30–22 Fair Haven lead, and although North Country momentarily regained momentum, narrowing the Rutland County hoopsters' advantage to 30–29, Fair Haven's final surge contributed to the Slaters' 37–31 come-from-behind victory, and

Whereas, the Slaters' roster featured Elizabeth Love, Orianna Kerr, Megan Wetmore, Maddy Perry, Kate Hadwen, Quinn Murphy, Riley Babbie, Audrey Perry, Madi Hayes, Isabelle Cole, Callie LaRock, Brianna Cathcart, Ryleigh Murray, and Victoria Kelly, and

Whereas, Head Coach Kyle Wilson; assistant coaches Jay Wilson, Leo Hutchins, Chad Wilson, and Henry Daley; and team managers Rose Ouimet and Taylor Wilson appreciated the extra initiative that the team contributed to the successful 2025 season, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 11, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 136

Offered by Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski

House concurrent resolution congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud

Whereas, Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide high school poetry recitation competition that receives national support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and locally, the Vermont Arts Council and the Flynn in Burlington are essential facilitators, and

Whereas, high school students across the country participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition "that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history and contemporary life," and

Whereas, since Poetry Out Loud began, more than 4.5 million students in the United States from 21,000 schools, and with the support of 85,000 teachers, have participated, and

Whereas, this year's State competition proved an exhilarating adventure, highlighting the joys of dramatically reciting a poet's written words, and

Whereas, this nationwide cavalcade of poetic verbalization begins in local classrooms, 24 in Vermont this year, where eager young orators, 3,200 in the State and 157,000 nationwide, declaimed their soliloquies of poems or sonnets, and

Whereas, the judges at the State finals listened with rapt attention and declared Mapenzi Selemani, a junior at Winooski High School, who presented Thomas Hood's "I Remember, I Remember" and William Wordsworth's "The World is Too Much With Us", as the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State champion and Vermont's representative at the national competition, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorates the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mapenzi Selemani, the Flynn, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Vermont Arts Council.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 9, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to Other Committee

H. 182

Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Human Services, which was agreed to.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 41

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 3761a is added to read:

§ 3761a. ABUSE OF THE DEAD BODY OF A PERSON

(a) No person shall, knowingly without legal authorization, intentionally burn, mutilate, disfigure, dismember, or destroy the dead body of a person.

(b) No person shall violate subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of concealing a crime or avoiding apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime.

(c) No person shall commit sexual conduct upon the dead body of a person.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than $5,000.00, or both.

(2) A person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years or fined not more than $10,000.00, or both.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Dead body of a person" does not include the cremated remains of a person.

(2) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following committed against the dead body of a person:

(A) any conduct involving contact between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the penis, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the anus, the vulva and the vulva, or the mouth and the vulva;

(B) any intrusion, however slight, by any part of an individual's body or any object into any part of a dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(C) any touching of the dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(D) masturbation; or

(E) bestiality.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 5211 is amended to read:

§ 5211. UNAUTHORIZED BURIAL OR REMOVAL; PENALTY

A person who buries, entombs, transports, or removes the dead body of a person without a burial-transit permit so to do, or in any other manner or at any other time or place than as specified in such permit, shall be ~~imprisoned not more than five years or fined~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.00~~, or both~~.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 46

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Third Reading; Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

S. 63

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board

S. 125

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to workers' compensation and collective bargaining rights

Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Appointment

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1700, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel:

Rep. Sibilia of Dover

Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 614, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rep. Campbell of St. Johnsbury from the Committee:

Rep. James of Manchester

Vermont Web Portal Board Appointment

Pursuant to 22 V.S.A. § 952, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont Web Portal Board:

Rep. James of Manchester

Message from the Senate No. 58

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered the reports of the Committees of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House bills of the following titles:

H. 488. An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

H. 494. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

Message from the Senate No. 59

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 56. An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 401. An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 13th day of May, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 18. An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

S. 28. An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services.

Adjournment

At one o'clock and forty minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Thursday, May 15, 2025

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Bram Kleppner of Burlington.

House Bill Introduced

H. 517

By Reps. Ode of Burlington, Hango of Berkshire, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to military protection orders

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

S. 12

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 5

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Dolan of Essex Junction, Houghton of Essex Junction, and McCoy of Poultney

Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That through the remainder of calendar year 2025, each member of a joint committee is authorized to vote remotely in that committee for not more than three days, *and be it further*

Resolved: Such a member shall notify the committee chair or co-chairs, as applicable, and the committee clerk that the member is exercising this remote voting authority, and shall count toward a committee quorum, *and be it further*

Resolved: The committee clerk shall record any vote cast by the member as a remote vote, and shall track the number of days the member exercises this remote voting authority.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 120

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Duke of Burlington, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Micklus of Milton, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Wells of Brownington

Offered by Senator Major

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as National Tennis Month in Vermont

Whereas, the organizational history of the sport of tennis in the United States began on May 21, 1881, when the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, now known as the United States Tennis Association (USTA), was established in New York City, and

Whereas, in 2025, the USTA is composed of over 500,000 members, and it promotes the sport of tennis at all levels, from beginners to professionals, and sponsors the annual U.S. Open, the nation's premier tennis tournament, which is held annually at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, New York, and

Whereas, the organization's broad promotion of tennis, "regardless of age, environment, condition, or ability," is facilitated through the USTA Adaptive Tennis Grant Program, and

Whereas, the Physical Activity Council, a major source of athletic participation data in the United States, recently surveyed over 18,000 individuals six years of age and older regarding their involvement in 122 separate sports, and based on the survey's results, extrapolated that in 2024, 25.7 million Americans played tennis, and

*Where*as, the USTA operates throughout 17 regions of the country, including USTA New England, and

Whereas, appreciating that the designation of a month commemorating tennis will showcase and benefit all aspects of this popular sport, the USTA has designated May 2025, its 144th anniversary month, as National Tennis Month, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 2025 as National Tennis Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to USTA New England.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Thursday, May 2, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 396

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 2614 is added to read:

§ 2614. MOLLIE BEATTIE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In commemoration of the centennial of the Vermont State Parks in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and in honor of the conservation and public land accessibility values of the late former Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Mollie Beattie, there is created the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award. Annually, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall present this award to either a current or former State employee or partner whose contributions honor the legacy of Mollie Beattie in advancing the conservation, accessibility, quality of recreational experience, or sustainability of Vermont's public lands.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 461

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to align Vermont's family leave policies with inclusive and equitable standards, ensuring that LGBTQ+ families, workers with low income, and individuals in nontraditional family structures have equal access to caregiving leave without undue burden.

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Bereavement leave" means a leave of absence from employment or self-employment by an individual due to the death of the individual's family member that occurs not more than one year after the family member's death. Bereavement leave includes leave taken in relation to the administration or settlement of the deceased family member's estate. Leave taken in relation to the administration or settlement of the deceased family member's estate shall not occur more than one year after the family member's death.

(2) "Domestic partner" means an individual with whom the employee has an enduring domestic relationship of a spousal nature, provided the employee and the domestic partner:

(A) have shared a residence for at least six consecutive months;

(B) are at least 18 years of age;

(C) are not married to or considered a domestic partner of another individual;

(D) are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage under State law; and

(E) have agreed between themselves to be responsible for each other's welfare.

(3) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as in 15 V.S.A. § 1151 and includes the definition of "abuse" in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

(4) "Employer" means ~~an individual, organization, or governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air, or express company doing business in or operating within this State that~~ a person who for the purposes of parental leave, bereavement leave, safe leave, and leave for a qualifying exigency employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year and for the purposes of family leave employs 15 or more individuals for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year.

~~(2)~~(5) "Employee" means a person who, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of one year for an average of at least 30 hours per week or meets the service requirement set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.801.

~~(3)~~(6) "Family leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an employee ~~who works for an employer that employs 15 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year~~ for one of the following reasons:

(A) the serious health condition of the employee; or

(B) the serious health condition of the employee's ~~child, stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's spouse~~ family member.

(7) "Family member" means:

(A) regardless of age, an employee's biological, adopted, or foster child; an employee's stepchild or legal ward; a child of the employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner; or a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis, regardless of legal documentation; an individual to whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the individual was under 18 years of age; or any individual for whom the employee provides caregiving responsibilities similar to those of a parent-child relationship;

(B)(i) a parent of an employee or an employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner, regardless of whether the relationship to the employee or the employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner is a biological, foster, adoptive, or step relationship;

(ii) a legal guardian of an employee or employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner; or

(iii) a person who stands in loco parentis for the employee or who stood in loco parentis when the employee or employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner was under 18 years of age;

(C) a person to whom the employee is legally married under the laws of any state or a civil union or domestic partner of an employee; or

(D) a grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the employee or the employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner, regardless of whether the relationship to the employee or the employee's spouse or civil union or domestic partner is a biological, foster, adoptive, or step relationship.

~~(4)~~(8) "Health care provider" means a licensed health care provider or a health care provider as defined pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 825.125.

(9) "In loco parentis" means a relationship in which an individual has day-to-day responsibilities to care for and support a child, regardless of biological or legal ties.

~~(5)~~(10) "Parental leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an employee ~~who works for an employer that employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year~~ for one of the following reasons:

(A) ~~the birth of~~ the employee's ~~child~~ pregnancy;

(B) the employee's recovery from childbirth or miscarriage;

(C) the birth of the employee's child and to care for or bond with the child within one year after the child's birth; or

~~(B)~~(D) the initial placement of a child ~~16~~ 18 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care and to care for or bond with the child within one year after the placement for adoption or foster care.

(11) "Qualifying exigency" means a qualifying exigency identified pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 825.126 that is related to active duty service by a family member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(12) "Safe leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an employee because:

(A) the employee or the employee's family member is a victim or alleged victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

(B) the employee is using leave for one of the following reasons related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking:

(i) to seek or obtain medical care, counseling, or social or legal services, either for themselves or for a family member;

(ii) to recover from injuries;

(iii) to participate in safety planning, either for themselves or for a family member;

(iv) to relocate or secure safe housing, either for themselves or for a family member;

(v) to respond to a fatality or near fatality related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, either for themselves or for a family member; or

(vi) to meet with a State's Attorney or law enforcement officer, either for themselves or for a family member; and

(C) the employee is not the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

~~(6)~~(13) "Serious health condition" means:

(A) an accident, illness, injury, disease, or physical or mental condition that:

(i) poses imminent danger of death;

(ii) requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or

(iii) requires continuing treatment by a health care provider; or

(B) rehabilitation from an accident, illness, injury, disease, or physical or mental condition described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision ~~(6)~~(13), including treatment for substance use disorder.

(14) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(15) "Stalking" has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(16) "U.S. Armed Forces" means:

(A) the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard;

(B) a reserve component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard; or

(C) the National Guard of any state.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 472 is amended to read:

§ 472. LEAVE

(a)(1) During any 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave for a period not to exceed 12 weeks:

~~(1)~~(A) for parental leave~~, during the employee's pregnancy and following the birth of an employee's child or within a year following the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption.~~;

~~(2)~~(B) for family leave~~, for the serious health condition of the employee or the employee's child, stepchild or ward of the employee who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's spouse~~;

(C) for safe leave; or

(D) for a qualifying exigency.

(2) During any 12-month period, an employee may use up to two weeks out of the 12 weeks of leave available pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for bereavement leave, with not more than five workdays to be taken consecutively.

(b) During the leave, at the employee's option, the employee may use accrued sick leave ~~or~~, vacation leave ~~or~~, any other accrued paid leave, ~~not to exceed six weeks~~ or short-term disability insurance. Utilization of accrued paid leave or short-term disability insurance shall not extend the leave provided pursuant to this section.

* * *

(e)(1) An employee shall give the employer reasonable written notice of intent to take leave under this ~~subchapter~~ section. Notice shall include the date the leave is expected to commence and the estimated duration of the leave. If the leave is for a family member, the employer may request documentation identifying the qualifying family relationship.

(2) In the case of the adoption or birth of a child, an employer shall not require that notice be given more than six weeks prior to the anticipated commencement of the leave.

(3) In the case of an unanticipated serious health condition, a miscarriage, an unanticipated need for safe leave, a premature birth, the death of a family member, or a short-notice qualifying exigency, the employee shall give the employer notice of the commencement of the leave as soon as practicable.

(4)(A) In the case of a serious health condition of the employee or a member of the employee's family, an employer may require certification from a health care provider to verify the condition and the amount and necessity for the leave requested.

(B) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for safe leave. An employee may provide documentation from any one of the following sources:

(i) a court or a law enforcement or other government agency;

(ii) a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking assistance program;

(iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the employee, or the employee's family member, received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

(iv) a self-attestation by the employee describing the circumstances supporting the need for safe leave; no further corroboration shall be required unless otherwise mandated by law.

(C) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for bereavement leave. An employee may provide any of the following forms of documentation:

(i) a death certificate;

(ii) a published obituary; or

(iii) a written notice or verification of death, burial, or memorial services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society, crematorium, religious organization, or governmental agency.

(D) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation of the need for leave for a qualifying exigency as set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.309.

(E) An employer shall not disclose any private medical information or information relating to a safe leave that the employer receives pursuant to this subdivision (4) except to the extent the disclosure is permitted by law and:

(i) consented to by the employee in writing;

(ii) required pursuant to a court order; or

(iii) required pursuant to State or federal law.

~~(4)~~(5) An employee may return from leave earlier than estimated upon approval of the employer.

~~(5)~~(6) An employee shall provide reasonable notice to the employer of the need to extend leave to the extent provided by this subchapter.

(f) Upon return from leave taken under this subchapter, an employee shall be offered the same or comparable job at the same level of compensation, employment benefits, seniority, or any other term or condition of the employment existing on the day leave began. This ~~subchapter~~ subsection shall not apply if, prior to requesting leave, the employee had been given notice or had given notice that the employment would terminate. This subsection shall not apply if the employer can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) during the period of leave the employee's job would have been terminated or the employee laid off for reasons unrelated to the leave or the condition for which the leave was granted; or

(2) the employee performed unique services and hiring a permanent replacement during the leave, after giving reasonable notice to the employee of intent to do so, was the only alternative available to the employer to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the employer's operation.

(g)(1) An employer may adopt a leave policy more generous than the leave policy provided by this subchapter.

(2)(A) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to diminish an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or any employment benefit program or plan that provides greater leave rights than the rights provided by this subchapter.

(B) A collective bargaining agreement or employment benefit program or plan may not diminish rights provided by this subchapter.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subchapter, an employee may, at the time a need for parental or family leave arises, waive some or all the rights under this subchapter provided the waiver is informed and voluntary and any changes in conditions of employment related to any waiver shall be mutually agreed upon between employer and employee.

(h) Except for the serious health condition of the employee or safe leave when the employee is the victim or alleged victim, an employee who does not return to employment with the employer who provided the leave shall return to the employer the value of any compensation that the employer paid to or on behalf of the employee during the leave, except payments for accrued ~~sick leave or vacation~~ leave.

Sec. 4. 21 V.S.A. § 472a is amended to read:

§ 472a. SHORT-TERM FAMILY LEAVE

(a) In addition to the leave provided in section 472 of this title, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave not to exceed four hours in any

30-day period and not to exceed 24 hours in any 12-month period. An employer may require that leave be taken in a minimum of two-hour segments and may be taken for any of the following purposes:

(1) To participate in preschool or school activities directly related to the academic educational advancement of the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee~~ family member, such as a parent-teacher conference.

(2) To attend or to accompany the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member to routine medical or dental appointments.

(3) To accompany the employee's ~~parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member to other appointments for professional services related to their care and well-being.

(4) To respond to a medical emergency involving the employee's ~~child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse, or parent-in-law~~ family member.

* * *

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 481

House bill, entitled

An act relating to stormwater management

Was taken up and pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, on motion of **Rep. Logan of Burlington**, action on the bill was postponed until May 16, 2025.

Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Bill Ordered Delivered to the Governor Forthwith

H. 493

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H. 493. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Purpose, Definitions, Legend * * *

Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

(a) This bill may be referred to as the "BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act."

Sec. A.101 PURPOSE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds during fiscal year 2026. It is the express intent of the General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments, divisions, boards, offices, and commissions be limited to those that can be supported by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2025. Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2026 so as to meet this condition unless otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General Assembly.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any interim budget and appropriation adjustments made in accordance with 32 V.S.A. §§ 133 and 704 prioritize supporting the health, safety, and well-being of Vermonters; a robust education system; and a strong economy.

Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the primary source and reference for appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds in fiscal year 2026.

(b) The sums herein stated are appropriated for the purposes specified in the following sections of this act. When no time is expressly stated during which any of the operating appropriations are to continue, the appropriations are single-year appropriations and only for the purpose indicated and shall be paid from funds shown as the source of funds. Capital appropriations funded from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments Special Fund shall be subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 1001b(e). If in this act there is an error in either addition or subtraction, the totals shall be adjusted accordingly. Apparent errors in referring to section numbers of statutory titles within this act may be disregarded by the Commissioner of Finance and Management.

(c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026.

Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this act:

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

(2) "Grants" means subsidies, aid, or payments to local governments, to community and quasi-public agencies for providing local services, and to persons who are not wards of the State for services or supplies and means cash or other direct assistance, including pension contributions.

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

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

(5) "Capital appropriation" means an appropriation for tangible capital investments or expenses that are eligible to be funded from general obligation debt financing and are allowed under federal laws governing the use of State bond proceeds as described in 32 V.S.A. § 309.

Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

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

Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

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

Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including block grants in lieu of, or in addition to, funds herein designated as federal. The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

(b) If, during fiscal year 2026, federal funds available to the State of Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2025 session of the Vermont General Assembly are converted into block grants or are abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for not more than 45 days prior to General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee approval. Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's request for approval.

Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during fiscal year 2026 except for new positions authorized by the General Assembly

during the 2025 session. Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

Sec. A.108 LEGEND

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

B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199	General Government
B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299	Protection to Persons and Property
B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399	Human Services
B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499	Labor
B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599	General Education
B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699	Higher Education
B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799	Natural Resources
B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899	Commerce and Community Development
B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999	Transportation
B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099	Debt Service
B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199	One-time and other appropriation actions

(b) The C sections contain amendments to the current fiscal year; the D sections contain fund allocations, transfers, reversions, and reservations for the upcoming fiscal year; the F sections also contain amendments to the current fiscal year; and the G section contains effective dates.

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Base Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.100 Secretary of administration - secretary's office

Personal services	2,532,305
Operating expenses	255,891
Grants	755,000
Total	3,543,196
Source of funds	
General fund	1,762,509
Special funds	755,000

Interdepartmental transfers	1,025,687
Total	3,543,196

Sec. B.100.1 Secretary of administration - office of racial equity

Personal services	1,687,090
Operating expenses	118,323
Total	1,805,413
Source of funds	
General fund	1,144,831
Internal service funds	534,462
Interdepartmental transfers	126,120
Total	1,805,413

Sec. B.101 Secretary of administration - finance

Personal services	1,523,066
Operating expenses	168,424
Total	1,691,490
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	1,691,490
Total	1,691,490

Sec. B.102 Secretary of administration - workers' compensation insurance

Personal services	871,453
Operating expenses	100,387
Total	971,840
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	971,840
Total	971,840

Sec. B.103 Secretary of administration - general liability insurance

Personal services	406,346
Operating expenses	65,072
Total	471,418
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	471,418
Total	471,418

Sec. B.104 Secretary of administration - all other insurance

Personal services	278,478
Operating expenses	54,925
Total	333,403

Source of funds	
Internal service funds	333,403
Total	333,403

Sec. B.104.1 Retired state employees pension plus funding

Grants	15,000,000
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	15,000,000
Total	15,000,000

Sec. B.105 Agency of digital services - communications and information technology

Personal services	87,034,344
Operating expenses	50,695,231
Total	137,729,575
Source of funds	
General fund	233,207
Special funds	1,014,199
Internal service funds	136,482,169
Total	137,729,575

Sec. B.106 Finance and management - budget and management

Personal services	1,843,264
Operating expenses	342,676
Total	2,185,940
Source of funds	
General fund	1,254,559
Internal service funds	688,359
Interdepartmental transfers	243,022
Total	2,185,940

Sec. B.107 Finance and management - financial operations

Personal services	3,416,478
Operating expenses	894,620
Total	4,311,098
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	3,767,171
Interdepartmental transfers	543,927
Total	4,311,098

Sec. B.108 Human resources - operations

Personal services	12,091,729
Operating expenses	1,609,092
Total	13,700,821
Source of funds	
General fund	1,931,766
Special funds	171,235
Internal service funds	10,811,922
Interdepartmental transfers	785,898
Total	13,700,821

Sec. B.108.1 Human resources - VTHR operations

Personal services	2,259,639
Operating expenses	922,339
Total	3,181,978
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	3,181,978
Total	3,181,978

Sec. B.109 Human resources - employee benefits & wellness

Personal services	1,443,574
Operating expenses	727,231
Total	2,170,805
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	2,170,805
Total	2,170,805

Sec. B.110 Libraries

Personal services	3,071,139
Operating expenses	523,300
Grants	267,993
Total	3,862,432
Source of funds	
General fund	2,371,969
Special funds	96,994
Federal funds	1,273,020
Interdepartmental transfers	120,449
Total	3,862,432

Sec. B.111 Tax - administration/collection

Personal services	30,188,806
Operating expenses	7,007,735

Total	37,196,541
Source of funds	
General fund	24,668,155
Special funds	12,413,386
Interdepartmental transfers	115,000
Total	37,196,541

Sec. B.112 Buildings and general services - administration

Personal services	1,132,286
Operating expenses	206,653
Total	1,338,939
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	1,338,939
Total	1,338,939

Sec. B.113 Buildings and general services - engineering

Personal services	47,165
Operating expenses	1,116,280
Total	1,163,445
Source of funds	
General fund	1,163,445
Total	1,163,445

Sec. B.113.1 Buildings and general services engineering - capital projects

Personal services	3,225,944
Operating expenses	500,000
Total	3,725,944
Source of funds	
General fund	3,225,944
Interdepartmental transfers	500,000
Total	3,725,944

Sec. B.114 Buildings and general services - information centers

Personal services	3,721,861
Operating expenses	1,973,457
Total	5,695,318
Source of funds	
General fund	702,146
Transportation fund	4,542,959
Special funds	450,213
Total	5,695,318

Sec. B.115 Buildings and general services - purchasing

Personal services	2,860,824
Operating expenses	272,026
Total	3,132,850
Source of funds	
General fund	1,697,210
Interdepartmental transfers	1,435,640
Total	3,132,850

Sec. B.116 Buildings and general services - postal services

Personal services	846,111
Operating expenses	188,303
Total	1,034,414
Source of funds	
General fund	93,669
Internal service funds	940,745
Total	1,034,414

Sec. B.117 Buildings and general services - copy center

Personal services	951,063
Operating expenses	223,405
Total	1,174,468
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,174,468
Total	1,174,468

Sec. B.118 Buildings and general services - fleet management services

Personal services	1,020,985
Operating expenses	247,895
Total	1,268,880
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,201,997
Interdepartmental transfers	66,883
Total	1,268,880

Sec. B.119 Buildings and general services - federal surplus property

Operating expenses	4,427
Total	4,427
Source of funds	
Enterprise funds	4,427
Total	4,427

Sec. B.120 Buildings and general services - state surplus property

Personal services	365,056
Operating expenses	175,786
Total	540,842
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	540,842
Total	540,842

Sec. B.121 Buildings and general services - property management

Personal services	1,199,933
Operating expenses	605,349
Total	1,805,282
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	1,805,282
Total	1,805,282

Sec. B.122 Buildings and general services - fee for space

Personal services	21,826,541
Operating expenses	17,638,201
Total	39,464,742
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	39,360,459
Interdepartmental transfers	104,283
Total	39,464,742

Sec. B.124 Executive office - governor's office

Personal services	1,957,078
Operating expenses	567,607
Total	2,524,685
Source of funds	
General fund	1,997,850
Interdepartmental transfers	526,835
Total	2,524,685

Sec. B.125 Legislative counsel

Personal services	4,589,480
Operating expenses	286,936
Total	4,876,416
Source of funds	
General fund	4,876,416
Total	4,876,416

Sec. B.126 Legislature

Personal services	8,457,653
Operating expenses	5,329,448
Total	13,787,101
Source of funds	
General fund	13,787,101
Total	13,787,101

Sec. B.126.1 Legislative information technology

Personal services	1,504,560
Operating expenses	912,661
Total	2,417,221
Source of funds	
General fund	2,417,221
Total	2,417,221

Sec. B.127 Joint fiscal committee

Personal services	2,959,862
Operating expenses	197,907
Total	3,157,769
Source of funds	
General fund	3,157,769
Total	3,157,769

Sec. B.128 Sergeant at arms

Personal services	1,639,780
Operating expenses	166,416
Total	1,806,196
Source of funds	
General fund	1,806,196
Total	1,806,196

Sec. B.129 Lieutenant governor

Personal services	296,158
Operating expenses	51,993
Total	348,151
Source of funds	
General fund	348,151
Total	348,151

Sec. B.130 Auditor of accounts

Personal services	4,775,026
Operating expenses	143,505
Total	4,918,531
Source of funds	
General fund	408,398
Special funds	53,145
Internal service funds	4,456,988
Total	4,918,531

Sec. B.131 State treasurer

Personal services	7,137,154
Operating expenses	312,956
Total	7,450,110
Source of funds	
General fund	2,729,084
Special funds	4,179,251
Interdepartmental transfers	541,775
Total	7,450,110

Sec. B.132 State treasurer - unclaimed property

Personal services	801,268
Operating expenses	581,648
Total	1,382,916
Source of funds	
Private purpose trust funds	1,382,916
Total	1,382,916

Sec. B.133 Vermont state retirement system

Personal services	221,251
Operating expenses	3,118,092
Total	3,339,343
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	3,339,343
Total	3,339,343

Sec. B.134 Municipal employees' retirement system

Personal services	228,961
Operating expenses	1,692,059
Total	1,921,020

Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	1,921,020
Total	1,921,020
Sec. B.134.1 Vermont pension investment commission	
Personal services	2,359,198
Operating expenses	303,904
Total	2,663,102
Source of funds	
Special funds	2,663,102
Pension trust funds	0
Total	2,663,102
Sec. B.135 State labor relations board	
Personal services	295,157
Operating expenses	66,136
Total	361,293
Source of funds	
General fund	351,717
Special funds	6,788
Interdepartmental transfers	2,788
Total	361,293
Sec. B.136 VOSHA review board	
Personal services	109,521
Operating expenses	25,734
Total	135,255
Source of funds	
General fund	84,251
Interdepartmental transfers	51,004
Total	135,255
Sec. B.136.1 Ethics commission	
Personal services	183,787
Operating expenses	39,775
Total	223,562
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	223,562
Total	223,562
Sec. B.137 Homeowner rebate	
Grants	19,000,000
Total	19,000,000

Source of funds	
General fund	19,000,000
Total	19,000,000

Sec. B.138 Renter rebate

Grants	9,500,000
Total	9,500,000
Source of funds	
General fund	9,500,000
Total	9,500,000

Sec. B.139 Tax department - reappraisal and listing payments

Grants	3,410,000
Total	3,410,000
Source of funds	
General fund	3,410,000
Total	3,410,000

Sec. B.140 Municipal current use

Grants	21,350,000
Total	21,350,000
Source of funds	
General fund	21,350,000
Total	21,350,000

Sec. B.142 Payments in lieu of taxes

Grants	12,200,000
Total	12,200,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	12,200,000
Total	12,200,000

Sec. B.144 Payments in lieu of taxes - correctional facilities

Grants	40,000
Total	40,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	40,000
Total	40,000

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds	
General fund	140,473,564
Transportation fund	4,542,959

Special funds	34,043,313
Federal funds	1,273,020
Internal service funds	209,117,870
Interdepartmental transfers	9,219,740
Enterprise funds	4,427
Pension trust funds	5,260,363
Private purpose trust funds	1,382,916
Total	405,318,172

Sec. B.200 Attorney general

Personal services	15,528,060
Operating expenses	1,810,445
Grants	20,000
Total	17,358,505
Source of funds	
General fund	8,115,240
Special funds	2,468,889
Tobacco fund	434,660
Federal funds	1,809,676
Interdepartmental transfers	4,530,040
Total	17,358,505

Sec. B.201 Vermont court diversion

Personal services	1,250
Grants	4,874,343
Total	4,875,593
Source of funds	
General fund	4,617,596
Special funds	257,997
Total	4,875,593

Sec. B.202 Defender general - public defense

Personal services	18,955,131
Operating expenses	1,650,926
Total	20,606,057
Source of funds	
General fund	20,016,404
Special funds	589,653
Total	20,606,057

Sec. B.203 Defender general - assigned counsel

Personal services	7,827,975
Operating expenses	64,500

Total	7,892,475
Source of funds	
General fund	7,892,475
Total	7,892,475

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

Personal services	64,512,754
Operating expenses	13,865,672
Grants	121,030
Total	78,499,456
Source of funds	
General fund	72,601,728
Special funds	1,997,094
Federal funds	1,560,412
Interdepartmental transfers	2,340,222
Total	78,499,456

Sec. B.205 State's attorneys

Personal services	19,010,284
Operating expenses	2,115,052
Total	21,125,336
Source of funds	
General fund	20,541,309
Federal funds	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	553,027
Total	21,125,336

Sec. B.206 Special investigative unit

Personal services	126,877
Operating expenses	27,835
Grants	2,136,507
Total	2,291,219
Source of funds	
General fund	2,291,219
Total	2,291,219

Sec. B.206.1 Crime victims advocates

Personal services	3,221,461
Operating expenses	117,870
Total	3,339,331
Source of funds	
General fund	3,339,331
Total	3,339,331

Sec. B.207 Sheriffs	
Personal services	6,092,392
Operating expenses	446,237
Total	6,538,629
Source of funds	
General fund	6,538,629
Total	6,538,629
Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration	
Personal services	6,289,651
Operating expenses	6,380,415
Grants	278,285
Total	12,948,351
Source of funds	
General fund	7,630,863
Special funds	4,105
Federal funds	1,089,155
Interdepartmental transfers	4,224,228
Total	12,948,351
Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police	
Personal services	83,279,417
Operating expenses	16,733,452
Grants	1,813,523
Total	101,826,392
Source of funds	
General fund	87,421,532
Special funds	3,223,793
Federal funds	9,734,790
Interdepartmental transfers	1,446,277
Total	101,826,392
Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services	
Personal services	5,116,729
Operating expenses	2,098,944
Total	7,215,673
Source of funds	
General fund	1,929,676
Special funds	4,483,740
Federal funds	802,257
Total	7,215,673

Sec. B.211 Public safety - emergency management	
Personal services	6,811,020
Operating expenses	1,018,043
Grants	62,529,843
Total	70,358,906
Source of funds	
General fund	1,645,622
Special funds	710,000
Federal funds	67,941,304
Interdepartmental transfers	61,980
Total	70,358,906
Sec. B.212 Public safety - fire safety	
Personal services	10,215,365
Operating expenses	3,872,954
Grants	127,350
Total	14,215,669
Source of funds	
General fund	2,245,530
Special funds	10,769,486
Federal funds	1,155,653
Interdepartmental transfers	45,000
Total	14,215,669
Sec. B.213 Public safety - forensic laboratory	
Personal services	4,388,176
Operating expenses	1,356,042
Total	5,744,218
Source of funds	
General fund	4,162,196
Special funds	81,774
Federal funds	951,794
Interdepartmental transfers	548,454
Total	5,744,218
Sec. B.215 Military - administration	
Personal services	1,142,600
Operating expenses	810,661
Grants	1,219,834
Total	3,173,095

Source of funds	
General fund	3,173,095
Total	3,173,095
Sec. B.216 Military - air service contract	
Personal services	11,831,181
Operating expenses	1,427,093
Total	13,258,274
Source of funds	
General fund	818,486
Federal funds	12,439,788
Total	13,258,274
Sec. B.217 Military - army service contract	
Personal services	51,243,591
Operating expenses	8,227,725
Total	59,471,316
Source of funds	
Federal funds	59,471,316
Total	59,471,316
Sec. B.218 Military - building maintenance	
Personal services	906,250
Operating expenses	908,538
Total	1,814,788
Source of funds	
General fund	1,752,288
Special funds	62,500
Total	1,814,788
Sec. B.219 Military - veterans' affairs	
Personal services	1,382,555
Operating expenses	193,170
Grants	27,500
Total	1,603,225
Source of funds	
General fund	1,259,653
Special funds	222,717
Federal funds	120,855
Total	1,603,225

Sec. B.220 Center for crime victim services

Personal services	2,371,733
Operating expenses	321,928
Grants	8,573,370
Total	11,267,031
Source of funds	
General fund	1,650,091
Special funds	4,465,489
Federal funds	5,151,451
Total	11,267,031

Sec. B.221 Criminal justice council

Personal services	2,508,514
Operating expenses	2,142,603
Total	4,651,117
Source of funds	
General fund	4,260,265
Interdepartmental transfers	390,852
Total	4,651,117

Sec. B.222 Agriculture, food and markets - administration

Personal services	3,384,273
Operating expenses	353,580
Total	3,737,853
Source of funds	
General fund	1,519,601
Special funds	1,695,613
Federal funds	522,639
Total	3,737,853

Sec. B.223 Agriculture, food and markets - food safety and consumer protection

Personal services	5,680,286
Operating expenses	1,109,650
Grants	2,810,000
Total	9,599,936
Source of funds	
General fund	3,663,441
Special funds	4,048,844
Federal funds	1,875,651
Interdepartmental transfers	12,000
Total	9,599,936

Sec. B.224 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural development

Personal services	6,358,750
Operating expenses	746,926
Grants	15,633,200
Total	22,738,876
Source of funds	
General fund	3,157,499
Special funds	646,995
Federal funds	18,934,382
Total	22,738,876

Sec. B.225 Agriculture, food and markets - agricultural resource management and environmental stewardship

Personal services	3,053,693
Operating expenses	845,696
Grants	247,000
Total	4,146,389
Source of funds	
General fund	822,914
Special funds	2,473,045
Federal funds	482,577
Interdepartmental transfers	367,853
Total	4,146,389

Sec. B.225.1 Agriculture, food and markets - Vermont agriculture and environmental lab

Personal services	2,058,524
Operating expenses	1,359,556
Total	3,418,080
Source of funds	
General fund	1,698,826
Special funds	1,647,441
Interdepartmental transfers	71,813
Total	3,418,080

Sec. B.225.2 Agriculture, food and markets - clean water

Personal services	4,120,365
Operating expenses	857,888
Grants	11,487,000
Total	16,465,253
Source of funds	
General fund	1,975,832

Special funds	10,511,241
Federal funds	2,171,588
Interdepartmental transfers	1,806,592
Total	16,465,253

Sec. B.226 Financial regulation - administration

Personal services	3,011,702
Operating expenses	103,565
Grants	100,000
Total	3,215,267
Source of funds	
Special funds	3,215,267
Total	3,215,267

Sec. B.227 Financial regulation - banking

Personal services	2,483,666
Operating expenses	482,337
Total	2,966,003
Source of funds	
Special funds	2,966,003
Total	2,966,003

Sec. B.228 Financial regulation - insurance

Personal services	5,825,682
Operating expenses	578,524
Total	6,404,206
Source of funds	
Special funds	6,404,206
Total	6,404,206

Sec. B.229 Financial regulation - captive insurance

Personal services	5,998,278
Operating expenses	591,092
Total	6,589,370
Source of funds	
Special funds	6,589,370
Total	6,589,370

Sec. B.230 Financial regulation - securities

Personal services	1,375,414
Operating expenses	242,541
Total	1,617,955

Source of funds	
Special funds	1,617,955
Total	1,617,955

Sec. B.232 Secretary of state

Personal services	21,619,186
Operating expenses	4,242,952
Grants	1,350,000
Total	27,212,138
Source of funds	
General fund	1,350,000
Special funds	19,155,734
Federal funds	6,706,404
Total	27,212,138

Sec. B.233 Public service - regulation and energy

Personal services	12,790,401
Operating expenses	2,615,047
Grants	25,000
Total	15,430,448
Source of funds	
Special funds	12,152,225
Federal funds	2,439,257
ARRA funds	6,627
Interdepartmental transfers	821,491
Enterprise funds	10,848
Total	15,430,448

Sec. B.233.1 VT Community broadband board

Personal services	1,978,960
Operating expenses	571,368
Grants	43,000,000
Total	45,550,328
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,589,990
Federal funds	43,960,338
Total	45,550,328

Sec. B.234 Public utility commission

Personal services	4,565,693
Operating expenses	578,746
Total	5,144,439

Source of funds	
Special funds	5,144,439
Total	5,144,439

Sec. B.235 Enhanced 9-1-1 board

Personal services	4,700,016
Operating expenses	697,379
Total	5,397,395
Source of funds	
Special funds	5,397,395
Total	5,397,395

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	1,243,420
Operating expenses	142,164
Total	1,385,584
Source of funds	
General fund	1,292,811
Federal funds	92,773
Total	1,385,584

Sec. B.236.1 Liquor and lottery commission

Personal services	10,866,788
Operating expenses	7,415,512
Total	18,282,300
Source of funds	
Special funds	125,000
Tobacco fund	250,579
Interdepartmental transfers	70,000
Enterprise funds	17,836,721
Total	18,282,300

Sec. B.240 Cannabis control board

Personal services	4,466,288
Operating expenses	2,053,382
Grants	10,000
Total	6,529,670
Source of funds	
Special funds	6,529,670
Total	6,529,670

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds	
General fund	279,384,152
Special funds	121,247,670
Tobacco fund	685,239
Federal funds	239,445,060
ARRA funds	6,627
Interdepartmental transfers	17,289,829
Enterprise funds	17,847,569
Total	675,906,146

Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office

Personal services	17,333,398
Operating expenses	11,231,120
Grants	3,795,202
Total	32,359,720
Source of funds	
General fund	15,569,598
Special funds	135,517
Federal funds	14,023,964
Global Commitment fund	2,510,857
Interdepartmental transfers	119,784
Total	32,359,720

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Grants	2,207,280,248
Total	2,207,280,248
Source of funds	
General fund	712,815,861
Special funds	31,339,852
Tobacco fund	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,406,003,180
Interdepartmental transfers	4,997,210
Total	2,207,280,248

Sec. B.303 Developmental disabilities council

Personal services	513,359
Operating expenses	96,185
Grants	191,595
Total	801,139

Source of funds	
Special funds	12,000
Federal funds	789,139
Total	801,139

Sec. B.304 Human services board

Personal services	823,371
Operating expenses	90,892
Total	914,263
Source of funds	
General fund	538,324
Federal funds	375,939
Total	914,263

Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund

Personal services	330,000
Operating expenses	13,170,000
Total	13,500,000
Source of funds	
Interdepartmental transfers	13,500,000
Total	13,500,000

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	142,860,018
Operating expenses	36,310,876
Grants	3,112,301
Total	182,283,195
Source of funds	
General fund	43,820,359
Special funds	4,760,237
Federal funds	126,141,154
Global Commitment fund	4,382,601
Interdepartmental transfers	3,178,844
Total	182,283,195

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - global commitment

Grants	979,554,012
Total	979,554,012
Source of funds	
Global Commitment fund	979,554,012
Total	979,554,012

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - state only

Grants	67,605,443
Total	67,605,443
Source of funds	
General fund	62,133,605
Global Commitment fund	5,471,838
Total	67,605,443

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	44,034,870
Total	44,034,870
Source of funds	
General fund	13,467,770
Federal funds	30,567,100
Total	44,034,870

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	9,163,996
Operating expenses	8,043,463
Grants	7,985,727
Total	25,193,186
Source of funds	
General fund	4,298,710
Special funds	2,423,587
Federal funds	10,954,085
Global Commitment fund	7,361,523
Interdepartmental transfers	155,281
Total	25,193,186

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	71,272,453
Operating expenses	10,371,654
Grants	48,496,832
Total	130,140,939
Source of funds	
General fund	15,160,817
Special funds	25,398,124
Tobacco fund	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,355,699
Global Commitment fund	18,457,507

Interdepartmental transfers	5,654,874
Permanent trust funds	25,000
Total	130,140,939

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

Personal services	7,036,556
Operating expenses	381,500
Grants	61,624,360
Total	69,042,416
Source of funds	
General fund	4,795,744
Special funds	7,972,399
Tobacco fund	949,917
Federal funds	15,928,439
Global Commitment fund	39,395,917
Total	69,042,416

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	12,456,526
Operating expenses	2,420,029
Grants	279,691,678
Total	294,568,233
Source of funds	
General fund	13,127,716
Special funds	6,836
Federal funds	13,158,032
Global Commitment fund	266,967,840
Interdepartmental transfers	1,307,809
Total	294,568,233

Sec. B.315 Department of mental health - mental health facilities

Personal services	40,937,117
Operating expenses	3,393,946
Total	44,331,063
Source of funds	
General fund	18,868,124
Special funds	1,711,256
Global Commitment fund	23,751,683
Total	44,331,063

Sec. B.316 Department for children and families - administration & support services

Personal services	50,609,972
Operating expenses	17,876,453
Grants	5,914,175
Total	74,400,600
Source of funds	
General fund	43,680,871
Special funds	2,954,500
Federal funds	24,518,288
Global Commitment fund	2,780,636
Interdepartmental transfers	466,305
Total	74,400,600

Sec. B.317 Department for children and families - family services

Personal services	49,175,153
Operating expenses	5,497,038
Grants	100,541,760
Total	155,213,951
Source of funds	
General fund	63,680,993
Special funds	729,150
Federal funds	37,407,542
Global Commitment fund	53,381,266
Interdepartmental transfers	15,000
Total	155,213,951

Sec. B.318 Department for children and families - child development

Personal services	6,563,807
Operating expenses	783,604
Grants	227,780,727
Total	235,128,138
Source of funds	
General fund	61,267,870
Special funds	115,409,671
Federal funds	42,924,133
Global Commitment fund	15,526,464
Total	235,128,138

Sec. B.319 Department for children and families - office of child support

Personal services	14,186,272
Operating expenses	3,738,844

Total	17,925,116
Source of funds	
General fund	5,598,669
Special funds	454,219
Federal funds	11,484,628
Interdepartmental transfers	387,600
Total	17,925,116

Sec. B.320 Department for children and families - aid to aged, blind and disabled

Personal services	2,558,460
Grants	10,418,567
Total	12,977,027
Source of funds	
General fund	7,470,372
Global Commitment fund	5,506,655
Total	12,977,027

Sec. B.321 Department for children and families - general assistance

Personal services	15,000
Grants	10,415,779
Total	10,430,779
Source of funds	
General fund	10,189,157
Federal funds	11,098
Global Commitment fund	230,524
Total	10,430,779

Sec. B.322 Department for children and families - 3SquaresVT

Grants	51,077,812
Total	51,077,812
Source of funds	
Federal funds	51,077,812
Total	51,077,812

Sec. B.323 Department for children and families - reach up

Operating expenses	23,821
Grants	36,532,863
Total	36,556,684
Source of funds	
General fund	24,035,417
Special funds	5,970,229
Federal funds	2,806,330

Global Commitment fund	3,744,708
Total	36,556,684

Sec. B.324 Department for children and families - home heating fuel assistance/LIHEAP

Grants	16,019,953
Total	16,019,953
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,480,395
Federal funds	14,539,558
Total	16,019,953

Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity

Personal services	1,376,425
Operating expenses	159,458
Grants	39,165,356
Total	40,701,239
Source of funds	
General fund	32,312,474
Special funds	83,135
Federal funds	5,118,329
Global Commitment fund	3,187,301
Total	40,701,239

Sec. B.326 Department for children and families - OEO - weatherization assistance

Personal services	498,837
Operating expenses	275,322
Grants	15,147,885
Total	15,922,044
Source of funds	
Special funds	7,757,091
Federal funds	8,164,953
Total	15,922,044

Sec. B.327 Department for children and families - secure residential treatment

Personal services	258,100
Operating expenses	38,775
Grants	3,476,862
Total	3,773,737
Source of funds	
General fund	3,743,737

Global Commitment fund	30,000
Total	3,773,737

Sec. B.328 Department for children and families - disability determination services

Personal services	8,322,170
Operating expenses	495,934
Total	8,818,104
Source of funds	
General fund	130,556
Federal funds	8,687,548
Total	8,818,104

Sec. B.329 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - administration & support

Personal services	48,973,454
Operating expenses	6,544,338
Total	55,517,792
Source of funds	
General fund	25,692,412
Special funds	1,390,457
Federal funds	27,258,639
Global Commitment fund	110,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,066,284
Total	55,517,792

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants

Grants	24,909,492
Total	24,909,492
Source of funds	
General fund	8,585,909
Federal funds	7,321,114
Global Commitment fund	9,002,469
Total	24,909,492

Sec. B.331 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - blind and visually impaired

Grants	3,407,604
Total	3,407,604
Source of funds	
General fund	489,154
Special funds	223,450

Federal funds	2,390,000
Global Commitment fund	305,000
Total	3,407,604

Sec. B.332 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - vocational rehabilitation

Grants	10,179,845
Total	10,179,845
Source of funds	
General fund	371,845
Federal funds	8,558,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,250,000
Total	10,179,845

Sec. B.333 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - developmental services

Grants	349,987,467
Total	349,987,467
Source of funds	
General fund	132,732
Special funds	15,463
Federal funds	403,573
Global Commitment fund	349,385,699
Interdepartmental transfers	50,000
Total	349,987,467

Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver

Grants	7,540,256
Total	7,540,256
Source of funds	
Global Commitment fund	7,540,256
Total	7,540,256

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - long term care

Grants	346,858,094
Total	346,858,094
Source of funds	
General fund	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	343,909,515
Total	346,858,094

Sec. B.335 Corrections - administration

Personal services	5,601,461
Operating expenses	269,950
Total	5,871,411
Source of funds	
General fund	5,871,411
Total	5,871,411

Sec. B.336 Corrections - parole board

Personal services	551,497
Operating expenses	60,112
Total	611,609
Source of funds	
General fund	611,609
Total	611,609

Sec. B.337 Corrections - correctional education

Personal services	3,900,732
Operating expenses	255,399
Total	4,156,131
Source of funds	
General fund	4,006,975
Federal funds	372
Interdepartmental transfers	148,784
Total	4,156,131

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	177,107,933
Operating expenses	25,571,966
Grants	801,823
Total	203,481,722
Source of funds	
General fund	198,084,766
Special funds	935,963
Federal funds	516,600
Global Commitment fund	3,548,078
Interdepartmental transfers	396,315
Total	203,481,722

Sec. B.338.1 Corrections - justice reinvestment II

Grants	11,055,849
Total	11,055,849

Source of funds	
General fund	8,478,161
Federal funds	13,147
Global Commitment fund	2,564,541
Total	11,055,849

Sec. B.339 Corrections - correctional services - out of state beds

Personal services	4,130,378
Total	4,130,378
Source of funds	
General fund	4,130,378
Total	4,130,378

Sec. B.340 Corrections - correctional facilities - recreation

Personal services	708,510
Operating expenses	457,555
Total	1,166,065
Source of funds	
Special funds	1,166,065
Total	1,166,065

Sec. B.341 Corrections - Vermont offender work program

Personal services	243,283
Operating expenses	160,570
Total	403,853
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	403,853
Total	403,853

Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services

Personal services	24,048,875
Operating expenses	6,913,887
Total	30,962,762
Source of funds	
General fund	10,033,214
Special funds	12,799,530
Federal funds	8,130,018
Total	30,962,762

Sec. B.343 Commission on women

Personal services	432,073
Operating expenses	89,355
Total	521,428

Source of funds	
General fund	516,773
Special funds	4,655
Total	521,428

Sec. B.344 Retired senior volunteer program

Grants	164,960
Total	164,960
Source of funds	
General fund	164,960
Total	164,960

Sec. B.345 Green mountain care board

Personal services	9,849,952
Operating expenses	416,874
Total	10,266,826
Source of funds	
General fund	3,970,074
Special funds	6,296,752
Total	10,266,826

Sec. B.346 Office of the child, youth, and family advocate

Personal services	386,033
Operating expenses	71,330
Total	457,363
Source of funds	
General fund	457,363
Total	457,363

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds	
General fund	1,428,803,059
Special funds	231,430,533
Tobacco fund	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,946,078,413
Global Commitment fund	2,148,606,890
Internal service funds	403,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,694,090
Permanent trust funds	25,000
Total	5,842,204,818

Sec. B.400 Labor - programs	
Personal services	39,454,824
Operating expenses	5,462,457
Grants	5,870,493
Total	50,787,774
Source of funds	
General fund	11,313,657
Special funds	9,710,673
Federal funds	29,640,603
Interdepartmental transfers	122,841
Total	50,787,774
Sec. B.401 Total labor	
Source of funds	
General fund	11,313,657
Special funds	9,710,673
Federal funds	29,640,603
Interdepartmental transfers	122,841
Total	50,787,774
Sec. B.500 Education - finance and administration	
Personal services	16,203,356
Operating expenses	4,699,787
Grants	17,772,840
Total	38,675,983
Source of funds	
General fund	7,994,162
Special funds	19,793,553
Education fund	3,606,201
Federal funds	6,217,482
Global Commitment fund	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	804,585
Total	38,675,983
Sec. B.501 Education - education services	
Personal services	18,418,946
Operating expenses	1,185,388
Grants	192,117,080
Total	211,721,414
Source of funds	
General fund	6,894,415
Special funds	3,266,001

Tobacco fund	750,388
Federal funds	199,239,149
Interdepartmental transfers	1,571,461
Total	211,721,414

Sec. B.502 Education - special education: formula grants

Grants	270,736,200
Total	270,736,200
Source of funds	
Education fund	270,736,200
Total	270,736,200

Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students

Grants	17,200,000
Total	17,200,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	17,200,000
Total	17,200,000

Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

Grants	4,899,009
Total	4,899,009
Source of funds	
General fund	3,958,344
Federal funds	940,665
Total	4,899,009

Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

Grants	11,481,896
Total	11,481,896
Source of funds	
General fund	921,500
Education fund	10,560,396
Total	11,481,896

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

Grants	1,991,143,238
Total	1,991,143,238
Source of funds	
Education fund	1,991,143,238
Total	1,991,143,238

Sec. B.506 Education - transportation

Grants	26,115,792
Total	26,115,792
Source of funds	
Education fund	26,115,792
Total	26,115,792

Sec. B.507 Education - merger support grants

Grants	1,800,000
Total	1,800,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	1,800,000
Total	1,800,000

Sec. B.507.1 Education - EL categorical aid

Grants	2,250,000
Total	2,250,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	2,250,000
Total	2,250,000

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

Grants	18,500,000
Total	18,500,000
Source of funds	
Education fund	18,500,000
Total	18,500,000

Sec. B.509 Education - afterschool grant program

Personal services	500,000
Grants	9,140,000
Total	9,640,000
Source of funds	
Special funds	9,640,000
Total	9,640,000

Sec. B.510 Education - essential early education grant

Grants	8,977,737
Total	8,977,737
Source of funds	
Education fund	8,977,737
Total	8,977,737

Sec. B.511 Education - technical education	
Grants	18,737,850
Total	18,737,850
Source of funds	
Education fund	18,737,850
Total	18,737,850
Sec. B.511.1 State board of education	
Personal services	54,208
Operating expenses	16,500
Total	70,708
Source of funds	
General fund	70,708
Total	70,708
Sec. B.513 Retired teachers pension plus funding	
Grants	15,000,000
Total	15,000,000
Source of funds	
General fund	15,000,000
Total	15,000,000
Sec. B.514 State teachers' retirement system	
Grants	199,377,627
Total	199,377,627
Source of funds	
General fund	160,566,569
Education fund	38,811,058
Total	199,377,627
Sec. B.514.1 State teachers' retirement system administration	
Personal services	345,352
Operating expenses	3,519,053
Total	3,864,405
Source of funds	
Pension trust funds	3,864,405
Total	3,864,405
Sec. B.515 Retired teachers' health care and medical benefits	
Grants	71,052,589
Total	71,052,589
Source of funds	
General fund	49,091,090

Education fund	21,961,499
Total	71,052,589

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds	
General fund	244,496,788
Special funds	32,699,554
Tobacco fund	750,388
Education fund	2,430,399,971
Federal funds	206,397,296
Global Commitment fund	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	2,376,046
Pension trust funds	3,864,405
Total	2,921,244,448

Sec. B.600 University of Vermont

Grants	57,378,104
Total	57,378,104
Source of funds	
General fund	57,378,104
Total	57,378,104

Sec. B.602 Vermont state colleges

Grants	52,468,692
Total	52,468,692
Source of funds	
General fund	52,468,692
Total	52,468,692

Sec. B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

Grants	1,797,087
Total	1,797,087
Source of funds	
General fund	297,087
Global Commitment fund	1,500,000
Total	1,797,087

Sec. B.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

Grants	27,084,946
Total	27,084,946

Source of funds	
General fund	27,084,946
Total	27,084,946

Sec. B.605.1 VSAC - flexible pathways stipend

Grants	82,450
Total	82,450
Source of funds	
General fund	41,225
Education fund	41,225
Total	82,450

Sec. B.606 New England higher education compact

Grants	86,520
Total	86,520
Source of funds	
General fund	86,520
Total	86,520

Sec. B.607 University of Vermont - morgan horse farm

Grants	1
Total	1
Source of funds	
General fund	1
Total	1

Sec. B.608 Total higher education

Source of funds	
General fund	137,356,575
Education fund	41,225
Global Commitment fund	1,500,000
Total	138,897,800

Sec. B.700 Natural resources - agency of natural resources - administration

Personal services	6,436,257
Operating expenses	1,265,146
Total	7,701,403
Source of funds	
General fund	5,344,094
Special funds	722,828
Interdepartmental transfers	1,634,481
Total	7,701,403

Sec. B.701 Natural resources - state land local property tax assessment

Operating expenses	2,705,834
Total	2,705,834
Source of funds	
General fund	2,284,334
Interdepartmental transfers	421,500
Total	2,705,834

Sec. B.702 Fish and wildlife - support and field services

Personal services	23,876,543
Operating expenses	6,738,504
Grants	833,630
Total	31,448,677
Source of funds	
General fund	9,532,865
Special funds	364,696
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060
Federal funds	9,927,754
Interdepartmental transfers	1,526,302
Total	31,448,677

Sec. B.703 Forests, parks and recreation - administration

Personal services	1,564,253
Operating expenses	1,796,785
Total	3,361,038
Source of funds	
General fund	3,130,308
Special funds	143,765
Federal funds	86,965
Total	3,361,038

Sec. B.704 Forests, parks and recreation - forestry

Personal services	11,026,473
Operating expenses	1,122,371
Grants	1,408,910
Total	13,557,754
Source of funds	
General fund	6,839,753
Special funds	1,204,005
Federal funds	4,326,877
Interdepartmental transfers	1,187,119
Total	13,557,754

Sec. B.705 Forests, parks and recreation - state parks

Personal services	13,707,058
Operating expenses	4,936,482
Grants	550,000
Total	19,193,540
Source of fund	
General fund	2,061,995
Special funds	17,131,545
Total	19,193,540

Sec. B.706 Forests, parks and recreation - lands administration and recreation

Personal services	3,818,270
Operating expenses	8,667,107
Grants	6,015,019
Total	18,500,396
Source of funds	
General fund	1,324,880
Special funds	2,794,948
Federal funds	13,755,832
Interdepartmental transfers	624,736
Total	18,500,396

Sec. B.708 Forests, parks and recreation - forest and parks access roads

Personal services	130,000
Operating expenses	99,925
Total	229,925
Source of funds	
General fund	229,925
Total	229,925

Sec. B.709 Environmental conservation - management and support services

Personal services	9,655,674
Operating expenses	5,226,877
Grants	188,303
Total	15,070,854
Source of funds	
General fund	2,462,770
Special funds	1,452,358
Federal funds	2,563,636
Interdepartmental transfers	8,592,090
Total	15,070,854

Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management

Personal services	26,481,647
Operating expenses	9,958,684
Grants	4,343,000
Total	40,783,331
Source of funds	
General fund	305,347
Special funds	27,825,978
Federal funds	12,531,023
Interdepartmental transfers	120,983
Total	40,783,331

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services	44,324,028
Operating expenses	8,531,648
Grants	136,489,044
Total	189,344,720
Source of funds	
General fund	12,980,443
Special funds	33,801,176
Federal funds	141,693,623
Interdepartmental transfers	869,478
Total	189,344,720

Sec. B.713 Land use review board

Personal services	5,001,041
Operating expenses	537,905
Total	5,538,946
Source of funds	
General fund	4,169,020
Special funds	1,369,926
Total	5,538,946

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds	
General fund	50,665,734
Special funds	86,811,225
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060
Federal funds	184,885,710
Interdepartmental transfers	14,976,689
Total	347,436,418

Sec. B.800 Commerce and community development - agency of commerce and community development - administration

Personal services	2,515,577
Operating expenses	872,866
Grants	414,320
Total	3,802,763
Source of funds	
General fund	3,802,763
Total	3,802,763

Sec. B.801 Economic development

Personal services	4,396,254
Operating expenses	1,199,682
Grants	8,956,544
Total	14,552,480
Source of funds	
General fund	5,937,190
Special funds	3,150,350
Federal funds	5,264,940
Interdepartmental transfers	200,000
Total	14,552,480

Sec. B.802 Housing and community development

Personal services	6,519,883
Operating expenses	1,528,070
Grants	23,139,431
Total	31,187,384
Source of funds	
General fund	7,656,505
Special funds	10,144,339
Federal funds	10,957,973
Interdepartmental transfers	2,428,567
Total	31,187,384

Sec. B.806 Tourism and marketing

Personal services	3,453,707
Operating expenses	4,569,290
Grants	1,020,000
Total	9,042,997
Source of funds	
General fund	4,960,125
Federal funds	4,007,872

Interdepartmental transfers	75,000
Total	9,042,997

Sec. B.808 Vermont council on the arts

Grants	1,003,063
Total	1,003,063
Source of funds	
General fund	1,003,063
Total	1,003,063

Sec. B.809 Vermont symphony orchestra

Grants	154,170
Total	154,170
Source of funds	
General fund	154,170
Total	154,170

Sec. B.810 Vermont historical society

Grants	1,202,564
Total	1,202,564
Source of funds	
General fund	1,202,564
Total	1,202,564

Sec. B.811 Vermont housing and conservation board

Grants	109,284,304
Total	109,284,304
Source of funds	
General fund	1,631,582
Special funds	40,490,082
Federal funds	67,162,640
Total	109,284,304

Sec. B.812 Vermont humanities council

Grants	318,270
Total	318,270
Source of funds	
General fund	318,270
Total	318,270

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development	
Source of funds	
General fund	26,666,232
Special funds	53,784,771
Federal funds	87,393,425
Interdepartmental transfers	2,703,567
Total	170,547,995
Sec. B.900 Transportation - finance and administration	
Personal services	19,914,359
Operating expenses	6,581,104
Grants	50,000
Total	26,545,463
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	25,152,473
Federal funds	1,392,990
Total	26,545,463
Sec. B.901 Transportation - aviation	
Personal services	4,770,561
Operating expenses	8,456,904
Grants	190,000
Total	13,417,465
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	7,474,433
Federal funds	5,943,032
Total	13,417,465
Sec. B.902 Transportation - buildings	
Personal services	1,000,000
Operating expenses	1,500,000
Total	2,500,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	2,200,000
TIB fund	300,000
Total	2,500,000
Sec. B.903 Transportation - program development	
Personal services	83,759,860
Operating expenses	281,446,274
Grants	46,104,466
Total	411,310,600

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	62,005,434
TIB fund	15,103,017
Special funds	280,000
Federal funds	308,679,500
Interdepartmental transfers	15,722,027
Local match	9,520,622
Total	411,310,600

Sec. B.904 Transportation - rest areas construction

Personal services	398,500
Operating expenses	791,746
Total	1,190,246
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	119,025
Federal funds	1,071,221
Total	1,190,246

Sec. B.905 Transportation - maintenance state system

Personal services	48,113,208
Operating expenses	69,113,835
Total	117,227,043
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	110,349,507
Federal funds	932,014
Interdepartmental transfers	5,945,522
Total	117,227,043

Sec. B.906 Transportation - policy and planning

Personal services	3,411,138
Operating expenses	1,290,442
Grants	10,346,035
Total	15,047,615
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	3,742,314
Federal funds	11,223,301
Interdepartmental transfers	82,000
Total	15,047,615

Sec. B.906.1 Transportation - environmental policy and sustainability

Personal services	8,114,291
Operating expenses	67,686

Grants	1,332,030
Total	9,514,007
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	389,377
Federal funds	8,150,226
Interdepartmental transfers	21,860
Local match	952,544
Total	9,514,007

Sec. B.907 Transportation - rail

Personal services	18,493,101
Operating expenses	43,394,247
Total	61,887,348
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	15,067,669
Federal funds	31,894,435
Interdepartmental transfers	8,228,363
Local match	6,696,881
Total	61,887,348

Sec. B.908 Transportation - public transit

Personal services	1,026,301
Operating expenses	81,224
Grants	51,587,709
Total	52,695,234
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	10,007,534
Federal funds	42,547,700
Interdepartmental transfers	140,000
Total	52,695,234

Sec. B.909 Transportation - central garage

Personal services	5,957,587
Operating expenses	19,696,966
Total	25,654,553
Source of funds	
Internal service funds	25,654,553
Total	25,654,553

Sec. B.910 Department of motor vehicles

Personal services	36,447,934
Operating expenses	13,070,367
Total	49,518,301

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	46,709,524
Federal funds	2,687,081
Interdepartmental transfers	121,696
Total	49,518,301

Sec. B.911 Transportation - town highway structures

Grants	7,200,000
Total	7,200,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	7,200,000
Total	7,200,000

Sec. B.912 Transportation - town highway local technical assistance program

Personal services	449,763
Operating expenses	31,689
Total	481,452
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	121,452
Federal funds	360,000
Total	481,452

Sec. B.913 Transportation - town highway class 2 roadway

Grants	8,600,000
Total	8,600,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	8,600,000
Total	8,600,000

Sec. B.914 Transportation - town highway bridges

Personal services	10,034,000
Operating expenses	27,759,406
Total	37,793,406
Source of funds	
TIB fund	3,596,983
Federal funds	31,716,311
Local match	2,480,112
Total	37,793,406

Sec. B.915 Transportation - town highway aid program

Grants	30,418,736
Total	30,418,736

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	30,418,736
Total	30,418,736

Sec. B.916 Transportation - town highway class 1 supplemental grants

Grants	128,750
Total	128,750
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	128,750
Total	128,750

Sec. B.917 Transportation - town highway: state aid for nonfederal disasters

Grants	1,150,000
Total	1,150,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	0
Special funds	1,150,000
Total	1,150,000

Sec. B.918 Transportation - town highway: state aid for federal disasters

Grants	4,000,000
Total	4,000,000
Source of funds	
Federal funds	4,000,000
Total	4,000,000

Sec. B.919 Transportation - municipal mitigation assistance program

Personal services	100,000
Operating expenses	325,500
Grants	6,467,500
Total	6,893,000
Source of funds	
Transportation fund	715,000
Special funds	4,750,000
Federal funds	1,428,000
Total	6,893,000

Sec. B.921 Transportation board

Personal services	181,233
Operating expenses	22,938
Total	204,171

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	204,171
Total	204,171

Sec. B.922 Total transportation

Source of funds	
Transportation fund	330,605,399
TIB fund	19,000,000
Special funds	6,180,000
Federal funds	452,025,811
Internal service funds	25,654,553
Interdepartmental transfers	30,261,468
Local match	19,650,159
Total	883,377,390

Sec. B.1000 Debt service

Operating expenses	675,000
Total	675,000
Source of funds	
General fund	675,000
Total	675,000

Sec. B.1001 Total debt service

Source of funds	
General fund	675,000
Total	675,000

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 One-Time Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,100,000 General Fund for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and

(2) $110,000 General Fund for the Office of Racial Equity to continue the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Vermont program an additional year.

(b) Department of Human Resources. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,575,000 General Fund for the Classification Modernization project.

(c) Department of Taxes. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,000,000 PILOT Special Fund for the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program as established per Sec. E.142.2 of this act. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted.

(d) Department of Public Safety. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $600,000 General Fund for State match for federal cybersecurity grant funds;

(2) $800,000 General Fund for the purchase of mobile and portable radio equipment; and

(3) $150,000 General Fund for the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program established in Sec. E.208.2 of this act.

(e) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $4,448,520 General Fund and $6,351,480 federal funds for the Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for the Support and Services at Home program, the Primary Care Medical Home, and Community Health Team services under the Blueprint for Health;

(2) $6,200 General Fund for per diems and expense reimbursement for members of the Office of New Americans Study Committee; and

(3) $514,875 General Fund and $735,125 federal funds for the Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec. E.306.5(a) of this act.

(f) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $250,000 General Fund for the Vermont Serve, Learn, and Earn Program; and

(2) $275,000 General Fund for the purchase of a fire apparatus.

(g) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $240,000 General Fund for Polychlorinated Biphenyl testing;

(2) $40,000 General Fund for a grant to Empty Arms Vermont;

(3) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4812, $300,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences;

(4) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4812, $800,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for recovery centers;

(5) $200,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund for a grant to Mentor Vermont; and

(6) $250,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network for smoking cessation initiatives.

(h) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $2,000,000 General Fund for shelter capacity expansion;

(2) $30,500,000 General Fund for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program;

(3) $1,000,000 General Fund for direct aid to the Vermont Foodbank's network partner food shelves and pantries through an equitable statewide distribution of food or subgrants or both; and

(4) $156,000 General Fund for the Child Care Apprenticeship Program.

(i) Department of Corrections. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $200,000 General Fund to retain a consultant and develop an implementation plan to transition the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility for incarcerated Vermonters.

(j) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $150,000 General Fund for administrative costs relating to home-based child care meals.

(k) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $5,000,000 General Fund for the final transformation bridge financing payment.

(l) Department of Fish and Wildlife. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $185,000 Fish and Wildlife Nondedicated Special Fund to sustain current operations as the Department undergoes a financial restructuring. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted;

(2) $80,000 General Fund for the purchase of mobile and portable radio equipment; and

(3) $30,000 General Fund for the Lake Champlain International Fishing Derby.

(m) Department of Environmental Conservation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $50,000 General Fund for a Municipal Wastewater Connections database;

(2) $850,000 General Fund for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation database project and contractor support;

(3) $9,520,000 Environmental Contingency Fund For Polychlorinated Biphenyl testing and remediation in schools. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted; and

(4) $14,500,000 Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the State match to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in accordance with the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b).

(n) Department of Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $7,500,000 General Fund for the Vermont Bond Bank Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund;

(2) $16,100,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Rental Revolving Loan Fund, the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, and the First Generation Homebuyer Program. No less than $250,000 of these funds shall be for the First Generation Homebuyer Program;

(3) $4,000,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program 2.0;

(4) $15,000 General Fund for the Residential Universal Design Study Committee; and

(5) $450,000 General Fund to fund three limited service positions at the Department.

(o) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $200,000 General Fund for the Vermont Professionals of Color Network;

(2) $150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Small Business Development Center to assist Vermonters starting, acquiring, and growing businesses;

(3) $150,000 General Fund for the International Business Office;

(4) $1,000,000 General Fund for the brownfields remediation and redevelopment;

(5) $100,000 General Fund for a grant to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to support a site study focused on economic development, parking, housing, and flood mitigation for the 1.6-acre parcel at 87 State Street and parcels at 89 State Street and 42 Court Street; and

(6) $250,000 General Fund for a competitive grant to establish a new women's recovery residence, per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan, that shall be awarded on or before September 30, 2025.

(p) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $5,000,000 General Fund to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm

workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community-based services.

(q) Office of the State Treasurer. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $148,000 General Fund for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program; and

(2) $350,000 General Fund for financial modeling and the limited service classified position established in Sec. E.100(b)(1)(A) of this act.

(r) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $835,420 General Fund for the Payment Reform Unit;

(2) $3,119,310 General Fund for the OneCare primary care model transition;

(3) $10,800,000 Global Commitment for the Support and Services at Home program, the Primary Care Medical Home, and Community Health Team services under the Blueprint for Health; and

(4) $1,250,000 Global Commitment for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Agency of Human Services' request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec. E.306.5(a) of this act.

(s) University of Vermont. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $750,000 General Fund for the Vermont Gallium Nitride Tech Hub.

(t) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $450,000 General Fund for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs;

(2) $500,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program;

(3) $500,000 General Fund to offer Vermont Local Food for Schools and Child Care grants within the Rozo McLaughlin Farm to School Grants Program to fund grants for the purchase and distribution of local food to schools and registered or licensed child care programs; and

(4) $250,000 General Fund to support Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

(u) Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $235,000 General Fund for a grant to HomeShare Vermont; and

(2) $500,000 General Fund for grants to skilled nursing facilities to increase the pipeline of employed licensed nursing assistants, including increasing the capacity of new and existing facility-based training programs, and developing or expanding collaborations with other programs, including career and technical education programs. Grants may support training program costs, paid internships, student support, and recruitment and retention bonuses.

(A) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (u)(2) of this section, $150,000 shall be for grants of $30,000 or less.

(B) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (u)(2) of this section, $350,000 shall be for up to three grants.

(v) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,500,000 General Fund for Freedom and Unity grants.

(w) Military Department. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $10,000 General Fund for the USS Vermont Support Group.

(x) Vermont Council on the Arts. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $68,737 General Fund for State match for federal funds.

(y) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,400,000 Transportation Fund for transfer to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for programs to increase access to level 1 and 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment charging ports at workplaces or multiunit dwellings, or both; and

(2) $600,000 Transportation Fund for the purpose of providing grants to the public transit agencies to hire volunteer coordinators who shall be responsible for the identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers to provide transportation services to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(z) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $150,000 General Fund for a grant to Advance Vermont.

(aa) Office of the Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $50,000 General Fund for awards to support local civic journalism; and

(2) $25,000 General Fund for staff and IT costs at the Office of Professional Regulation relating to the implementation of certifications of perinatal doulas and birthing centers.

(bb) Office of the Defender General. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $30,000 General Fund to enhance IT server capacity;

(2) $50,000 General Fund for the Orleans County staff office;

(3) $20,000 General Fund for the Addison County staff office; and

(4) $60,000 General Fund for public defender training pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 5253.

(cc) Land Use Review Board. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $100,000 General Fund for development of digital infrastructure relating to Land Use Review Board application and mapping projects.

(dd) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $500,000 General Fund for the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Community Resource Center.

(ee) Office of the Attorney General. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $80,000 General Fund is added to the appropriation established per 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 17(b) to extend the limited service position established in subsection (a) of that section until June 30, 2026.

Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2025 CLOSEOUT; FISCAL YEAR 2026 CONTINGENT TRANSACTIONS

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2025 closeout, the Department of Finance and Management shall execute the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308. If any balance remains after meeting these requirements, then, notwithstanding

32 V.S.A. § 308c, the Department of Finance and Management shall designate the first $138,970,000 as unallocated carryforward for use in meeting the requirements of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act as passed by the General Assembly. The Department of Finance and Management shall then, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, calculate the maximum number of contingent transactions that can be funded, in the order provided in subsection (b) of this section, and designate that money to remain unallocated for such purpose in fiscal year 2026. Any residual balance remaining after such designations shall be reserved in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

(b) In fiscal year 2026, the following contingent transactions shall be executed in the following order from the designated unallocated balance as determined in subsection (a) of this section:

(1) $8,000,000 is transferred to the Communications and Information Technology Special Fund to cover the costs of transitioning billable services from a service level agreement model to a core enterprise services model.

(2) $50,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration to be transferred by the Emergency Board pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §133 while the General Assembly is not in session in the event of a reduction in federal funds to the State as set forth in Sec. E.127.2 of this act.

(3) $30,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for future appropriation or transfer by the General Assembly for addressing federal funding shortfalls.

(4) $30,000,000 is reserved in the General Fund for future appropriation or transfer by the General Assembly for addressing federal funding shortfalls, Vermont Medicaid and other human services needs, property tax relief, permanent housing initiatives, or any other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public.

Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS; FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2026, $13,436,099 is appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the following:

(1) Department of Buildings and General Services:

(A) $1,506,599 for statewide major maintenance;

(B) $250,000 for statewide planning, reuse, and contingency;

(C) $250,000 for statewide physical security enhancements;

(D) $219,500 for State House repointing;

(E) $250,000 for an uninterruptable power supply system for the Middlesex print and postal facility; and

(F) $6,900,000 for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction.

(2) Vermont Veterans' Home:

(A) $1,500,000 for the design and construction of the American Unit. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in this subdivision (A) and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(1).

(3) Agency of Commerce and Community Development:

(A) $2,500,000 for infrastructure improvements that are either municipally leased for a term of at least 30 years or municipally owned and that support the development of new or rehabilitated housing, provided that a grant agreement shall be in place between the State and the municipality prior to the release of funds.

(4) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(A) $25,000 for the Lake Champlain Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the walleye rearing, restoration, and stocking infrastructure.

(5) Department of Public Safety:

(A) $35,000 for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program.

* * * Fiscal Year 2025 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. C.100 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.209 is amended to read:

Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police

Personal services	~~74,755,468~~ 76,655,468
Operating expenses	15,992,094
Grants	1,137,841
Total	~~91,885,403~~ 93,785,403
Source of funds	
General fund	~~57,891,409~~ 59,791,409
Transportation fund	20,250,000
Special funds	3,170,328
Federal funds	8,967,252
Interdepartmental transfers	1,606,414
Total	~~91,885,403~~ 93,785,403

Sec. C.101 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.702 is amended to read:

Sec. B.702 Fish and wildlife - support and field services

Personal services	~~22,597,844~~ 22,887,844
Operating expenses	6,843,095
Grants	853,066
Total	~~30,294,005~~ 30,584,005
Source of funds	
General fund	~~8,267,967~~ 8,557,967
Special funds	365,427
Fish and wildlife fund	10,418,331
Federal funds	9,751,683
Interdepartmental transfers	1,490,597
Total	~~30,294,005~~ 30,584,005

Sec. C.102 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts are transferred from the funds indicated:

(1) From the General Fund to the:

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): ~~$73,212,880~~ $78,235,088.34.

* * *

(J) Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (#21555): ~~$830,000~~ $6,500,000.

(K) Education Fund (#20205): $25,000,000.

(L) Medical Insurance Fund (#55100): $18,500,000.

(M) Correctional Industries Fund (#59100): $3,135,443.

(N) Act 250 Permit Fund (#21260): $900,000.

(O) State Liability Self-Insurance Fund (#56200): $3,000,000.

(P) Emergency Personnel Survivor's Benefit Fund (#21884): $220,000.

(2) From the Transportation Fund to the:

(A) ~~Vermont Recreational Trails Fund (#21455): $370,000.~~

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

~~(C)~~(B) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): $316,745.

(C) Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund (#20191): $900,000.

(D) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c), the Transportation Fund transfer to the Central Garage fund in fiscal year 2025 shall be $0.

* * *

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025:

(1) The following amounts shall be transferred to the General Fund from the funds indicated:

(A) Cannabis Regulation Fund (#21998): ~~$12,000,000~~ $15,417,084.32.

(B) AHS Central Office Earned Federal Receipts (#22005): $4,641,960.

(C) Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): ~~$7,000,000~~ $6,139,162.

(D) Liquor Control Fund (#50300): ~~$21,100,000~~ $9,543,353.

(E) ~~Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund (#21370): $3,000,000.~~

~~(F)~~ Financial Institutions Supervision Fund (#21065): $1,100,000.

(F) Workforce Education and Training Fund (#21913): $2,598,921.75.

(G) Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Fund (#21994): the balance of the fund at the close of fiscal year 2025.

(2) The following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of unencumbered fund balances, shall be transferred from the following funds to the General Fund. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

(A) AG-Fees & Reimbursements-Court Order Fund (#21638): $2,000,000.

(B) Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): ~~$6,500,000~~ $12,262,352.

(3) ~~$66,935,000~~ $65,060,450.50 of the net unencumbered fund balances in the Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075), the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085), and the Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21080) shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.3 of the Rules for State Matching Funds under the Federal Public Assistance Program, in fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration may provide funding from the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund that was transferred pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(J) of this section to subgrantees prior to the completion of a project. In fiscal ~~year~~ years 2025 and 2026, up to 70 percent of the State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project for municipalities that were impacted by ~~the August and December~~ 2023 and 2024 flooding events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT ~~and~~, DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT, DR-4816-VT, and DR-4826-VT may be advanced at the request of a municipality.

(2) Notwithstanding Sec. 1.4.1 of the Rules for State Matching Funds Under the Federal Public Assistance Program, the Secretary of Administration shall increase the standard State funding match on the nonfederal share of an approved project to the highest percentage possible given available funding for municipalities in counties that were impacted by ~~the August and December~~ 2023 and 2024 flooding events and are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT ~~and~~, DR-4762-VT, DR-4810-VT, DR-4816-VT, and DR-4826-VT.

* * *

Sec. C.103 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(d) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(8) $835,073 General Fund for the Bridges to Health Program; ~~and~~

(9) ~~$400,000~~ $550,000 General Fund for the Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey; and

(10) $500,000 General Fund for community grants related to health equity.

(e) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $16,500,000 General Fund for the General Assistance Emergency Housing program;

(2) $1,034,065 General Fund to extend 10 Economic Services Division limited service positions, including associated operating costs, in support of the General Assistance Emergency Housing program; ~~and~~

(3) $332,000 General Fund for a 2-1-1 service line contract to operate 24 hours seven days per week;

(4) $340,000 General Fund and $660,000 federal funds for the Office of Child Support mainframe transition planning. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 703, unless otherwise reverted by a future act of the General Assembly, these appropriations shall carry forward until fully expended; and

(5) $1,800,000 General Fund shall be added to the appropriation made in Sec. B.1102(b)(4) of this act for the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System.

* * *

(n) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~$3,913,200~~ $5,586,324 General Fund and ~~$5,366,383~~ $7,713,259 federal funds to be used for Global Commitment match for the Medicaid Global Payment Program. To the extent that at a future date the Global Payment Program ceases to operate as a program or changes methodology to a retrospective payment program, any resulting one-time General Fund spending authority remaining at that time shall be reverted. If the Human Services Caseload Reserve established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b has not been replenished in accordance with subdivision (b)(21) of Sec. B.1102 of this act, the remaining unallocated General Fund balance shall be reserved in the Human Services Caseload Reserve established in 32 V.S.A. § 308b up to the amount appropriated in this subdivision.

(o) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~$9,279,583~~ $13,299,583 Global Commitment for the Medicaid Global Payment Program;

(2) $150,000 General Fund to conduct a technical analysis of Vermont's health insurance markets; ~~and~~

(3) $100,000 General Fund to implement the expansion of Medicare Savings Programs eligibility;

(4) $10,000,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants; and

(5) $11,000,000 General Fund for an alternative payment model reconciliation payment to Brattleboro Retreat. All or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match. If funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match, the commensurate amount of Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to Sec. E.301.1 of this act.

* * *

(v) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) ~~$200,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities that were impacted by the August and December 2023 flooding events in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4744-VT and DR-4762-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic impacts of the August and December 2023 flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal Emergency Management Agency related projects~~ $1,800,000 General Fund for local economic damage grants to municipalities in counties that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declarations DR-4810-VT and DR-4744-VT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these local economic damage grants be distributed to municipalities throughout the State to address the secondary economic impacts of 2023 and 2024 flooding events. Monies from these grants shall not be expended on Federal Emergency Management Agency-related projects.

(A) The funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) for local economic damage grants shall be distributed as follows:

(i) $75,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has at least $5,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(ii) $50,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than $5,000,000 and at least $2,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(iii) $30,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than $2,000,000 and at least $1,000,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(iv) $20,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than $1,000,000 and at least $250,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(v) $10,000 to each municipality that as of June 1, 2025 has less than $250,000 and at least $100,000 in estimated reported damages to public infrastructure relating to 2023 and 2024 flooding events.

(B) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) have not been granted on or before September 30, 2025, they shall revert to the General Fund and be transferred to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund.

(C) To the extent that the funds appropriated in this subdivision (v)(1) are insufficient to distribute grants to all eligible municipalities in their full amount, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511, utilize excess receipt authority to establish spending authority from the PILOT Special Fund for this purpose; and

(2) $3,800,000 General Fund to ensure the appropriations made in Secs. B.514 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act are sufficient to meet 100 percent of the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution. Appropriations made in Secs. B.513 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(13) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether the appropriations made in Secs. B.514 of this act and the fiscal year 2026 appropriations act are sufficient to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution requirement is funded at 100 percent in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose.

(w) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $2,800,000 General Fund to complete pilot projects identified pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186.

(x) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $800,000 General Fund to upgrade the network wiring and security systems in county court houses; and

(2) $50,000 General Fund to upgrade or construct bathrooms in the Essex Meeting House that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(y) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $68,407 Education Fund for a grant to the Essex North Supervisory Union to eliminate a fiscal year 2025 Transportation Grant shortfall due to a data submission error; and

(2) $149,666 Education Fund for a grant to the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union to eliminate a fiscal year 2025 Transportation Grant shortfall due to a data submission error.

Sec. C.104 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 40, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $2,300,000 General Fund to create, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide language access plan;

(2) $15,000,000 General Fund to be used to offset the cost of denied claims for ~~Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)~~ federal reimbursement related to presidentially declared disasters in fiscal year 2024 or 2025, or to fund unanticipated statewide costs related to recovery efforts from declared disasters or administering programs created by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act – State Fiscal Recovery Fund, including the costs of related limited-service positions, and contracting for programs and services;~~.~~

(3) $500,000 General Fund for community grants related to health equity. These funds shall not be released until the recommendation and report required by Sec. E.100.1 of this act, regarding the permanent administrative location for the Office of Health Equity, is provided to the committees of jurisdiction listed in Sec. E.100.1 of this act and the positions in the Office of Health Equity created by this act are filled; and

(4) $30,000,000 General Fund to be used as ~~Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) matching funds~~ nonfederal share related to disaster spending for costs incurred due to ~~the July 2023 flooding event~~ federally declared disasters in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

* * *

(l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(2) $8,834,000 General Fund and $11,483,302 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic investments with community partners; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

(m) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $366,066 General Fund and $372,048 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

(2) $15,583,352 Global Commitment Fund #20405 for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose; and

* * *

(n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of Substance Use Programs for a ~~two-year~~ pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

(o) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $2,000,000 General Fund to implement the two-year Reach Ahead Pilot Program. Funds shall be used to increase monthly food assistance benefits to Reach Ahead participants, expand the eligibility window for those leaving Reach Up, and provide incentive payments; unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into subsequent fiscal years and remain available for this purpose;

* * *

(ee) Joint Fiscal Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $250,000 for ~~per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Task Force on Economic Development Incentives and for consulting services approved by the Task Force~~ consulting services related to legislative needs identified in the 2025–2026 biennium, including analysis of legislative staff compensation and organizational structure and implementation of adjustments in accordance with policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

* * *

Sec. C.105 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.110 is amended to read:

Sec. C.110 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; REVERSION AND REALLOCATION

(a) The Secretary of Administration ~~shall revert~~ may reimburse up to ~~$5,000,000~~ $14,300,000 of prior fiscal year federal funds ~~appropriated~~ expended through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to Grant Request #3034~~. An amount of spending authority equal to these reversions shall be provided, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511, to existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury~~ with new General Fund appropriations transferred from existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury. These programs shall receive an amount of spending authority from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program equal to the amount of General Fund appropriation transferred.

Sec. C.106 BUSINESS EMERGENCY GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GRANT

(a) Of the $7,000,000 General Fund provided to the Department of Housing and Community Development by unanimous vote of the Emergency Board on August 8, 2024 for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program, $2,000,000 shall be used for a grant to the Vermont Economic Development Authority to establish a disaster relief fund for use by businesses following a natural disaster.

Sec. C.107 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.103 is amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

* * *

(b) In fiscal year 2025, $5,000,000 shall be reserved within the Child Care Contribution Special Fund. If in fiscal year 2026 the Child Care Contribution Special Fund is found to have an undesignated fund deficit, these funds shall be unreserved and used to the extent necessary to offset the deficit as determined by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. If these funds are used in fiscal year 2026, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, or the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, on the amount used.

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

Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

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

(1) The sum of $591,137 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of $591,137 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of $36,964,250 from the property transfer tax and the surcharge established by 32 V.SA. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of $2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the reduction of $1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and $1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2026 appropriation of $36,964,250 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the $1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the $1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2), amounts in excess of $10,000,705 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund shall be transferred into the

General Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3), the $10,000,705 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) $7,740,546 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) $1,260,089 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) $1,000,070 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

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

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

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): $81,155,462.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21952): $9,647,469.

(C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): $4,300,000.

(D) Fish and Wildlife Fund – Nondedicated (#20305): $185,000.

(E) Education Fund (#20205): $77,200,000.

(F) Communications and Information Technology Fund (#58100): $7,000,000.

(G) Environmental Contingency Fund (#21275): $9,520,000.

(i) The transfer in subdivision (a)(1)(G) of this section shall be increased by the amount reverted in Sec. D.102(b) of this act. For the purpose of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget this amount is estimated to be no less than $2,000,000.

(H) Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund (#21926): $450,000.

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

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): $305,825.

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

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

(A) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): $1,500,000.

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

(A) Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (#21933): $11,000,000.

(B) Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (#21938): $120,000.

(5) From the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21953) to the:

(A) Transportation Fund (#20105): $12,500,000.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments Fund (#21952): $1,000,000.

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

(A) General Fund (#10000): $4,641,960.

(7) From the Attorney General Fees and Reimbursement Court Order Fund (#21638) to the:

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

(8) From the Cannabis Regulation Fund (#21998) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): 70 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of $4,035,000 following the close of fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be $8,900,000.

(B) Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund (#21995): 30 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of $4,035,000 following the close of fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be $3,800,000.

(b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget and do not supersede the actual year-end transfer amounts.

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

(A) 8 V.S.A. § 80(d). Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075): $46,204,523.

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085): $21,745,635.

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): $7,389,063.

(2) To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $1,053,073

(c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund (#10000) shall not exceed the actual fiscal year end profits earned by the enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget only.

(1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): $7,600,000.

(2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): $14,849,754.

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

1100892208	AOA – VHFA	$2,000,000.00
1210892201	LEG – Pension Benefit Consul	$8,821.25
1220891803	VT Tax Structure Comm	$59,673.09
1220891901	Contract Services for Research	$25,000.00
1220892201	JFO – AAHC Task Force Consult	$7,155.00
1220892301	JFO – Studies and Reports	$21,125.50
1230891301	Security	$39.10
1230892301	SAA – Capitol Police	$0.99
1260892201	TRE – Bond Redemption	$6,000,000.00

(b) Any unencumbered balance remaining in the appropriation established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1103(h), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 43, at the close of fiscal year 2025 shall

revert in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 703 and shall be exempt from the carryforward authority provided to the Secretary of Administration in Sec. F.182(a) of this act.

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.

(A) The General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308. For purposes of developing this budget, $1,685,385 is expected to be unreserved in fiscal year 2026.

(B) The General Fund Human Services Caseload Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308b. For purposes of developing this budget, $2,721,375 is expected to be unreserved in fiscal year 2026.

(C) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, $5,700,000 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2026.

(2) Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash for Capital and Essential Investments Fund.

(A) $12,500,000 is unreserved for transfer to the Transportation Fund for use by the Agency of Transportation in accordance with the provisions for which the funds were originally reserved in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1102(b)(17).

(B) $14,500,000 is unreserved for use by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with the provisions for which the funds were originally reserved in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b).

(3) Transportation Fund.

(A) For the purpose of calculating the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Fund Stabilization Reserve's requirement of five percent of prior year appropriations, fiscal year 2025 Transportation Fund reversions are deducted from the fiscal year 2025 total appropriations amount.

* * * General Government * * *

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of three permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2026 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

(A) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(i) one Fish and Wildlife Specialist.

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

(A) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs:

(i) one Financial and IT Specialist; and

(ii) one Transport Deputy.

(b) The establishment of three limited service classified position is authorized in fiscal year 2026:

(1) Office of the State Treasurer:

(A) one Climate Superfund Specialist.

(2) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Pre-Charge Administrator.

(3) Office of the Secretary of State:

(A) one Administrative Coordinator IV.

(c) The establishment of one limited service exempt position is authorized in fiscal year 2026:

(1) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Solicitor General.

(d) The conversion of two limited service exempt positions to permanent classified status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

(1) Land Use Review Board:

(A) two District Coordinators.

(e) The conversion of nine limited service exempt positions to permanent exempt status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

(1) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs:

(A) six Deputy State's Attorneys;

(B) two Legal Assistants; and

(C) one Victim Advocate.

Sec. E.100.1 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.100, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 56, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of 75 permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 for the following:

* * *

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

* * *

(F) Office of the State Treasurer:

(i) one Director – ~~VT Saves~~ Economic Empowerment Division; and

(ii) one Communications and Outreach Manager – ~~VT Saves~~ Economic Empowerment Division;

* * *

(d) The establishment of 23 new exempt limited service positions is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

* * *

(2) ~~Agency of Administration~~ Department of Health – Health Equity Advisory Commission:

(A) one Private Secretary.

* * *

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

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July, September, and November 2025 meetings, and at other meetings as requested, on any reductions to federal revenues to the State and the status of any appropriations impacted by such reductions.

Sec. E.100.3 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT; CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND APPROPRIATIONS; REPORTING

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of appropriations made from the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(b) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of any spending authority established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(c) Any spending authority established pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106(a) and (c) that remains unexpended and unencumbered on December 31, 2027 shall revert to the General Fund. Any unallocated balance resulting from this reversion shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve.

(d) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on or before January 15, 2028 on the amount reverted to the General Fund and reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

Sec. E.105 AGENCY OF DIGITAL SERVICES; COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND TRANSFER

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the Agency of Digital Services shall utilize from the Internal Service Fund appropriation in Sec. B.105 of this act an amount of funds equal to that transferred from the General Fund to the Communications and Information Technology Fund in this act to cover the costs of transitioning billable services from a service level agreement model to a core enterprise services model. To the extent to which these funds are insufficient to complete this transition, the Agency shall, as part of its fiscal year 2026 budget adjustment presentation, request an additional appropriation or transfer of funds and shall not bill other agencies or departments to cover the costs of the transition.

Sec. E.111 32 V.S.A. § 5824 is amended to read:

§ 5824. ADOPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS

The statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax, as in effect on December 31, ~~2023~~ 2024, but without regard to federal income tax rates under 26 U.S.C. § 1, are hereby adopted for the purpose of computing the tax liability under this chapter and shall continue in effect as adopted until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

Sec. E.111.1 32 V.S.A. § 7402 is amended to read:

§ 7402. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:

* * *

(8) "Laws of the United States" means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, ~~2023~~ 2024. As used in this chapter, "Internal Revenue Code" has the same meaning as "laws of the United States" as defined in this subdivision. The date through which amendments to the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are adopted under this subdivision shall continue in effect until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. E.111.2 32 V.S.A. § 5861(c) is amended to read:

(c) Spouses or a surviving spouse ~~may~~ shall file a joint Vermont personal income tax return for any taxable year for which the spouses file or the surviving spouse ~~are permitted to file~~ files a joint federal income tax return under the laws of the United States, unless the Commissioner allows a different filing status.

Sec. E.111.3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS; TAX YEAR 2025

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of an organization, Vermont tax laws for tax year 2025 shall follow 26 U.S.C. §§ 501–506 and all other federal statutory provisions, federal regulations, and federal case law relating to the determination of an organization's tax-exempt status for purposes of federal income taxation, as in effect on April 1, 2025, regardless of any amendments or other changes affecting implementation or interpretation of those sections between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, whether due to an act of Congress, federal regulation, federal bulletin, federal guidance, presidential executive order, federal administrative or judicial decision, or other federal source.

Sec. E.126 FISCAL YEAR 2026 INCREASED LEGISLATURE BASE FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.126 of this act, $1,500,000 be for expenses including meetings of the General Assembly not budgeted for in prior, current, or future appropriations acts. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that the proposed fiscal year 2027 General Assembly budget exclude this $1,500,000 from any calculation of its base appropriation amount.

Sec. E.127 32 V.S.A. § 704 is amended to read:

§ 704. INTERIM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS

(a) The General Assembly recognizes that acts of appropriations and their sources of funding reflect the priorities for expenditures of public funds enacted by the General Assembly and that major reductions or transfers, when required by reduced State revenues or other reasons, ought to be made whenever possible by an act of the General Assembly reflecting its revisions of those priorities. Nevertheless, the General Assembly also recognizes that when it is not in session, it may be necessary to reduce authorized appropriations and their sources of funding, and funds may need to be transferred, to maintain a balanced State budget. Under these limited circumstances, it is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations may be reduced and funds transferred when the General Assembly is not in session pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(b)(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f) of this section, in each instance that the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, or federal funds has been reduced by one percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations, the Secretary of Administration shall prepare an expenditure reduction plan for consideration and approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reductions in the official State revenue estimate.

(2) In each instance that the official State revenue estimate for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, or federal funds has been reduced by less than one percent from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the current fiscal year's appropriations, the Secretary of Administration may prepare and implement an expenditure reduction plan without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reductions in the official State revenue estimate. The Secretary may implement an expenditure

reduction plan under this subdivision if plan reductions to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection do not exceed five percent, the plan is designed to minimize any negative effects on the delivery of services to the public, and the plan does not have any unduly disproportionate effect on any single function, program, service, benefit, or county. Plans not requiring the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee shall be filed with the Joint Fiscal Office prior to implementation. If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five percent to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. E.127.1 32 V.S.A. § 308c is amended to read:

§ 308c. GENERAL FUND AND TRANSPORTATION FUND BALANCE RESERVES

(a) There is hereby created within the General Fund a General Fund Balance Reserve, also known as the "Rainy Day Reserve." After satisfying the requirements of section 308 of this title, and after other reserve requirements have been met, any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year General Fund surplus shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve. The General Fund Balance Reserve shall not exceed ~~five~~ 10 percent of the appropriations from the General Fund for the prior fiscal year without legislative authorization.

(1), (2) [Repealed.]

(3) Of the funds that would otherwise be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve under this subsection, the following amounts shall be reserved as necessary and transferred from the General Fund as follows:

(A) 25 percent to the Vermont State Retirement Fund established by 3 V.S.A. § 473; and

(B) 25 percent to the Postretirement Adjustment Allowance Account established in 16 V.S.A. § 1949a.

(b)(1) The General Assembly may ~~specifically~~ unreserve and appropriate ~~the use of up to 50 percent of the amounts added in the prior fiscal year from~~ or transfer an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the General Fund Balance Reserve to fund unforeseen or emergency needs. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any General Fund Balance Reserve funds utilized in accordance with this section be replenished.

(2) If the official State revenue estimates of the Emergency Board for the General Fund, determined under section 305a of this title, have been reduced by two percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the ~~general~~ appropriations act or budget adjustment act, funds in the General Fund Balance Reserve may be unreserved and appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly to compensate for a reduction of revenues.

(c) There is hereby created within the Transportation Fund a Transportation Fund Balance Reserve. After satisfying the requirements of section 308a of this title, and after other reserve requirements have been met, any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year Transportation Fund surplus shall be reserved in the Transportation Fund Balance Reserve. Monies from this Reserve shall be available for appropriation by the General Assembly.

(d) Determination of the amounts of the General Fund and Transportation Fund Balance Reserves shall be made by the Commissioner of Finance and Management and reported, along with the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to the legislative Joint Fiscal Committee at its first meeting following September 1 of each year.

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

(a) As used in this section:

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

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

(b) In each instance that a reduction in federal revenues to the State results in a decrease of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit by:

(1) Less than 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total or $2,000,000, whichever threshold amount is greater, the Secretary of Administration shall notify the Joint Fiscal Committee and may prepare and implement a spending authority reduction plan without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reduction in the federal revenues. If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five

percent to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection of any appropriations act, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in 32 V.S.A. § 704(b)(2).

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

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

(B) to maintain a balanced State budget, to minimize the impact to Vermonters and to abide by the legislative intent set forth by the General Assembly in this act, the Joint Fiscal Committee may make a recommendation to the Emergency Board to:

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

(ii) revert any unexpended and unobligated funds; and

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

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

Sec. E.127.3 FISCAL YEAR 2026 FEE REPORT; GENERAL GOVERNMENT

(a) Fiscal year 2026 fee information. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices that receive appropriations in Secs. B.100-199, B.400-599, and B. 800-999 of this act shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a comprehensive fee report for each fee that is in effect in fiscal year 2026. The fee report shall contain the following information for each fee:

(1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;

(2) the current rate or amount of the fee and the date the fee was last set or adjusted by the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;

(3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;

(4) the amount of the revenues derived from the fee in each of the five fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2026;

(5) the number of times that the fee was paid in each of the two fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2026;

(6) a projection of the fee revenues in fiscal years 2026 and 2027;

(7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory function performed by the agency, department, board or office supported by the fee;

(8) the amount of the fee if adjusted for inflation from the last time the fee amount was modified using an appropriate index chosen in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office. The inflation adjustment shall be calculated as the percentage change between the value of the index in the July of the year the fee was last adjusted by the General Assembly and July 2025;

(9) if any portion of the fee revenue is deposited into a special fund, the percentage of the special fund's revenues that the fee represents;

(10) any available information regarding comparable fees in other jurisdictions;

(11) any polices or trends that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

(12) any other relevant considerations for setting the fee amount.

(b) Reports.

(1) The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide guidance as necessary to the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section on the methodology to be used for compiling the information requested in the fee reports. On or before October 15, 2025, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a draft report of the information required in subdivisions (a)(1)–(12) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office for review. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices shall work with the Joint Fiscal Office to finalize the report before submitting the final report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) On or before December 15, 2025, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) shall submit a jointly prepared final report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

(3) If any of the information requested in this section cannot be provided for any reason, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) shall include in both the draft and final reports a written explanation for why the information cannot be provided.

(c) As used in this section, as it pertains to Executive Branch agencies, departments, boards, and offices, "fee" means any source of State revenue classified by the Department of Finance and Management Accounting System as "fees," "business licenses," "nonbusiness licenses," and "fines and penalties."

(d) Executive Branch fee report moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal year 2026, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated Executive Branch fee annual report and request to the General Assembly.

Sec. E.131 3 V.S.A. chapter 18 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 18. ~~VT~~ VERMONT SAVES

§ 531. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) "Covered employer" means a person, entity, or subsidiary engaged in a business, industry, profession, trade, or other enterprise in the State, whether for profit or not for profit, that ~~has~~ does not ~~offered~~ currently offer to an employee, or is within a control group that maintains or contributes to, ~~effective in form or operation at any time within the current calendar year or two preceding calendar years,~~ a specified tax-favored retirement plan. If an employer does not maintain a specified tax-favored retirement plan for a portion of a calendar year ending on or after the effective date of this chapter but does adopt such a plan for the remainder of that calendar year, the employer is not a covered employer for the remainder of the year. A covered employer does not include:

(A) the federal government, the State or any other state, any county or municipal corporation, or any of the State's or any other state's units or instrumentalities;

(B) any employer that has ~~not~~ only been in business during ~~both~~ the current calendar year ~~and the preceding calendar year~~.

(4) "ERISA" means the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C § 1001 et seq.

(5) "Internal Revenue Code" means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(6) "IRA" means a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA.

(7) "Participant" means an individual who has an IRA under the Program.

(8) "Payroll deduction IRA or payroll deduction IRA arrangement" means an arrangement by which an employer allows employees to contribute to an IRA by means of payroll deduction.

(9) "Program" means the ~~VT~~ Vermont Saves Program established in accordance with this chapter.

* * *

§ 532. ~~VT~~ VERMONT SAVES PROGRAM; ESTABLISHMENT

(a) Establishment; purpose. There is established the ~~VT~~ Vermont Saves Program (Program), administered by the Office of the State Treasurer, for the purpose of increasing financial security for Vermonters by providing access to an IRA for Vermont employees of companies that do not currently offer a retirement savings program. The Program shall be designed to facilitate portability of benefits through withdrawals, rollovers, and direct transfers from an IRA and achieve economies of scale and other efficiencies to minimize costs. The Program shall:

* * *

(b) Type of IRA. The type of IRA to which contributions are made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be a Roth IRA; provided, however, the State Treasurer is authorized to add an option for all participants to:

(1) affirmatively elect to contribute to a traditional IRA instead of a Roth IRA; or

(2) open both a Roth IRA and a traditional IRA.

(c) Contributions.

(1) Unless otherwise specified by the covered employee, a covered employee shall automatically initially contribute five percent of the covered employee's salary or wages to the Program. A covered employee may elect to

opt out of the Program at any time or contribute at any higher or lower rate, expressed as a percentage of salary or wages, or, as permitted by the State Treasurer, expressed as a flat dollar amount, subject in all cases to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code at no additional charge.

(2) The State Treasurer shall provide for, on a uniform basis, an annual increase of each active participant's contribution rate, by not less than one percent, but not more than eight percent, of salary or wages each year. Any such increases shall apply to active participants, including participants by default with an option to opt out or participants who are initiated by affirmative participant election, provided that any increase is subject to the IRA contribution and eligibility limits applicable under the Internal Revenue Code.

* * *

Sec. E.131.1 29 V.S.A. chapter 61 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 61. MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE LOAN FUND

§ 1601. MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE LOAN FUND

(a) There is hereby created the Municipal Equipment and Vehicle Loan Fund for the purpose of providing loans on favorable terms to municipalities for the purchase of ~~construction, fire, emergency, or heavy equipment or~~ motorized highway building and maintenance equipment, heavy equipment, and authorized emergency vehicles as set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

(b) The Municipal Equipment and Vehicle Loan Fund shall be administered by a committee composed of the State Treasurer and the State Traffic Committee established by 19 V.S.A. § 1(24), pursuant to policies and procedures approved by ~~the Traffic~~ this Committee ~~established by 19 V.S.A. § 1(24)~~ with administrative support from the Office of the State Treasurer. The Committee shall establish criteria for distribution of available loan funds among municipalities considering at least financial need, equitable geographic distribution, and ability to repay. The Fund shall be a revolving fund and all principal and interest earned on loans and the fund balance remaining in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall ~~not revert but~~ be ~~carried over in the Fund~~ available for use in the succeeding fiscal year. The Committee shall meet upon request of the State Treasurer to consider applications.

§ 1602. APPLICATION; LOANS; CONDITIONS

(a) Application forms shall be furnished by the Committee on request. Upon Committee approval of an application of a municipality or two or more municipalities applying jointly for purchases as set forth in subsection 1601(a)

of this title, the State Treasurer may loan money from the Fund to ~~that municipality or municipalities for the purchase of equipment. Purchases of equipment eligible for loans~~ the applicants. Loans from the Fund shall ~~have~~ be used on equipment and vehicles with a useful life of at least five years and a purchase price of at least $20,000.00 ~~but shall not be eligible for loans in excess of $150,000.00 from this Fund~~.

(b) The State Treasurer is authorized to establish terms and conditions, including repayment schedules of up to five years for loans from the Fund to ensure repayment of loans to the Fund. The amount of any loan shall be not more than 75 percent of the purchase price or $150,000, whichever is lower. Before a municipality may receive a loan from the Fund, it shall give to the State Treasurer security for the repayment of the funds. The security shall be in such form and amount as the State Treasurer may determine and may include a lien on the equipment or emergency vehicle financed by the loan.

(c) The rates of interest shall be as established by this section to assist municipalities in purchasing equipment upon terms more favorable than in the commercial market. Such rates shall be not more than two percent per annum for a loan to a single municipality, and loans shall bear no interest charge if made to two or more municipalities purchasing equipment jointly.

(d) In any fiscal year, new loans from the ~~Municipal Equipment Loan~~ Fund shall not exceed an aggregate of $1,500,000.00. ~~The Treasurer shall put forth recommendations to the General Assembly on maximum loan amount every five years, commencing January 15, 2028, based on requests received and loans granted pursuant to this chapter.~~

(e) When a municipality suffers the destruction of more than one piece of equipment or a vehicle at or near the same time or suffers some unanticipated hardship relating to the equipment or vehicle and the Committee finds that replacement would place an undue financial hardship on the municipality, the Committee may waive one or both of the following loan limiting factors in subsection (b) of this section:

(1) the $150,000 annual limitation on each municipality; or

(2) the 75 percent of the purchase price limitation.

(f) The State Treasurer shall put forth recommendations to the General Assembly on the maximum individual loan amount from the Fund every five years, commencing on January 15, 2028, based on requests received and loans granted pursuant to this chapter in the five preceding years.

* * *

Sec. E.131.2 32 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

§ 1001. CAPITAL DEBT AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) Committee estimate of a prudent amount of net State tax-supported debt; affordability considerations. On or before September 30 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly the Committee's estimate of net State tax-supported debt that prudently may be authorized for the next fiscal year, together with a report explaining the basis for the estimate. The Committee's estimate shall not take into consideration the balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the subaccounts of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments, established pursuant to section 1001b of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In developing its annual estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the Committee shall consider:

* * *

(4) The criteria that recognized bond rating agencies use to judge the quality of issues of State bonds, including:

(A) existing and projected total debt service on net tax-supported debt as a percentage of combined General and Transportation Fund revenues, excluding surpluses in these revenues that may occur in an individual fiscal year; ~~and~~

(B) existing and projected total net tax-supported debt outstanding as a percentage of total State personal income;

(C) existing and projected pension and other postemployment benefit liability metrics; and

(D) other metrics at the Committee's discretion, including long-term liabilities not covered in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (4).

(5) The principal amounts currently outstanding, and balances for the next fiscal year, and annually for the following nine fiscal years, of existing:

(A) obligations of instrumentalities of the State for which the State has a contingent or limited liability;

(B) any other long-term debt of instrumentalities of the State not secured by the full faith and credit of the State, or for which the General Assembly is permitted to replenish reserve funds; and

(C) to the maximum extent obtainable, all long-term debt of municipal governments in Vermont that is secured by general tax or user fee revenues.

(6) The impact of capital spending upon the economic conditions and outlook for the State.

(7) The cost-benefit of various levels of debt financing, types of debt, and maturity schedules.

(8) Any projections of capital needs authorized or prepared by the Agency of Transportation, the Joint Fiscal Office, or other agencies or departments.

(9) Any other factor that is relevant to:

(A) the ability of the State to meet its projected debt service requirements for the next five fiscal years; or

(B) the interest rate to be borne by the credit rating on, or other factors affecting the marketability of State bonds.

(10) The effect of authorizations of new State debt on each of the considerations of this section.

(11) The capital asset depreciation ratio reflecting unfunded capital maintenance costs.

* * *

Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $3,339,343 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, $2,247,471 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,091,872 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $1,921,020 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, $1,494,924 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $426,096 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.134.1 3 V.S.A. § 525 is added to read:

§ 525. VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; MARKET FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The Department of Human Resources shall conduct and implement a market factor analysis for all classified positions within the Vermont Pension Investment Commission not later than January 15, 2026, and every three years thereafter. The market factor analysis may:

(1) follow all policies and procedures established by the Department of Human Resources for conducting market factor analyses;

(2) compare total compensation for comparable positions in relevant public labor markets, with particular attention to other public pension investment organizations of similar asset size and investment complexity;

(3) consider the specialized skills, education, certifications, and experience required for investment-related positions;

(4) evaluate recruitment and retention challenges specific to these positions;

(5) recommend appropriate market factor adjustments when warranted by the analysis; and

(6) include an assessment of the fiscal impact of any recommended market factor adjustments.

Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act, $9,000 shall be transferred to the Attorney General and $70,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review and used with any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list appeals regarding the reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other expenses incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in Vermont.

Sec. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

(a) This appropriation is for State payments in lieu of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4, and the payments shall be calculated in addition to and without regard to the appropriations for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act. Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.142.1 32 V.S.A. § 3709 is amended to read:

§ 3709. PILOT SPECIAL FUND

(a) There is hereby established a PILOT Special Fund consisting of local option tax revenues paid to the State Treasurer pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. This Fund shall be managed by the Commissioner of Taxes pursuant to chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title. Notwithstanding subdivision 588(3) of this title, all interest earned on the Fund shall be retained in the Fund for use in meeting future obligations. The Fund shall be exclusively for payments required under chapter 123, ~~subchapter~~ subchapters 4 and 4C of this title, and for any additional State payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities ~~and to the City of Montpelier~~. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts.

* * *

Sec. E.142.2 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4C is added to read:

Subchapter 4C. Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program

§ 3710. MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST STABILIZATION PROGRAM

(a) There is established the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program within the Department of Taxes to reimburse municipalities for municipal property taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title for flood-prone properties acquired by a municipality through a voluntary buyout program operated by the Division of Emergency Management.

(b) On or before September 1 of each year, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall certify to the Commissioner of Taxes the properties eligible for the Municipal Grand List Stabilization Program and shall submit any other information required by the Commissioner of Taxes. To be eligible for the Program under this subchapter, a municipality must have acquired an eligible property on or after July 1, 2023 and preserved the property as open space with a deed restriction or covenant prohibiting development of the property. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall first certify properties to the Commissioner of Taxes pursuant to this subsection on or before September 1, 2025.

(c) Upon notification by the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Commissioner of Taxes shall certify the payment amounts and make an annual payment to each municipality for each eligible property to compensate for the loss of municipal property tax. The payment shall be calculated using the grand list value of the acquired property for the year during which the property was either damaged by flooding or identified as flood-prone by the Commissioner of Public Safety, multiplied by the municipal tax rate, including

any submunicipal tax rates, in effect each year. This payment shall be made on or before January 1 of each year for five years.

(d) A property shall not be eligible for reimbursement payments for more than 10 years. The Commissioner shall make an annual payment for the full amount calculated under subsection (c) of this section for five years. After a municipality has received payments for an eligible property for five consecutive years, the Commissioner shall make an annual payment to the municipality for any subsequent year of eligibility in an amount equal to one-half of the amount calculated under subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Payment under this section shall be calculated and issued from the PILOT Special Fund under section 3709 of this title only after all other grants under subchapter 4 of this chapter are calculated and issued. If the PILOT Special Fund balance is insufficient to pay the full amount of all payments authorized under this subchapter, then payments calculated under this section and due to each municipality for each property shall be reduced proportionately.

Sec. E.144 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

(a) Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit activities.

(b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b)(4), $1,802,200 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

Sec. E.200.1 9 V.S.A. § 2473 is amended to read:

§ 2473. NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

* * *

(f)(1) For each calendar year in which a paid fundraiser solicits in this State on behalf of a charitable organization, the paid fundraiser shall pay a registration fee of ~~$500.00~~ $675.00 to the Attorney General ~~no~~ not later than ~~ten~~ 10 days prior to its first solicitation in this State.

(2) Each notice of solicitation filed in accordance with this section shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~$200.00~~ $270.00. In the case of a campaign lasting more than 12 months, an additional ~~$200.00~~ $270.00 fee shall be paid annually on or before the date of the anniversary of the commencement of the campaign.

(3) Fees paid under this subsection shall be deposited in a special fund managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5~~,~~ and shall be available to the Attorney General for the costs of administering sections 2471–2479 of this title.

Sec. E.200.2 18 V.S.A. § 4632 is amended to read:

§ 4632. DISCLOSURE OF ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES AND GIFTS BY MANUFACTURERS OF PRESCRIBED PRODUCTS

* * *

(b)(1) Annually on or before April 1, the Office of the Attorney General shall collect a ~~$500.00~~ $765.00 fee from each manufacturer of prescribed products filing annual disclosures of expenditures greater than zero described in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Fees collected under this section shall fund collection and analysis of information on activities related to the marketing of prescribed products under section 4631a of this title and under this section. The fees shall be collected in a special fund assigned to the Office.

* * *

Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY; ADMINISTRATION

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

Sec. E.208.1 PUBLIC SAFETY; CAPITAL PLAN

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Public Safety shall submit a capital plan for the replacement of firearms and mobile and portable radio equipment to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Sec. E.208.2 VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont's seven active community radio stations currently serve over 200,000 Vermonters, many in rural and underserved areas.

(2) Community radio stations have consistently provided critical information during emergencies, including Tropical Storm Irene, recent severe flooding, and other natural disasters.

(3) These stations operate with small budgets, primarily relying on volunteer staff and listener donations, and are ineligible for federal funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting due to their size.

(4) Upcoming FCC-approved stations in Bristol, Richmond-Underhill-Jericho, and Ludlow will expand coverage to nearly all Vermont counties, increasing statewide accessibility to vital community radio services.

(5) Investment in these stations strengthens Vermont's public safety network and promotes civic engagement by providing local, hyper-focused content that commercial and statewide media cannot replicate.

(b) Intent. The intent of this section is to ensure Vermont's community radio stations remain resilient and prepared to serve as lifelines during emergencies while fostering local engagement and preserving Vermont's unique community fabric.

(c) Grant program.

(1) The Vermont Community Radio Grant Program is established to provide one-time funding to community radio stations for the purpose of:

(A) upgrading equipment and infrastructure necessary for reliable emergency broadcasting;

(B) procuring and installing backup generators; and

(C) enhancing operational sustainability through software improvements and technical training.

(2) The Program shall be administered by the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee in collaboration with the Vermont Association of Broadcasters.

(3) Grants shall be allocated as follows:

(A) up to $25,000 per station for seven active community radio stations; and

(B) up to $10,000 per station for three upcoming stations currently under construction.

(4) To be eligible for a grant under the Program, an applicant shall:

(A) be a nonprofit, noncommercial community radio station licensed in Vermont;

(B) demonstrate a history of providing emergency broadcasting services or show the capacity to provide those services upon funding; and

(C) submit a detailed implementation plan for the proposed use of grant funding.

(d) Report. On or before June 30, 2026, a community radio station that receives a grant under the Program shall provide to the Commissioner of Public Safety a report detailing the:

(1) use of grant funds, including itemized expenses;

(2) improvements achieved in emergency readiness and operational capacity; and

(3) impact on community service and engagement.

Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY; STATE POLICE

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

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

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

Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY; FIRE SAFETY

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

Sec. E.215 MILITARY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The amount of $1,219,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

Sec. E.219 MILITARY; VETERANS' AFFAIRS

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, $1,000 shall be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; $2,000 shall be used for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council; $7,500 shall be used for the Veterans' Day parade; and $10,000 shall be granted to the American Legion for the Boys' State and Girls' State programs.

Sec. E.221 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL; POOL POSITION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.221 of this act, $115,000 is to fund one permanent classified position taken from the position pool. The position shall be used to establish a Canine Head Trainer at the Criminal Justice Council.

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

(a) The Secretary of State shall grant the $1,350,000 General Fund appropriation, provided in Section B.232 of this act, to the Vermont Access Network to maintain current operations and programming.

Sec. E.232.1 SECRETARY OF STATE; LOCAL CIVIC JOURNALISM AWARDS

(a) As part of its civic engagement and education activities, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, in collaboration with the University of Vermont Center for Community News, make cash awards to local civic journalism organizations or businesses with funds appropriated to it in Sec. B.1100(aa)(1) of this act. The Office of the Secretary of State shall, in collaboration with the University of Vermont Center for Community News, establish award criteria and assemble a panel of three to five journalists, academics, and industry veterans who neither work for eligible organizations nor are eligible to receive awards themselves to determine award recipients. Awards shall be made in amounts between $1,000 and $10,000.

Sec. E.236 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POOL POSITION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.236 of this act, $250,000 is to fund two permanent exempt positions taken from the position pool. The positions shall be used to establish an Intake Specialist and a Staff Attorney Investigator at the Human Rights Commission.

Sec. E.236.1 LIQUOR AND LOTTERY; APPROPRIATION; BUSINESS -TO-BUSINESS WEBSITE

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.236.1 of this act, $1,820,000 Enterprise Fund shall be used for the business-to-business website design and implementation to improve the ordering and payment for on-premise licensees.

Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE, VERMONT LEGAL AID

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

(1) $2,000,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the Health Care Advocate;

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

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

Sec. E.300.1 REPORT; RESIDENTIAL BEDS FOR YOUTH

(a) As part of their fiscal year 2027 budget presentations to the General Assembly, the Agency of Human Services and departments within the Agency of Human Services shall provide coordinated information regarding:

(1) the basis for the projected number of beds per facility to create 41 new beds for youth in high-end facilities under the Departments for Children and Families, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for inpatient, psychiatric residential, stabilization, and treatment services, including projected reductions in out-of-state placements;

(2) the status of capacity at lower level residential and crisis facilities and their capabilities in preventing higher level needs if investments would enable full capacity use; and

(3) a projected five-year operating budget across the Agency and departments for full utilization of the new high-end system components as currently planned, including:

(A) costs to the Department of Vermont Health Access' budget; and

(B) how these costs will impact the overall budgets for lower-level, community-based, prevention, and other services needed to prevent escalation to higher levels of care.

Sec. E.300.2 SETTLEMENT FUNDS; PRIMARY CARE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPORT

(a) The Green Mountain Care Board shall report to the House Committee on Health Care; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of the determination on the distribution of the $11,000,000 from the University of Vermont Medical Center to non-hospital primary care providers pursuant to the Settlement Agreement entered into by the University of Vermont Medical Center, Inc., University of Vermont Health Network, Inc., and the Green Mountain Care Board in April 2025.

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

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

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of $27,887,533 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds as follows:

(1) $24,714,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with $35,286,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of $60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established by 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(2) $3,173,533 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

(c) Up to $4,997,210 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act.

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

(a) To facilitate fiscal year 2026 closeout, the Secretary of Human Services, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, may make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section. A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2026 meeting. The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the Global Commitment section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

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

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

* * *

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

Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT FUND; HOSPITAL DIRECTED PAYMENT PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Human Services may seek a State Directed Payment model with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This payment model will be for a Hospital Directed Payment program. Upon approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency of Human Services' Department of Vermont Health Access, the University of Vermont, and the University of Vermont Medical Center may enter into a mutual agreement on the implementation of the Hospital Directed Payment program.

(b) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves a Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program within the State's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in fiscal year 2026 while the General Assembly is not in session, then, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may approve the Agency of Human Services' allocation and expenditure of excess receipts for Global Commitment Fund spending up to the amount approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program.

(c) In fiscal year 2026, the Agency of Human Services may, to the extent permitted under federal law, reasonably manage the timing of federal fiscal year 2026 Disproportionate Share Hospital payments to hospitals due to the impact the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program payments received in fiscal year 2026 may have on hospitals' eligibility for Disproportionate Share Hospital payments.

(d) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the status of the Vermont Hospital Directed Payment program, the expenditure of excess receipts, and the status of the program's potential impacts on Disproportionate Share Hospital payments at the September and November 2025 meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.306 NURSING HOMES; SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES; EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL RELIEF

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access' Division of Rate Setting shall submit a report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare containing proactive measures and targeted interventions that may be used to reduce the use and amount of future extraordinary financial relief for nursing homes.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Departments of Vermont Health Access and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall present to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on the following:

(1) the number and name of all nursing homes in the State, including:

(A) whether a nursing home is a for-profit or nonprofit organization and the owner's contact information;

(B) the payer mix of each nursing home;

(C) the ratio of employees versus contracted traveler positions at each nursing home and the specific job titles of the contracted traveler positions; and

(D) the average length of patient stay at each nursing home;

(2) the number of skilled nursing facilities seeking extraordinary financial relief in fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025; and

(3) the number of skilled nursing facilities receiving extraordinary financial relief in fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025, including:

(A) the name of each skilled nursing facility;

(B) whether a skilled nursing facility receiving extraordinary financial relief is a for-profit or nonprofit organization;

(C) the amount of extraordinary financial relief received by each skilled nursing facility;

(D) the reason extraordinary financial relief was sought by each skilled nursing facility; and

(E) the reason extraordinary financial relief was awarded to each skilled nursing facility.

Sec. E.306.1 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.306.4 is amended to read:

Sec. E.306.4 MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS; INCOME ELIGIBILITY

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall make the following changes to the Medicare Savings Programs:

(1) increase the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program income threshold to ~~145~~ 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

(2) increase the Qualifying Individual Program income threshold to the maximum percent of the federal poverty level allowed under federal law based on the increase to the income threshold for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. E.306.2 OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall maintain open enrollment for the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange from November 1, 2025 through January 15, 2026. The Department of Vermont Health Access and registered carriers shall allow a period of one calendar month beyond the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' deadline of December 15, 2025 for 2026 plan selection in order to encourage enrollment and to allow enrollees to make plan selection changes.

Sec. E.306.3 33 V.S.A. § 1811 is amended to read:

§ 1811. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL EMPLOYERS

* * *

(l)(1) A registered carrier shall allow for the enrollment of a pregnant individual, and of any individual who is eligible for coverage under the terms of the health benefit plan because of a relationship to the pregnant individual, at any time after the commencement of the pregnancy. Coverage shall be effective as of the first of the month following the individual's selection of a health benefit plan.

(2) A registered carrier shall allow an individual who is eligible for advance payments of federal premium tax credits under 26 U.S.C. § 36B and whose household income for the year is expected to be not greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and any individual who is eligible for coverage because of a relationship to that individual, to enroll in a health benefit plan through the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange at any time during the plan year.

Sec. E.306.4 SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES GRANTS; REPORT

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the grants to skilled nursing facilities funded through the appropriation made in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1102(b)(11). The Department shall include in its report information on the following:

(1) facilities to which grants were distributed;

(2) amounts of each grant distributed; and

(3) any available information on direct impacts of grants, including reduction of reliance on travel nurses and workforce retention and expansion.

(b) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall, to the extent the information in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection is available, report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the grants to skilled nursing facilities funded through the appropriation made in Sec. B.1100(u)(2) of this act. The Department shall include in its report information on the following:

(1) facilities to which grants were distributed;

(2) amounts of each grant distributed; and

(3) any available information on direct impacts of grants, including reduction of reliance on travel nurses and workforce retention and expansion.

Sec. E.306.5 TEACHING HEALTH CENTER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to obtain federal matching funds for the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program, a new Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program that will increase the number of family medicine residents practicing in rural regions of Vermont. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate funds in future fiscal years, with additional federal matching funds if available, to allow for full implementation of the Program.

(b) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not approve the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Agency shall evaluate potential opportunities to obtain federal matching funds in future fiscal years to provide greater support to the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program during its implementation stage, including matching State dollars as a Global Commitment investment, as a graduate medical education expenditure, or through another mechanism.

(c) The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting on whether the Agency was successful in receiving approval for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and, if not, its findings and recommendations regarding future federal matching fund opportunities pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. E.307 33 V.S.A. § 1902 is amended to read:

§ 1902. QUALIFICATION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

* * *

(b) Workers with disabilities whose income is less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for Medicaid. The income also must not exceed the Medicaid protected income level for one or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment level for two, whichever is higher, after disregarding the earnings of the working individual with disabilities; Social Security disability insurance benefits, including Social Security retirement benefits converted automatically from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), if applicable; any veteran's disability benefits; and, if the working individual with disabilities is married, all income of the spouse. ~~Earnings of the working individual with disabilities shall be documented by evidence of Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax payments, Self-Employment Contributions Act tax payments, or a written business plan approved and supported by a third-party investor or funding source.~~ The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules governing documentation of earnings of working individuals with disabilities. The resource limit for this program shall be $10,000.00 for an individual and $15,000.00 for a couple at the time of enrollment in the program. Assets attributable to earnings made after enrollment in the program shall be disregarded.

Sec. E.307.1 MEDICAID AND EXCHANGE; EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

(a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt or amend rules regarding Vermont's Medicaid program and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to respond to changes in State and federal law. The Agency may use the emergency rules process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844, but only in the event that the new State or federal law requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

Sec. E.311 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 109, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. ~~SUNSET OF STATE YOUTH COUNCIL~~

~~3 V.S.A. § 3097 (State Youth Council) is repealed on February 1, 2026.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2026 and as provided in this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory Group with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to a Request for Proposal process.

(2) In fiscal year 2026, and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $295,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: $140,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: $100,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: $55,000.

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

(A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in Vermont Medication Assistance Program to assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to Vermont Medication Assistance Program medications until such time as the General Assembly can take action.

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

(4) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $400,000 General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services not later than September 1, 2025. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the

Department of Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

(5) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Health shall not reduce any grants to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels below those in fiscal year 2025 without receiving prior approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.312.1 3 V.S.A. § 5003 is amended to read:

§ 5003. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY

(a) The Executive Director of Racial Equity (Director) shall work with the agencies and departments to implement a program of continuing coordination and improvement of activities in State government in order to combat systemic racial disparities and measure progress toward fair and impartial governance, including:

(1) overseeing a comprehensive organizational review to identify systemic racism in each of the three branches of State government and inventory systems in place that engender racial disparities;

(2) managing and overseeing the statewide collection of race-based data to determine the nature and scope of racial discrimination within all systems of State government; and

(3) developing a model fairness and diversity policy and reviewing and making recommendations regarding the fairness and diversity policies held by all State government systems~~; and~~

~~(4) temporarily overseeing the establishment of the Health Equity Advisory Commission established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252 until the Office of Health Equity is established~~.

* * *

Sec. E.312.2 18 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

§ 252. HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

* * *

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Commission shall:

(1) provide ~~guidance~~ advice to the Department of Health and the General Assembly on the continued development of the Office of Health Equity~~, which shall be established based on the Advisory Commission's recommendations not later than January 1, 2023~~, including on:

(A) the structure, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Office;

(B) ~~whether the Office shall be independent and, if not, in which State agency or department it shall be situated;~~

~~(C)~~ how the Office shall be staffed;

~~(D)~~(C) the populations served and specific issues addressed by the Office; and

~~(E)~~(D) the duties of the Office, including how grant funds shall be managed and distributed; ~~and~~

~~(F) the time frame and necessary steps to establish the Office;~~

(2) provide advice and make recommendations to the Office of Health Equity, Department of Health, and General Assembly once established, including input on:

(A) any rules or policies proposed by the Office of Health Equity or Department of Health;

(B) the awarding of grants and the development of programs and services;

(C) the needs, priorities, programs, and policies relating to the health of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities; and

(D) any other issue on which the Office of Health Equity, Department of Health, or General Assembly requests assistance from the Advisory Commission;

(3) review, monitor, and advise all State agencies regarding the impact of current and emerging State policies, procedures, practices, laws, and rules on the health of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities;

(4) identify and examine the limitations and problems associated with existing laws, rules, programs, and services related to the health status of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities;

(5) advise the Department of Health and the General Assembly on any funding decisions relating to eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity, including the distribution of federal monies related to COVID-19;

(6) to the extent funds are available for the purpose, distribute grants that stimulate the development of community-based and neighborhood-based projects that will improve the health outcomes of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities; and

(7) advise the General Assembly on efforts to improve cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in the health care system through training and continuing education requirements for health care providers and other clinical professionals.

(d) Assistance. The Advisory Commission shall have the administrative, legal, and technical assistance of the ~~Agency of Administration at the request of the Executive Director of Racial Equity~~ Department of Health.

* * *

(f) Meetings.

(1) ~~The Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Commission to occur on or before September 1, 2021.~~

~~(2)~~ The Advisory Commission shall select a chair and vice chair at its first meeting and annually thereafter.

~~(3)~~(2) The Advisory Commission shall adopt procedures to govern its proceedings, including voting procedures and how the staggered terms shall be apportioned among members.

~~(4)~~(3) All meetings of the Advisory Commission and any subcommittees of the Advisory Commission shall be open to the public with opportunities for public comment provided on a regular basis.

* * *

(h) Compensation and reimbursement. Appointed members of the Advisory Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings ~~as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Commission within the appropriation provided~~. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the ~~Agency of Administration~~ Department of Health.

Sec. E.312.3 18 V.S.A. § 254 is added to read:

§ 254. OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

(a) There is established the Office of Health Equity within the Department of Health for the purpose of eliminating avoidable and unjust disparities in

health among Vermonters. The Office shall use a systemic and comprehensive approach that addresses those social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health outcomes.

(b) The Office of Health Equity shall be managed by an Executive Director, an individual who shall be qualified by reason of education, expertise, and experience and who may have a professional degree in public health, social or environmental justice, or a related field. The Executive Director shall report to the Commissioner of Health, serve on a full-time basis, and be exempt from classified service.

Sec. E.312.4 SMOKING CESSATION GRANT REQUIREMENTS; REPORT

(a) Prior to providing the grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network from the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(g)(6) of this act, the Department of Health shall require that information on the use of the funds be provided by grantees in an agreed-upon time frame, including the specific activities supported by the funds, a description of the number of individuals served, and information on the anticipated outcomes of this investment. On or before January 15, 2026, the Department shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with this information and information on the outcomes achieved by previous investments, including the number of pregnant smokers who quit smoking as a result of cessation initiatives and the number of families who reported reducing tobacco usage and secondhand smoke around infants and children. Previous investments made for cessation initiatives include those made in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.110(a)(1) and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100(n)(4).

Sec. E.313 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is added to read:

§ 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund is established and managed by the Vermont Department of Health in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

(b) Thirty percent of the revenues raised by the cannabis excise tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902, not to exceed $10,000,000 per fiscal year, shall be deposited into this fund for substance misuse prevention costs.

(c) Any unencumbered and unexpended spending authority reverted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 703 may be immediately re-established the following fiscal year in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 511.

(d) Notwithstanding any provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 to the contrary, all interest earned by this fund shall be retained by this fund.

Sec. E.313.1 SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION FUNDING; REPEAL

(a) 32 V.S.A. § 7909 (substance misuse prevention funding) is repealed.

Sec. E.313.2 PREVENTION EXPENDITURES; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Health shall, in consultation with other departments of the Agency of Human Services, provide a report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with information on total or estimated expenditures made by the State on substance use prevention efforts in fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

(1) The report shall include information on the following:

(A) all State and federal funds, including special funds, and monies that have been appropriated or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts;

(B) the total amounts appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts;

(C) the recipients of appropriations made from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts or the beneficiaries of grants or subgrants and how these monies have been used by expenditure category;

(D) the amount of monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts that have been obligated;

(E) the amount of monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts that remain unencumbered or unexpended; and

(F) the extent to which monies appropriated from the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for substance use prevention efforts are subject to reversion or any federal obligation deadlines.

Sec. E.313.3 REPEAL

(a) 2022 Acts and Resolves No.185, Sec. E.240.6 is repealed.

Sec. E.316 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.316 is amended to read:

Sec. E.316 STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

(a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall assemble a stakeholder working group to provide regular input on the planning, design, development, and implementation of the temporary stabilization facility for youth and on the development of a long-term plan for the high-end system of care.

* * *

(f) The stakeholder working group shall cease to exist on June 30, ~~2025~~ 2027.

Sec. E.316.1 33 V.S.A. § 125 is added to read:

§ 125. BUDGETARY INFLATION; DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Annually, as part of its budget presentation, the Department shall inform the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare the cost of adding a one percent increase over the previous fiscal year's funding for community-contracted direct service providers.

Sec. E.316.2 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2026, the Commissioner for Children and Families and the Chief Superior Judge shall jointly submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary containing a proposal for funding supervised visitation programs. The proposal shall address and recommend sustainable funding for statewide coordination, equitable funding among supervised visitation locations, and access for residents of counties that do not currently provide supervised visitation services. The Commissioner and Chief Superior Judge shall consult the Center for Crime Victim Services, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and supervised visitation providers in the preparation of the report.

Sec. E.317 33 V.S.A. § 4922 is amended to read:

§ 4922. RULEMAKING

(a) On or before ~~September 1, 2025~~ April 1, 2026, the Commissioner shall file proposed rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 implementing the provisions of this subchapter to become effective on ~~April~~ September 1, 2026. These shall include:

(1) rules setting forth criteria for determining whether to conduct an assessment or an investigation;

(2) rules setting out procedures for assessment and service delivery;

(3) rules outlining procedures for investigations;

(4) rules for conducting the administrative review conference;

(5) rules regarding access to and maintenance of Department records of investigations, assessments, reviews, and responses;

(6) rules regarding the tiered Registry as required by section 4916 of this title;

(7) rules requiring notice and appeal procedures for alternatives to substantiation; and

(8) rules implementing subsections 4916(c) and (e) of this title.

(b) The rules shall strike an appropriate balance between protecting children and respecting the rights of a parent or guardian, including a parent or guardian with disabilities, and shall recognize that persons with a disability can be successful parents. The rules shall include the possible use of adaptive equipment and supports.

~~(c) These rules shall be adopted no later than July 1, 2009.~~

Sec. E.318 33 V.S.A. § 3505 is amended to read:

§ 3505. SUPPLEMENTAL CHILD CARE GRANTS

(a)(1)(A) The Commissioner for Children and Families may ~~reserve~~ utilize up to one-half of one percent of ~~the child care family assistance program~~ funds appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in a fiscal year for extraordinary financial relief to assist child care programs that are at risk of closing or not opening due to experiencing financial hardship. The Commissioner may provide extraordinary financial relief under this subdivision (A) to both licensed and registered child care programs and to child care programs that are in the process of becoming licensed or registered. The Commissioner shall develop guidelines for providing assistance and shall prioritize extraordinary financial relief to child care programs in areas of the State with high poverty and low access to high quality child care.

(B) ~~If the Commissioner determines a child care program is at risk of closure because its operations are not fiscally sustainable, he or she may provide assistance to~~ In order to transition children who are currently served by ~~the~~ a child care ~~operator~~ program that is closing to a new child care program in an orderly fashion ~~and to help secure other child care opportunities~~

~~for children served by the program in an effort to minimize the disruption of services~~, the Commissioner may provide assistance to the existing or new program to minimize the disruption of services to the affected children.

(C) ~~The~~ As needed to implement this subdivision (1), the Commissioner has the authority to request tax returns and other financial documents to verify ~~the~~ a child care program's financial hardship and its ability to sustain or increase operations.

* * *

Sec. E.318.1 CHILD CARE FUNDING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 reduction of the General Fund appropriation to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in Sec. B.318 of this act shall not occur in future fiscal years and that, in future fiscal years, the appropriation from the General Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program shall be not less than the appropriation from the General Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113 as passed by the General Assembly.

Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY HOUSING

(a) To the extent emergency housing is available and within the funds appropriated, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall ensure that General Assistance Emergency Housing is provided in fiscal year 2026 to households that attest to lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and have a member who:

(1) is 65 years of age or older;

(2) has a disability that can be documented by:

(A) receipt of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance; or

(B) a form developed by the Department as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition that requires:

(i) the applicant's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number or other identifying number;

(ii) a description of the applicant's disability or health condition;

(iii) a description of the risk posed to the applicant's health, safety, or welfare if temporary emergency housing is not authorized pursuant to this section; and

(iv) a certification of a health care provider, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481, that includes the provider's credentials, credential number, address, and phone number;

(3) is a child 19 years of age or under;

(4) is pregnant;

(5) has experienced the death of a spouse, domestic partner, or minor child that caused the household to lose its housing;

(6) has experienced a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, or hurricane;

(7) is under a court-ordered eviction or constructive eviction due to circumstances over which the household has no control; or

(8) is experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a household member that caused the household to lose its housing.

(b)(1) General Assistance Emergency Housing shall be provided in a community-based shelter whenever possible. If there is inadequate community-based shelter space available within the Agency of Human Services district in which the household presents itself, the household shall be provided emergency housing in a hotel or motel within the district, if available, until adequate community-based shelter space becomes available in the district. The utilization of hotel and motel rooms pursuant to this subdivision shall be capped at 1,100 rooms per night between July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025 and between April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

(2) The maximum number of days that an eligible household receives emergency housing in a hotel or motel under this section, per 12-month period, shall not exceed 80 days.

(3) The Department shall provide emergency winter housing to households meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection (a) of this section between December 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. Emergency housing in a hotel or motel provided pursuant to this subdivision shall not count toward the maximum days of eligibility per 12-month period provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(4)(A) Notwithstanding any rule or law to the contrary, the Department shall require all households applying for or receiving General Assistance Emergency Housing to engage in their own search for and accept any available alternative housing placements. All applicants and eligible households shall regularly provide information to the Department, not less frequently than

monthly, about their efforts to secure an alternative housing placement. If the Department determines that a household, at the time of application or during the term of the household's authorization, has not made efforts to secure an alternative housing placement, or has access to an alternative housing placement, the Department shall deny the application or terminate the authorization at the end of the current authorization period.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision (4), "alternative housing placements" may include shelter beds and pods; placements with family or friends; permanent housing solutions, including tiny homes, manufactured homes, and apartments; residential treatment beds for physical health, long-term care, substance use, or mental health; nursing home beds; and recovery homes.

(c) Emergency housing provided pursuant to this section shall replace the catastrophic and noncatastrophic categories previously adopted by the Department in rule.

(d) Emergency housing required pursuant to this section may be provided through approved community-based shelters, new unit generation, open units, licensed hotels or motels, or other appropriate shelter space. The Department shall, when available, prioritize emergency housing at housing or shelter placements other than hotels or motels.

(e) Case management services provided by case managers employed by or under contract with the Agency of Human Services or reimbursed through an Agency-funded grant shall include assisting clients with finding appropriate housing.

(f) The Commissioner for Children and Families shall apply the General Assistance Emergency Housing rules approved by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules on March 13, 2025 for the administration of this section.

(g) On or before the last day of each month from July 2025 through June 2026, the Department for Children and Families, or other relevant agency or department, shall continue submitting a similar report to that due pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6(b) to the Joint Fiscal Committee, House Committee on Human Services, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. Additionally, this report shall include the Department's monthly expenditure on General Assistance Emergency Housing.

(h) For emergency housing provided in a hotel or motel beginning on July 1, 2024 and thereafter, the Department for Children and Families shall not pay a hotel or motel establishment more than the hotel's lowest advertised room rate and not more than $80 a day per room to shelter a household experiencing

homelessness. The Department for Children and Families may shelter a household in more than one hotel or motel room depending on the household's size and composition.

(i) The Department for Children and Families shall apply the following rules to participating hotels and motels:

(1) Section 2650.1 of the Department for Children and Families' General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260);

(2) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(3) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(j)(1) The Department for Children and Families may work with either a shelter provider or a community housing agency to enter into a full or partial facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider. Any facility conversion under this section shall comply with the Office of Economic Opportunity's shelter standards.

(2) If the Department for Children and Families determines that a contractual agreement with a licensed hotel or motel operator to secure temporary emergency housing capacity is beneficial to improve the quality, cleanliness, or access to services for those households temporarily housed in the facility, the Department shall be authorized to enter into such an agreement in accordance with the per-room rate identified in subsection (h) of this section; provided, however, that in no event shall such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused. The Department for Children and Families may include provisions to address access to services or related needs within the contractual agreement.

(k) Of the amount appropriated to implement this section, not more than $500,000 shall be used for security costs.

(l) As used in this section:

(1) "Community-based shelter" means a shelter that meets the Vermont Housing Opportunity Grant Program's Standards of Provision of Assistance.

(2) "Household" means an individual and any dependents for whom the individual is legally responsible and who live in Vermont. "Household" includes individuals who reside together as one economic unit, including those who are married, parties to a civil union, or unmarried.

Sec. E.321.1 CONTRACTING FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

(a) In contracting with emergency shelter organizations for operations and services, the Department for Children and Families shall prioritize contracts with organizations that are in close proximity to the community served to ensure that an organization familiar with the specific needs of a community serve its population of unhoused residents.

Sec. E.324 EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it if the benefit cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the crisis fuel grants allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

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

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, $29,343,655 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-recognized continuum of care programs.

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

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

Sec. E.329 33 V.S.A. § 506 is added to read:

§ 506. BUDGETARY INFLATION; DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Annually, as part of its budget presentation, the Department shall inform the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare the cost of adding a one percent increase over the previous fiscal year's funding for community-contracted direct service providers.

Sec. E.333 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM

(a)(1) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall submit a written progress report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's July 2025 meeting regarding the Department's design of a developmental services payment reform model for potential implementation on October 1, 2025, with a final written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's September 2025 meeting. The final report shall explain the methodology and identify how the model:

(A) meets all federal conflict-free case management requirements and aligns funding mechanisms with assessed needs; and

(B) ensures that the standardized rates providers that are reasonable and adequate and reflect the cost of service delivery to achieve the required outcomes for the populations served.

(2) The final report required pursuant to this subsection shall include a summary of stakeholder input, including perspectives from providers and individuals served, the identification of any unresolved issues, including the impact on designated agency and specialized service agency staff and the financial status of the providers, and a plan for addressing those unresolved issues in the final payment model.

(b) On or before February 15, 2026, the Department shall provide a presentation update to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding its progress implementing the developmental services payment reform model.

Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS; CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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

Sec. E.338.1 JUSTICE REINVESTMENT II; ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.338.1 of this act, $390,000 shall be for a grant to Lund for the Kids-A-Part Program and $100,000 shall be for a grant to Pathways Vermont for the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Team.

Sec. E.338.2 CORRECTIONS; TREATMENT-FOCUSED FACILITY

(a) The $200,000 General Fund appropriated to the Department of Corrections in Sec. B.1100(i)(1) of this act shall be used to retain a consultant and develop an implementation plan to transition the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility for incarcerated Vermonters.

(b) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department of Corrections shall submit a written report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee concerning the consultant's findings and recommendations related to transitioning either the Northeast Correctional Complex or the Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility. The report shall contain the following:

(1) a detailed transition plan;

(2) expected outcomes and measures of success;

(3) an assessment of how transitioning either the Northeast Correctional Complex or Caledonia County Work Camp, or parts of either or of both, to a treatment-focused facility aligns with best practices for residential treatment programs; and

(4) input from the Department's current medical providers, including an analysis of how the program developed would impact any contract with the Department's third-party medical provider.

Sec. E.345 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h) is amended to read:

(h)(1)(A) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (1)(C) and (2) of this subsection (h), the expenses of the Board shall be borne as follows:

(i) 40.0 percent by the State from State monies;

(ii) ~~28.8~~ 36.0 percent by the hospitals;

(iii) ~~23.2~~ 24.0 percent by nonprofit hospital and medical service corporations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 123 or 125, health insurance companies licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 101, and health maintenance organizations licensed under 8 V.S.A. chapter 139~~; and~~

~~(iv) 8.0 percent by accountable care organizations~~.

(B) Expenses under subdivision (A)(iii) of this subdivision (1) shall be allocated to persons licensed under Title 8 based on premiums paid for health care coverage, which for the purposes of this subdivision (1) shall include major medical, comprehensive medical, hospital or surgical coverage, and comprehensive health care services plans, but shall not include long-term

care, limited benefits, disability, credit or stop loss, or excess loss insurance coverage.

(C) ~~Expenses~~ Amounts assessed pursuant to the provisions of ~~section~~ sections 9441 and 9382 of this title shall not be assessed in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1).

(2) The Board may determine the scope of the incurred expenses to be allocated pursuant to the formula set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection if, in the Board's discretion, the expenses to be allocated are in the best interests of the regulated entities and of the State.

(3) If the amount of the proportional assessment to any entity calculated in accordance with the formula set forth in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection would be less than $150.00, the Board shall assess the entity a minimum fee of $150.00. The Board shall apply the amounts collected based on the difference between each applicable entity's proportional assessment amount and $150.00 to reduce the total amount assessed to the regulated entities pursuant to subdivisions (1)(A)(ii) ~~(iv)~~(iii) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. E.500 EDUCATION; FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.500 of this act shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized Education Programs. These services are intended to increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

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

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed $5,236,200 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)-(6). In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

(b) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed $2,000,000 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2975. In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

Sec. E.503 EDUCATION; STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

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

Sec. E.504 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, $3,958,344 General Fund shall be granted to adult education and literacy providers, pursuant to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 945.

Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

(5) $2,638,896 is available for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program.

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

Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f) is amended to read:

(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of the previous two completed fiscal years~~; 40~~. Forty percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.

Sec. E.504.3 ADULT EDUCATION; FUNDING; REPORT

(a) On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Education, and local adult education and literacy providers shall jointly submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development; the Senate Committee on Economic Development,

Housing and General Affairs; and the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations with recommendations to modernize adult education funding to ensure funds are equitably distributed across all regions of the State, including recommendations for updates to the statutes and rules that govern the adult education funding formula. The Agency of Administration shall call and facilitate not fewer than five meetings with the Agency of Education and local adult education and literacy providers to develop the recommendations in the report.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development; the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; and the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations with recommendations for any administrative changes to adult education, including which agency or department outside the Agency of Education is best suited to manage adult education grants. The report shall also include any additional recommendations from the Secretary of Administration regarding updates to the adult education funding formula should the Secretary have recommendations that differ from the recommendations contained in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) For fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f), the Agency of Education shall award the funds appropriated for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program in Secs. B.504 and B.504.1 of this act as follows:

(1) $3,984,607 to Vermont Adult Learning;

(2) $1,320,874 to Central Vermont Adult Education;

(3) $400,919 to The Tutorial Center; and

(4) $890,840 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services.

Sec. E.507.1 ENGLISH LEARNER; CATEGORICAL AID

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

Sec. E.511 EDUCATION; TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. 1561(c) and (d) or any other provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026 career technical center supplemental assistance grants shall be calculated using the fiscal year 2025 base education amount.

Sec. E.514 STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System shall be $212,752,627, of which $199,377,627 shall be the State's contribution and $13,375,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, $41,414,649 is the "normal contribution" and $171,337,978 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $3,864,405 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, $2,719,271 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,145,134 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System.

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

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2) and 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits plan shall be $79,952,589, of which $71,052,589 shall be the State's contribution and $8,900,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1944d. Of the annual contribution, $24,712,382 is the "normal contribution" and $55,240,207 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

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

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

Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

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

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

Sec. E.602.1 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.602.2, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 67, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.101, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113 Sec. E.602.1, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.602.2 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The Vermont State College (VSC) system shall transform itself into a fully integrated system that achieves financial stability in a responsible and sustainable way in order to meet each of these strategic priorities:

* * *

(b) VSC shall meet the following requirements during the transformation of its system required under subsection (a) of this section and shall accommodate the oversight of the General Assembly in so doing.

(1) VSC shall reduce its structural deficit by $5,000,000.00 per year for three years and by $3,500,000.00 ~~per year for~~ the following ~~two years~~ year through a combination of annual operating expense reductions and increased enrollment revenues, for a total ~~$22,000,000.00~~ $18,500,000.00 by the end of fiscal year 2026. These reductions shall be structural in nature and shall not be met by use of one-time funds. The VSC Board of Trustees, through the Chancellor or designee, shall report the results of these structural reductions to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations annually during the Chancellor's budget presentation.

* * *

Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; ALLIED HEALTH

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

(b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315

health care providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

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

(1) $25,000 shall be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845;

(2) not more than $300,000 may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools; and

(3) not less than $1,000,000 shall be used to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program established in 2022 Act and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

(b) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act that remain after accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent shall be used for direct student aid.

(c) After accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act or otherwise currently or previously appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or provided to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation by an agency or department of the State for the administration of a program or initiative may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for its costs of administration. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment. Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent that any of these funds are federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be consistent with federal grant requirements.

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

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the $41,225 Education Fund and $41,225 General Fund appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605.1 of this act is for dual enrollment and need-based stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially disadvantaged students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to

be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. E.715 REPEALS; SUNSET OF PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX CLEAN WATER SURCHARGE

(a) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.10 (sunset of clean water surcharge), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, is repealed.

(b) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.11(a)(5) (effective date of sunset of clean water surcharge) is repealed.

Sec. E.715.1 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.1(b) is amended to read:

(b) Purpose and intent.

(1) The purpose of Secs. I.1–I.12 of this act is to promote the development and improvement of housing for Vermonters.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

(A) to extend the clean water surcharge to provide ~~an interim~~ a source of revenue for addressing water quality issues throughout the State; and

(B) to continue its work on identifying a long-term funding source or sources that are sufficient in scope and targeted in design to address these water quality issues~~; and~~

~~(C) once one or more long-term funding sources are identified and enacted, but not later than July 1, 2027, to reduce the amount of the clean water surcharge to 0.04 percent~~.

Sec. E.715.2 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.12 is amended to read:

Sec. I.12. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. I.1–I.12 shall take effect on July 1, 2017~~, except that Sec. I.10 (allocating clean water surcharge revenue to Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund) shall take effect on July 1, 2027~~.

Sec. E.715.3 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.7(d) is amended to read:

(d) To compensate for this reduction of available property transfer tax revenue, it is the intent of the General Assembly through this act to provide for the transfer of $2,500,000.00 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, as follows:

(1) Sec. D.100 of this act appropriates $11,304,840.00 in fiscal year 2018 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Upon the effective date of this act, $1,500,000.00 shall revert to the Fund, resulting in a fiscal year 2018 total appropriation to the Board of $9,804,840.00. In fiscal year 2018 only, the amount of $1,500,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) As provided in Sec. I.9 of this act, ~~from July 1, 2017 until July 1, 2027,~~ pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, the first $1,000,000.00 in revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of ~~0.2~~ 0.22 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. In fiscal year 2018 only, the Commissioner shall transfer the amount of $1,000,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the General Fund.

(3) ~~After July 1, 2027, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a as amended in Sec. I.10 of this act, $1,000,000.00 in total revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of 0.04 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.~~ [Repealed.]

(4) ~~As provided in Sec. I.11 of this act, the clean water surcharge will be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2039.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. E.900 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION ~~FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY~~ FUND APPROPRIATIONS

~~(a)~~ No transportation funds shall be appropriated for the support of government other than for the Agency, the Board, Transportation Pay Act Funds, construction of transportation capital facilities, transportation debt service, and the operation of information centers by the Department of Buildings and General Services~~, and the Department of Public Safety~~. ~~The amount of transportation funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety shall not exceed:~~

~~(1) $25,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2014;~~

~~(2) $22,750,000.00 in fiscal years 2015 and 2016;~~

~~(3) $21,150,000.00 in fiscal year 2017; and~~

~~(4) $20,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2018 and in succeeding fiscal years.~~

~~(b) In fiscal year 2018 and in succeeding fiscal years, of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the amount of $2,100,000.00 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles. Any unexpended and unencumbered funds remaining in this allocation at the close of a fiscal year shall revert to the Transportation Fund. The Department of Public Safety may periodically recommend to the General Assembly that this allocation be adjusted to reflect market conditions for the vehicles and equipment.~~

Sec. E.917 TOWN HIGHWAY NON-FEDERAL DISASTERS; PILOT FUND

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the amount of $1,150,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2026 from the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709 to the Agency of Transportation for the Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters Program.

(b) The amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall only be spent for the purpose of providing grants in relation to non-federal disasters pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(d). Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this section that remain unused at the close of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

* * * Fiscal Year 2025 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. F.100 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.105 is amended to read:

Sec. B.105 Agency of digital services - communications and information technology

Personal services	82,994,362	82,994,362
Operating expenses	~~62,547,212~~	61,761,212
Total	~~145,541,574~~	144,755,574
Source of funds		
General fund	209,808	209,808
Special funds	511,723	511,723
Internal service funds	~~144,820,043~~	144,034,043
Total	~~145,541,574~~	144,755,574

Sec. F.101 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.145 is amended to read:

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds		
General fund	117,405,610	117,405,610

Transportation fund	4,292,149	4,292,149
Special funds	31,882,209	31,882,209
Federal funds	1,467,374	1,467,374
Internal service funds	~~214,635,950~~	213,849,950
Interdepartmental transfers	7,053,789	7,053,789
Enterprise funds	4,298	4,298
Pension trust funds	4,800,305	4,800,305
Private purpose trust funds	1,329,205	1,329,205
Total	~~382,870,889~~	382,084,889

Sec. F.102 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.204 is amended to read:

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

Personal services	~~58,439,095~~	58,827,799
Operating expenses	~~12,479,384~~	14,640,960
Grants	121,030	121,030
Total	~~71,039,509~~	73,589,789
Source of funds		
General fund	~~63,414,698~~	65,964,978
Special funds	4,503,401	4,503,401
Federal funds	953,928	953,928
Interdepartmental transfers	2,167,482	2,167,482
Total	~~71,039,509~~	73,589,789

Sec. F.103 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.205 is amended to read:

Sec. B.205 State's attorneys

Personal services	~~17,309,679~~	17,548,979
Operating expenses	~~2,034,016~~	2,202,516
Total	~~19,343,695~~	19,751,495
Source of funds		
General fund	~~18,734,634~~	19,142,434
Federal funds	31,000	31,000
Interdepartmental transfers	578,061	578,061
Total	~~19,343,695~~	19,751,495

Sec. F.104 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.206.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.206.1 Crime Victims Advocates

Personal services	3,016,156	3,016,156
Operating expenses	~~104,396~~	142,396
Total	~~3,120,552~~	3,158,552
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,120,552~~	3,158,552

Total	~~3,120,552~~	3,158,552

Sec. F.105 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.208 is amended to read:

Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration

Personal services	~~4,620,756~~	5,397,783
Operating expenses	6,022,923	6,022,923
Total	~~10,643,679~~	11,420,706
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,179,193~~	8,092,770
Special funds	4,105	4,105
Federal funds	396,362	396,362
Interdepartmental transfers	~~4,064,019~~	2,927,469
Total	~~10,643,679~~	11,420,706

Sec. F.106 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.210 is amended to read:

Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services

Personal services	~~5,387,100~~	4,705,897
Operating expenses	2,152,467	2,152,467
Total	~~7,539,567~~	6,858,364
Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,829,099~~	2,172,295
Special funds	~~4,975,847~~	3,951,448
Federal funds	734,621	734,621
Total	~~7,539,567~~	6,858,364

Sec. F.107 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.236 is amended to read:

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	~~927,697~~	952,559
Operating expenses	~~115,103~~	125,378
Total	~~1,042,800~~	1,077,937
Source of funds		
General fund	~~953,800~~	988,937
Federal funds	89,000	89,000
Total	~~1,042,800~~	1,077,937

Sec. F.108 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.241 is amended to read:

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	~~228,238,448~~	233,526,438
Transportation fund	20,250,000	20,250,000
Special funds	~~119,824,272~~	118,799,873

Tobacco fund	672,579	672,579
Federal funds	162,959,452	162,959,452
Interdepartmental transfers	~~16,031,869~~	14,895,319
Enterprise funds	15,070,107	15,070,107
Total	~~563,046,727~~	566,173,768

Sec. F.109 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.300 is amended to read:

Sec. B.300 Human services - agency of human services - secretary's office

Personal services	~~16,219,746~~	18,219,746
Operating expenses	~~7,220,486~~	6,062,286
Grants	3,795,202	3,795,202
Total	~~27,235,434~~	28,077,234
Source of funds		
General fund	~~12,913,202~~	11,923,905
Special funds	135,517	135,517
Federal funds	~~13,565,080~~	11,606,177
Global Commitment fund	~~0~~	4,300,000
Interdepartmental transfers	~~621,635~~	111,635
Total	~~27,235,434~~	28,077,234

Sec. F.110 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Grants	~~2,039,512,911~~	2,164,607,988
Total	~~2,039,512,911~~	2,164,607,988
Source of funds		
General fund	~~668,380,623~~	716,109,638
Special funds	32,047,905	32,047,905
Tobacco fund	21,049,373	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	28,053,557	28,053,557
Federal funds	~~1,285,494,243~~	1,363,223,270
Interdepartmental transfers	~~4,487,210~~	4,124,245
Total	~~2,039,512,911~~	2,164,607,988

Sec. F.111 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.305 is amended to read:

Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund

Personal services	330,000	330,000
Operating expenses	~~13,170,000~~	16,870,000
Total	~~13,500,000~~	17,200,000
Source of funds		
Interdepartmental transfers	~~13,500,000~~	17,200,000
Total	~~13,500,000~~	17,200,000

Sec. F.112 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	~~134,929,148~~	136,693,560
Operating expenses	~~44,171,193~~	39,250,661
Grants	3,112,301	3,112,301
Total	~~182,212,642~~	179,056,522
Source of funds		
General fund	~~39,872,315~~	42,023,781
Special funds	4,733,015	4,733,015
Federal funds	~~128,790,580~~	124,836,223
Global Commitment fund	4,308,574	4,308,574
Interdepartmental transfers	~~4,508,158~~	3,154,929
Total	~~182,212,642~~	179,056,522

Sec. F.113 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.307 is amended to read:

Sec. B.307 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program – global commitment

Personal services	547,983	547,983
Grants	~~899,550,794~~	964,407,046
Total	~~900,098,777~~	964,955,029
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	~~900,098,777~~	964,955,029
Total	~~900,098,777~~	964,955,029

Sec. F.114 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.309 is amended to read:

Sec. B.309 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid program – state only

Grants	~~63,033,948~~	67,780,595
Total	~~63,033,948~~	67,780,595
Source of funds		
General fund	~~62,151,546~~	62,308,757
Global Commitment fund	~~882,402~~	5,471,838
Total	~~63,033,948~~	67,780,595

Sec. F.115 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.310 is amended to read:

Sec. B.310 Department of Vermont health access - Medicaid non-waiver matched

Grants	~~34,994,888~~	38,232,431
Total	~~34,994,888~~	38,232,431
Source of funds		
General fund	~~12,511,405~~	13,459,034
Federal funds	~~22,483,483~~	24,773,397

Total	~~34,994,888~~	38,232,431

Sec. F.116 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.311 is amended to read:

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	8,373,168	8,373,168
Operating expenses	~~7,519,722~~	8,166,662
Grants	7,985,727	7,985,727
Total	~~23,878,617~~	24,525,557
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,189,843~~	3,513,313
Special funds	2,308,186	2,308,186
Federal funds	~~11,040,433~~	11,363,903
Global Commitment fund	7,173,924	7,173,924
Interdepartmental transfers	166,231	166,231
Total	~~23,878,617~~	24,525,557

Sec. F.117 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.312 is amended to read:

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	67,812,371	67,812,371
Operating expenses	11,025,497	11,025,497
Grants	~~46,766,832~~	46,866,832
Total	~~125,604,700~~	125,704,700
Source of funds		
General fund	~~12,908,892~~	13,008,892
Special funds	24,906,804	24,906,804
Tobacco fund	1,088,918	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,038,301	64,038,301
Global Commitment fund	17,036,150	17,036,150
Interdepartmental transfers	5,600,635	5,600,635
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Total	~~125,604,700~~	125,704,700

Sec. F.118 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.313 is amended to read:

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

Personal services	6,570,967	6,570,967
Operating expenses	511,500	511,500
Grants	~~58,215,510~~	59,240,635
Total	~~65,297,977~~	66,323,102
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,672,061~~	7,697,186
Special funds	2,413,678	2,413,678

Tobacco fund	949,917	949,917
Federal funds	15,456,754	15,456,754
Global Commitment fund	39,805,567	39,805,567
Total	~~65,297,977~~	66,323,102

Sec. F.119 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.314 is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	50,191,086	50,191,086
Operating expenses	~~5,517,999~~	5,709,973
Grants	~~270,625,138~~	272,536,080
Total	~~326,334,223~~	328,437,139
Source of funds		
General fund	~~25,555,311~~	26,279,270
Special funds	1,718,092	1,718,092
Federal funds	~~11,436,913~~	12,661,803
Global Commitment fund	~~287,609,767~~	287,763,834
Interdepartmental transfers	14,140	14,140
Total	~~326,334,223~~	328,437,139

Sec. F.120 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.316 is amended to read:

Sec. B.316 Department for children and families - administration & support services

Personal services	~~46,644,080~~	44,844,080
Operating expenses	~~17,560,755~~	19,402,705
Grants	5,627,175	5,627,175
Total	~~69,832,010~~	69,873,960
Source of funds		
General fund	~~39,722,724~~	40,113,958
Special funds	2,781,912	2,781,912
Federal funds	~~24,448,223~~	24,098,939
Global Commitment fund	2,417,024	2,417,024
Interdepartmental transfers	462,127	462,127
Total	~~69,832,010~~	69,873,960

Sec. F.121 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.317 is amended to read:

Sec. B.317 Department for children and families - family services

Personal services	~~45,197,694~~	45,286,553
Operating expenses	5,315,309	5,315,309
Grants	~~98,251,027~~	97,732,465
Total	~~148,764,030~~	148,334,327

Source of funds		
General fund	~~58,838,741~~	59,984,059
Special funds	729,587	729,587
Federal funds	~~34,666,196~~	36,180,206
Global Commitment fund	~~54,514,506~~	51,425,475
Interdepartmental transfers	15,000	15,000
Total	~~148,764,030~~	148,334,327

Sec. F.122 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.318 is amended to read:

Sec. B.318 Department for children and families - child development

Personal services	5,908,038	5,908,038
Operating expenses	813,321	813,321
Grants	~~223,329,336~~	211,815,836
Total	~~230,050,695~~	218,537,195
Source of funds		
General fund	~~76,723,518~~	51,443,165
Special funds	~~96,312,000~~	109,512,000
Federal funds	~~43,511,414~~	42,902,383
Global Commitment fund	~~13,503,763~~	14,679,647
Total	~~230,050,695~~	218,537,195

Sec. F.123 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.319 is amended to read:

Sec. B.319 Department for children and families - office of child support

Personal services	~~13,157,660~~	13,061,794
Operating expenses	3,759,992	3,759,992
Total	~~16,917,652~~	16,821,786
Source of funds		
General fund	~~5,200,064~~	5,163,429
Special funds	455,719	455,719
Federal funds	~~10,874,269~~	10,815,038
Interdepartmental transfers	387,600	387,600
Total	~~16,917,652~~	16,821,786

Sec. F.124 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.320 is amended to read:

Sec. B.320 Department for children and families - aid to aged, blind and disabled

Personal services	~~2,252,206~~	2,481,741
Grants	~~10,717,444~~	10,369,155
Total	~~12,969,650~~	12,850,896
Source of funds		
General fund	~~7,376,133~~	7,368,843
Global Commitment fund	~~5,593,517~~	5,482,053

Total	~~12,969,650~~	12,850,896

Sec. F.125 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.321 is amended to read:

Sec. B.321 Department for children and families - general assistance

Personal services	15,000	15,000
Grants	~~11,054,252~~	10,702,625
Total	~~11,069,252~~	10,717,625
Source of funds		
General fund	~~10,811,345~~	10,486,987
Federal funds	~~11,320~~	11,070
Global Commitment fund	~~246,587~~	219,568
Total	~~11,069,252~~	10,717,625

Sec. F.126 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.322 is amended to read:

Sec. B.322 Department for children and families - 3SquaresVT

Grants	~~44,377,812~~	45,677,812
Total	~~44,377,812~~	45,677,812
Source of funds		
Federal funds	~~44,377,812~~	45,677,812
Total	~~44,377,812~~	45,677,812

Sec. F.127 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.323 is amended to read:

Sec. B.323 Department for children and families - reach up

Operating expenses	23,821	23,821
Grants	~~37,230,488~~	36,730,493
Total	~~37,254,309~~	36,754,314
Source of funds		
General fund	~~24,733,042~~	24,233,047
Special funds	5,970,229	5,970,229
Federal funds	2,806,330	2,806,330
Global Commitment fund	3,744,708	3,744,708
Total	~~37,254,309~~	36,754,314

Sec. F.128 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.325 is amended to read:

Sec. B.325 Department for children and families - office of economic opportunity

Personal services	~~817,029~~	1,042,639
Operating expenses	100,407	100,407
Grants	~~35,466,283~~	35,812,536
Total	~~36,383,719~~	36,955,582

Source of funds		
General fund	~~28,178,010~~	28,687,068
Special funds	83,135	83,135
Federal funds	~~4,935,273~~	4,998,078
Global Commitment fund	3,187,301	3,187,301
Total	~~36,383,719~~	36,955,582

Sec. F.129 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.329 is amended to read:

Sec. B.329 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - administration & support

Personal services	~~45,217,977~~	46,217,977
Operating expenses	~~6,472,558~~	6,714,680
Total	~~51,690,535~~	52,932,657
Source of funds		
General fund	~~22,916,281~~	24,037,342
Special funds	1,390,457	1,390,457
Federal funds	~~26,063,097~~	26,184,158
Global Commitment fund	35,000	35,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,285,700	1,285,700
Total	~~51,690,535~~	52,932,657

Sec. F.130 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants

Grants	~~24,571,060~~	24,781,798
Total	~~24,571,060~~	24,781,798
Source of funds		
General fund	~~8,392,303~~	8,504,605
Federal funds	7,321,114	7,321,114
Global Commitment fund	~~8,857,643~~	8,956,079
Total	~~24,571,060~~	24,781,798

Sec. F.131 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.332 is amended to read:

Sec. B.332 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - vocational rehabilitation

Grants	~~10,179,845~~	9,179,845
Total	~~10,179,845~~	9,179,845
Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,371,845~~	371,845
Federal funds	7,558,000	7,558,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,250,000	1,250,000
Total	~~10,179,845~~	9,179,845

Sec. F.132 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.333 is amended to read:

Sec. B.333 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - developmental services

Grants	~~329,299,344~~	331,262,271
Total	~~329,299,344~~	331,262,271
Source of funds		
General fund	132,732	132,732
Special funds	15,463	15,463
Federal funds	403,573	403,573
Global Commitment fund	~~328,697,576~~	330,660,503
Interdepartmental transfers	50,000	50,000
Total	~~329,299,344~~	331,262,271

Sec. F.133 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - TBI home and community based waiver

Grants	~~6,845,005~~	6,864,520
Total	~~6,845,005~~	6,864,520
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	~~6,845,005~~	6,864,520
Total	~~6,845,005~~	6,864,520

Sec. F.134 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.334.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - Long Term Care

Grants	~~293,584,545~~	347,376,122
Total	~~293,584,545~~	347,376,122
Source of funds		
General fund	498,579	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000	2,450,000
Global Commitment fund	~~290,635,966~~	344,427,543
Total	~~293,584,545~~	347,376,122

Sec. F.135 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.338 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	~~147,472,104~~	148,472,104
Operating expenses	~~24,914,205~~	25,249,795
Total	~~172,386,309~~	173,721,899
Source of funds		
General fund	~~162,807,888~~	163,643,478
Special funds	935,963	935,963
ARPA State Fiscal	5,000,000	5,000,000

Federal funds	~~499,888~~	999,888
Global Commitment fund	2,746,255	2,746,255
Interdepartmental transfers	396,315	396,315
Total	~~172,386,309~~	173,721,899

Sec. F.136 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.342 is amended to read:

Sec. B.342 Vermont veterans' home - care and support services

Personal services	~~17,631,222~~	17,595,290
Operating expenses	~~5,013,462~~	13,247,462
Grants	0	1,583,157
Total	~~22,644,684~~	32,425,909
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,320,687~~	11,224,018
Special funds	~~10,051,903~~	12,450,095
Federal funds	~~8,272,094~~	8,751,796
Total	~~22,644,684~~	32,425,909

Sec. F.137 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,328,118,806~~	1,364,156,647
Special funds	~~202,800,452~~	218,398,644
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	28,053,557	28,053,557
ARPA State Fiscal	5,000,000	5,000,000
Federal funds	~~1,803,398,922~~	1,882,012,745
Global Commitment fund	~~1,980,839,553~~	2,108,560,133
Internal service funds	490,853	490,853
Interdepartmental transfers	~~32,893,535~~	34,367,341
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Total	~~5,404,708,886~~	5,664,153,128

Sec. F.138 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.501 is amended to read:

Sec. B.501 Education - education services

Personal services	~~28,237,700~~	28,312,700
Operating expenses	1,134,912	1,134,912
Grants	322,345,763	322,345,763
Total	~~351,718,375~~	351,793,375
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,387,955~~	6,462,955
Special funds	3,033,144	3,033,144

Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Federal funds	340,584,414	340,584,414
Interdepartmental transfers	962,474	962,474
Total	~~351,718,375~~	351,793,375

Sec. F.139 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.503 is amended to read:

Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students

Grants	~~20,000,000~~	19,000,000
Total	~~20,000,000~~	19,000,000
Source of funds		
Education fund	~~20,000,000~~	19,000,000
Total	~~20,000,000~~	19,000,000

Sec. F.140 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

Grants	~~4,694,183~~	4,997,820
Total	~~4,694,183~~	4,997,820
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,778,133~~	4,081,770
Federal funds	916,050	916,050
Total	~~4,694,183~~	4,997,820

Sec. F.141 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.504.1 is amended to read:

Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

Grants	~~11,361,755~~	11,564,179
Total	~~11,361,755~~	11,564,179
Source of funds		
General fund	921,500	921,500
Education fund	~~10,440,255~~	10,642,679
Total	~~11,361,755~~	11,564,179

Sec. F.142 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.505 is amended to read:

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

Grants	~~1,893,267,394~~	1,882,267,394
Total	~~1,893,267,394~~	1,882,267,394
Source of funds		
Education fund	~~1,893,267,394~~	1,882,267,394
Total	~~1,893,267,394~~	1,882,267,394

Sec. F.143 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.508 is amended to read:

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

Grants	~~20,400,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~20,400,000~~	17,500,000
Source of funds		
Education fund	~~20,400,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~20,400,000~~	17,500,000

Sec. F.144 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.516 is amended to read:

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds		
General fund	~~228,890,519~~	229,269,156
Special funds	23,651,687	23,651,687
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Education fund	~~2,323,283,242~~	2,308,585,666
Federal funds	354,654,849	354,654,849
Global Commitment fund	260,000	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,467,771	1,467,771
Pension trust funds	3,572,780	3,572,780
Total	~~2,936,531,236~~	2,922,212,297

Sec. F.145 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.704 is amended to read:

Sec. B.704 Forests, parks and recreation - forestry

Personal services	~~7,880,566~~	7,913,766
Operating expenses	1,005,046	1,005,046
Grants	~~1,712,423~~	1,713,923
Total	~~10,598,035~~	10,632,735
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,299,512~~	6,334,212
Special funds	547,215	547,215
Federal funds	3,394,931	3,394,931
Interdepartmental transfers	356,377	356,377
Total	~~10,598,035~~	10,632,735

Sec. F.146 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.710 is amended to read:

Sec. B.710 Environmental conservation - air and waste management

Personal services	27,995,328	27,995,328
Operating expenses	~~10,788,954~~	10,816,954
Grants	4,943,000	4,943,000
Total	~~43,727,282~~	43,755,282

Source of funds		
General fund	~~199,372~~	227,372
Special funds	24,643,580	24,643,580
Federal funds	18,800,064	18,800,064
Interdepartmental transfers	84,266	84,266
Total	~~43,727,282~~	43,755,282

Sec. F.147 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.711 is amended to read:

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services	50,153,806	50,153,806
Operating expenses	~~8,362,915~~	8,370,915
Grants	92,365,140	92,365,140
Total	~~150,881,861~~	150,889,861
Source of funds		
General fund	~~11,887,629~~	11,895,629
Special funds	30,967,150	30,967,150
Federal funds	107,154,542	107,154,542
Interdepartmental transfers	872,540	872,540
Total	~~150,881,861~~	150,889,861

Sec. F.148 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	~~42,792,800~~	42,863,500
Special funds	81,275,829	81,275,829
Fish and wildlife fund	10,418,331	10,418,331
Federal funds	152,068,301	152,068,301
Interdepartmental transfers	14,131,324	14,131,324
Total	~~300,686,585~~	300,757,285

Sec. F.149 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100 ALLOCATIONS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

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

(1) The sum of $575,662 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of $575,662 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of ~~$22,106,740~~ $28,238,050 from the property transfer tax and surcharge established in 32 V.S.A. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of $2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the reduction of $1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and $1,000,000 from the surcharge established in 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2025 appropriation of ~~$22,106,740~~ $28,238,050 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the $1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the $1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), amounts in excess of ~~$7,772,373~~ $9,052,113 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. The ~~$7,772,373~~ $9,052,113 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) ~~$6,404,540~~ $7,300,358 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) ~~$931,773~~ $1,187,721 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) ~~$436,060~~ $564,034 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. F.150 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. D.102 is amended to read:

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

* * *

3150892104 MH – Case Management Serv	~~$350,000.00~~	$350,199.34

* * *

1100892208 AOA – VT Housing Finance Agency	$3,000,000.00
1100892403 AOA – Health Equity Community Grants	$500,000.00

1120020000 Tuition Assistance Program	$133,877.86
1120892401 DHR – New Position in DHR Ops	$477,769.00
1120892402 DHR – New Position in VTHR Ops	$40,726.07
1140010000 Tax Operation Costs	$1,267,062.22
1140060000 Reappraisal and Listing Payments	$35,270.75
1140070000 Use Tax Reimbursement Program	$37,864.25
1140330000 Renter Rebates	$2,186,940.33
1140892403 Tax – Child Care Contr Positions	$3,591,823.02
1260980000 Debt Service	$235,445.15
1266892401 VPIC – Pension System Assets	$5,000.00
2100892201 AG – Racial Disparities	$48,465.00
2120892203 JUD – County Court House HVAC	$800,000.00
2120892402 JUD – Essex County Courthouse Reno	$50,000.00
2130400000 SIUS Parent Account	$395,749.64
2150010000 Mil Admin/TAGO	$142,789.80
2150050000 Mil Vet Affairs Office	$100,000.00
2160892201 CCVS – VT Forensic Nursing	$246.43
2160892304 CCVS – Kurn Hattin Survivor	$250.00
2200010000 Administration Division	$167,222.00
3310000000 Commission on Women	$25,390.43
3330892401 GMCB – VHCURES Database Implemen	$545,782.90
3400892111 Supp New Americans Refugee	$23,431.00
3400892301 AHSCO – Refugee Resettlement	$1,293.00
3420892405 HD – Regional Emergency Med	$8,295.01
3440050000 DCFS – AABD	$35,310.73
3440892110 DCF – Grants to Reachup	$5.10
3440892203 DCF – Parent Child Ctrs Cap Imp	$20,708.22
3440892214 DCF – Child Care Provider Workfor	$294.79
4100500000 VT Department of Labor	$8,000,000.00
5100070000 Education Services	$100,000.00

5100892101 AOE – VSC Committee Per Diem	$16,295.33
5100892102 AOA – Advisory Group Per Diem	$9,018.00
5100892103 AOE – ESESAG Per Diems	$8,960.00
5100892201 AOE – Comm Pub Sch Emp Hlth Ben	$29,050.00
5100892202 AOE – Task Force Equit Inclusive	$6,150.00
5100892302 AOE – Ethnic&Social Equity Per D	$14,386.24
6100010000 Administration Management and Planning	$402,052.99
6100040000 Property Tax Assessment Approp	$11,692.11
6140880005 152/00 State Asst Munic Poll Cont	$126.26
7100892301 Everyone Eats	$144,565.43
7120892304 DED – Relocated and Remote Worker	$127,314.33
8100002100 Department of Motor Vehicles	$2,482.81

* * *

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2025, the following amounts shall revert to the Education Fund from the accounts indicated:

5100010000 Administration	$301,041.03
5100050000 State-Placed Students	$13,687,528.41
5100090000 Education Grant	$359,570.31
5100110000 Small School Grant	$593,700.00
5100200000 Education – Technical Education	$1,802,347.44
5100210000 Education – Flexible Pathways	$1,312,334.72
5100892405 AOE – Universal School Meals	$6,201,479.69

Sec. F.151 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

* * *

(d) The conversion of eight limited service positions to exempt permanent status is authorized in fiscal year 2025 as follows:

(1) Office of the Defender General:

(A) one Administrative Services Tech;

(B) two DG IT Specialist II's;

(C) one ODG Legal Assistant I;

(D) two Staff Attorney I's;

(E) one Financial Specialist III; and

(F) one Admin Secretary.

* * *

Sec. F.152 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

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

* * *

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of ~~$24,301,185~~ $28,307,335 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under Global Commitment as follows:

(1) ~~$21,295,850~~ $25,302,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with ~~$29,204,150~~ $34,698,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of ~~$50,500,000~~ $60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(2) $3,005,335 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

(c) Up to ~~$4,487,210~~ $3,614,245 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act.

Sec. F.153 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. G.109 is amended to read:

Sec. G.109 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026

(a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers'

Association for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:

(1) Fiscal year 2025.

* * *

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control ~~Board~~ Fund such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

* * *

(2) Fiscal year 2026.

* * *

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control ~~Board~~ Fund such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

* * *

Sec. F.154 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. TELEPHONE TAX; REPEAL; TRANSITION

(a) 32 V.S.A. § 8521 (telephone personal property tax) is repealed on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. The final monthly installment payment of the telephone personal property tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8521 levied on the net book value of the taxpayer's personal property as of December 31, ~~2024~~ 2025 shall be due on or before July 25, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(b) 32 V.S.A. § 8522 (alternative telephone gross revenues tax) is repealed on January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027. The final quarterly payment of the alternative tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8522 shall be due on or before January 25, ~~2026~~ 2027.

(c) Any taxpayer who paid the alternative tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. § 8522 prior to the repeal of the tax on January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 shall become subject to the income tax imposed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 151 beginning with the taxpayer's first income tax year starting on or after January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. No alternative tax under 32 V.S.A. § 8522 shall be due for any period included in

the taxpayer's income tax filing for tax years starting on or after January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(d) In fiscal year ~~2025~~ 2026, the Division of Property Valuation and Review of the Department of Taxes and all communications service providers with taxable communications property in Vermont shall be subject to the inventory and valuation provisions prescribed in 32 V.S.A. § 4452, as applicable.

Sec. F.155 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 145, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

* * *

(3) Secs. 8–12 (communications property tax) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 and shall apply to grand lists lodged on or after April 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

Sec. F.156 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION

Notwithstanding 7 V.S.A. § 845(c), in fiscal year 2025:

(1) $500,000.00 is transferred from the Cannabis Regulation Fund established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 845 to the Cannabis Business Development Fund established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987; and

(2) $500,000.00 is appropriated from the Cannabis Business ~~19~~ Development Fund to the ~~Agency of Commerce and Community Development~~ Department of Economic Development to fund technical assistance and provide loans and grants pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987.

Sec. F.157 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 78 is amended to read:

Sec. 78. ~~TRANSFERS; PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX~~

~~Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), or any other provision of law to the contrary, amounts in excess of $32,954,775.00 from the property transfer tax shall be transferred into the General Fund. Of this amount:~~

~~(1) $6,106,335.00 shall be transferred from the General Fund into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.~~

~~(2) $1,279,740.00 shall be transferred from the General Fund into the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. F.158 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 96 is amended to read:

Sec. 96. APPROPRIATION; RENT ARREARS ASSISTANCE FUND

The sum of $2,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Vermont State Housing Authority~~ Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

Sec. F.159 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 75, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.119, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 106, is further amended to read:

Sec. 3. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) ~~Amounts~~ Of the amounts available from the American Rescue Plan Act – State Fiscal Recovery funds, $4,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program and shall be used for one or more of the following purposes:

* * *

Sec. F.160 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 113b is amended to read:

Sec. 113b. APPROPRIATION; ~~NATURAL RESOURCES~~ LAND USE REVIEW BOARD

The sum of ~~$1,300,000.00~~ $400,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the ~~Natural Resources~~ Land Use Review Board in fiscal year 2025.

Sec. F.161 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 24a is amended to read:

Sec. 24a. COMPENSATION FOR OVERPAYMENT

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, ~~the sum of $29,224.00~~ a $29,224.00 credit shall be ~~transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of~~ applied to the Canaan Town School District's education spending, as defined per 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the ~~Town of~~ Canaan Town School District for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. ~~The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Canaan.~~

(b) ~~Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $5,924.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Bloomfield in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the~~

~~Town of Bloomfield for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Bloomfield.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $2,575.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Brunswick in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Brunswick for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Brunswick.~~

~~(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $6,145.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of East Haven in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of East Haven for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of East Haven.~~

~~(e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $2,046.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Granby in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Granby for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Granby.~~

~~(f) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $10,034.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Guildhall in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Guildhall for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Guildhall.~~

~~(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $20,536.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Kirby in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Kirby for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Kirby.~~

~~(h) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $2,402.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Lemington in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Lemington for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Lemington.~~

~~(i) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $11,464.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Maidstone in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Maidstone for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Maidstone.~~

~~(j) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $4,349.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Norton in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Norton for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Norton.~~

~~(k) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the sum of $2,657.00 shall be transferred from the Education Fund to the Town of Victory in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Town of Victory for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The transfer under this subsection shall be made directly to the Town of Victory.~~

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a $68,132.00 credit shall be applied to the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District's education spending, as defined per 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), in fiscal year 2025 to compensate the homestead taxpayers of the Northeast Kingdom Choice School District for an overpayment of education taxes in fiscal year 2024 due to erroneous accounting of certain students for the purposes of calculating average daily membership.

Sec. F.162 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1102, as added by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 47, is amended to read:

Sec. B.1102 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2023, funds are appropriated from the Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951) for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

(1) $40,010,000 to the Agency of Digital Services to be used as follows:

(A) $11,800,000 for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system upgrade of Human Capital Management and core statewide financial accounting system and integration with the Department of Labor and Agency of Transportation financial systems;

* * *

Sec. F.163 3 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

§ 3306. TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SPECIAL FUND

* * *

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred ~~or appropriated~~ to it by the General Assembly; and

(2) any interest earned by the Fund.

* * *

Sec. F.164 WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND; REPEAL

(a) 10 V.S.A. § 543 (Workforce Education and Training Fund) is repealed.

Sec. F.165 18 V.S.A. § 9502 is amended to read:

§ 9502. TOBACCO TRUST FUND

(a)(1) The Tobacco Trust Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer for the purposes of creating a self-sustaining, perpetual fund for tobacco cessation and prevention that is not dependent upon tobacco sales volume.

(2) The Trust Fund shall ~~comprise~~ be composed of:

(A) ~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly; and

(B) ~~transfers from the Litigation Settlement Fund pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section; and~~

~~(C)~~ contributions from any other source.

(3) The State Treasurer shall not disburse monies from the Trust Fund, except upon appropriation by the General Assembly. In any fiscal year, total appropriations from the Trust Fund shall not exceed seven percent of the fair market value of the Fund at the end of the prior fiscal year.

(4) The Trust Fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer may invest monies in the Fund in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 434. All balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned shall remain in the Fund. The State Treasurer's annual financial report to the Governor and the General Assembly shall contain an accounting of receipts, disbursements, and earnings of the Fund.

(b) ~~Unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2000, and on June 30 of each subsequent fiscal year, any unencumbered balance in the Litigation Settlement Fund shall be transferred to the Trust Fund.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. F.166 32 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Loan" means a loan that is interest free or below market value.

(2) "State agency" means an Executive Branch agency, department, commission, office, or board.

* * *

Sec. F.167 32 V.S.A. § 706 is amended to read:

§ 706. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

Notwithstanding any authority granted elsewhere, all transfers of appropriations shall be made pursuant to this section upon the initiative of the Governor or upon the request of a secretary or commissioner.

(1) With the approval of the Governor, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may transfer balances of appropriations not to exceed ~~$50,000.00~~ $100,000.00 made under any appropriation act for the support of the government from one component of an agency, department, or other unit of State government to any component of the same agency, department, or unit.

(2) Except as specified in ~~subdivisions~~ subdivision (1) ~~and (4)~~ of this section, the transfer of balances of appropriations may be made only with the approval of the Emergency Board.

(3) For the specific purpose of balancing and closing out fund accounts at the end of a fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may adjust a balance within an account of an agency or department in an amount not to exceed ~~$100.00~~ $200.00.

* * *

Sec. F.168 32 V.S.A. § 902 is amended to read:

§ 902. AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW MONEY

* * *

(b) The State Treasurer shall pay the interest on~~,~~ and principal of ~~and expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing of such~~ notes as the same fall due without further order or authority from the ~~General Fund or from the Transportation or other applicable funds or from the proceeds of bonds or notes~~ governmental debt service funds established in section 951a of this chapter. The authority hereby granted is in addition to and not in limitation of any other authority. Such notes shall be sold at public or private sale with or without published notice, as the State Treasurer may determine to be in the best interests of the State.

Sec. F.169 32 V.S.A. § 951a is amended to read:

§ 951a. DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

(a) Three governmental debt service funds are hereby established:

* * *

(b) Financial resources in each fund shall consist of ~~appropriations by the General Assembly to fulfill debt service obligations,~~ the transfer of funding sources by the General Assembly to fulfill future debt service obligations, bond proceeds raised to fund a permanent reserve required by a trust agreement entered into to secure bonds, transfers of appropriations effected pursuant to section 706 of this title, investment income earned on balances held in trust agreement accounts as required by a trust agreement, and such other amounts as directed by the General Assembly or that are specifically authorized by provisions of this title. Each debt service fund shall account for the accumulation of resources and the fulfillment of debt service obligations within the current fiscal year and the accumulation of resources for debt service obligations maturing in future fiscal years.

* * *

Sec. F.170 32 V.S.A. § 954 is amended to read:

§ 954. PROCEEDS

(a) The proceeds arising from the sale of bonds, inclusive of any premiums, shall be applied to the purposes for which they were authorized, and the purposes ~~shall~~ may be considered to include ~~the expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing the bonds and any notes issued under section 955 of this title, and~~ underwriters' fees and amounts for reserves, but no purchasers of the bonds shall be in any way bound to see to the proper application of the proceeds. The State Treasurer shall pay the interest on, principal of, investment return on, and maturity value of the bonds and notes as the same fall due or accrue without further order or authority. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, may establish sinking funds, reserve funds, or other special funds of the State as the State Treasurer may deem for the best interests of the State. To the extent not otherwise provided, the amount necessary each year to fulfill the maturing principal and interest of, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on all the bonds then outstanding shall be included in and made a part of the annual appropriation bill for the expense of State government, and the principal and interest on, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on the bonds as may come due before appropriations for their fulfillment have been made shall be fulfilled from the applicable debt service fund.

(b) The ~~State Treasurer is authorized to allocate the~~ estimated cost of bond issuance or issuances ~~to the entities to which funds are appropriated by a capital construction act and for which bonding is required as the source of funds. If estimated receipts are insufficient, the State Treasurer shall allocate additional costs to the entities. Any remaining receipts shall not be expended, but carried forward to be available for future capital construction acts. If the source of funds appropriated by a capital construction act is other than by issuance of bonds, the State Treasurer is authorized to allocate the estimated cost of ongoing debt management services to the entities to which those funds are appropriated~~, including the costs of preparing, issuing, and marketing such bonds or notes shall be appropriated annually from the funds from which transfers are made to fund debt service costs.

* * *

Sec. F.171 VERMONT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND; REPEAL

(a) 33 V.S.A. chapter 78 (Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Fund) is repealed.

Sec. F.172 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

* * *

Sec. F.173 32 V.S.A. § 308b is amended to read:

§ 308b. HUMAN SERVICES CASELOAD RESERVE

(a) There is created within the General Fund a Human Services Caseload Reserve. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly or approval by the Emergency Board. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be limited to Agency of Human Services caseload-related needs primarily in the Departments for Children and Families, of Health, of Mental Health, of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, of Vermont Health Access, and settlement costs associated with managing the Global Commitment waiver.

(b) The Secretary of Administration may transfer to the Human Services Caseload Reserve any General Fund ~~carry-forward~~ carryforward directly attributable to Agency of Human Services caseload reductions and the effective management of related federal receipts, with the exclusion of the Department of Corrections.

(c) The Human Services Caseload Reserve shall contain two ~~sub-accounts~~ subaccounts:

(1) A ~~sub-account~~ subaccount for incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses. Each fiscal year ~~beginning with fiscal year 2020~~, the Department of Finance and Management shall adjust the amount reserved for incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses to equal the amount specified in the ~~Comprehensive~~ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year occurring two years prior for the estimated amount of incurred but not reported Medicaid expenses associated with the current Medicaid Global Commitment waiver.

* * *

Sec. F.174 CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION SPECIAL FUND; UNALLOCATED AND UNRESERVED BALANCE

(a) In fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Administration shall unreserve and transfer funds from the Human Services Caseload Reserve to the Child Care Contribution Special Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 10554 as necessary to maintain a balance that appropriately supports the State's statutory obligations under the Child Care Financial Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. §§ 3512 and 3513.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any unreserved and unallocated balance in the Child Care Contribution Special Fund shall remain in the Fund to support the future establishment of a reserve for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

Sec. F.175 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FACILITY WORK PROGRAMS; STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) Findings and intent.

(1) The General Assembly finds that a significant budget deficit has developed within previously existing programs despite a wage structure that pays incarcerated individuals in Vermont at rates ranging from $0.25 to $1.35 per hour, significantly below the federal minimum wage.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that all Department of Corrections facility work programs operate in a manner that is fiscally sustainable to the extent possible within current statutory limitations and effective in preparing offenders for meaningful employment upon release.

(b) Strategic plan. On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Corrections shall, in consultation with the Department of Labor, submit a strategic plan with proposed benchmarks for improvement to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Judiciary. The strategic plan shall include:

(1) A business plan to improve program efficiency and self-sustainability to ensure all facility work programs, including Vermont Correctional Industries, vocational training programs, and other paid facility duties, operate without recurring deficits or to clearly identify funding sources to address the deficits.

(2) A comprehensive evaluation of the skills provided through facility work programs to determine if those skills are transferable to employment opportunities post-incarceration. The evaluation shall include consideration of expanding technical training and certification opportunities that carry recognized value in the labor market.

(3) An analysis of facility work programs to determine if each program serves a sufficient portion of the incarcerated population to justify its administration. The analysis shall also consider whether participants gain meaningful and valuable work experiences.

(4) A review of wages paid to facility work program participants, the implications of wage structures on program outcomes, and the appropriate use of funds in relation to program objectives.

(c) In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the Department of Corrections shall submit timely reports to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Judiciary, or the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, on the development of facility work program deficits. The Department shall include in these reports any financial or operational actions taken to address deficits, increase oversight, and prevent future deficits.

Sec. F.176 MEDICAID PROVIDERS WITH STABILIZATION NEEDS; GRANT ELIGIBILITY

(a) All Vermont Medicaid participating providers with demonstrated stabilization needs and a plan to achieve sustainability shall be eligible to apply for funds appropriated pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100(o)(4), including substance use residential treatment facilities, federally qualified health centers, residential mental health providers, and other providers of health care and human services.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall submit a report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations. The report shall include:

(1) A detailed account of grants distributed pursuant to the appropriation made in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100(o)(4), as added by this act. This shall include the dollar amount and recipient of each grant.

(2) A description of each grant recipient's financial status prior to receipt of the grant, a summary of the impact of the grant for each recipient, and a summary of a revised long-term sustainability plan for each grant recipient.

(3) An analysis of grant outcomes and any recommendations for enhancing the financial stability of Vermont Medicaid providers.

Sec. F.177 ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 945 and any other provision of law to the contrary, a high school may award a high school diploma to any student who meets the following criteria:

(1) Prior to July 1, 2024, the student was participating in the High School Completion Program as the program existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

(2) The student has met the requirements of the student's individual graduation plan and would have been eligible to receive a diploma pursuant to the High School Completion Program as it existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on June 30, 2024.

Sec. F.178 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS

(a) For the remainder of federal fiscal year 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall utilize the State's allocation of discretionary exemptions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to the extent permitted by federal regulation for the purposes of:

(1) extending benefits to Program participants who would otherwise experience a disruption of benefits; and

(2) ensuring that Program participants are not accruing any time-limited benefit work requirement countable months.

Sec. F.179 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Secs. 5 and 6 are amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 4 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

(b) ~~Sec. 5 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.~~

~~(c)~~ All other sections shall take effect 30 calendar days after passage.

Sec. F.180 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 1, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 108, Sec. 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. REIMBURSEMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES OF STATE EDUCATION PROPERTY TAXES THAT WERE ABATED DUE TO FLOODING

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may approve an application by a municipality for reimbursement of State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, prior to November 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, a municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax, under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

(2) As used in this subsection, "eligible property" means property lost or destroyed due directly or indirectly to severe storms and flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, provided the loss or destruction resulted in one or more of the following:

(A) a 50 percent or greater loss in value to the primary structure on the property;

(B) loss of use by the property owner of the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more;

(C) loss of access by the property owner to utilities for the primary structure on the property for 60 days or more; or

(D) condemnation of the primary structure on the property under federal, State, or municipal law, as applicable.

(b) If a municipality demonstrates that, due to disruption to tax collections resulting from flooding in an area that was declared a federal disaster between July 1, 2023 and ~~October 15, 2023~~ December 31, 2024, the municipality incurred unanticipated interest expenses on funds borrowed to make State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426, the municipality may be reimbursed by an amount equal to its reasonable interest expenses under this subsection, provided the amount of reimbursed interest expenses shall not exceed eight percent.

* * *

Sec. F.181 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106 is amended to read:

Sec. E.106 CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND APPROPRIATIONS; REVERSION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SPENDING AUTHORITY

* * *

(b) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall revert all unobligated American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority prior to December 31, 2024. The total amount of American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund spending authority reverted in accordance with this subsection shall equal the amount of new spending authority established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 511 for the following purposes in the following order:

* * *

(3) $30,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of: affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units~~,~~ including improvements to manufactured homes and communities~~,~~; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness~~,~~; recovery residences~~,~~; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.

Sec. F.182 CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, General Fund, Transportation Fund, Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund, Education Fund, Technology Modernization Special Fund (21951), Clean Water Fund (21932), and Agricultural Water Quality Fund (21933) appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Executive Branch shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, General Fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2025 in the Legislative and Judicial Branches shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. B.1101, C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105, C.106, C.107, E.127.3, E.306.1, E.312.1, E.313.3, F.100, F.101, F.102, F.103, F.104, F.105, F.106, F.107, F.108, F.109, F.110, F.111, F.112, F.113, F.114, F.115, F.116, F.117, F.118, F.119, F.120, F.121, F.122, F.123, F.124, F.125, F.126, F.127, F.128, F.129, F.130, F.131, F.132, F.133, F.134, F.135, F.136, F.137, F.138, F.139, F.140, F.141, F.142, F.143, F.144, F.145, F.146, F.147, F.148, F.149, F.150, F.151, F.152, F.153, F.156, F.157, F.158, F.159, F.160, F.162, F.163, F.164, F.165, F.166, F.167, F.168, F.169, F.170, F.171, F.172, F.173, F.174, F.175, F.176, F.177, F.178, F.179, F.181, and F.182 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. E.111 and E.111.1 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024.

(c) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. E.111.2 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

(d) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. E.111.3 shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable years and periods beginning on and after January 1, 2025 and ending on or before December 31, 2025.

(e) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. F.154 and F.155 shall take effect retroactively on March 31, 2025.

(f) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. F.161 shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2024.

(g) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. F.180 shall take effect retroactively on November 15, 2024.

(h) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

ANDREW J. PERCHLIK

RICHARD A. WESTMAN

VIRGINA V. LYONS

Committee on the part of the Senate

ROBIN P. SCHEU

JAMES F. HARRISON

TIFFANY BLUEMLE

Committee on the part of the House

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, **Rep. Scheu of Middlebury** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 132. Nays, 3.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bailey of Hyde Park
Bartholomew of Hartland
Bartley of Fairfax
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bosch of Clarendon
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Brady of Williston
Branagan of Georgia
Brown of Richmond
Burditt of West Rutland
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Canfield of Fair Haven
Casey of Montpelier
Casey of Hubbardton
Galfetti of Barre Town
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Goslant of Northfield
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harple of Glover
Harrison of Chittenden
Harvey of Castleton
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howland of Rutland Town
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morris of Springfield
Morrissey of Bennington
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nelson of Derby
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Ode of Burlington
Oliver of Sheldon
Olson of Starksboro
Page of Newport City
Pezzo of Colchester
Pinsonault of Dorset
Pouech of Hinesburg
Powers of Waterford
Pritchard of Pawlet
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury

Chapin of East Montpelier
Charlton of Chester
Christie of Hartford
Cina of Burlington
Coffin of Cavendish
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Donahue of Northfield
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McCoy of Poultney *
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morgan, L. of Milton
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Squirrell of Underhill
Steady of Milton *
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Toof of St. Albans Town
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
Wells of Brownington
White of Waitsfield
White of Bethel
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Luneau of St. Albans City
Parsons of Newbury
Winter of Ludlow

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Burtt of Cabot
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Duke of Burlington
Higley of Lowell
Howard of Rutland City
Labor of Morgan
Malay of Pittsford
Nielsen of Brandon
Nigro of Bennington
Priestley of Bradford
Walker of Swanton

Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I commend the conferees of the Committee of Conference for getting to a place everyone could agree. I believe this budget is the first budget in my time here that, while higher than the Governor's recommend, is closer to the Governor's recommend than either the House or Senate recommends. Congratulations, conferees and well done."

Rep. Steady of Milton provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I ran to be a legislator for affordability. As a new legislator, I found that a lot of bills that are written come at a cost to Vermonters. I voted yes in hopes, in the future, writers of bills really think about the long term costs to taxpayers."

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 15th day of May 2025, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the House of Representatives of the following title:

H.219 An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program

Governor's Veto Letter

"May 15, 2025

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning H.219, *An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program,* without my signature because of my objections described herein:

I have no objection to providing family support programs for incarcerated parents and guardians, however, this bill violates the constitutionally mandated, separation of powers by attempting to obligate the Governor to include funding in the annual budget submission to the Legislature.

The Vermont Constitution Chapter II, Section 20 is clear. The Legislature has no authority to direct the Governor on how to establish funding and policy priorities in the Governor's budget submission. For this reason, I cannot allow this bill to go into law.

I met with several lawmakers to notify them of my intent to veto the bill and provided assurances that, because this program was also included in the budget (H.493, Sec E.338.1), it will move forward in FY26 as planned. I would also welcome the Legislature to send me the bill again with the change, if preferred, or address it next session.

Sincerely,
Philip B. Scott
Governor
PBS/kp"

Adjournment

At two o'clock and five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Friday, May 16, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Howard Coffin, author and historian, Montpelier.

Pages Honored

In appreciation of their many services to the members of the General Assembly, the Speaker recognized the following named Pages who completed their service today and presented them with commemorative pins:

Austen N. Boulanger of South Burlington
Eleanor Brady of Williston
Atticus Lawler of East Montpelier
Braeden Schuren Burns of Montpelier
Naomi Isla Segal of Woodstock
Oscar Vulte of Brattleboro
Alex Young-Springer of Burlington

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 481

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to stormwater management

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1264 is amended to read:

§ 1264. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

* * *

(c) Prohibitions.

* * *

(7) In accordance with the schedule established under subdivision (g)(3) of this section, a person shall not discharge stormwater from impervious surface of three or more acres in size without first obtaining an individual permit or coverage under a general permit issued under this section if the discharge was never previously permitted or was permitted under an individual permit or general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. The Secretary shall provide notice to all owners of property subject to the permit required under this subdivision.

(d) Exemptions.

* * *

(2) No permit is required under subdivision (c)(1), (5), or (7) of this section and for which a municipality has assumed full legal responsibility as part of a permit issued to the municipality by the Secretary. As used in this subdivision, "full legal responsibility" means legal control of the stormwater system, including a legal right to access the stormwater system, a legal duty to properly maintain the stormwater system, and a legal duty to repair and replace the stormwater system when it no longer adequately protects waters of the State. Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 3254 to the contrary, when a municipality assumes or has assumed full legal responsibility for a stormwater system, the municipality may assess municipal special assessment fees on users of the stormwater system provided that a majority of the property owners subject to the special assessment fee consented and the fee assessed is a fair apportionment to the user of the cost of the improvement in accordance with the benefits the user received.

* * *

(g) General permits.

* * *

(3) Within 120 days after the adoption by the Secretary of the rules required under subsection (f) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a general permit under this section for discharges of stormwater from impervious surface of three or more acres in size, when the stormwater discharge previously was not permitted or was permitted under an individual permit or general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. Under the general permit, the Secretary shall:

(A) Establish a schedule for implementation of the general permit by geographic area of the State. The schedule shall establish the date by which an owner of impervious surface shall apply for coverage under this subdivision (3). The schedule established by the Secretary shall require an owner of impervious surface subject to permitting under this subdivision to obtain coverage by the following dates:

(i) for impervious surface located within the Lake Champlain watershed, the Lake Memphremagog watershed, or the watershed of a stormwater-impaired water on or before October 1, ~~2023~~ 2028; and

(ii) for impervious surface located within all other watersheds of the State, ~~no~~ not later than October 1, ~~2033~~ 2038 or not later than five years after a binding stormwater-specific waste-load allocation has been established for that watershed, whichever occurs first.

(B) Establish criteria and technical standards, such as best management practices, for implementation of stormwater improvements for the retrofitting of impervious surface subject to permitting under this subdivision (3).

(C) Require that a discharge of stormwater from impervious surface subject to the requirements of this section comply with the standards of subsection (h) of this section for redevelopment of or renewal of a permit for existing impervious surface.

(D) Allow the use of stormwater impact fees, offsets, and phosphorus credit trading within the watershed of the water to which the stormwater discharges or runs off.

* * *

Sec. 2. REPEALS; SUNSET OF PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX CLEAN WATER SURCHARGE

(a) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.10 (sunset of clean water surcharge), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, is repealed.

(b) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.11(a)(5) (effective date of sunset of clean water surcharge) is repealed.

Sec. 3. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.1(b) is amended to read:

(b) Purpose and intent.

(1) The purpose of Secs. I.1–I.12 of this act is to promote the development and improvement of housing for Vermonters.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

(A) to extend the clean water surcharge to provide ~~an interim~~ a source of revenue for addressing water quality issues throughout the State; and

(B) to continue its work on identifying a long-term funding source or sources that are sufficient in scope and targeted in design to address these water quality issues~~; and~~

~~(C) once one or more long-term funding sources are identified and enacted, but not later than July 1, 2027, to reduce the amount of the clean water surcharge to 0.04 percent~~.

Sec. 4. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.12 is amended to read:

Sec. I.12. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. I.1–I.12 shall take effect on July 1, 2017~~, except that Sec. I.10 (allocating clean water surcharge revenue to Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund) shall take effect on July 1, 2027~~.

Sec. 5. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. I.7(d) is amended to read:

(d) To compensate for this reduction of available property transfer tax revenue, it is the intent of the General Assembly through this act to provide for the transfer of $2,500,000.00 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, as follows:

(1) Sec. D.100 of this act appropriates $11,304,840.00 in fiscal year 2018 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Upon the effective date of this act, $1,500,000.00 shall revert to the Fund, resulting in a fiscal year 2018 total appropriation to the Board of $9,804,840.00. In fiscal year 2018 only, the

amount of $1,500,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) As provided in Sec. I.9 of this act, ~~from July 1, 2017 until July 1, 2027,~~ pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, the first $1,000,000.00 in revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of ~~0.2~~ 0.22 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. In fiscal year 2018 only, the Commissioner shall transfer the amount of $1,000,000.00 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to the General Fund.

(3) ~~After July 1, 2027, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9602a as amended in Sec. I.10 of this act, $1,000,000.00 in total revenue generated by the clean water surcharge of 0.04 percent shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.~~ [Repealed.]

(4) ~~As provided in Sec. I.11 of this act, the clean water surcharge will be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2039.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. §§ 927 and 928 are amended to read:

§ 927. DEVELOPED LANDS IMPLEMENTATION ~~GRANT~~ PROGRAM

The Secretary shall administer a Developed Lands Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program to provide ~~grants or financing~~ financial assistance to persons who are required to obtain a permit to implement regulatory requirements that are necessary to achieve water quality standards. ~~The grant or financing program shall only be available in basins where a clean water service provider has met its annual goals or is making sufficient progress, as determined by the Secretary, towards those goals.~~ This ~~grant~~ program shall fund or provide financing for projects related to the permitting of impervious surface of three acres or more under subdivision 1264(g)(3) of this title and for a permit renewal under subdivision 1264(h)(2) of this title for a discharge to a stormwater-impaired water that was permitted under an individual permit or a general permit that did not incorporate the requirements of the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual or any subsequently adopted Stormwater Management Manual. Not more than 15 percent of the total grant amount awarded shall be used for administrative costs.

§ 928. MUNICIPAL STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION ~~GRANT~~ PROGRAM

The Secretary shall administer a Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grant Program to provide ~~grants~~ financial assistance to any municipality required under section 1264 of this title to obtain or seek coverage under the municipal roads general permit, the municipal separate storm sewer systems permit, a permit for impervious surface of three acres or more, or a permit required by the Secretary to reduce the adverse impacts to water quality of a

discharge or stormwater runoff. ~~The grant program shall only be available in basins where a clean water service provider has met its annual goals or is making sufficient progress, as determined by the Secretary, towards those goals.~~ Not more than 15 percent of the total grant amount awarded shall be used for administrative costs. This program also shall be available to a municipality to comply with a permit for impervious surface of three acres or more for a residential subdivision when the municipality assumes or has assumed full legal responsibility for the stormwater system of the residential subdivision under subdivision 1264(c)(7) of this title. Municipalities may receive assistance under this program for design or engineering services necessary for the formation of a municipal stormwater utility.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 1389(e) is amended to read:

(e) Priorities. In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize as follows:

(1) As a first priority, make recommendations regarding funding for the following grants and programs, which shall each be given equal priority:

(A) grants to clean water service providers to fund the reasonable costs associated with the inspection, verification, operation, and maintenance of clean water projects in a basin;

(B) the Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant under section 925 of this title;

(C) the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' agricultural water quality programs; and

(D) the Water Quality Enhancement Grants under section 926 of this title at a funding level of at least 20 percent of the annual balance of the Clean Water Fund, provided that the maximum amount recommended under this subdivision (D) in any year shall not exceed $5,000,000.00; and

(E) funding to partners for basin planning, basin water quality council participation, education, and outreach as provided in subdivision 1253(d)(3) of this title, provided funding shall be at least $500,000.00.

(2) As the next priority after reviewing funding requests for programs identified under subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) funding to programs or projects that address or repair riparian conditions that increase the risk of flooding or pose a threat to life or property;

(B) funding for education and outreach regarding the implementation of water quality requirements, including funding for education, outreach,

demonstration, and access to tools for the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(C) funding for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program as provided in section 928 of this title, including at least $1,000,000.00 annually for costs of complying with permitting requirements under subdivision 1264(c)(7) of this title;

(D) funding for innovative or alternative technologies or practices designed to improve water quality or reduce sources of pollution to surface waters, including funding for innovative nutrient removal technologies and community-based methane digesters that utilize manure, wastewater, and food residuals to produce energy; and

(E) funding to purchase agricultural land in order to take that land out of practice when the State water quality requirements cannot be remediated through agricultural Best Management Practices.

(3) As the next priority after reviewing funding requests under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, funding for the Developed Lands Implementation ~~Grant~~ Program as provided in section 927 of this title.

Sec. 7a. 10 V.S.A. § 1389a is amended to read:

§ 1389a. CLEAN WATER INVESTMENT REPORT

(a) Beginning on January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Administration shall publish the Clean Water Investment Report. The Report shall summarize all investments, including their cost-effectiveness, made by the Clean Water Board and other State agencies for clean water restoration over the prior fiscal year. The Report shall include expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, and any other State expenditures for clean water restoration, regardless of funding source.

(b) The Report shall include:

* * *

(7) Beginning on January 2028 and every four years thereafter, a review of the sufficiency of the Clean Water Surcharge to the Property Transfer Tax under 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, including an assessment of whether the revenue generated by the surcharge remains necessary to fulfill the State's clean water initiatives. The review shall include an assessment of whether the Clean Water Surcharge should be continued, whether the amount of the surcharge should be adjusted, and whether the surcharge should be repealed at a specified date.

* * *

Sec. 8. RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION; PRIORITIES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Clean Water Board shall recommend $5,000,000.00 from the Clean Water Fund in fiscal year 2027 to the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program in 10 V.S.A. § 928 for costs of complying with permitting requirements under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including for residential subdivisions when the municipality assumes full legal responsibility for the stormwater system.

(b) Before January 1, 2032, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall provide properties subject to the three-acre stormwater permit under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7) additional priority points when awarding financing under the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program and under the Developed Lands Implementation Program when residential housing used as primary residences are located on the relevant properties.

Sec. 9. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PUBLIC RESOURCE GUIDE

(a) On or before January 1, 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish a Public Resource Guide to Stormwater Management that informs persons subject to stormwater operating permits under 10 V.S.A. § 1264 with information and resources related to complying with and paying for stormwater permitting requirements. The Resource Guide shall be user friendly and designed to encourage the public to engage with the Agency of Natural Resources in finding solutions to stormwater permitting needs.

(b) The Resource Guide shall:

(1) summarize the statutory requirements for stormwater permits, with specific emphasis on the three-acre stormwater permit required under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including why the permits are required;

(2) recommend available, practical, cost-effective measures for how persons subject to stormwater permit requirements can address parcel-based issues, including:

(A) the lack of a homeowner's association to assume permitting responsibility;

(B) lack of available property to implement stormwater management, including whether and how a person subject to stormwater permits can implement an off-site offset project to comply with permitting requirements; and

(C) how to address or manage stormwater runoff from other stormwater systems entering stormwater systems subject to permitting;

(3) recommend resources where funding for compliance with stormwater permitting requirements may be accessed or applied for, including how to apply for financial assistance from the Agency of Natural Resources;

(4) provide a contact at the Agency of Natural Resources that can assist persons subject to stormwater permitting by answering questions, providing referrals to creative or alternative solutions for achieving permit compliance, and recommending available financial resources; and

(5) provide a model bylaw or ordinance for the formation of a municipal stormwater utility.

(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit a copy of the Resource Guide to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment. The Secretary shall also make the Resources available free of cost to the public from the Agency's website.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 1389(e)(2)(C) is amended to read:

(C) funding for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program as provided in section 928 of this title~~, including at least $1,000,000.00 annually for costs of complying with permitting requirements under subdivision 1264(c)(7) of this title~~;

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 3616 is amended to read:

§ 3616. RENTS; RATES

(a) A municipal corporation, through its board may establish rates, rents, or charges to be paid as the board may prescribe. The board may establish annual charges separately for bond repayment, fixed operations and maintenance costs and variable operations and maintenance costs dependent on flow.

(b) The rates, rents, or charges may be based upon:

(1) the metered consumption of water on premises connected with the sewer system, however, the board may determine no user will be billed for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment less than the average single-family charge;

(2) the number of equivalent units connected with or served by the sewage system based upon their estimated flows compared to the estimated flows from a single-family dwelling, however, the board may determine no user will be billed less than the minimum charge determined for the single-family dwelling charge for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment;

* * *

(6) for groundwater, surface, or stormwater an equivalent residential unit based on an average or median of the area of impervious surface on residential property within the municipality; or

(7) any combination of these bases, provided the combination is equitable.

* * *

Sec. 12. STUDY COMMITTEE ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND CREATION OF REGIONAL STORMWATER UTILITY DISTRICTS

(a) Creation. There is created the Study Committee on the Creation of Regional Stormwater Utility Districts to review the feasibility and benefit of creating regional stormwater utility districts to facilitate implementation and compliance with the water quality laws of the State.

(b) Membership. The Study Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee;

(2) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) a representative of a municipality subject to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(4) a representative of a municipality with a population under 2,500 persons, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(5) a representative of the Green Mountain Water Environment Association, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(6) a commercial or industrial business owner subject to the three-acre stormwater permit or other stormwater requirements, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(7) a representative of an environmental advocacy organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(8) a representative of a regional planning commission, appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(9) a representative of a municipality with a designated downtown area served by water and sewer infrastructure that is not subject to a MS4 permit, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall review the feasibility of establishing regional stormwater utility districts in the State. The Study Committee shall:

(1) review current statutory authority for the development of regional stormwater utility districts comprised of multiple municipalities, including identifying any potential disincentives or obstacles to utility formation;

(2) propose an approach the State could use for implementing a regional stormwater utility that would allow the utilities to assume liability and responsibility for compliance with water quality laws, including how a utility could assume responsibility for:

(A) securing the permitting of properties subject to the three-acre stormwater permit; and

(B) achieving the phosphorus reduction targets for the three-acre stormwater permitted properties within the utility district;

(3) review and recommend cost-effective and equitable approaches for regional level revenue raising and distribution of project funding for the purpose of stormwater controls to meet total maximum daily load plans (TMDLs) including:

(A) consider prior revenue-raising recommendations made in the 2017 Clean Water Report from the Office of the State Treasurer;

(B) recommend whether and how to authorize a regional stormwater utility to assess fees or charges to all landowners, residents, and businesses within the regional stormwater utility district for the purpose of stormwater controls to meet TMDLs;

(C) propose how a regional stormwater utility district could be eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund awards and access State-level financial assistance for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of regulatory and nonregulatory stormwater systems, including from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund;

(D) recommend whether and how a regional stormwater utility can allocate resources and cost-effectively and equitably achieve pollutant reduction measures that are not fully achieved by regulated sites, as might be articulated in a regional stormwater management plan; and

(E) recommend whether and how a regional stormwater utility could improve the management of parcel-based issues in a more cost-effective and equitable manner, such as how a regional utility could address regulation of stormwater systems lacking a homeowners' association or other accountable

entity or how a regional utility could improve management of upstream properties that drain into stormwater systems subject to permitting;

(4) recommend whether stormwater permitting for municipalities or others could be streamlined to improve the application process, permit renewal, or fee requirements;

(5) propose how statute should be amended to implement any of the recommendations of the Study Committee, including stormwater management planning for purposes of overall regional phosphorus pollutant reductions; and

(6) estimate a cost to operate proposed regional stormwater utility districts.

(d) Assistance. The Study Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2027, the Study Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Environment and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Government Operations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee shall call the first meeting of the Study Committee.

(2) The Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee shall be the Chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Study Committee shall cease to exist on March 1, 2027.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Study Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources.

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 10 (future Clean Water Fund priorities) shall take effect October 1, 2032.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 53

Rep. Cordes of Bristol, for the Committee on Health Care, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 7, state plan amendment, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

Not later than July 1, 2026, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall seek a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow Vermont's Medicaid program to provide coverage for doula services in accordance with 33 V.S.A. § 1901n, as added by this act.

Second: In Sec. 8, effective dates, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) Sec. 5 (33 V.S.A. § 1901n; Medicaid coverage for doula services) shall take effect on the later of July 1, 2026 or approval of the state plan amendment requested pursuant to Sec. 7 of this act.

Rep. Branagan of Georgia, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Health Care agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 401

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury**, action on the bill was postponed until May 20, 2025.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 488

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the report of the Committee of Conference, on motion of **Rep. Corcoran of Bennington**, action on the bill was postponed until May 21, 2025.

Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Bill Ordered Delivered to the Governor Forthwith

H. 494

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H.494. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposals of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the $111,965,288.44 authorized in this act, not more than $61,969,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

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

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

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: $6,493,401.00

(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: $1,500,000.00

(3) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: $75,000.00

(4) Rutland, Asa Bloomer Building roof repair and sewage system upgrades: $1,500,000.00

(5) Rutland, multimodal garage renovation: $600,000.00

(6) Middlesex, Print and Postal uninterruptable power supply upgrade: $58,279.44

(7) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement: $2,000,000.00

(8) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: $1,500,000.00

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: $8,500,000.00

(2) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency: $250,000.00

(3) Statewide, physical security enhancements: $250,000.00

(4) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: $1,100,000.00

(5) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: $75,000.00

(6) Pittsford, Academy firing range upgrades $200,000.00

(7) Montpelier, State House replacement of historic interior finishes: $50,000.00

(8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation: $2,000,000.00

(9) Middlesex, Vermont State Archives roof replacement, main building: $1,000,000.00

(10) Waterbury, State Office Complex historic core roof replacement: $2,000,000.00

(11) Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: $500,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026	$13,726,680.44
Appropriation – FY 2027	$15,925,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 2	$28,951,680.44

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: $4,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, accessibility upgrades at correctional facilities: $2,000,000.00

(3) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: $225,000.00

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: $1,000,000.00

(5) St. Albans, Northwest State Regional Correctional Facility (NWSCF) roof replacement: $1,000,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: $1,000,000.00

(2) Statewide, correctional facility safety and security upgrades: $200,000.00

(3) Rutland, Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility (MVRCF) door control system replacements: $500,000.00

(4) St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements: $2,600,000.00

(5) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: $500,000.00

(c) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(5) of this section and the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(1), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (NWSCF, booking expansion, planning, design, and construction), and the Commissioner of Finance and Management may release the amount notwithstanding 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 27(a) (NWSCF; funding request for federal detainees).

Appropriation – FY 2026 $8,225,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 $4,800,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 3 $13,025,000.00

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites: $550,000.00

(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves: $46,000.00

(3) Roadside historic site markers: $25,000.00

(4) Bennington, Battle Monument, maintenance of safety fencing, restoration, planning, and design: $425,000.00

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

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites: $550,000.00

(2) Vermont Underwater Historic Preserves: $46,000.00

(3) Roadside historic site markers: $25,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026 $1,046,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 $621,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 4 $1,667,000.00

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 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

(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 $2,100,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 $2,100,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 5 $4,200,000.00

Sec. 6. VETERANS' HOME

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the following projects:

(1) Replacement of air handlers: $710,000.00

(2) Expansion of laundry facilities: $340,000.00

(b) The Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(1)–(2) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 $1,050,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 6 $1,050,000.00

Sec. 7. UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The sum of $1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the University of Vermont for construction, renovations, and major maintenance.

(b) The sum of $1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the University of Vermont for the projects described in subsection (a) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026 $1,500,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2027 $1,500,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 7 $3,000,000.00

Sec. 8. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

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

(1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance: $1,500,000.00

(2) Johnson, the central heating plant replacement: $1,500,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Vermont State Colleges for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, construction, renovations, and major maintenance: $1,500,000.00

(2) Johnson, central heating plant replacement: $3,500,000.00

(c) For the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (a)(2) and (b)(2) of this section, the Vermont State Colleges shall work with Efficiency Vermont to develop a central heating plant replacement.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$3,000,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$5,000,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 8	$8,000,000.00

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) The sum of $500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for dam safety and hydrology projects.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: $3,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: $700,000.00

(c) The sum of $1,105,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

(d) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the following projects:

(1) State match, drinking water supply, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: $590,000.00

(2) Dam safety and hydrology projects: $500,000.00

(e) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the following projects:

(1) Park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: $2,500,000.00

(2) Public lands access infrastructure: $700,000.00

(f) The sum of $1,029,360.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for major maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$5,805,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$5,319,360.00
Total Appropriation – Section 9	$11,124,360.00

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

(a) The sum of $3,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(b) The sum of $4,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for municipal pollution control grants.

(c) The sum of $200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for water quality improvements to forest access roads.

(d)(1) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the following projects:

(A) Agricultural water quality projects: $800,000.00

(B) Land conservation and water quality projects: $2,000,000.00

(2) A grant issued under subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

(A) shall not be considered a State grant under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 3 for purposes of calculating the maximum amount of a State water quality assistance award under 6 V.S.A. § 4824 or 4826; and

(B) may be used to satisfy a grant recipient's cost-share requirements.

(e) The sum of $10,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for clean water implementation projects.

(f) In FY 2026 and FY 2027, any agency that receives funding from this section shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure that the projects are capital eligible.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$10,000,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$10,000,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 10	$20,000,000.00

Sec. 11. MILITARY

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

(1) Major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories: $1,272,838.00

(2) Northwest Regional Readiness Center, planning and design: $1,343,333.00

(b) The sum of $1,310,167.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Military Department for major maintenance, renovations, and ADA compliance at State armories.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$2,616,171.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$1,310,167.00
Total Appropriation – Section 11	$3,926,338.00

Sec. 12. AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the following projects:

(1) Renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition: $1,500,000.00

(2) Upgrades to the heat systems serving the Vermont State University Randolph Campus and the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory: $3,500,000.00

(b) The sum of $1,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for renovations to the Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition.

(c) For the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall negotiate the maintenance of propane summer boilers and update the memorandum of understanding with Vermont State University. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is additionally authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory Heat Plant, construction).

Appropriation – FY 2026	$5,000,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$1,500,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 12	$6,500,000.00

Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

(a) The sum of $2,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for Rutland Field Station.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the following projects:

(1) Shaftsbury Field Station, land acquisition, planning, and design:	$150,000.00
(2) Rutland Field Station:	$1,645,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2026	$2,000,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$1,795,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 13	$3,795,000.00

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

Sec. 15. VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

(a) The sum of $125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the dry hydrant program.

(b) The sum of $125,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$125,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	$125,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 15	$250,000.00

Sec. 16. VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The sum of $700,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2026 to the Vermont Historical Society to mitigate water infiltration at the roof, foundation, and basement of the Spaulding Building in Barre.

Appropriation – FY 2026	$700,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 16	$700,000.00

* * * Funding * * *

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c)(5), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 1 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): $399,803.36

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c)(18), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2 (108 Cherry Street, parking garage repairs): $37,519.86

(3) of the amount appropriated in in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 13(a), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 9 (Middlesex Field Station): $371.89

(4) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(a)(2) (Middlesex Field Station): $18,309.45

(5) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 12(c), as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 10, as further amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 35 (Williston Public Safety Field Station): $2,220,099.10

(6) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(3) (statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency): $425,000.00

(7) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c)(7) (Northern State Correctional Facility, planning and construction for the boiler replacement): $1,000,000.00

(8) of the amount appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3(b)(5), as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 3 (South Burlington, justice-involved men, feasibility study for reentry facility): $125,000.00

(9) of the amounts appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): $58,279.44

(10) of the amounts appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): $23,237.47

(11) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): $73,784.44

(b) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 5(c)(3), as amended by 2020 Acts & Resolves No. 139, Sec. 3 (Highgate Native American Cemetery): $12,042.00

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts & Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(m), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Downtown Transportation Fund pilot project): $67,000.00

(c) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Transportation from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 12(b)(1) (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail): $112.31

(2) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program): $19,342.69

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Better Roads Grant Program): $41,238.46

(d) Of the amount appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b)(4) (Bennington, Battle Monument, construction of safety fencing), $419,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 4 of this act.

(e) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment), $115,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(f) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Education in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 6(a) (funding emergency projects), $19,549.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(g) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(b)(2) (ecosystem restoration and protection), $249.01 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(h) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(7) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(7) (design for the renovation of the Brandon and Cardinal units), $1,500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(i) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(9) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(10) (111 State Street; renovation of the stack area), $200,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(j) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Buildings and General Services may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (East Cottage); and

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b) (various projects).

(k) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amount not reallocated in this act appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(e)(1)(B), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (phosphorus removal equipment).

(l) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Department of Environmental Conservation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(f)(2)(A), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Standard EcoSystem Restoration and Protection programs);

(2) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(b) (pollution control); and

(3) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 10(a)(2) (dam safety and hydrology projects).

(m) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 701a(c)(2), the Agency of Transportation may retain for the same purposes the unexpended amounts not reallocated in this act that were appropriated in the following capital construction acts:

(1) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(c) (Municipal Mitigation Program); and

(2) 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(l), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8 (Municipal Mitigation Program).

Bonded Dollars	$5,074,938.48
Cash	$1,700,000.00
Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 17	$6,774,938.48

Sec. 18. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of $100,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations made in Secs. 2–16 of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded.

(b) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue additional general obligation bonds in the amount of $6,890,350.00 that were previously appropriated but unissued under 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, for the purpose of funding the appropriations in this act.

Total Revenues – Section 18	$106,890,350.00

Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS ACT; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that in addition to the issuance of general obligation bonds, eligible capital projects may be funded from the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize certain capital projects eligible for funding by 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in this act but appropriate the funds for these projects in the FY 2026 Appropriations Act. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 Appropriations Act appropriate funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2027.

(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:

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: $1,506,599.00

(2) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide planning, reuse, and contingency: $250,000.00

(3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide physical security enhancements: $250,000.00

(4) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for State House repointing: $219,500.00

(5) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for an uninterruptable power supply system for the Middlesex print and postal facility: $250,000.00

(6) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the Windsor County Courthouse in White River Junction: $6,900,000.00

(7) to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the design and construction of the American unit: $1,500,000.00

(8) to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for infrastructure improvements that are either municipally leased for a term of at least 30 years or municipally owned and that support the development of new or rehabilitated housing, provided that a grant agreement shall be in place between the State and the municipality prior to the release of funds: $2,500,000.00

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

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

(d) Authorizations; Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority is authorized from the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Drinking Water State

Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in accordance with the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.108(b), in the amount of $14,500,000.00.

(e) Transfer. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(20), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer any unexpended project balances between the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(7) of this section and the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(1) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement).

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Capital Budgeting Process* * *

Sec. 20. 32 V.S.A. § 701a is amended to read:

§ 701a. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BILL

* * *

(d)(1) On or before November 15 each year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall require each entity to which spending authority has been authorized by a capital construction act enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session to submit a report on the current fund balances of each authorized project with unexpended funds. The report shall include plans for the unexpended funds, any projects or contracts the funds are assigned to, and an anticipated timeline for expending the funds.

(2) On or before ~~December 15 each year~~ the third Tuesday of every annual session, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall submit in a consolidated format the reports required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

* * *

Sec. 21. 32 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. FORM OF ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET AND 10-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM PLAN

* * *

(b) The capital budget request for the following biennium shall be presented as the next increment of the 10-year plan. Elements of the plan shall include:

* * *

(2) Comprehensive cost and financing assessment.

(A) Amounts appropriated and expended for the current fiscal year and for the preceding fiscal year shall be indicated for capital programs and for individual projects. For the five fiscal years preceding these, the assessment shall include the aggregate amounts appropriated and expended for individual projects, which amounts shall be categorized by funding type and presented in a format that concisely displays the funding stream and project phases for each individual project over time. The assessment shall indicate further the source of funds for any project that required additional funding and a description of any authorized projects that were delayed.

* * *

Sec. 22. 32 V.S.A. § 1001b is amended to read:

§ 1001b. CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

* * *

(e) Spending authority. Any entity authorized to make expenditures from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount shall have not more than ~~two~~ three years from the end of the legislative session in which the act authorizing the expenditure was enacted to encumber the funds. Any remaining unencumbered funds shall remain part of the Fund account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) the sources of funds; and

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

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

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 23. TRANSFER OF RANDALL MEADOW PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF WATERBURY

Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to survey, subdivide, and transfer to the Town of Waterbury the portion of land in the Waterbury State Office Complex (Parcel ID # 69622111909 as designated on the Town of Waterbury's Tax Parcel Maps) that is commonly referred to as the "Randall Meadow," provided that the Commissioner may transfer the Randall Meadow property only once:

(1) the parcel has been subdivided to reflect stormwater management needs of the Waterbury State Office Complex to the satisfaction of the Commissioner;

(2) any permits required for transfer have been obtained; and

(3) the Commissioner and the Town of Waterbury have created a plan to align the transfer with the current lease for the parcel.

Sec. 24. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 27 is amended to read:

Sec. 27. CAPITOL COMPLEX FLOOD RECOVERY; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide quarterly updates to the Special Committee on the planning process for Capitol Complex flood recovery and shall provide timely notification to the City of Montpelier and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience of alterations to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

* * *

* * * Human Services * * *

Sec. 25. REPEAL

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 31 (potential reuse of Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility Site; feasibility; report) is repealed.

* * * Vermont Veterans' Home * * *

Sec. 26. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS; EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND BOILER REPLACEMENT; ELEVATOR UPGRADE

If the Commissioner of Finance and Management offsets any capital funds appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15 (b)(1)–(2) (emergency generator and boiler plant replacement; elevator upgrade) with federal funds, then any offset amounts shall be reused for future capital construction projects as part of the capital budget process.

* * * Sergeant at Arms * * *

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b, as added by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 8, is amended to read:

Sec. 15b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

The sum of $100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Sergeant at Arms for the following projects:

(1) the replacement of State House cafeteria furnishings; and

(2) the purchase and installation at the State House of an X-ray machine designed to screen baggage.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 28. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

WENDY K. HARRISON

ROBERT PLUNKETT

RUSSELL H. INGALLS

Committee on the part of the Senate

ALICE M. EMMONS

JAMES A.R. GREGOIRE

TROY HEADRICK

Committee on the part of the House

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Joint Resolution Adopted

J.R.H. 5

Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025

Was taken up and adopted on the part of the House.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 12

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommended that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 230 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 230. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

§ 7601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Court" means the Criminal Division of the Superior Court.

(2) "Criminal history record" means all information documenting an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(3) ~~"Predicate offense" means a criminal offense that can be used to enhance a sentence levied for a later conviction and includes operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, domestic assault in violation of section 1042 of this title, and stalking in violation of section 1062 of this title. "Predicate offense" shall not include misdemeanor possession of cannabis, a disorderly conduct offense under section 1026 of this title, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a), 4231(a), 4232(a), 4233(a), 4234(a),~~

~~4234a(a), 4234b(a), 4235(b), or 4235a(a)~~ "Criminal justice purposes" means the investigation, apprehension, detention, adjudication, or correction of persons suspected, charged, or convicted of criminal offenses. "Criminal justice purposes" also includes criminal identification activities; the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history records; and screening for criminal justice employment.

(4) "Qualifying crime" means:

~~(A) a misdemeanor offense that is not:~~

~~(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;~~

~~(ii) an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of this title;~~

~~(iii) an offense involving violation of a protection order in violation of section 1030 of this title;~~

~~(iv) prostitution as defined in section 2632 of this title, or prohibited conduct under section 2601a of this title; or~~

~~(v) a predicate offense;~~

~~(B) a violation of subsection 3701(a) of this title related to criminal mischief;~~

~~(C) a violation of section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;~~

~~(D) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title;~~

~~(E) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit;~~

~~(F) a violation of section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;~~

~~(G) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) related to possession and cultivation of cannabis;~~

~~(H) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a) related to possession of cocaine;~~

~~(I) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a) related to possession of LSD;~~

~~(J) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a) related to possession of heroin;~~

~~(K) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a) related to possession of depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs;~~

~~(L) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a) related to possession of methamphetamine;~~

~~(M) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234b(a) related to possession of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;~~

~~(N) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b) related to possession of hallucinogenic drugs;~~

~~(O) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a) related to possession of ecstasy; or~~

~~(P) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.~~

(A) all misdemeanor offenses except:

(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(ii) a violation of chapter 64 of this title relating to sexual exploitation of children;

(iii) a violation of section 1030 of this title relating to a violation of an abuse prevention order, an order against stalking or sexual assault, or a protective order concerning contact with a child;

(iv) a violation of chapter 28 of this title related to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of a vulnerable adult;

(v) a violation of subsection 2605(b) or (c) of this title related to voyeurism;

(vi) a violation of subdivisions 352(1)–(10) of this title related to cruelty to animals;

(vii) a violation of section 5409 of this title related to failure to comply with sex offender registry requirements;

(viii) a violation of section 1455 of this title related to hate motivated crimes;

(ix) a violation of subsection 1304(a) of this title related to cruelty to a child;

(x) a violation of section 1305 of this title related to cruelty by person having custody of another;

(xi) a violation of section 1306 of this title related to mistreatment of persons with impaired cognitive function;

(xii) a violation of section 3151 of this title related to female genital mutilation;

(xiii) a violation of subsection 3258(b) of this title related to sexual exploitation of a minor;

(xiv) a violation of subdivision 4058(b)(1) of this title related to violation of an extreme risk protection order;

(xv) an offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4 by a person who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39; and

(xvi) any offense that would require registration as a sex offender pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title; and

(B) the following felonies:

(i) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, unless the person was 25 years of age or younger at the time of the offense and did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during the commission of the offense;

(ii) designated felony property offenses as defined in subdivision (5) of this section;

(iii) offenses relating to possessing, cultivating, selling, dispensing, or transporting regulated drugs, including violations of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) and (b), 4231(a) and (b), 4232(a) and (b), 4233(a) and (b), 4233a(a), 4234(a) and (b), 4234a(a) and (b), 4234b(a) and (b), 4235(b) and (c), or 4235a(a) and (b); and

(iv) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.

(5) "Designated felony property offense" means:

(A) section 1801 of this title related to forgery and counterfeiting;

(B) section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;

(C) section 1804 of this title related to counterfeiting paper money;

(D) section 1816 of this title related to possession or use of credit card skimming devices;

(E) section 2001 of this title related to false personation;

(F) section 2002 of this title related to false pretenses or tokens;

(G) section 2029 of this title related to home improvement fraud;

(H) section 2030 of this title related to identity theft;

(I) section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;

(J) section 2531 of this title related to embezzlement;

(K) section 2532 of this title related to embezzlement by officers or servants of an incorporated bank;

(L) section 2533 of this title related to embezzlement by a receiver or trustee;

(M) section 2561 of this title related to receiving stolen property;

(N) section 2575 of this title related to retail theft;

(O) section 2582 of this title related to theft of services;

(P) section 2591 of this title related to theft of rented property;

(Q) section 2592 of this title related to failure to return a rented or leased motor vehicle;

(R) section 3016 of this title related to false claims;

(S) section 3701 of this title related to unlawful mischief;

(T) section 3705 of this title related to unlawful trespass;

(U) section 3733 of this title related to mills, dams, or bridges;

(V) section 3761 of this title related to unauthorized removal of human remains;

(W) section 3766 of this title related to grave markers and ornaments;

(X) chapter 87 of this title related to computer crimes; and

(Y) 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit in obtaining a regulated drug.

§ 7602. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD,

POSTCONVICTION; PROCEDURE

~~(a)(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement or sealing of the criminal history record related to the conviction if:~~

~~(A) the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence;~~

~~(B) the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense;~~

~~(C) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (g) of this section, the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) or § 1091 related to operating under the influence of alcohol or other substance, excluding a violation of those sections resulting in serious bodily injury or death to any person other than the operator, or related to operating a school bus with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more or operating a commercial vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more; or~~

~~(D) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of this section, the person was convicted under 1201(c)(3)(A) of a violation of subdivision 1201(a) of this title related to burglary when the person was 25 years of age or younger, and the person did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during commission of the offense.~~

~~(2) The State's Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in the matter.~~

~~(3) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of expungement and provide notice of the order in accordance with this section.~~

~~(4) This section shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal or expunge a record of a conviction for a felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.~~

~~(b)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least five years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least five years previously.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted for the qualifying crime.~~

~~(C) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(D) The court finds that expungement of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), and (C) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(c)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a felony arising out of a new incident or occurrence in the last seven years.~~

~~(C) The person has not been convicted of a misdemeanor during the past five years.~~

~~(D) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(E) After considering the particular nature of any subsequent offense, the court finds that expungement of the criminal history record for the qualifying crime serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(d) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged in accordance with section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.~~

~~(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(e) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section for a conviction for possession of a regulated drug under 18 V.S.A. chapter 84, subchapter 1 in an amount that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed:~~

~~(1) The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing that his or her conviction was based on possessing an amount of regulated drug that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed.~~

~~(2) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the amount of the regulated drug specified in the affidavit of probable cause associated with the petitioner's conviction was the amount possessed by the petitioner.~~

~~(f) Prior to granting an expungement or sealing under this section for petitions filed pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(D) of this title, the court shall make a finding that the conduct underlying the conviction under section 1201 of this title did not constitute a burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title. The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing this fact.~~

~~(g) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section, only petitions to seal may be considered or granted by the court. This subsection shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39. Unless the court finds that sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed in accordance with section 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 10 years previously.~~

~~(2) At the time of the filing of the petition:~~

~~(A) the person has only one conviction of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, which shall be construed in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1211; and~~

~~(B) the person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a).~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(h) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement or sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged or sealed in accordance with section 7606 or 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 15 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 15 years previously.~~

~~(2) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of subdivision 1201(c)(3)(A) of this title.~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that expungement or sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

(a) Petition.

(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense.

(2) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence.

(3) Whichever office prosecuted the offense resulting in the conviction, the State's Attorney or Attorney General, shall be the respondent in the matter unless the prosecuting office authorizes the other to act as the respondent.

(4) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of sealing and provide notice of the order to all Vermont State entities provided by the petitioner and all entities required to receive notice pursuant to subsection 7607(a) of this title.

(5) This section shall not apply to an individual who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal a record of a conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

(b) Offenses that are no longer prohibited by law. For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged if the following conditions are met:

(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(c) Qualifying misdemeanors. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least three years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(d) Qualifying felony offenses. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying felony pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least seven years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(e) Qualifying DUI misdemeanor. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying DUI misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The person is not the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39.

(4) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(f) Fish and Wildlife Offenses. Sealing a criminal history record related to a fish and wildlife offense shall not void any fish and wildlife license suspension or revocation imposed pursuant to the accumulation of points related to the sealed offense. Points accumulated by a person shall remain on the person's license and, if applicable, completion of the remedial course shall be required as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 4502.

§ 7603. ~~EXPUNGEMENT AND~~ SEALING OF RECORD, NO CONVICTION; PROCEDURE

(a) Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order sealing the criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:

(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:

(A) the court does not make a determination of probable cause at the time of arraignment; ~~or~~

(B) the charge is dismissed before trial with or without prejudice; or

(C) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or

(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to seal the record.

(b) If a party objects to sealing ~~or expunging~~ a record pursuant to this section, the court shall schedule a hearing to determine if sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record serves the interests of justice. The defendant and the prosecuting attorney shall be the only parties in the matter.

(c), (d) [Repealed.]

(e) ~~Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order expunging a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:~~

~~(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:~~

~~(A) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or~~

~~(B) the charge is dismissed with prejudice;~~

~~(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to expunge the record.~~ [Repealed.]

(f) ~~Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order to expunge a record sealed pursuant to subsection (a) or (g) of this section eight years after the date on which the record was sealed.~~ [Repealed.]

(g) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing ~~or expungement~~ of a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of the person at any time. The court shall grant the petition and issue an order sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record if it finds that sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record serves the interests of justice~~,~~ or if the parties stipulate to sealing ~~or expungement~~ of the record.

(h) ~~The court may expunge any records that were sealed pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 2018 unless the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case objects. Thirty days prior to expunging a record pursuant to this subsection, the court shall provide to the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case written notice of its intent to expunge the record.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 7604. NEW CHARGE

If a person ~~is charged with a criminal offense after he or she has filed a petition for expungement pursuant to this chapter~~ has a criminal charge pending at the time the petition for sealing or expungement is before the court, the court shall not act on the petition until disposition of the new charge.

§ 7605. DENIAL OF PETITION

If a petition for expungement or sealing is denied by the court pursuant to this chapter, no further petition shall be brought for at least two years, unless a shorter duration is authorized by the court.

§ 7606. EFFECT OF EXPUNGEMENT

(a) Order and notice. Upon finding that the requirements for expungement have been met, the court shall issue an order that shall include provisions that its effect is to annul the record of the arrest, conviction, and sentence and that such person shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense. The court shall provide notice of the expungement to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to expunge. The VCIC shall provide notice of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been expunged. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose expunged records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been expunged to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceedings for the same offense.

(c) Process.

(1) The court shall remove the expunged offense from any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket are expunged, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been expunged, the case file shall be destroyed pursuant to policies established by the Court Administrator.

(d) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged together with the expungement order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Inspection of the expungement order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

(4) ~~[Repealed].~~ [Repealed.]

(5) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.

§ 7607. EFFECT OF SEALING

(a) Order and notice. Upon entry of an order to seal, the ~~order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense and that its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence. The~~ court shall ~~provide notice of the sealing to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to seal. The VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center~~ send a copy of any order sealing a criminal history record to all of the parties and attorneys representing the parties, including to the prosecuting agency that prosecuted the offense, the Vermont

Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, and any other Vermont State entity identified by the petitioner that may have a record subject to the sealing order. VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Except as provided in ~~subdivision~~ subsection (c) of this section, upon entry of a sealing order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been sealed. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose sealed records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any member of the public regarding a sealed record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been sealed to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceeding for the same offense.

(c) Exceptions. A party seeking to use a sealed criminal history record, pursuant to the exceptions established in this subsection, in a court proceeding shall, prior to any use of or reference to the record in open court or in a public filing, notify the court of the party's intent to do so. The court shall thereafter determine whether the record may be used prior to its disclosure in the proceeding. If a party submits a filing that contains a sealed record or a reference to a sealed record, that filing shall be filed under seal and remain under seal unless the court permits the use of the sealed record. This shall not apply to the use of a sealed record pursuant to subdivision (8) of this subsection. Use of a sealed record pursuant to an exception shall not change the effect of sealing under subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or a sealing order:

(1) An entity or person that possesses a sealed record, or an attorney for such entity or person, may continue to use ~~it~~ the record for any litigation or claim arising out of the same incident or occurrence ~~or involving the same defendant~~, including use of the record in reasonable anticipation of litigation.

(2) A criminal justice agency as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a and the Attorney General may use the criminal history record sealed in accordance with section 7602 or 7603 of this title ~~without limitation~~ for criminal justice purposes as defined in ~~20 V.S.A. § 2056a~~ section 7601 of this title.

(3) A defendant may use a sealed criminal history record in the defendant's criminal proceeding.

(4) A sealed record of a prior violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be admissible as a predicate offense for the purpose of imposing an enhanced penalty for a subsequent violation of that section, in accordance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 1210.

(5) A person or a court in possession of an order issued by a court regarding a matter that was subsequently sealed may file or cite to that decision in any subsequent proceeding. The party or court filing or citing to that decision shall ensure that information regarding the identity of the defendant in the sealed record is redacted.

(6) The Vermont Crime Information Center and Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall have access to sealed criminal history records without limitation for the purpose of responding to queries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System regarding firearms transfers and attempted transfers.

(7) The State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the person who is the subject of a sealed record, and the attorney for the person who is the subject of the record shall disclose information contained in a sealed criminal history record when required to meet discovery obligations.

(8) The person whose criminal history records have been sealed pursuant to this chapter and the person's attorney may access and use the sealed records.

(9) A law enforcement agency may inspect and receive copies of the sealed criminal history records of any applicant who applies to the agency to be a law enforcement officer or a current employee for the purpose of internal investigation.

(10) Persons or entities conducting research shall have access to a sealed criminal history record to carry out research pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2056b.

(11) Information and materials gathered by the Department for Children and Families during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and related references to such information and materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered Department records that shall be maintained and

may be utilized as statutorily prescribed by 33 V.S.A. chapter 49 and produced in response to a court order.

(12) Information and materials gathered by Adult Protective Services during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and other investigative materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered records of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, which shall be maintained and may be utilized as authorized by 33 V.S.A. chapter 69 and produced in response to a court order.

(d) Process.

(1) The court shall bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall become exempt from public access.

(4) When a sealing order is issued by the court, any person or entity, except the court, that possesses criminal history records and has been provided notice of the order shall:

(A) bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains or remove information pertaining to the sealed records from any publicly accessible database that the person or entity maintains; and

(B) clearly label the criminal history record as "SEALED" to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been sealed together with the sealing order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the sealing.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, inspection of the sealing order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the

index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

~~(4) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.~~

(f) Victims Compensation Program. Upon request, the ~~Victim's~~ Victims Compensation Program shall be provided with a copy, redacted of all information identifying the offender, of the affidavit for the sole purpose of verifying the expenses in a victim's compensation application submitted pursuant to section 5353 of this title.

(g) Restitution. The sealing of a criminal record shall not affect the authority of the Restitution Unit to enforce a restitution order in the same manner as a civil judgment pursuant to subdivision 5362(c)(2) of this title.

§ 7608. VICTIMS

(a) At the time a petition is filed pursuant to this chapter, the respondent shall give notice of the petition to any victim of the offense who is known to the respondent. The victim shall have the right to offer the respondent a statement prior to any stipulation or to offer the court a statement. The disposition of the petition shall not be unnecessarily delayed pending receipt of a victim's statement. The respondent's inability to locate a victim after a reasonable effort has been made shall not be a bar to granting a petition.

(b) As used in this section, "reasonable effort" means attempting to contact the victim by first-class mail at the victim's last known address ~~and~~, by telephone at the victim's last known phone number, and by email at the victim's last known email address.

§ 7609. ~~EXPUNGEMENT OF~~ SEALING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS OF ~~AN INDIVIDUAL~~ A PERSON 18–21 YEARS OF AGE

(a) ~~Procedure~~ Petition. ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings for an individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime shall be expunged within 30 days after the date on which the individual successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction of the qualifying crime, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. A copy of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named in the order. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such individual.~~

~~Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be expunged until restitution and surcharges have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who was 18–21 years of age at the time the person committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the person completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(A) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(B) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(2) Order, notice, and effect of sealing shall comply with the provisions of subsections 7607(a) and (b) of this title.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) A criminal history record that includes both qualifying and nonqualifying offenses shall not be eligible for ~~expungement~~ sealing pursuant to this section.

(2) ~~The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the expunged files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the expungement. The special index shall be confidential and shall be accessed only by the Director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and an individual designated for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a.~~ [Repealed.]

(c) ~~Petitions. An individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the individual completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court shall grant the~~

~~petition and issue an order sealing or expunging the record if it finds that sealing or expunging the record serves the interests of justice.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 7610. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD SEALING SPECIAL FUND

There is established the Criminal History Record Sealing Special Fund, which shall be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Fees collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1431(e) for the filing of a petition to seal a criminal history record of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be deposited into and credited to this Fund. This Fund shall be available to the Office of the Court Administrator, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Vermont Crime Information Center to offset the administrative costs of sealing such records. Balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain in the Fund.

§ 7611. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

A State or municipal employee or contractor or any agent of the court, including an attorney and an employee or contractor of the attorney, or a law enforcement officer as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2351a who knowingly accesses or discloses sealed criminal history record information without authorization shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.00. Each unauthorized disclosure shall constitute a separate civil violation.

Sec. 2. RIGHT TO NOT DISCLOSE EXPUNGED OR SEALED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall notify all State administrative entities of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

(b) The Court Administrator shall notify the Judicial Branch of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 7041 is amended to read:

§ 7041. DEFERRED SENTENCE

(a) Upon an adjudication of guilt and after the filing of a presentence investigation report, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation upon such terms and conditions as it may require if a written agreement concerning the deferring of sentence is entered into between the State's Attorney and the respondent and filed with the clerk of the court.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation without a written agreement between the State's Attorney and the respondent if the following conditions are met:

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) the crime for which the respondent is being sentenced is not a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(3) the court orders a presentence investigation in accordance with the procedures set forth in V.R.C.P. Rule 32, unless the State's Attorney agrees to waive the presentence investigation;

(4) the court permits the victim to submit a written or oral statement concerning the consideration of deferment of sentence;

(5) the court reviews the presentence investigation and the victim's impact statement with the parties; and

(6) the court determines that deferring sentence is in the interests of justice.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the court may not defer a sentence for a violation of section 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child), section 2602 (lewd and lascivious conduct with a child unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), 3252(c) (sexual assault of a child under 16 unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), 3252(d) or (e) (sexual assault of a child), 3253(a)(8) (aggravated sexual assault), or 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child) of this title.

(d) Entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute an appealable judgment for purposes of appeal in accordance with 12 V.S.A. § 2383 and V.R.A.P. Rule 3. Except as otherwise provided, entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute imposition of sentence solely for the purpose of sentence review in accordance with section 7042 of this title. The court may impose sentence at any time if the respondent violates the conditions of the deferred sentence during the period of deferment.

(e) Upon violation of the terms of probation or of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall impose sentence. Upon fulfillment of the terms of probation and of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall strike the adjudication of guilt and discharge the respondent. Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings shall be ~~expunged~~ sealed upon the discharge of the respondent from probation, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to ~~expunge~~

seal all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the deferred sentence. Copies of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named therein. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such person upon inquiry in the matter. Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be ~~expunged~~ sealed until restitution has been paid in full.

(f) A deferred sentence imposed under subsection (a) or (b) of this section may include a restitution order issued pursuant to section 7043 of this title. Nonpayment of restitution shall not constitute grounds for imposition of the underlying sentence.

(g) [Repealed.]

(h) The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of deferred sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to subchapter 3 of chapter 167 of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the ~~expunged~~ sealed files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the ~~expungement~~ sealing. The special index shall be confidential and may be accessed only by the director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and a designated clerical staffperson for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a.

Sec. 4. APPLICATION TO DEFERRED SENTENCES

Sec. 3 of this act shall apply prospectively to sentences issued on or after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 2296b is added to read:

§ 2296b. EXPUNGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL VIOLATION RECORDS

(a) Expungement. Two years following the satisfaction of a judgment resulting from an adjudication of a municipal violation, the Judicial Bureau shall make an entry of "expunged" and notify the municipality of such action, provided the person has not been adjudicated for any subsequent municipal violations during that time. The data transfer to the municipality shall include the name, date of birth, ticket number, and offense. Violations of offenses adopted pursuant to chapter 117 of this title shall not be eligible for expungement under this section.

(b) Effect of expungement.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the individual whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if the individual had never been adjudicated of the violation.

(2) Upon an entry of expunged, the case will be accessible only by the Clerk of the Court for the Judicial Bureau or the Clerk's designee. Adjudications that have been expunged shall not appear in the results of any Judicial Bureau database search by name, date of birth, or any other data identifying the defendant. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any documents or other records related to an expunged adjudication that are maintained outside the Judicial Bureau's case management system shall be destroyed.

(3) Upon receiving an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record, the Judicial Bureau and the municipality shall respond that "NO RECORD EXISTS."

(c) Exception for research entities. Research entities that maintain adjudication records for purposes of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating criminal justice data shall not be subject to the expungement requirements established in this section. Research entities shall abide by the policies established by the Court Administrator and shall not disclose any identifying information from the records they maintain.

(d) Policies for implementation. The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this section.

(e) Application. This section shall apply to municipal violations that occur on and after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2303 is amended to read:

§ 2303. EXPUNGEMENT OF VIOLATION RECORDS

* * *

(e) Application. This section shall apply to motor vehicle violations that occur on and after July 1, 2021.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Rep. Ode of Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was read the second time, the report of the Committee on Judiciary agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 109

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. ADULT COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

(a) Purpose.

(1) The Attorney General shall develop and administer an adult court diversion program, for both pre-charge and post-charge referrals, available in all counties.

(2) The program shall be designed to provide a restorative option for persons alleged to have caused harm in violation of a criminal statute or who have been charged with violating a criminal statute as well as for victims or those acting on a victim's behalf who have been allegedly harmed by the ~~responsible party~~ person referred to the program. The diversion program can accept referrals to the program as follows:

* * *

(c) Adult diversion program policy and referral requirements.

* * *

(3) Adult post-charge diversion requirements. Each State's Attorney, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and the adult post-charge diversion program, shall develop clear criteria for deciding what types of offenses and offenders will be eligible for diversion; however, the State's Attorney shall retain final discretion over the referral of each case for diversion. All adult post-charge diversion programs receiving financial assistance from the Attorney General shall adhere to the following:

(A) The post-charge diversion program for adults shall only accept persons against whom charges have been filed and the court has found probable cause, but are not adjudicated.

(B) A prosecutor may refer a person to diversion either before or after arraignment and shall notify in writing the diversion program and the court of the prosecutor's ~~of the~~ referral to diversion.

* * *

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 71 is amended to read:

§ 71. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SUPERIOR JUDGES

(a) ~~There shall be 34 Superior judges, whose term of office shall,~~ The number of Superior Judges shall be as determined by the General Assembly. The term of office of a Superior Judge shall, except in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy or unexpired term, begin on April 1 in the year of their appointment or retention and continue for six years.

* * *

Sec. 3. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(4) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 1005, relating to possession and procurement of tobacco products by a person under 21 years of age.

* * *

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 1106 is amended to read:

§ 1106. HEARING

* * *

(d) ~~A~~ Unless otherwise provided by law, a law enforcement officer may void or amend a complaint issued by that officer by so marking the complaint and returning it to the Bureau, regardless of whether the amended complaint is a lesser included violation. At the hearing, a law enforcement officer may, unless otherwise provided by law, void or amend a complaint issued by that officer in the discretion of that officer.

* * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 1005(c) is amended to read:

(c) A person under 21 years of age who misrepresents ~~his or her~~ the person's age by presenting false identification to purchase tobacco products,

tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia shall be ~~fined~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than $50.00 or provide up to 10 hours of community service, or both.

Sec. 6. 12 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC CASE RECORDS

(a) The Court shall not permit public access via the ~~Internet~~ internet to criminal, family, or probate case records. The Court may permit criminal justice agencies, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a, ~~Internet~~ internet access to criminal case records for criminal justice purposes, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Court shall provide licensed Vermont attorneys in good standing with access via the internet, through the Judiciary's public portal website or otherwise, to nonconfidential criminal, family, and probate case records.

(c) This section shall not be construed to prohibit the Court from providing electronic access to:

(1) court schedules of the Superior Court or opinions of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court;

(2) State agencies in accordance with data dissemination contracts entered into under Rule 12 of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records; or

(3) decisions, recordings of oral arguments, briefs, and printed cases of the Supreme Court.

Sec. 7. 12 V.S.A. § 4937 is amended to read:

§ 4937. ATTORNEY'S FEES

When a mortgage contains an agreement on the part of the mortgagor to pay the mortgagee, in the event of foreclosure, the attorney's fees incident thereto, and claim is made therefor in the complaint, ~~upon hearing,~~ the court in which the complaint is brought shall allow such fee as in its judgment is just.

Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 4013 is amended to read:

§ 4013. ZIP GUNS~~; SWITCHBLADE KNIVES~~

A person who possesses, sells, or offers for sale a weapon commonly known as a "zip" gun~~, or a weapon commonly known as a switchblade knife, the blade of which is three inches or more in length,~~ shall be imprisoned not more than 90 days or fined not more than $100.00, or both.

Sec. 9. EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

The court shall order the expungement of criminal history records of convictions of 13 V.S.A. § 4013 for possessing, selling, or offering for sale a switchblade knife that occurred prior to July 1, 2025. The process and effect for expungement of these records shall be as provided for in 13 V.S.A. § 7606 and shall be completed by the court and all entities subject to the order not later than July 1, 2026.

Sec. 10. 13 V.S.A. § 5351(7) is amended to read:

(7) "Victim" means:

(A) a person who sustains injury or death as a direct result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime;

(B) an intervenor who is physically injured or killed in an attempt to assist the person described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7) or ~~the police~~ a protected professional as defined in subdivision 1028(d)(1) of this title;

(C) a surviving immediate family member of a homicide victim, including a spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, grandparent, or other survivor who may suffer severe emotional harm as a result of the victim's death as determined on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the Board; or

(D) a resident of this State who is injured or killed as the result of a crime committed outside the United States.

Sec. 11. 13 V.S.A. § 7282 is amended to read:

§ 7282. SURCHARGE

* * *

(c) ~~SIU surcharge.~~ In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the court for a criminal offense committed after July 1, 2009, the clerk of the court shall levy an additional surcharge of $100.00 to be deposited in the General Fund, in support of the Specialized Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.

Sec. 12. 14 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEPOSIT OF WILL FOR SAFEKEEPING; DELIVERY; FINAL DISPOSITION

(a) A will may be deposited for safekeeping in the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the district in which the testator resides on payment to the

court of the applicable fee required by ~~32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(17)~~ 32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(18). The register shall give to the testator a receipt, shall safely keep each will so deposited, and shall keep an index of the wills so deposited.

* * *

Sec. 13. 14 V.S.A. § 3068 is amended to read:

§ 3068. HEARING

* * *

(e)(1) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the respondent is not a person in need of guardianship, it shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(2) If a motion to withdraw the petition is made before the final hearing, the court shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(f) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the petitioner has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is a person in need of guardianship or will be a person in need of guardianship on attaining 18 years of age, it shall enter judgment specifying the powers of the guardian pursuant to sections 3069 and 3070 of this title and the duties of the guardian pursuant to section 3071 of this title.

(g) Any party to the proceeding before the court may appeal the court's decision in the manner provided in section 3080 of this title.

Sec. 14. 14 V.S.A. § 4051 is amended to read:

§ 4051. STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY

A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this chapter.

VERMONT STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* * *

GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)

My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED the specific authority listed below:

(CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your death. INITIAL ONLY the specific authority you WANT to give your agent.)

( ) An agent who is not an ancestor, spouse, or descendant may exercise authority under this power of attorney to create in the agent or in an individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of support an interest in my property whether by gift, rights of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer, or otherwise

( ) Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos, family, living, irrevocable, or revocable trust

( ) Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411

( ) Make a gift, subject to the limitations of 14 V.S.A. § 4047 (gifts) and any special instructions in this power of attorney

~~( ) Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411~~

( ) Create, amend, or change rights of survivorship

( ) Create, amend, or change a beneficiary designation

( ) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan

( ) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate

( ) Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney

( ) Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a power of appointment

( ) Exercise authority with respect to elective share under 14 V.S.A. § 319

( ) Exercise waiver rights under 14 V.S.A. § 323

( ) Exercise authority over the content and catalogue of electronic communications and digital assets under 14 V.S.A. chapter 125 (Vermont Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act)

( ) Exercise authority with respect to intellectual property, including, without limitation, copyrights, contracts for payment of royalties, and trademarks

( ) Convey, or revoke or revise a grantee designation, by enhanced life estate deed pursuant to 27 V.S.A. chapter 6 or under common law.

* * *

Sec. 15. 14A V.S.A. § 1316 is amended to read:

§ 1316. OFFICE OF TRUST DIRECTOR

Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, the rules applicable to a trustee apply to a trust director regarding the following matters:

(1) acceptance under section 701 of this title;

(2) giving of bond to secure performance under section 702 of this title;

(3) reasonable compensation under section 708 of this title;

(4) resignation under section 705 of this title;

(5) removal under section 706 of this title; and

(6) vacancy and appointment of successor under section 704 of this title.

Sec. 16. 33 V.S.A. § 5204(b)(2)(A) is amended to read:

(2)(A)(i) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall hold a hearing under subsection (c) of this section to determine whether jurisdiction should be transferred to the Criminal Division under subsection (a) of this section if the delinquent act set forth in the petition is:

(I) [Repealed.]

(II) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;

(III) defacing a firearm's serial number in violation of ~~13 V.S.A. § 4024~~ 13 V.S.A. § 4026; or

(IV) straw purchasing of firearm in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 4025; and

(ii) the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred.

Sec. 17. 33 V.S.A. § 5225 is amended to read:

§ 5225. PRELIMINARY HEARING; RISK ASSESSMENT

(a) Preliminary hearing. A preliminary hearing shall be held at the time and date specified on the citation or as otherwise ordered by the court. If a child is taken into custody prior to the preliminary hearing, the preliminary hearing shall be at the time of the temporary care hearing. Counsel for the child shall be assigned prior to the preliminary hearing.

(b) Risk and needs screening.

(1) Prior to the preliminary hearing, the child shall be afforded an opportunity to undergo a risk and needs screening, which shall be conducted by the Department or by a community provider that has contracted with the Department to provide risk and need screenings for children alleged to have committed delinquent acts.

(2) If the child participates in such a screening, the Department or the community provider shall report the risk level result of the screening, the number and source of the collateral contacts made, and the recommendation for charging or other alternatives to the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney shall consider the results of the risk and needs screening in determining whether to file a charge. In lieu of filing a charge, the State's Attorney may refer a child directly to a youth-appropriate community-based provider that has been approved by the Department, which may include pre-charge diversion pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 163, a community justice center, or a balanced and restorative justice program. Referral to a community-based provider pursuant to this subsection shall not require the State's Attorney to file a charge. If the community-based provider does not accept the case or if the child fails to complete the program in a manner deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the child's case shall return to the State's Attorney for charging consideration.

* * *

Sec. 18. 27 V.S.A. § 348 is amended to read:

§ 348. INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY VALIDATED

(a) When an instrument of writing shall have been on record in the office of the clerk in the proper town for a period of 15 years, and there is a defect in the instrument because it omitted to state any consideration or was not sealed, witnessed, acknowledged, validly acknowledged, or because a license to sell was not issued or is defective, the instrument shall, from and after the expiration of 15 years from the filing thereof for record, be valid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any rights acquired by grantees, assignees, or encumbrancers under the instruments described in the preceding sentence, nor shall this section apply to conveyances or other instruments of writing, the validity of which is brought in question in any suit now pending in any courts of the State.

* * *

(d) A release, discharge, or assignment of mortgage interest executed by a commercial lender with respect to a one- to four-family residential real property, including a residential unit in a condominium or in a common interest community as defined in Title 27A, that recites authority to act on behalf of the record holder of the mortgage under a power of attorney but where the power of attorney is not of record shall have the same effect as if executed by the record holder of the mortgage unless, within three years after the instrument is recorded, an action challenging the release, discharge, or assignment is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the release, discharge, or assignment is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to releases, discharges, or assignments obtained by fraud or forgery.

(e) A power of attorney made for the purpose of conveying, leasing, mortgaging, or affecting any interest in real property that has been acknowledged and signed in the presence of at least one witness shall be valid, notwithstanding its failure to comply with 14 V.S.A. § 3503 or the requirements of the Emergency Administrative Rules for Remote Notarial Acts adopted by the Vermont Secretary of State, unless within three years after recording, an action challenging its validity is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the power of attorney is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to a power of attorney obtained by fraud or forgery.

(f) Notwithstanding section 305 of this title, a deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument executed for the purpose of conveying or encumbering real property executed by a person purporting to act as the agent or attorney-in-fact for the party named in the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument that has been recorded for at least 15 years in the land records where the real property is located shall be valid even if no power of attorney authorizing and empowering an agent or attorney-in-fact appears of record, unless, within 15 years after recording, an action challenging the validity of the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the property is located. This subsection shall not apply to an instrument obtained by fraud or forgery.

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS

* * *

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

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court	$214,024	$225,581
(2) Each Associate Justice	$204,264	$215,294
(3) ~~Administrative~~ Chief Superior Judge	$204,264	$215,294
(4) Each Superior Judge	$194,185	$204,671
(5) [Repealed.]		
(6) Each Magistrate	$146,413	$154,319
(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer	$146,413	$154,319

* * *

Sec. 20. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. 5 (forensic facility report) is amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 21. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. REPEALS

* * *

(c) 28 V.S.A. § 126 (Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council) is repealed on ~~July 1, 2028~~ July 1, 2025.

Sec. 22. REPEAL

2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Secs. 99 and 100 (amendments to 18 V.S.A. §§ 4810(d)–(j) and 4811 that prohibited public inebriates from being incarcerated in a Department of Corrections' facility) are repealed.

Sec 23. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105 is amended to read:

Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(c) ~~Secs. 99 and 100 (amending 18 V.S.A. §§ 4910 and 4811) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.~~ [Deleted.]

* * *

Sec. 24. FIREARM SURRENDER ORDER COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. The Office of the Attorney General shall convene a Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court orders to surrender firearms. The Working Group shall examine the statutory or policy changes necessary to create a uniform process to monitor compliance, support entities charged with storing and returning surrendered firearms pursuant to court orders, and identify a stable and reliable funding source for any additional resources needed to monitor compliance.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Attorney General or designee, who shall be the chair;

(2) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

(3) the Defender General or designee;

(4) one State's Attorney or designee, appointed by the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

(5) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(6) a member of the Vermont State Police, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

(7) a police chief, appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police; and

(8) a federal firearms licensee, appointed by the Attorney General.

(c) Consultation. The Working Group shall consult with stakeholders including:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections;

(2) family law practitioners;

(3) victim advocates;

(4) advocates from culturally specific advocacy organizations that work with domestic violence victims;

(5) the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs;

(6) the Vermont Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms;

(7) the Vermont Medical Society;

(8) the Commissioner of Mental Health;

(9) the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services; and

(10) the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence.

(d) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. The report shall include:

(1) a workable statewide compliance model that is adaptable to both the Family and Criminal Divisions of the Superior Courts and that ensures:

(A) accountability of respondents and defendants while addressing safety needs of the plaintiffs and victims; and

(B) proper storage and return of firearms surrendered pursuant to court orders; and

(2) recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to support the model.

(e) Meetings. The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State of Vermont or who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

Sec. 25. 15A V.S.A. § 3-504 is amended to read:

§ 3-504. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATING RELATIONSHIP OF PARENT AND CHILD

(a) If a respondent answers or appears at the hearing and asserts parental rights, the court shall proceed with the hearing expeditiously. If the court finds, upon clear and convincing evidence, that any one of the following grounds exists and that termination is in the best interests of the minor, the court shall order the termination of any parental relationship of the respondent to the minor:

* * *

(2) In the case of a minor over six months of age at the time the petition is filed, the respondent did not exercise parental responsibility for a period of at least six months immediately preceding the filing of the petition. In making a determination under this subdivision, the court shall consider all relevant factors, which may include the respondent's failure to:

(A) make reasonable and consistent payments, in accordance with the respondent's financial means, for the support of the minor, although legally obligated to do so;

(B) regularly communicate or visit with the minor; or

(C) during any time the minor was not in the physical custody of the other parent, manifest an ability and willingness to assume legal and physical custody of the minor.

* * *

Sec. 26. Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

§ 202. PENALTY FOR DESERTION OR NONSUPPORT

A married person who, without just cause, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the person's spouse and children, leaving them in destitute or necessitous circumstances or a parent who, without lawful excuse, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the child ~~or an adult child possessed of sufficient pecuniary or physical ability to support his or her parents, who unreasonably neglects or refuses to provide such support when the parent is destitute, unable to support himself or herself, and resident in this State,~~ shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than $300.00, or both. Should a fine be imposed, the court may order the same to be paid in whole or in part to the needy spouse~~, parent,~~ or to the guardian, custodian, or trustee of the child. The Office of Child Support attorneys, in addition to any other duly authorized person, may prosecute cases under this section in Vermont Superior Court.

Sec. 27. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 28. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 19, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(b) ~~Sec. 5 (marriage licenses; 32 V.S.A. § 1712) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.~~ [Deleted.]

* * *

Sec. 29. 13 V.S.A. § 7556 is amended to read:

§ 7556. APPEAL FROM CONDITIONS OF RELEASE OR BAIL REVOCATION DENIAL

(a) A person who is detained, or whose release on a condition requiring ~~him or her~~ the person to return to custody after specified hours is continued, after review of ~~his or her~~ the person's application pursuant to subsection 7554(d) or (e) of this title by a judicial officer, other than a judge of the court having original jurisdiction over the offense with which ~~he or she~~ the person is charged or a Justice of the Supreme Court, may move the court having original jurisdiction over the offense with which ~~he or she~~ the person is charged to amend the order. The motion shall be determined promptly.

(b) When a person is detained after a court denies a motion under subsection (a) of this section or when conditions of release have been imposed or amended by the judge of the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged, an appeal may be taken to a single Justice of the Supreme Court who may hear the matter or at ~~his or her~~ the Justice's discretion refer it to the entire Supreme Court for hearing. No further appeal may lie from the ruling of a single Justice in matters to which this subsection applies. Any order so appealed shall be affirmed if it is supported by the proceedings below. If the order is not supported, the Supreme Court or single Justice hearing the matter may remand the case for a further hearing or may, with or without additional evidence, order the person released. The appeal shall be determined forthwith.

(c)(1) When a person is released, with or without bail or other conditions of release, an appeal may be taken by the State to a single Justice of the Supreme Court who may hear the matter or at ~~his or her~~ the Justice's discretion refer it to the entire Supreme Court for hearing. No further appeal may lie from the ruling of a single Justice in matters to which this subsection applies. Any order so appealed shall be affirmed if it is supported by the proceedings below. If the order is not supported, the Supreme Court or single Justice hearing the matter may remand the case for a further hearing or may, with or without additional evidence, modify or vacate the order. The appeal shall be determined ~~forthwith~~ promptly.

(2) When a request to revoke bail pursuant to section 7575 of this title is denied, a prosecutor may appeal the court's order in accordance with the procedure outlined in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) A person held without bail under section 7553a of this title prior to trial shall be entitled to an independent, second evidentiary hearing on the merits of the denial of bail, which shall be a hearing de novo by a single Justice of the Supreme Court forthwith. Pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 22 the Chief Justice may appoint and assign a retired justice or judge with ~~his or her~~ the retired justice's or judge's consent or a Superior judge or District judge to a special assignment on the Supreme Court to conduct that de novo hearing. Such hearing de novo shall be an entirely new evidentiary hearing without regard to the record compiled before the trial court; except, the parties may stipulate to the admission of portions of the trial court record.

(e) A person held without bail prior to trial shall be entitled to review of that determination by a panel of three Supreme Court Justices within seven business days after bail is denied.

Sec. 30. 28 V.S.A. § 818 is amended to read:

§ 818. EARNED TIME; REDUCTION OF TERM

* * *

(b) The earned time program implemented pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards:

* * *

(4) The Department shall:

(A) ensure that all victims of record are notified of the earned time program at its outset and made aware of the option to receive notifications from the Department pursuant to this subdivision;

(B) provide timely notice not less frequently than every 90 days to the offender, and to any victim who opts to receive the notice, any time the offender receives a reduction in ~~his or her~~ the offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section;

(C) maintain a system that documents and records all such reductions in each offender's permanent record; and

(D) record any reduction in an offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section on a monthly basis and ensure that victims who want information regarding changes in ~~scheduled~~ an offender's minimum release dates have access to such information.

* * *

Sec. 31. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Victim Notification System Task Force to review and improve the responsiveness of Vermont's victim notification system.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(4) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(5) the Victims Service Director of the Vermont State Police; and

(6) two persons who are either victims or survivors of crimes, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study the current state of Vermont's victim notification system, including:

(1) improving victims' accessibility to information;

(2) ensuring that the entire notification process is trauma-informed, including all notifications, communications, and informational materials;

(3) expanding the use of automated notification systems in order to increase options and maximize communication choices for victims and survivors; and

(4) recommendations for necessary training and resources.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Corrections.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit its findings and recommendations as a written report in the form of proposed legislation to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary, and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Corrections or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 15, 2026.

Sec. 32. ADULT INVOLUNTARY GUARDIANSHIP WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. Theres is created the Adult Involuntary Guardianship Working Group to study jurisdiction of proceedings involving the involuntary guardianship of adults. The Working Group shall examine the advisability of consolidating adult involuntary guardianships under 14 V.S.A. chapter 111, subchapter 12 ("Title 14 involuntary guardianships") with guardianships for persons with developmental disabilities under 18 V.S.A. chapter 215 ("Title 18 guardianships"), or otherwise amending the statutes to ensure that respondents under Title 18 guardianships have access to voluntary guardianships that is equal to the access to voluntary guardianships available under Title 14.

(b) Membership. The Adult Involuntary Guardianship Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(2) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

(3) the Court Administrator or designee;

(4) a superior judge with experience in Title 18 guardianships, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(5) a probate judge, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(6) a guardian ad litem, appointed by the Court Administrator;

(7) an attorney with experience in adult guardianships, appointed by the Vermont Bar Association;

(8) an attorney with experience in adult guardianships, appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;

(9) an independent mental health evaluator, appointed by the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; and

(10) a member, appointed by the Vermont Center for Independent Living.

(c) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Report.

(1)(A) On or before December 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations, including any proposed legislative changes, to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(B) The report shall recommend whether:

(i) Title 14 involuntary guardianship proceedings and Title 18 guardianship proceedings should be consolidated in one division of the Superior Court; or

(ii) Title 14 involuntary guardianship proceedings and Title 18 guardianship proceedings should remain in separate divisions of the Superior Court as provided for in existing law.

(2) With respect to subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this section, the report shall address:

(A) the judicial resources and oversight that would be required;

(B) whether, notwithstanding 12 V.S.A. §2553 or 2555, the Vermont Supreme Court should have appellate jurisdiction over guardianship proceedings;

(C) the relationship between guardianships under subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this section and voluntary guardianships under 14 V.S.A. § 2671; and

(D) any other matters deemed relevant by the Working Group, including any matters not currently under the jurisdiction of Title 14 guardianships or Title 18 guardianships.

Sec. 33. 4 V.S.A. § 39 is amended to read:

§ 39. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS; COUNTY COURTHOUSES

(a) On or before October 1 each year, any county requesting capital funds for its courthouse, or court operations, shall submit a request to the Court

Administrator. As used in this subsection, "court operations" does not include operating expenses.

(b) The Court Administrator shall evaluate requests based on the following criteria:

(1) whether the funding request is consistent with a capital program developed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3);

(2) whether the project that is the subject of the request has been included in the list of capital projects in the county's budget pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(1), and, if so, the description of the project included in the budget;

(3) whether the county has established a capital reserve fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3), and, if so, the amount of annual contributions the county has made to the fund;

(4) whether the funding request relates to an emergency that will affect the court operations and the administration of justice;

~~(2)~~(5) whether there is a State-owned courthouse in the county that could absorb court activities in lieu of this capital investment;

~~(3)~~(6) whether the county consistently has invested in major maintenance in the courthouse;

~~(4)~~(7) whether the request relates to a State-mandated function;

~~(5)~~(8) whether the request diverts resources of other current Judiciary capital priorities;

~~(6)~~(9) whether the request is consistent with the long-term capital needs of the Judiciary, including providing court services adapted to modern needs and requirements; and

~~(7)~~(10) any other criteria as deemed appropriate by the Court Administrator.

(c) Based on the criteria described in subsection (b) of this section, the Court Administrator shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services regarding whether the county's request should be included as part of the Judiciary's request for capital funding in the Governor's annual proposed capital budget request.

(d) On or before January 15 of each year, the Court Administrator shall advise the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of all county requests received and the Court Administrator's recommendations for the proposed capital budget request.

Sec. 34. REPORT

On or before January 15, 2026, the Court Administrator and a representative of the Association of County Judges appointed by the President of that Association shall jointly report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the progress made to implement the provisions of Sec. 33 of this act. The report shall include a description of the steps taken and processes considered, and any proposed legislative changes necessary, to ensure that capital budget requests for county courthouses include the information required by Sec. 33 of this act.

Sec. 35. 23 V.S.A. § 1210(c) is amended to read:

(c) Second offense. A person convicted of violating section 1201 of this title who has been convicted of another violation of that section within the last 20 years shall be fined not more than $1,500.00 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. At least ~~200~~ 80 hours of community service shall be performed, or 60 consecutive hours of the sentence of imprisonment shall be served and may not be suspended or deferred or served as a supervised sentence, except that credit for a sentence of imprisonment may be received for time served in a residential alcohol facility pursuant to sentence if the program is successfully completed.

Sec. 36. REPEAL

Sec. 35 of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2028.

Sec. 37. FAMILY FORENSIC EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) The General Assembly requests that the Chief Superior Judge, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, and the Executive Director of the Vermont Psychological Association work collaboratively to examine the following:

(1) the extent of the need for and geographic distribution of family forensic evaluators in complex parental rights and responsibilities cases heard in the Family Division;

(2) barriers to increasing the availability of family forensic evaluators in Vermont and whether protections regarding ethical complaints are warranted; and

(3) strategies for increasing the number of family forensic evaluators in Vermont.

(b) The General Assembly requests that the parties listed in subsection (a) of this section submit their recommendations to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2025.

Sec. 38. CHILD AND PARENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION; TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Child and Parent Legal Representation Task Force to study the need and viability of an improved legal representation system for children and families who are involved in judicial or administrative proceedings concerning Children in Need of Care or Supervision (CHINS), relief from abuse petitions, or substantiations of abuse or neglect.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court or designee;

(2) the Court Administrator or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families or designee;

(4) the Defender General or designee;

(5) the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of Voices for Vermont's Children or designee; and

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Parent Representation Center, Inc.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall assess and determine whether reform of Vermont's legal representation for children and families is necessary by exploring the following topics:

(1) standards recommended by the American Bar Association, U.S. Children's Bureau, and the *Study of CHINS Case Processing in Vermont* authored by the National Center for State Courts and published in May of 2021;

(2) compliance with funding and reporting requirements in order for Vermont to leverage funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act;

(3) identifying the processes and amounts of Title IV-E funds and other funding sources to support any reformed system;

(4) using an interdisciplinary model of representation, including pay scales, performance measures, supervision and evaluation processes, and recommended caseloads for attorneys, social workers, and other child and family representatives; and

(5) other topics relevant to creating a reformed child and parent representation system.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Court Administrator's Office.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report that proposes any necessary reforms to the legal representation system for children and families who are involved in CHINS proceedings, relief from abuse petitions, or substantiations of abuse or neglect, along with proposed legislation to implement such reforms to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Health and Welfare and the House Committees on Judiciary and on Human Services.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of designee shall be the chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on May 15, 2026.

Sec. 39. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 2, 2025 and Sec. 33 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary?, **Rep. Rachelson of Burlington** moved to amend the report of the Committee on Judiciary as follows:

First: By striking out Secs. 22 and 23 in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 22. [Deleted.]

Sec. 23. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 24, Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group, in subsection (c), by striking out subdivisions (9) and (10) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(9) the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services;

(10) the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence; and

(11) the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.

Third: In Sec. 24, Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group, in subsections (e) and (f), by striking out "Task Force" and inserting in lieu thereof "Working Group"

Fourth: By adding two new sections to be Secs. 25a and 25b to read as follows:

Sec. 25a. 33 V.S.A. § 5231(d) is amended to read:

(d) Termination of parental rights. If the Commissioner or the attorney for the child seeks an order terminating parental rights of one or both parents and transfer of custody to the Commissioner without limitation as to adoption, the court shall consider the best interests of the child in accordance with section 5114 of this title. The Department's Family Services Division shall not consider payment of child support to the Family Services Division to offset the cost of foster care as a factor in a petition to terminate parental rights.

Sec. 25b. 33 V.S.A. § 5317(d) is amended to read:

(d) Termination of parental rights. If the Commissioner or the attorney for the child seeks an order at disposition terminating the parental rights of one or both parents and transfer of legal custody to the Commissioner without limitation as to adoption, the court shall consider the best interests of the child in accordance with section 5114 of this title. The Department's Family Services Division shall not consider payment of child support to the Family Services Division to offset the cost of foster care as a factor in a petition to terminate parental rights.

Fifth: In Sec. 30, 28 V.S.A. § 818, in subdivision (b)(4)(D), by striking out "dates" and inserting in lieu thereof "~~dates~~ date"

Sixth: In Sec. 31, Victim Notification System Task Force, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(4) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(5) the Victims Service Director of the Vermont State Police;

(6) two persons who are either victims or survivors of crimes, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services; and

(7) a member, appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections, who is familiar with the capability and technical operations of the VINE system.

Seventh: In Sec. 32, Adult Involuntary Guardianship Working Group, in subsection (d), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) With respect to subdivisions (1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (d), the report shall address:

(A) the judicial resources and oversight that would be required;

(B) whether, notwithstanding 12 V.S.A. § 2553 or 2555, the Vermont Supreme Court should have appellate jurisdiction over guardianship proceedings;

(C) the relationship between guardianships under subdivisions (1)(B)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (d) and voluntary guardianships under 14 V.S.A. § 2671;

(D) any legislative changes that would need to be made under either recommendation to ensure that respondents under Title 18 guardianships have access to voluntary guardianships that is equal to the access to voluntary guardianships available under Title 14; and

(E) any other matters deemed relevant by the Working Group, including any matters not currently under the jurisdiction of Title 14 guardianships or Title 18 guardianships.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 38, Child and Parent Legal Representation Task Force, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 38 to read as follows:

Sec. 38. CHILD AND PARENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION; TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Child and Parent Legal Representation Task Force to study the need and viability of an improved legal representation system for children and families who are involved in judicial or administrative proceedings concerning Children in Need of Care or Supervision (CHINS) or substantiations of abuse or neglect.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court or designee, who shall be the chair;

(2) the Court Administrator or designee;

(3) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

(4) the Defender General or designee;

(5) the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of Voices for Vermont's Children or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Parent Representation Center, Inc.;

(8) the Attorney General or designee; and

(9) the Executive Director of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall assess and determine whether reform of Vermont's legal representation for children and families is necessary by exploring the following topics:

(1) standards recommended by the American Bar Association, U.S. Children's Bureau, and the *Study of CHINS Case Processing in Vermont* authored by the National Center for State Courts and published in May of 2021;

(2) compliance with funding and reporting requirements in order for Vermont to leverage funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act;

(3) identifying the processes and amounts of Title IV-E funds and other funding sources to support any reformed system;

(4) using an interdisciplinary model of representation, including pay scales, performance measures, supervision and evaluation processes, and recommended caseloads for attorneys, social workers, and other child and family representatives; and

(5) other topics relevant to creating a reformed child and parent representation system.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Court Administrator's Office.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report that proposes any necessary reforms to the legal representation system for children and families who are involved in CHINS proceedings or substantiations of abuse or neglect, along with proposed legislation to implement such reforms to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Health and Welfare and the House Committees on Judiciary and on Human Services.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on May 15, 2026.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Judiciary, as amended, was agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 60

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 167. An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 266. An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 15th day of May, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 27. An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.

S. 36. An act relating to the delivery and payment of certain services provided through the Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 141. House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway.

H.C.R. 142. House concurrent resolution honoring Steven D. Faccio of Strafford for his inspiring leadership as a conservation biologist.

H.C.R. 143. House concurrent resolution honoring former Pawlet First Constable David Ricard Sr. for his outstanding municipal public service.

H.C.R. 144. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.

H.C.R. 145. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program.

H.C.R. 146. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities.

H.C.R. 147. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy.

H.C.R. 148. House concurrent resolution in memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington.

H.C.R. 149. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department.

H.C.R. 150. House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship.

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and thirty-one minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Monday, May 19, 2025, at two o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 26.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 141

House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway

H.C.R. 142

House concurrent resolution honoring Steven D. Faccio of Strafford for his inspiring leadership as a conservation biologist

H.C.R. 143

House concurrent resolution honoring former Pawlet First Constable David Ricard Sr. for his outstanding municipal public service

H.C.R. 144

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps

H.C.R. 145

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program

H.C.R. 146

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department’s management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities

H.C.R. 147

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy

H.C.R. 148

House concurrent resolution in memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington

H.C.R. 149

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department

H.C.R. 150

House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2025 Biennial Session.]

Monday, May 19, 2025

At two o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon, **Rep. Wood of Waterbury** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Scott Couper, Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 19th day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 137 **An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services**

H. 491 **An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate**

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

H. 518

By Reps. Tagliavia of Corinth, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon,

North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 519

By Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 520

By Rep. Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the right of users to control their social media data

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 123

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles

Appearing on the Action Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 145

Offered by Representatives Emmons of Springfield, Casey of Montpelier, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Minier of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Winter of Ludlow

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program

Whereas, in 1988 Acts and Resolves No. 267, the General Assembly enacted "An act relating to art in public buildings" in recognition of the State's need to "encourage the work of Vermont artists; to enhance and preserve its cultural environment and heritage; and to provide artistic enrichment to its residents and visitors," and

Whereas, now known as the Art in State Buildings Program, the State's structures have been brightened, enlivened, and made more welcoming for employees and visitors alike due to the presence of varied creations, and

Whereas, since the first artwork was installed in a State building in 1990, hundreds of Vermont-crafted pieces have found wonderful homes at courthouses, institutions of higher education, office buildings, public safety facilities, the State House, and other Stated-owned venues throughout Vermont, and

Whereas, the created artworks, be they drawings, paintings, sculptures, or other mediums, enhance civic pride and portray the story of Vermonters and the State's culture, history, landscape, and values, and

Whereas, the employment of Vermont artists and craftspeople is a worthy investment in the creative economy, supports local talent, and provides an incentive for artistic Vermonters to pursue careers in the State, and

Whereas, these creative works often portray environmental and stewardship themes, reflecting Vermont's strong connection to its natural and working landscapes, and they contribute to a State art collection that affords a distinctive perspective on our cultural history, and

Whereas, the Art in State Buildings Program is a valued public investment that brings beauty to our lives and is a legacy for future generations to cherish and expand in new and exciting directions, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Arts Council.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 16, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 148

Offered by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Burditt of West Rutland, Christie of Hartford, Dolan of Essex Junction, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Oliver of Sheldon, and Rachelson of Burlington

House concurrent resolution in memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington

Whereas, for 47 years (1978–2025), Richard Cassidy was a distinguished member of the Vermont Bar, and he epitomized the best attributes of an attorney, and his legacy is exemplified through a record of superb leadership at respected State and national professional legal organizations, and

Whereas, a native of Rutland, he graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy, the University of Vermont, and Albany Law School before completing two successive Vermont Supreme Court clerkships, and he subsequently enjoyed a successful career as a private practitioner, and

Whereas, the Vermont Bar Association (VBA) and its justice access partner, the Vermont Bar Foundation (VBF), were each a beneficiary of his wise counsel, and

Whereas, as a VBA appointee to the VBF Board, Richard Cassidy was an ardent advocate for VBF's mission, and at VBA, he was serving as the outstanding president-elect, and

Whereas, at the American Bar Association (ABA), Richard Cassidy served on the Board of Governors, chaired its Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, and represented Vermont in the ABA House of Delegates, and

Whereas, in 1994, Governor Dean appointed Richard Cassidy to the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), a pivotal advisor to legislatures and state bar associations on a wide range of statutory topics, and he frequently testified before General Assembly committees on ULC-related legal matters and was honored to serve a term as ULC President, and

Whereas, Richard Cassidy, whose broad array of activities included acting as a special legislative advisor on an impeachment investigation, serving as counsel to the Burlington Police Officers' Association, working as a legal analyst for Channel 5 television news, and chairing the South Burlington School Board, died on April 21, 2025 at 71 years of age, and he is survived by Becky, his wife of 50 years, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family and colleagues of Richard T. Cassidy, *and be it further*

***Resolved*:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Richard Cassidy, the Vermont Bar Association, the Vermont Bar Foundation, and the Uniform Law Commission.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 16, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 12

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Third Reading;
Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

S. 53

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services

S. 109

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 59

Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(9) "Undue hardship" means an action ~~required to achieve compliance would require~~ requiring significant difficulty or expense to the unit of government to which a public body belongs, considered in light of factors including the overall size of the entity, ~~sufficient~~ the availability of necessary personnel and ~~staffing availability~~ staff, the entity's ~~budget~~ available resources, and the costs associated with compliance.

Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 312 is amended to read:

§ 312. RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF PUBLIC ~~AGENCIES~~ BODIES

(a)(1) All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times, except as provided in section 313 of this title. No resolution, rule, regulation, appointment, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such open meeting, except as provided under subdivision 313(a)(2) of this title. A meeting of a public body is subject to the public accommodation requirements of 9 V.S.A. chapter 139. A public body shall electronically record all public hearings held to provide a forum for public comment on a proposed rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 840. The public shall have access to copies of such electronic recordings as described in section 316 of this title.

* * *

(3)(A) State ~~nonadvisory~~ public bodies; hybrid meeting requirement; exception for advisory bodies. Any public body of the State, except advisory bodies, shall:

~~(A)~~(i) hold all regular and special meetings in a hybrid fashion, which shall include both a designated physical meeting location and a designated electronic meeting platform;

~~(B)~~(ii) electronically record all meetings; and

~~(C)~~(iii) for a minimum of 30 days following the approval and posting of the official minutes for a meeting, retain the audiovisual recording and post the recording in a designated electronic location.

(B) Exception; site inspections and field visits. This subdivision (3) shall not apply to gatherings of a State public body for purposes of a site inspection or field visit.

(C) Application of subdivision; State public bodies only. This subdivision (3) applies exclusively to State public bodies.

* * *

(5) State ~~nonadvisory~~ public bodies; State and local advisory bodies; designating electronic platforms. ~~State nonadvisory~~ A public ~~bodies~~ body meeting ~~in a hybrid fashion~~ pursuant to subdivision (3) ~~of this subsection and State and local advisory bodies meeting without a physical meeting location~~ or advisory body meeting pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection shall designate and use an electronic platform that allows the direct access, attendance, and participation of the public, including access by telephone. The public body shall post information that enables the public to directly access the designated electronic platform and include this information in the published agenda or public notice for the meeting.

(6) Local ~~nonadvisory~~ public bodies; meeting recordings.

(A) A public body of a municipality or political subdivision, except advisory bodies, shall record or cause to record, in audio or video form, any meeting of the public body and post a copy of the recording in a designated electronic location for a minimum of 30 days following the ~~approval and~~ posting of the ~~official~~ minutes for a meeting. This subdivision (A) shall not apply to gatherings of a public body for purposes of a site inspection or field visit.

* * *

(c)(1) The time and place of all regular meetings subject to this section shall be clearly designated by statute, charter, regulation, ordinance, bylaw, resolution, or other determining authority of the public body, and this information shall be available to any person upon request. The time and place of all public hearings and meetings scheduled by all Executive Branch State agencies, departments, boards, or commissions shall be available to the public as required under 3 V.S.A. § 2222(c).

(2) The time, place, and purpose of a special meeting subject to this section shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours before the meeting. Municipal public bodies shall post notices of special meetings in or near the municipal clerk's office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality or a neighboring municipality, at least 24 hours before the meeting. In addition, notice shall be given, either orally or in writing, to each member of the public body at least 24 hours before the meeting, except that a member may waive notice of a special meeting.

* * *

(d)(1) At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be:

* * *

(B) in the case of a municipal public body, posted in or near the municipal office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality or a neighboring municipality.

* * *

(3) A meeting agenda shall contain sufficient details concerning the specific matters to be discussed by the public body. Whenever a public body includes an executive session as an item on a posted meeting agenda, the public body shall list the agenda item as "proposed executive session" and indicate the nature of the business of the executive session.

(4)(A) Any addition to or deletion from the agenda shall be made as the first act of business at the meeting.

* * *

(k) Training.

(1) Annually, the following officers shall participate in a professional training that addresses the procedures and requirements of this subchapter:

(A) for municipalities and political subdivisions, the chair of the legislative body, town manager, and mayor; ~~and~~

(B) for the State, the chair of any public body that is not an advisory body; and

(C) the members of a State advisory body, provided that the advisory body is composed entirely of members who are not government officers or employees.

* * *

Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. § 313 is amended to read:

§ 313. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

(a) No public body may hold or conclude an executive session from which the public is excluded, except by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members present in the case of any public body of State government or of a majority of its members present in the case of any public body of a municipality or other political subdivision. A motion to go into executive session shall indicate the nature of the business of the executive session, and no other matter may be considered in the executive session. ~~Such~~ The vote to enter executive session shall be taken in the course of an open meeting and the result of the vote recorded in the minutes. No formal or binding action shall be taken in executive session except for actions relating to the securing of real estate options under subdivision (2) of this subsection. Minutes of an executive session need not be taken, but if they are, the minutes shall, notwithstanding subsection 312(b) of this title, be exempt from public copying and inspection under the Public Records Act. A public body may not hold an executive session except to consider one or more of the following:

* * *

(10) security, cybersecurity, or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety; or

(11) confidential business information relating to the interest rates for publicly financed loans, provided that the public body is a State public body and the creditor for the loan.

* * *

Sec. 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that section 5 of this act amend 13 V.S.A. § 1026 to conform subdivision (a)(4) of that section with the constitutional requirements articulated in the Supreme Court of Vermont decision *State v. Colby*, 185 Vt. 464 (2009).

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 1026 is amended to read:

§ 1026. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

(a) A person is guilty of disorderly conduct if ~~he or she~~ the person, with intent to cause public inconvenience or annoyance, or recklessly creates a risk thereof:

* * *

(4) without lawful authority, disturbs any lawful assembly or meeting of persons; or

* * *

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Disturbs any lawful assembly or meeting of persons" means conduct that substantially impairs the effective conduct of an assembly or meeting, including conduct that:

(A) causes an assembly or meeting to terminate prematurely; or

(B) consists of numerous and sustained efforts to disrupt an assembly or meeting after being asked to desist.

(2) "Meeting" includes a meeting of a public body, as those terms are defined in 1 V.S.A. § 310.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Bill Committed

H. 219

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program

Appearing on the Calendar for Action, and pending the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, **Rep. Emmons of Springfield** moved to commit the bill to the Committee on Corrections and Institutions, which was agreed to.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 401

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Vermont enhance its food resiliency through increased supply and distribution of locally produced food products;

(2) Vermonters have more access to the local food marketplace as both producers and consumers;

(3) local food producers are able to meet the demand for Vermont-made food products from visitors to the State;

(4) small-scale food producers, new business start-ups, and sole proprietors benefit from raising the limit of the existing licensing exemption for at-home bakery products to adjust for inflationary cost changes occurring since the initial statutory enactment; and

(5) supply-chain costs and inflationary considerations be addressed to bring risk management thresholds more in line with the economic conditions at the time of initial statutory enactment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4301 is amended to read:

§ 4301. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4) "Cottage food operation" means a food manufacturing establishment where a cottage food product is produced.

(5) "Cottage food operator" means any person who produces or packages cottage food products solely in the home kitchen of the person's private residential dwelling or a kitchen on the person's personal property.

(6) "Cottage food product" means food sold by a cottage food operator that does not require refrigeration or time or temperature control for safety, such as:

(A) nonpotentially hazardous baked goods;

(B) candy;

(C) jams and jellies;

(D) dry herbs;

(E) trail mix;

(F) granola;

(G) cereal;

(H) mixed nuts;

(I) flavored vinegar;

(J) popcorn;

(K) coffee beans;

(L) dry tea;

(M) home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits having an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower or a water activity value of 0.85 or less that are made using recipes:

(i) approved by the National Center for Home Food Preservation; or

(ii) reviewed by a food processing authority for safety; and

(N) any other good defined by the Commissioner in rule or policy.

(7) "Department" means the Department of Health.

~~(5)~~(8) "Establishment" means food manufacturing establishments, food service establishments, lodging establishments, children's camps, seafood vending facilities, and shellfish reshippers and repackers.

~~(6)~~(9) "Food" means articles of food, drink, confectionery, or condiment for human consumption, whether simple, mixed, or compound, and all substances and ingredients used in the preparation thereof.

~~(7)~~(10) "Food manufacturing establishment" or "food processor" means all buildings, rooms, basements, cellars, lofts, or other premises or part thereof used, occupied, or maintained for the purpose of manufacturing, preparing, packing, canning, bottling, keeping, storing, handling, serving, or distributing food for sale. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall include~~ includes food processors, bakeries, cottage food operations, distributers, and warehouses. A food manufacturing establishment ~~shall~~ does not include a place where only maple syrup or maple products, as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 481, are prepared for human consumption.

~~(8)~~(11) "Food service establishment" means entities that prepare, serve, and sell food to the public, including restaurants, temporary food vendors, caterers, mobile food units, and limited operations as defined in rule.

~~(9)~~(12) "Lodging establishment" means a place where overnight accommodations are regularly provided to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public, including hotels, motels, inns, and bed and breakfasts. "Lodging establishment" ~~shall~~ does not include short-term rentals.

~~(10)~~(13) "Salvage food" means any food product from which the label on the packaging has been lost or destroyed or that has been subjected to possible damage as the result of an accident, fire, flood, or other cause that prevents the product from meeting the specifications of the manufacturer or the packer but is otherwise suitable for human consumption.

~~(11)~~(14) "Salvage food facility" means any food vendor for which salvage food comprises 50 percent or more of gross sales.

~~(12)~~(15) "Seafood vending facility" means a store, motor vehicle, retail stand, or similar place from which a person sells seafood for human consumption.

~~(13)~~(16) "Shellfish reshipper and repacker" means an establishment engaging in interstate commerce of molluskan shellfish.

~~(14)~~(17) "Short-term rental" means a furnished house, condominium, or other dwelling room or self-contained dwelling unit rented to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days and for more than 14 days per calendar year.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4303 is amended to read:

§ 4303. RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to establish minimum standards for the safe and sanitary operation of food or lodging establishments or children's camps or any combination thereof and for their administration and enforcement. The rules shall require that an establishment be constructed, maintained, and operated with strict regard for the health of the employees and the public pursuant to the following general requirements:

* * *

(7) There shall be training requirements for food manufacturing establishment operators and employees to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and healthfulness.

(8) The Commissioner may adopt any other minimum conditions deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of a food or lodging establishment in a safe and sanitary manner.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4353 is amended to read:

§ 4353. FEES

(a) The Commissioner may establish by rule any requirement the Department needs to determine the applicable categories or exemptions for licenses. The following license fees shall be paid annually to the Department at the time of making the application according to the following schedules:

* * *

(3) Food manufacturing establishment — a fee for any person or persons that process food for resale to restaurants, stores, or individuals according to the following schedule:

(A) Food manufacturing establishments; nonbakeries

I — Gross receipts of $10,001.00 to $50,000.00; $175.00

II — Gross receipts of over $50,000.00; $275.00

III — Gross receipts of $10,000.00 or less are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title

(B) Food manufacturing ~~establishment~~ establishments; bakeries

I — Home bakery; $100.00

II — Small commercial; $200.00

III — Large commercial; $350.00

(C) Food manufacturing establishments; cottage food operations — Gross receipts of $30,000.00 or less from the sale of cottage food products are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4358 is amended to read:

§ 4358. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(b) The ~~provisions of~~ obligation to obtain a license and the associated licensure fees in this subchapter shall not apply to ~~an individual manufacturing and selling bakery products from his or her own home kitchen whose~~ a cottage

food operation or other food manufacturing establishment that is exempt due to its average gross retail sales ~~do not exceed $125.00 per week~~ being below the listed thresholds in section 4353 of this title.

(c) ~~Any~~ Annually, a food manufacturing establishment claiming a licensing exemption pursuant to this title shall ~~provide documentation~~ submit to the Department a licensing exemption filing as required by rule. The licensing exemption filing shall require the food manufacturing establishment to attest to the completion of any training required by rule pursuant to section 4303 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. RULEMAKING

Pending the adoption of permanent rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this act, the Commissioner of Health shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844, which shall be deemed to meet the emergency rulemaking standard in 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Second Reading; Amendment Offered;
Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 126

Rep. Black of Essex, for the Committee on Health Care, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Purpose of the Act; Goals * * *

Sec. 1. PURPOSE; GOALS

The purpose of this act is to achieve transformation of and structural changes to Vermont's health care system. In enacting this legislation, the General Assembly intends to advance the following goals:

(1) improvements in health outcomes, population health, quality of care, and regional access to services;

(2) an integrated system of care, with robust care coordination and increased investments in primary care, home health care, and long-term care;

(3) stabilizing health care providers, controlling the costs of commercial health insurance, and managing hospital costs based on the total cost of care, beginning with reference-based pricing;

(4) evaluating progress in achieving system transformation and structural changes by creating and applying standardized accountability metrics; and

(5) establishing a health care system that will attract and retain high-quality health care professionals to practice in Vermont and that supports, develops, and preserves the dignity of Vermont's health care workforce.

* * * Hospital Budgets and Payment Reform * * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9375 is amended to read:

§ 9375. DUTIES

(a) The Board shall execute its duties consistent with the principles expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(b) The Board shall have the following duties:

(1) Oversee the development and implementation, and evaluate the effectiveness, of health care payment and delivery system reforms designed to control the rate of growth in health care costs; promote seamless care, administration, and service delivery; and maintain health care quality in Vermont, including ensuring that the payment reform pilot projects set forth in this chapter are consistent with such reforms.

(A) Implement by rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, methodologies for achieving payment reform and containing costs that may include the participation of Medicare and Medicaid, which may include the creation of health care professional cost-containment targets, reference-based pricing, global payments, bundled payments, global budgets, risk-adjusted capitated payments, or other uniform payment methods and amounts for integrated delivery systems, health care professionals, or other provider arrangements.

* * *

(5) Set rates for health care professionals pursuant to section 9376 of this title, to be implemented over time beginning with reference-based pricing as soon as practicable, but not later than hospital fiscal year 2027, and make adjustments to the rules on reimbursement methodologies as needed.

(6) Approve, modify, or disapprove requests for health insurance rates pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 4062, taking into consideration the requirements in the underlying statutes~~,~~; changes in health care delivery~~,~~; changes in payment methods and amounts, including implementation of reference-based pricing; protecting insurer solvency~~,~~; and other issues at the discretion of the Board.

(7) Review and establish hospital budgets pursuant to chapter 221, subchapter 7 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9376 is amended to read:

§ 9376. PAYMENT AMOUNTS; METHODS

(a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure payments to health care professionals that are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and will permit them to provide, on a solvent basis, effective and efficient health services that are in the public interest. It is also the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the shift of costs between the payers of health services to ensure that the amount paid to health care professionals is sufficient to enlist enough providers to ensure that health services are available to all Vermonters and are distributed equitably.

(b) Rate-setting.

(1) The Board shall set reasonable rates for health care professionals, health care provider bargaining groups created pursuant to section 9409 of this title, manufacturers of prescribed products, medical supply companies, and other companies providing health services or health supplies based on methodologies pursuant to section 9375 of this title, in order to have a consistent reimbursement amount accepted by these persons. In its discretion, the Board may implement rate-setting for different groups of health care professionals over time and need not set rates for all types of health care professionals. In establishing rates, the Board may consider legitimate differences in costs among health care professionals, such as the cost of providing a specific necessary service or services that may not be available elsewhere in the State, and the need for health care professionals in particular areas of the State, particularly in underserved geographic or practice shortage areas.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to:

(A) limit the ability of a health care professional to accept less than the rate established in subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) from a patient without health insurance or other coverage for the service or services received; or

(B) reduce or limit the covered services offered by Medicare or Medicaid.

(c) Methodologies. The Board shall approve payment methodologies that encourage cost-containment; provision of high-quality, evidence-based health services in an integrated setting; patient self-management; access to primary care health services ~~for underserved individuals, populations, and areas~~; and healthy lifestyles. Such methodologies shall be consistent with payment reform and with evidence-based practices, and may include fee-for-service payments if the Board determines such payments to be appropriate.

(d) Supervision. To the extent required to avoid federal antitrust violations and in furtherance of the policy identified in subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall facilitate and supervise the participation of health care professionals and health care provider bargaining groups in the process described in subsection (b) of this section.

(e) Reference-based pricing.

(1)(A) The Board shall establish reference-based prices that represent the maximum amounts that hospitals shall accept as payment in full for items provided and services delivered in Vermont. The Board may also implement reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital by setting the minimum amounts that shall be paid for items provided and services delivered by nonhospital-based health care professionals. The Board shall consult with health insurers, hospitals, other health care professionals as applicable, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and the Agency of Human Services in developing reference-based prices pursuant to this subsection (e), including on ways to achieve all-payer alignment on the design and implementation of reference-based pricing.

(B) The Board shall implement reference-based pricing in a manner that does not allow health care professionals to charge or collect from patients or health insurers any amount in excess of the reference-based amount established by the Board.

(2)(A) Reference-based prices established pursuant to this subsection (e) shall be based on a percentage of the Medicare reimbursement for the same or a similar item or service or on another benchmark, as appropriate, provided that if the Board establishes prices that are referenced to Medicare, the Board may opt to update the prices in the future based on a reasonable rate of growth that is separate from Medicare rates, such as the Medicare Economic Index measure of inflation, in order to provide predictability and consistency for health care professionals and payers and to protect against federal funding pressures that may impact Medicare rates in an unpredictable manner. The

Board may also reference to, and update based on, other payment or pricing systems where appropriate.

(B) In establishing reference-based prices for a hospital pursuant to this subsection (e), the Board shall consider the composition of the communities served by the hospital, including the health of the population, demographic characteristics, acuity, payer mix, labor costs, social risk factors, and other factors that may affect the costs of providing care in the hospital service area, as well as the hospital's role in Vermont's health care system.

(3)(A) The Board shall begin implementing reference-based pricing as soon as practicable but not later than hospital fiscal year 2027 by establishing the maximum amounts that Vermont hospitals shall accept as payment in full for items provided and services delivered. After initial implementation, the Board shall review the reference-based prices for each hospital annually as part of the hospital budget review process set forth in chapter 221, subchapter 7 of this title.

(B) The Board, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall monitor the implementation of reference-based pricing to ensure that any decreases in amounts paid to hospitals also result in decreases in health insurance premiums. The Board shall post its findings regarding the alignment between price decreases and premium decreases annually on its website.

(4) The Board shall identify factors that would necessitate terminating or modifying the use of reference-based pricing in one or more hospitals, such as a measurable reduction in access to or quality of care.

(5) The Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services and the Comprehensive Primary Health Care Steering Committee established pursuant to section 9407 of this title, may implement reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital, such as primary care services, and may increase or decrease the percentage of Medicare or another benchmark as appropriate, first to enhance access to primary care and later for alignment with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan established pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established. The Board may consider establishing reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital by setting minimum amounts that shall be paid for the purpose of prioritizing access to high-quality health care services in settings that are appropriate to patients' needs in order to contain costs and improve patient outcomes.

(6) The Board's authority to establish reference-based prices pursuant to this subsection shall not include the authority to set amounts applicable to items provided or services delivered to patients who are enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid.

Sec. 3a. 18 V.S.A. § 9451 is amended to read:

§ 9451. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under chapter 43 of this title, except a hospital that is conducted, maintained, or operated by the State of Vermont.

(2) " Hospital network" means a system comprising two or more affiliated hospitals, and may include other health care professionals and facilities, that derives 50 percent or more of its operating revenue, at the consolidated network level, from Vermont hospitals and in which the affiliated hospitals deliver health care services in a coordinated manner using an integrated financial and governance structure.

(3) "Volume" means the number of inpatient days of care or admissions and the number of all inpatient and outpatient ancillary services rendered to patients by a hospital.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9454 is amended to read:

§ 9454. HOSPITALS; DUTIES

* * *

(b) Hospitals shall submit information as directed by the Board in order to maximize hospital budget data standardization and allow the Board to make direct comparisons of hospital expenses across the health care system.

(c) Hospitals shall adopt a fiscal year that shall begin on October 1.

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

§ 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) The Board shall conduct reviews of each hospital's proposed budget based on the information provided pursuant to this subchapter and in accordance with a schedule established by the Board.

(b) In conjunction with budget reviews, the Board shall:

(1) review utilization information;

(2) consider the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established, including the total cost of care targets, and consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure compliance with federal requirements regarding Medicare and Medicaid;

(3) consider the Health Resource Allocation Plan identifying Vermont's critical health needs, goods, services, and resources developed pursuant to section 9405 of this title;

~~(3)~~(4) consider the expenditure analysis for the previous year and the proposed expenditure analysis for the year under review;

~~(4)~~(5) consider any reports from professional review organizations;

(6) for a hospital that operates within a hospital network, review the hospital network's financial operations as they relate to the budget of the individual hospital;

~~(5)~~(7) solicit public comment on all aspects of hospital costs and use and on the budgets proposed by individual hospitals;

~~(6)~~(8) meet with hospitals to review and discuss hospital budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year;

~~(7)~~(9) give public notice of the meetings with hospitals~~,~~ and invite the public to attend and to comment on the proposed budgets;

~~(8)~~(10) consider the extent to which costs incurred by the hospital in connection with services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries are being charged to non-Medicaid health benefit plans and other non-Medicaid payers;

~~(9)~~(11) require each hospital to file an analysis that reflects a reduction in net revenue needs from non-Medicaid payers equal to any anticipated increase in Medicaid, Medicare, or another public health care program reimbursements, and to any reduction in bad debt or charity care due to an increase in the number of insured individuals;

~~(10)~~(12) require each hospital to provide information on administrative costs, as defined by the Board, including specific information on the amounts spent on marketing and advertising costs;

~~(11)~~(13) require each hospital to create or maintain connectivity to the State's Health Information Exchange Network in accordance with the criteria established by the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc., pursuant to subsection 9352(i) of this title, provided that the Board shall not require a hospital to create a level of connectivity that the State's Exchange is unable to support;

~~(12)~~(14) review the hospital's investments in workforce development initiatives, including nursing workforce pipeline collaborations with nursing schools and compensation and other support for nurse preceptors; ~~and~~

~~(13)~~(15) consider the salaries for the hospital's executive and clinical leadership, including variable payments and incentive plans, and the hospital's salary spread, including a comparison of median salaries to the medians of northern New England states and a comparison of the base salaries and total compensation for the hospital's executive and clinical leadership with those of the hospital's lowest-paid employees who deliver health care services directly to hospital patients; and

(16) consider the number of employees of the hospital whose duties are primarily administrative in nature, as defined by the Board, compared with the number of employees whose duties primarily involve delivering health care services directly to hospital patients.

(c) Individual hospital budgets established under this section shall:

(1) be consistent, to the extent practicable, with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established, including the total cost of care targets, and with the Health Resource Allocation Plan;

(2) reflect the reference-based prices established by the Board pursuant to section 9376 of this title;

(3) take into consideration national, regional, or in-state peer group norms, according to indicators, ratios, and statistics established by the Board;

~~(3)~~(4) promote efficient and economic operation of the hospital and, if a hospital is affiliated with a hospital network, ensure that hospital spending on the hospital network's operations is consistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title and with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established;

~~(4)~~(5) reflect budget performances for prior years;

~~(5)~~(6) include a finding that the analysis provided in subdivision ~~(b)~~(9)(b)(11) of this section is a reasonable methodology for reflecting a reduction in net revenues for non-Medicaid payers; ~~and~~

~~(6)~~(7) demonstrate that they support equal access to appropriate mental health care that meets standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care; and

(8) include meaningful variable payments and incentive plans for hospitals that are consistent with this section and with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(d)(1) Annually, the Board shall establish a budget for each hospital on or before September 15, followed by a written decision by October 1. Each hospital shall operate within the budget established under this section.

* * *

(e)(1) The Board, in consultation with the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, shall utilize mechanisms to measure hospital costs, quality, and access and alignment with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (D) of this subdivision (e)(2), a hospital that proposes to reduce or eliminate any service in order to comply with a budget established under this section shall provide a notice of intent to the Board, the Agency of Human Services, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and the members of the General Assembly who represent the hospital service area not less than 45 days prior to the proposed reduction or elimination.

(B) The notice shall explain the rationale for the proposed reduction or elimination and describe how it is consistent with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established, and the hospital's most recent community health needs assessment conducted pursuant to section 9405a of this title and 26 U.S.C. § 501(r)(3).

(C) The Board may evaluate the proposed reduction or elimination for consistency with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established and the community health needs assessment, and may modify the hospital's budget or take such additional actions as the Board deems appropriate to preserve access to necessary services.

(D) A service that has been identified for reduction or elimination in connection with the transformation efforts undertaken by the Board and the Agency of Human Services pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167 does not need to comply with subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (e)(2).

(3) The Board, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall monitor the implementation of any authorized decrease in hospital services to determine its benefits to Vermonters or to Vermont's health care system, or both.

(4) The Board may establish a process to define, on an annual basis, criteria for hospitals to meet, such as utilization and inflation benchmarks.

(5) The Board may waive one or more of the review processes listed in subsection (b) of this section.

* * *

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 9458 is added to read:

§ 9458. HOSPITAL NETWORKS; STRUCTURE; FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

(a) The Board may review and evaluate the structure of a hospital network to determine:

(1) whether any network operations should be organized and operated out of a hospital instead of at the network; and

(2) whether the existence and operation of a network provides value to Vermonters, is in the public interest, and is consistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title and with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

(b) In order to protect the public interest, the Board may, on its own initiative, investigate the financial operations of a hospital network, including compensation of the network's employees and executive leadership.

(c) The Board may recommend any action it deems necessary to correct any aspect of the structure of a hospital network or its financial operations that are inconsistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title or with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

* * * Health Care Contracts * * *

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 9418c is amended to read:

§ 9418c. FAIR CONTRACT STANDARDS

* * *

(e)(1) The requirements of subdivision (b)(5) of this section do not prohibit a contracting entity from requiring a reasonable confidentiality agreement between the provider and the contracting entity regarding the terms of the proposed health care contract.

(2) Upon request, a contracting entity or provider shall provide an unredacted copy of an executed or proposed health care contract to the Department of Financial Regulation or the Green Mountain Care Board, or both.

* * * Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan; Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee; Comprehensive Primary Health Care Steering Committee * * *

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 9403 is added to read:

§ 9403. STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with the Green Mountain Care Board, the Department of Financial Regulation, the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee established in section 9403a of this title, the Comprehensive Primary Health Care Steering Committee established pursuant to section 9407 of this title, and other interested stakeholders, shall lead development of an integrated Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan as set forth in this section.

(b) The Plan shall:

(1) Align with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(2) Identify existing services and promote universal access across Vermont to high-quality, cost-effective acute care; primary care, including primary mental health services; chronic care; long-term care; substance use disorder treatment services; emergency medical services; nonemergency medical services; nonmedical services and supports; and hospital-based, independent, and community-based services.

(3) Define a shared vision and shared goals and objectives for improving access to and the quality, efficiency, and affordability of health care services in Vermont, including benchmarks for evaluating progress.

(4) Identify the resources, infrastructure, and support needed to achieve established targets, which will ensure the feasibility and sustainability of implementation.

(5) Provide a phased implementation timeline with milestones and regular reporting to ensure adaptability as needs evolve.

(6) Promote accountability and continuous quality improvement across Vermont's health care system through the use of data, scientifically grounded methods, and high-quality performance metrics to evaluate effectiveness and inform decision making.

(7) Provide annual targets for the total cost of care across Vermont's health care system. Using these total cost of care targets, the Plan shall identify appropriate allocations of health care resources and services across the

State that balance quality, access, and cost containment. The Plan shall also establish targets for the percentages of overall health care spending that should reflect spending on primary care services, including mental health services, and on preventive care services, which targets shall be aligned with the total cost of care targets.

(8) Build on data and information from:

(A) the transformation planning resulting from 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167, Secs. 1 and 2;

(B) the expenditure analysis and health care spending estimate developed pursuant to section 9383 of this title;

(C) the State Health Improvement Plan adopted pursuant to subsection 9405(a) of this title;

(D) the Health Resource Allocation Plan published by the Green Mountain Care Board in accordance with subsection 9405(b) of this title;

(E) hospitals' community health needs assessments and strategic planning conducted in accordance with section 9405a of this title;

(F) hospital and ambulatory surgical center quality information published by the Department of Health pursuant to section 9405b of this title;

(G) the statewide quality assurance program maintained by the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care pursuant to section 9416 of this title;

(H) the 2020 report determining the proportion of health care spending in Vermont that is allocated to primary care, submitted to the General Assembly by the Green Mountain Care Board and the Department of Vermont Health Access in accordance with 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 17, Sec. 2;

(I) the 2024 report on Blueprint for Health payments to patient-centered medical homes, submitted to the General Assembly by the Agency of Human Services in accordance with 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 5; and

(J) such additional sources of data and information as the Agency and other stakeholders deem appropriate.

(9) Identify:

(A) opportunities to improve the quality of care across the health care delivery system, including exemplars of high-quality care to stimulate best practice dissemination;

(B) gaps in access to care, including disparities in access resulting from geographic or demographic factors or health status, as well as unnecessary duplication of services, including circumstances in which service closures or consolidations may result in improvements in quality, access, and affordability;

(C) opportunities to reduce administrative burdens;

(D) federal, State, and other barriers to achieving the Plan's goals and, to the extent feasible, how those barriers can be removed or mitigated;

(E) priorities in steps for achieving the goals of the Plan;

(F) barriers to adequate mental health and substance use disorder services;

(G) opportunities to integrate health care services for individuals in the custody of the Department of Corrections as part of Vermont's health care delivery system;

(H) enhancements in quality reporting and data collection to provide a more current and accurate picture of the quality of health care delivery across Vermont; and

(I) systems to ensure that reported data is shared with and is accessible to the health care professionals who are providing care, enabling them to track performance and inform improvement.

(c)(1) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency shall provide the Plan to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(2) The Agency shall prepare an updated Plan every two years and shall provide it to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of every other year, beginning on December 1, 2029.

Sec. 9. 18 V.S.A. § 9403a is added to read:

§ 9403a. HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) There is created the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee to:

(1) establish health care affordability benchmarks;

(2) evaluate and monitor the performance of Vermont's health care system and its impacts on population health outcomes;

(3) collaborate with the Agency of Human Services and other interested stakeholders in the development and maintenance of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to section 9403 of this title;

(4) advise the Green Mountain Care Board on the design and implementation of an ongoing evaluation process to continuously monitor current performance in the health care delivery system; and

(5) provide coordinated and consensus recommendations to the General Assembly on issues related to health care delivery and population health.

(b)(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following 19 members:

(A) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(B) the Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;

(C) the Chief Health Care Advocate from the Office of the Health Care Advocate or designee;

(D) a member of the Health Equity Advisory Commission, selected by the Commission's Chair;

(E) one representative of commercial health insurers offering major medical health insurance plans in Vermont, selected by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation;

(F) two representatives of Vermont hospitals, selected by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, who shall represent hospitals that are located in different regions of the State and that face different levels of financial stability;

(G) one representative of Vermont's federally qualified health centers, selected by Bi-State Primary Care Association;

(H) one representative of physicians, selected by the Vermont Medical Society;

(I) one representative of independent physician practices, selected by HealthFirst;

(J) one representative of advanced practice registered nurses, selected by the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association;

(K) one representative of Vermont's free clinic programs, selected by Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics;

(L) one representative of Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies, selected by Vermont Care Partners;

(M) one preferred provider from outside the designated and specialized service agency system, selected by the Commissioner of Health;

(N) one Vermont-licensed mental health professional from an independent practice, selected by the Commissioner of Mental Health;

(O) one representative of Vermont's home health agencies, selected jointly by the VNAs of Vermont and Bayada Home Health Care;

(P) one representative of long-term care facilities, selected by the Vermont Health Care Association;

(Q) one representative of small businesses, selected by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce; and

(R) the Executive Director of the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care or designee.

(2) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall be the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

(3) The Agency of Human Services shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the Advisory Committee.

(c) Members of the Advisory Committee shall not receive per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their participation on the Advisory Committee.

Sec. 9a. 18 V.S.A. § 9407 is added to read:

§ 9407. COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE STEERING COMMITTEE

(a) There is created the Comprehensive Primary Health Care Steering Committee to inform the work of State government, including the Blueprint for Health and the Office of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services, as it relates to access to, delivery of, and payment for primary care services in Vermont.

(b) The Steering Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(2) the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(3) the Associate Dean for Primary Care at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(5) the President of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians or designee;

(6) the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Vermont Chapter, or designee;

(7) a member of the Green Mountain Care Board's Primary Care Advisory Committee, selected by the Green Mountain Care Board;

(8) the Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health;

(9) a primary care clinician who practices at an independent practice, selected by HealthFirst;

(10) a primary care clinician who practices at a federally qualified health center, selected by Bi-State Primary Care Association;

(11) a primary care physician, selected by the Vermont Medical Society;

(12) a primary care physician assistant, selected by the Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont;

(13) a primary care nurse practitioner, selected by the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association;

(14) a mental health provider who practices at a community mental health center designated pursuant to section 8907 of this title, selected by Vermont Care Partners;

(15) a licensed independent clinical social worker, selected by the National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter; and

(16) a psychologist, selected by the Vermont Psychological Association.

(c) The Steering Committee shall:

(1) engage in an ongoing assessment of comprehensive primary care needs in Vermont;

(2) provide recommendations for recruiting and retaining high-quality primary care providers, including on ways to encourage new talent to join Vermont's primary care workforce;

(3) develop proposals for sustainable payment models for primary care;

(4) identify methods for enhancing Vermonters' access to primary care;

(5) recommend opportunities to reduce administrative burdens on primary care providers;

(6) recommend mechanisms for measuring the quality of primary care services delivered in Vermont;

(7) provide input into the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan as it is developed, updated, and implemented pursuant to section 9403 of this title;

(8) consult with the Green Mountain Care Board in the event that the Board develops reference-based pricing for primary care providers as permitted under subdivision 9376(e)(5) of this title; and

(9) offer additional recommendations and guidance to the Blueprint for Health, the Office of Health Care Reform, the General Assembly, and others in State government on ways to increase access to primary care services and to improve patient and provider satisfaction with primary care delivery in Vermont.

(d) The Steering Committee shall receive administrative and technical assistance from the Agency of Human Services.

(e)(1) The Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health shall call the first meeting of the Steering Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2025.

(2) The Steering Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(f) Members of the Steering Committee shall not receive per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their participation on the Steering Committee.

* * * Data Integration; Data Sharing * * *

Sec. 10. INTEGRATION OF HEALTH CARE DATA; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee to evaluate the potential for developing an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data. The Agency's analysis shall address:

(1) the feasibility of developing an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data;

(2) the potential uses of an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data;

(3) whether and to what extent an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data would:

(A) improve patient, provider, and payer access to relevant information;

(B) reduce administrative burdens on providers;

(C) increase access to and quality of health care for Vermonters; and

(D) reduce costs and, if so, how to measure such reductions;

(4) appropriate privacy and security safeguards for an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data; and

(5) any additional considerations regarding an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data that the Agency and the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee deem appropriate.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall provide its findings and recommendations regarding development of an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. In addition to the information required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Agency shall explain the advantages and disadvantages of developing an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data; provide the Agency's recommendations regarding whether the State should pursue development and implementation of such an integrated system; and describe the value, if any, that such an integrated system would bring to Vermont's health care system. The Agency shall not begin implementation of an integrated statewide system of clinical and claims data unless and until directed to do so by legislation enacted by the General Assembly.

Sec. 11. 18 V.S.A. § 9374 is amended to read:

§ 9374. BOARD MEMBERSHIP; AUTHORITY

* * *

(i)(1) In addition to any other penalties and in order to enforce the provisions of this chapter and empower the Board to perform its duties, the Chair of the Board may issue subpoenas, examine persons, administer oaths, and require production of papers and records. Any subpoena or notice to produce may be served by registered or certified mail or in person by an agent of the Chair. Service by registered or certified mail shall be effective three business days after mailing. Any subpoena or notice to produce shall provide at least six business days' time from service within which to comply, except that the Chair may shorten the time for compliance for good cause shown. Any subpoena or notice to produce sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, shall constitute service on the person to whom it is addressed.

(2) Each witness who appears before the Chair under subpoena shall receive a fee and mileage as provided for witnesses in civil cases in Superior Courts; provided, however, any person subject to the Board's authority shall not be eligible to receive fees or mileage under this section.

(3) The Board may share any information, papers, or records it receives pursuant to a subpoena or notice to produce issued under this section with the Agency of Human Services or the Department of Financial Regulation, or both, as appropriate to the work of the Agency or Department, provided that the Agency or Department agrees to maintain the confidentiality of any information, papers, or records that are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

* * *

* * * Health Care Reforms Addressing Exigent Needs * * *

Sec. 11a. HEALTH CARE SPENDING REDUCTIONS;
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; REPORTS

(a)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall facilitate collaboration and coordination among health care providers in order to encourage cooperation in developing rapid responses to the urgent financial pressures facing the health care system and to identify opportunities to increase efficiency, improve the quality of health care services, reduce spending on prescription drugs, and increase access to essential services, including primary care, emergency departments, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, prenatal care, and emergency medical services and transportation, while reducing hospital spending for hospital fiscal year 2026 by not less than 2.5 percent.

(2) The Agency of Human Services shall facilitate and supervise the participation of hospitals and other health care providers in the process set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection as necessary for this collaborative process to be afforded state-action immunity under applicable federal and State antitrust laws.

(b) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the proposed reductions that it has approved pursuant to this section, including applicable timing and appropriate accountability measures, to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before July 1, 2025. On or before the first day of each month of hospital fiscal year 2026, beginning on October 1, 2025, the Agency shall provide updates to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, and to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare when the General Assembly is in

session, regarding progress in implementing and achieving the hospital spending reductions identified pursuant to this section.

Sec. 11b. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; REPORTS

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall identify specific outcome measures for determining whether, when, and to what extent each of the following goals of its health care system transformation efforts pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167 (Act 167) has been met:

(1) reduce inefficiencies;

(2) lower costs;

(3) improve health outcomes;

(4) reduce health inequities; and

(5) increase access to essential services.

(b)(1) On or before July 1, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee:

(A) the specific outcome measures developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, along with a timeline for accomplishing them;

(B) how the Agency will determine its progress in accomplishing the outcome measures and achieving the transformation goals, including how it will determine the amount of savings attributable to each inefficiency reduced and how it will evaluate increases in access to essential services;

(C) the impact that each transformation decision made by an individual hospital as part of the Act 167 transformation process has or will have on the State's health care system, including on health care costs and on health insurance premiums;

(D) how the Agency is tracking and coordinating the transformation efforts of individual hospitals to ensure that they complement the transformation efforts of other hospitals and other health care providers and that they will contribute in a positive way to a transformed health care system that meets the Act 167 goals; and

(E) the amount of State funds, and federal funds, if applicable, that the Agency has spent on Act 167 transformation efforts to date or has obligated for those purposes and the amount of unspent State funds appropriated for Act 167-related purposes that remain for the Agency's Act 167 transformation efforts.

(2) On or before the first day of each month beginning on August 1, 2025, the Agency shall provide the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, and to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare when the General Assembly is in session, with updates on each of the items set forth in subdivisions (1)(A)–(E) of this subsection.

Sec. 11c. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; INCENTIVES; TELEHEALTH

(a) To encourage hospitals to engage proactively, think expansively, and propose transformation initiatives that will reduce costs to Vermont's health care system without negatively affecting health care quality or jeopardizing access to necessary services, the Agency of Human Services shall award grants to the hospitals in State fiscal year 2026 that actively participate in health care transformation efforts to assist them in building partnerships, reducing hospital costs for hospital fiscal year 2026, and expanding Vermonters' access to health care services, including those delivered using telehealth.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary, the sum of $2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for grants to hospitals for the collaborative efforts to reduce hospital costs in accordance with subsection (a) of this section and Sec. 11a of this act and to expand access to health care services, such as by enhancing telehealth infrastructure development. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds should be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the funds have been distributed.

(c) On or before November 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee regarding how much of the $2,000,000.00 appropriated to the Agency pursuant to subsection (b) of this section was obligated as of November 1, 2025 and how much had already been disbursed to hospitals as of that date.

Sec. 11d. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; DOMESTIC HEALTH INSURER SUSTAINABILITY; REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Department of Financial Regulation shall provide to the Health Reform Oversight Committee a plan for preserving the sustainability of domestic health insurers in Vermont, which may include utilizing reinsurance.

* * * Retaining Accountable Care Organization Capabilities * * *

Sec. 12. RETAINING ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION CAPABILITIES; REPORT

The Agency of Human Services shall explore opportunities to retain capabilities developed by or on behalf of a certified accountable care organization that were funded in whole or in part using State or federal monies, or both, and that have the potential to make beneficial contributions to Vermont's health care system, such as capabilities related to comprehensive payment reform and quality data measurement and reporting. On or before November 1, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report its findings and recommendations to the Health Reform Oversight Committee.

* * * Implementation Updates * * *

Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

Sec. 14. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

On or before February 15, 2026, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide an update to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the Board's implementation of this act, including the status of its efforts to establish methodologies for and begin implementation of reference-based pricing, and the effects of these efforts and activities on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont. The Board shall also report on the potential future use of global hospital budgets, including providing the Board's definition of the term "global hospital budgets"; determining whether it is feasible to develop and implement global hospital budgets for Vermont hospitals and, if so, over what time period; and the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing global hospital budgets.

Sec. 15. 3 V.S.A. § 3027 is amended to read:

§ 3027. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM; IMPROVING QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY; REPORT

(a) The Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services shall be responsible for the coordination of health care system reform efforts among Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices, and for coordinating with the Green Mountain Care Board established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 220.

(b) On or before February 15 annually, the Agency of Human Services shall provide an update to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding all of the following:

(1) The status of the Agency's efforts to develop, update, and implement the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9403. The Agency shall adopt an evaluation framework using an evidence-based approach to assess both the effectiveness of Plan development and implementation and the Plan's overall impact. The evaluation shall include identifying what was accomplished, how well it was executed, and the benefits to specific cohorts within Vermont's health care system, and the Agency shall include updated evaluation results annually as part of its report.

(2) The activities of the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9403a during the previous calendar year.

(3) The effects of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, the efforts and activities of the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee, and other efforts and activities engaged in or directed by the Agency on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont.

Sec. 16. 18 V.S.A. § 9375(d) is amended to read:

(d) Annually on or before January 15, the Board shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(1) The report shall include:

* * *

(G) the status of its efforts to establish methodologies for and begin implementation of reference-based pricing and any considerations regarding the future use of global hospital budgets, and the effects of these efforts and activities on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont;

(H) any recommendations for modifications to Vermont statutes; and

~~(H)~~(I) any actual or anticipated impacts on the work of the Board as a result of modifications to federal laws, regulations, or programs.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 16 (18 V.S.A. § 9375(d); Green Mountain Care Board annual report) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

Rep. Yacovone of Morristown, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the report of the Committee on Health Care be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 11c, health care system transformation; incentives; telehealth, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 11c to read as follows:

Sec. 11c. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; INCENTIVES; TELEHEALTH

(a) To encourage hospitals to engage proactively, think expansively, and propose transformation initiatives that will reduce costs to Vermont's health care system without negatively affecting health care quality or jeopardizing access to necessary services, the Agency of Human Services shall award grants to the hospitals in State fiscal year 2026 that actively participate in health care transformation efforts to assist them in building partnerships, reducing hospital costs for hospital fiscal year 2026, and expanding Vermonters' access to health care services, including those delivered using telehealth. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds appropriated in Sec. 18(b) of this act should be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the funds have been distributed.

(b) On or before November 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee regarding how much of the $2,000,000.00 appropriated to the Agency pursuant to Sec. 18(b) of this act was obligated as of November 1, 2025 and how much had already been disbursed to hospitals as of that date.

Second: By adding striking out Sec. 17, effective dates, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Positions; Appropriations * * *

Sec. 17. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of the following three new permanent classified positions is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026:

(1) one Director, Reference-Based Pricing;

(2) one Project Manager, Reference-Based Pricing; and

(3) one Operations, Procurement, and Contractual Oversight Manager.

(b) These positions shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch.

Sec. 18. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The sum of $2,200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:

(1) $2,000,000.00 for feasibility analysis and transformation plan development with hospitals, designated agencies, primary care organizations, and other community-based providers;

(2) $100,000.00 for development of quality and access measures, targets, and monitoring strategies for the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan; and

(3) $100,000.00 to support the development of alternative payment models.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary, the sum of $2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for grants to hospitals for the collaborative efforts to reduce hospital costs in accordance with Secs. 11a and 11c of this act and to expand access to health care services, such as by enhancing telehealth infrastructure development.

(c)(1) The sum of $1,062,500.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:

(A) $512,500.00 for the positions authorized in Sec. 17 of this act, as set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection (c);

(B) $500,000.00 from the General Fund for contracts, including contracts for assistance with implementing reference-based pricing in accordance with this act; and

(C) $50,000.00 from the General Fund for a contract with the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care to engage in quality initiatives in accordance with this act.

(2) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

(A) $205,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund; and

(B) $307,500.00 is appropriated from the Green Mountain Care Board Regulatory and Administrative Fund.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary, the sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for expenses associated with increased standardization of electronic hospital budget data submissions in accordance with Sec. 4 of this act.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 16 (18 V.S.A. § 9375(d); Green Mountain Care Board annual report), 17 (Green Mountain Care Board; positions), and 18 (appropriations) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Health Care was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Health Care, as amended?, **Reps. Donahue of Northfield, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Maguire of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Noyes of Wolcott, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, and Stevens of Waterbury** moved to further amend the report of the Committee on Health Care as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, purpose; goals, in subdivision (1), by striking out "and" preceding "regional access to services" and inserting thereafter ", and reducing disparities in access resulting from demographic factors or health status"

Second: In Sec. 8, 18 V.S.A. § 9403; Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, in subdivision (b)(3), following "in Vermont", by inserting before the comma "and for reducing disparities in access resulting from demographic factors or health status"

Third: In Sec. 8, 18 V.S.A. § 9403; Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, in subdivision (b)(9)(B), following "access to care,", by striking out "including disparities in access resulting from geographic or demographic factors or health status,"

Fourth: In Sec. 8, 18 V.S.A. § 9403; Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, in subdivision (b)(9), by striking out subdivision (F) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (F) to read as follows:

(F) barriers to access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services that meet standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care, including any disparities in reimbursement rates;

Which was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Health Care, as amended?, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** moved to further amend the report of the Committee on Health Care in Sec. 8, 18 V.S.A. § 9403, Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, in subdivision (b)(9), as follows:

First: In subdivision (H), by striking out "and" following the semicolon at the end of the subdivision

Second: In subdivision (I), by striking out the period at the end of the subdivision and inserting in lieu thereof "; and"

Third: By adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (J) to read as follows:

(J) appropriate reporting requirements for health care facilities that are not subject to budget review and approval by the State and that plan to offer a new health care service, terminate a health care service, or establish a new health care facility, but which service or project does not require a certificate of need under subchapter 5 of this chapter, to provide advance notice to relevant State entities summarizing the service or project.

Pending the question, Shall the report of the Committee on Health Care be further amended as recommended by Rep. Donahue of Northfield?, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** requested the vote be by division.

Thereupon, the amendment was disagreed to: Yeas, 18; Nays, 115.

Thereafter, the report of the Committee on Health Care, as amended, was agreed to and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 61

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposals of amendment to Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 87. An act relating to extradition procedures.

S. 117. An act relating to wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 1. An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission.

H. 44. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 505. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 27. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 23, 2025.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 266

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Black of Essex**, action on the bill was postponed until May 21, 2025.

Regional Economic Development Grant Advisory Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 5607(b), the Speaker appointed the following member to the Regional Economic Development Grant Advisory Committee:

Rep. Graning of Jericho

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 20th day of May, 2025, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 27 An act relating to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission

Adjournment

At twelve o'clock and thirty-eight minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by former Rep. Carolyn Partridge of Windham, and Ben Partridge, bagpipes, Windham.

Message from the Senate No. 62

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 63. An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 209. An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools.

H. 222. An act relating to civil orders of protection.

H. 482. An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

House Bill Introduced

H. 521

By Reps. Cordes of Bristol, Berbeco of Winooski, and Cole of Hartford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for donated human breast milk

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 123

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 27

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 27. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 23, 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, May 23, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 266

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Black of Essex**, action on the bill was postponed until May 23, 2025.

Report of the Committee of Conference Adopted

H. 488

Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill, entitled:

H.488. An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate's proposals of amendment and that the bill be further amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transportation Program Adopted as Amended; Definitions * * *

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

(a) Adoption. The Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

(b) Definitions. As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) "Agency" means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) "Candidate project" means a project approved by the General Assembly that is not anticipated to have significant expenditures for preliminary engineering or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and funding for construction is not anticipated within a predictable time frame.

(3) "Development and evaluation (D&E) project" means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have preliminary engineering expenditures or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and that the Agency is committed to delivering to construction on a timeline driven by priority and available funding.

(4) "Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)" and "electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public" have the same meanings as in 30 V.S.A. § 201.

(5) "Front-of-book project" means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have construction expenditures during the budget year or the following three years, or both, with expected expenditures shown over four years.

(6) "Mileage-based user fee" or "MBUF" means a fee for vehicle use of the public road system with distance, stated in miles, as the measure of use.

(7) "Plug-in electric vehicle (PEV)," "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)," and "battery electric vehicle (BEV)" have the same meanings as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85).

(8) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

(9) "TIB funds" means monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

(10) The table heading "As Proposed" means the Proposed Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading "As Amended" means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading "Change" means the difference obtained by subtracting the "As Proposed" figure from the "As Amended" figure; the terms "change" or "changes" in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net "Change" in the applicable table heading; and "State" in any tables amending authorizations indicates that the source of funds is State monies in the Transportation Fund, unless otherwise specified.

* * * Summary of Transportation Investments * * *

Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS INTENDED TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL USE, AND SAVE VERMONT HOUSEHOLDS MONEY

This act includes the State's fiscal year 2026 transportation investments intended to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fossil fuel use, and save Vermont households money in furtherance of the policies articulated in 19 V.S.A. § 10b and the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Vermont Climate Action Plan and to satisfy the Executive and Legislative Branches' commitments to the Paris Agreement climate goals. In fiscal year 2026, these efforts will include the following:

(1) Park and Ride Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $2,435,740.00, which will fund two construction projects to create new park-and-ride facilities, the construction of improvements to two existing park-and-ride facilities, funding for a municipal park-and-ride grant program, and paving projects for existing park-and-ride facilities. This year's Park and Ride Program will create 60 new State-owned spaces. Specific additions and improvements include:

(A) Manchester—construction of 50 new spaces; and

(B) Sharon—design and construction of 10 new spaces.

(2) Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure, including local match, of $21,879,965.00, which will fund 33 bike and pedestrian construction projects; 17 bike and pedestrian design, right-of-way, or design and right-of way projects for construction in future fiscal years; and 10 scoping studies. The construction projects include the creation, improvement, or rehabilitation of walkways, sidewalks, shared-

use paths, bike paths, and cycling lanes. Projects are funded in Arlington, Bakersfield, Bennington, Bethel, Brattleboro, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Castleton, Chester, Danville, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Greensboro, Hardwick, Hartford, Highgate, Hinesburg, Huntington, Hyde Park, Irasburg, Jericho, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Moretown, Newfane, Newport City, Northfield, Pawlet, Randolph, Royalton, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Sheffield, Shelburne, Sheldon, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Swanton, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Rutland, Williston, Wilmington, and Windsor. This act also provides funding for:

(A) some of Local Motion's operation costs to run the bike ferry on the Colchester Causeway, which is part of the Island Line Trail;

(B) a small-scale municipal bicycle and pedestrian grant program for projects to be selected during the fiscal year;

(C) projects funded through the Safe Routes to School Program; and

(D) community grants along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT).

(3) Transportation Alternatives Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $6,471,054.00, including local funds, which will fund 17 transportation alternatives construction projects; 26 transportation alternatives design, right-of-way, or design and right-of-way projects; and eight scoping studies. Of these 51 projects, 20 involve environmental mitigation related to clean water or stormwater concerns, or both clean water and stormwater concerns, and 32 involve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects are funded in Athens, Barre City, Bennington, Brandon, Brattleboro, Bridgewater, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Castleton, Derby, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Fairlee, Ferrisburgh, Grafton, Guilford, Hartford, Hinesburg, Hyde Park, Jericho, Londonderry, Lyndon, Montgomery, Newark, Proctor, Rockingham, Rutland City, Shoreham, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans Town, Swanton, Tinmouth, Warren, Williston, and Wilmington.

(4) Public Transit Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $52,695,234.00 for public transit uses throughout the State. Included in the authorization are:

(A) Go! Vermont, with an authorization of $380,000.00. This authorization supports transportation demand management (TDM) strategies, including the State's Trip Planner and commuter services, to promote the use of carpools and vanpools.

(B) Mobility and Transportation Innovations (MTI) Grant Program, with an authorization of $340,000.00, which includes $315,000.00 in federal funds. This authorization continues to support projects that improve both

mobility and access to services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(5) Rail Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $61,887,348.00, including local funds and $31,894,436.00 in federal funds, for intercity passenger rail service, including funding for the Ethan Allen Express and Vermonter Amtrak services, and rail infrastructure that supports freight rail as well. Moving freight by rail instead of trucks lowers greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75 percent, on average.

* * * Rail Program; Technical Correction * * *

Sec. 3. RAIL PROGRAM

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail the following project is deleted: Barre–Berlin–Montpelier 04-9038–WACR Subsidy.

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail, the following project is added: Hartford HRRD(1) 25G002–White River Junction Depot Repairs.

(c) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Rail, spending authority for Hartford HRRD(1) 25G002–White River Junction Depot Repairs is authorized as follows:

FY26	As Proposed	As Amended	Change
Other	0	260,000	260,000
Total	0	260,000	260,000
Sources of funds			
State	0	260,000	260,000
Total	0	260,000	260,000

* * * Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters * * *

Sec. 4. TOWN HIGHWAY NON-FEDERAL DISASTERS

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, spending is authorized as follows:

FY26	As Proposed	As Amended	Change
Grants	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0

Sources of funds

State	1,150,000	0	-1,150,000
Other	0	1,150,000	1,150,000
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, the following footnote is added: "Other funds of $1,150,000 are amounts appropriated from the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709."

* * * State and Federal Funding Updates * * *

Sec. 5. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING; MILEAGE BASED USER FEE; UPDATES

(a) On or before September 30, 2025 and December 15, 2025, the Secretary of Transportation shall provide the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee with a briefing on the status of State Transportation Fund revenues and federal funding for the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, funding-related impacts on the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, and the Agency's progress in designing the mileage-based user fee. The briefing shall include:

(1) a summary of federal funding that has been received to date, federal funding that is anticipated later in the State fiscal year, federal funding that is delayed, and federal funding that has been reduced or subject to rescission;

(2) a summary of the Transportation Fund revenues to date in State fiscal year 2026;

(3) a summary of the impacts on the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program that are caused by changes in State Transportation Fund revenues from the consensus forecast or delays or reductions in federal funding;

(4) a summary of any legislative action that may be necessary to address reductions in State revenues or federal funding;

(5) a summary of the status of State and federal funding for the design of the mileage-based user fee pursuant to the provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62, Secs. 27–29, as amended by Sec. 17 of this act; and

(6) the Agency's progress in designing the mileage-based user fee.

(b) Upon becoming aware of a significant change in State revenues or a reduction in federal funding, rescission of federal grants, or delay of anticipated federal funding that will impact the Agency's ability to carry out

significant portions of the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program, the Secretary of Transportation may request that the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee meet within 14 days to review the Agency's plan to address the reduction in funding.

(c) In the event of a decrease in overall State or federal funding for the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program that is in excess of four percent, the Secretary shall submit to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee a written report detailing the impact of the decrease on projects that are in the 2026 Transportation Program.

* * * Relinquishment of Vermont Route 36 in the Town of St. Albans * * *

Sec. 6. RELINQUISHMENT OF VERMONT ROUTE 36 IN THE TOWN OF ST. ALBANS

Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 15(a)(2), the General Assembly authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to enter into an agreement with the Town of St. Albans to relinquish a segment of the State highway in the Town of St. Albans known as Vermont Route 36. The segment authorized to be relinquished begins at mile marker 0.00, just east of the "Black Bridge" (B2), and continues 14,963 feet (approximately 2.834 miles) easterly to mile marker 2.834, where Vermont Route 36 meets the boundary of the City of St. Albans, and includes the 0.106-mile westbound section of Vermont Route 36 and approaches at the entrance to the St. Albans Bay Town Park.

* * * State-Owned Railroads; Rail Trails * * *

Sec. 7. 5 V.S.A. chapter 58 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 58. ~~STATE ACQUISITION OF~~ STATE-OWNED RAILROADS AND RAIL TRAILS

Sec. 8. 5 V.S.A. § 3408 is amended to read:

§ 3408. RAILBANKING; NOTIFICATION

(a) If the Secretary finds that the continued operation of any State-owned railroad property is not economically feasible under present conditions, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary may place the line in railbanked status after giving advance notice of ~~such~~ the planned railbanking to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session, and when the General Assembly is not in session, to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee. The Agency, on behalf of the State, shall continue to hold the right-of-way of a railbanked line for reactivation of railroad service or for other public purposes not inconsistent with future reactivation of railroad service. ~~Such~~ The railbanking shall not be treated, for purposes of any law or rule of law, as an abandonment of the use of the rights-of-way for railroad purposes.

* * *

(c)(1) The Secretary may, after consulting with municipalities, adopt rules consistent with the provisions of section 3408a of this chapter governing the interim trail use of State-owned railroad rights-of-way that have been placed in railbanked status.

(2) Signs indicating the rules shall be conspicuously posted in or near all areas affected.

(3) Any person who violates ~~these~~ rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to a penalty of not more than $300.00.

Sec. 9. 5 V.S.A. § 3408a is added to read:

§ 3408a. USE OF RAIL TRAILS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Rail trail" means the right-of-way of a State-owned railroad line that has been authorized for railbanking and interim trail use pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) or section 3408 of this chapter.

(2) "Trail sponsor" means the Agency of Transportation in the case of a rail trail maintained by the Agency or the municipality in the case of a rail trail maintained by a municipality.

(b) Use of rail trails. The following acts are prohibited within a rail trail right-of-way:

(1) Throwing, dropping, or discarding bottles, cans, paper, garbage, rubbish, sewage, or other material of any kind.

(2) Cutting, mutilating, or removing any tree, shrub, flower, plant, top soil, or sod or attempting to do so.

(3) Injury, defacement, removal, or destruction of the surface of the rail trail or a rail trail's structures, appurtenances, recreation facilities, or property.

(4) Except as authorized by the trail sponsor, erecting, placing, or displaying any advertising materials, posters, or placards of any kind. This prohibition shall not apply to official signs erected by the trail sponsor.

(5) Except as authorized by the trail sponsor, entering or remaining on the rail trail for the purpose of:

(A) selling, hiring, or leasing any goods or services; or

(B) distributing samples, pamphlets, or advertising materials, except for official information authorized by the trail sponsor.

(6) Parades, demonstrations, picnics, games, entertainment, or organizations, except at times and locations approved by the trail sponsor.

(7) Harassing or molesting wildlife, except for fishing.

(8) Using or discharging any firearms or other weapons or fireworks, except by a person authorized by the trail sponsor or as otherwise permitted by law.

(9) Igniting fires for any purpose, except in fireplaces or firepits at locations designated by the trail sponsor or for trail maintenance purposes.

(10) Soliciting alms or contributions.

(11) Use of motorized vehicles, except for:

(A) maintenance purposes;

(B) snowmobiles, subject to applicable State rules, when the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc. has declared the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System officially open;

(C) Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) utilized by an individual with a disability as permitted by the Agency's Rail Trail Accessibility Policy;

(D) electric bicycles as permitted pursuant to applicable State rules; and

(E) other circumstances that the trail sponsor determines are appropriate.

(12) Overnight camping, except at areas designated for that purpose by the trail sponsor.

(c) Penalty. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty pursuant to subdivision 3408(c)(3) of this chapter.

* * * Transportation Board * * *

Sec. 10. 19 V.S.A. § 3 is amended to read:

§ 3. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; CREATION; MEMBERS

~~A transportation board~~ The Transportation Board is formed to be attached to the Agency of Transportation. There shall be seven members of the Board, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall so far as is possible appoint Board members whose interests and expertise lie in various areas of the transportation field. The Governor shall appoint the ~~chair~~ Chair, and the Board may vote to appoint other officers.

The members of the Board shall be appointed for terms of three years. Board members may be appointed for two additional three-year terms but shall not be eligible for further reappointment. ~~No~~ Not more than four members of the Board shall belong to the same political party. No member of the Board shall:

* * *

Sec. 11. 19 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES

* * *

(d) Specific duties and responsibilities. The Board shall:

* * *

(4) provide appellate review, when requested in writing, regarding legal disputes in the execution of contracts awarded by the Agency or by municipalities cooperating with the Agency to advance projects in the State's Transportation Program, except that the Agency shall provide appellate review relating to bids and the competitive negotiation process under 19 V.S.A. § 10a;

(5) provide appellate review, when requested in writing, of decisions of the Secretary in administering the provisions of Title 24, relating to ~~junkyards~~ salvage yards;

* * *

* * * Green Mountain Transit Authority * * *

Sec. 12. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 801 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 801. GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

* * *

§ 2. AREA OF OPERATION

(a) The area of operation shall be the urbanized area of Chittenden~~, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Washington Counties and the Towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown. The area of operation shall include Addison and Caledonia Counties and the Towns of Orange County other than Orange, Washington, and Williamstown, but only for the provision of commuter services. The area of operation shall include Lamoille County, but only for the provision of published scheduled services~~ County as established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Green Mountain Transit Authority may operate service outside the urbanized area of Chittenden County with approval from the Agency of Transportation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent other transit providers from offering transit connecting to the

urbanized area of Chittenden County, or providing on demand services in that area, with the approval of the Agency of Transportation.

* * *

§ 10. IMPLEMENTATION

* * *

~~(c) Immediately upon joining the Authority, the municipality shall appoint two commissioners as provided herein. The initial terms of the commissioners of the initial members shall be arranged by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission so that the terms of approximately one-third of the commissioners shall expire in each year. The initial terms of commissioners from municipalities joining after March 7, 1973, shall be set by the Board of Commissioners.~~

* * *

* * * Town Highways * * *

Sec. 13. 19 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change of the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations ~~for town highways~~ under this subsection (a) and subsections (e) and (h) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

* * *

(e) State aid for town highway structures.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for maintenance (including actions to extend life expectancy) and for construction of bridges and culverts; for maintenance and construction of other structures, including causeways and retaining walls, intended to preserve the integrity of the traveled portion of class 1, 2, and 3 town highways; and for alternatives that eliminate the need for a bridge, culvert, or other structure, such as the construction or reconstruction of a highway, the purchase of parcels of land that would be landlocked by closure of a bridge, the payment

of damages for loss of highway access, and the substitution of other means of access. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change in the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations under this subsection (e) and subsections (a) and (h) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

(B) the percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

(2) For purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the percentage change in the CPI-U is calculated by determining the increase or decrease, to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, in the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year one year prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made compared to the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year two years prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made.

(3) Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of $7,200,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. ~~The Agency's proposed appropriation for the Program shall take into account the estimated amount of qualifying invoices submitted to the Agency with respect to project grants approved in prior years but not yet completed as well as with respect to new project grants to be approved in the fiscal year~~ Beginning with State fiscal year 2027, the minimum total estimated State share cost for the approved grants shall increase over the prior fiscal year's minimum total estimated State share cost by the same percentage as the appropriation for State aid for town highway structures is increased pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Town Highway Structures Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects.

~~(3)~~(5) Funds received as grants for State aid for town highway structures may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

* * *

(h) Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of paved or unpaved class 2 town highways. ~~However, municipalities~~ Municipalities that have no State highways or class 1 town highways within their borders may use the grants for such activities with respect to both class 2 and class 3 town highways. ~~Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of $8,600,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. The Agency's proposed appropriation for the Program shall take into account the estimated amount of qualifying invoices submitted to the Agency with respect to project grants approved in prior years but not yet completed as well as with respect to new project grants to be approved in the fiscal year.~~ This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

(A) the percentage change in the Agency's total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding appropriations under this subsection (h) and subsections (a) and (e) of this section, for the most recently closed fiscal year as compared to the fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently closed fiscal year; or

(B) the percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

(2) For purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the percentage change in the CPI-U is calculated by determining the increase or decrease, to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, in the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year one year prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made compared to the CPI-U for the month ending on June 30 in the calendar year two years prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the appropriation will be made.

(3) Each fiscal year, the Agency shall approve qualifying projects with a total estimated State share cost of $8,600,000.00 at a minimum as new grants. Beginning with State fiscal year 2027, the minimum total estimated State share cost for the approved grants shall increase over the prior fiscal year's minimum total estimated State share cost by the same percentage as the appropriation for the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program is increased pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from

the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects. Funds received as grants for State aid under the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 14. CANCELLATION OF LOCALLY MANAGED PROJECTS; PROCESS; IMPROVEMENTS; REPORT

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Transportation Board, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to examine the requirements of 19 V.S.A. § 309c, cancellation of locally managed projects, to evaluate the obligations, risks, and benefits imposed by the provisions of that section on the State and the local sponsor of a locally managed project and to identify potential changes to the provisions of that section to ensure that State and federal transportation funding resources are appropriately administered. The Agency shall, on or before January 15, 2026, submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 15. MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION ASSETS; ASSESSMENT; FUNDING NEEDS; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to:

(1) review current municipal practices relating to planning for ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and replacement of municipal transportation assets, including roads, pavement, bridges, culverts, signals, signage, highway equipment, and highway facilities;

(2) develop a framework for a system to assess the current condition of municipal highway networks and the potential impacts of improvements to or degradation of those networks on the State's transportation system;

(3) develop a prioritization process to direct State funding to the repair, upgrade, or replacement of specific municipal transportation assets based on the need for such work in the context of the asset's role in the State and regional highway networks; and

(4) identify and recommend potential statutory changes to implement the assessment framework developed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection and the prioritization process developed pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(b) The Agency of Transportation shall, not later than January 15, 2027, submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 16. STATE TOWN HIGHWAY AID; MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAMS; EFFICIENCIES; IMPROVEMENTS; REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, shall engage a consultant to evaluate the State's Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs administered by the Agency to identify potential efficiencies and improvements related to the administration of Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs. The consultant shall evaluate the various funding streams authorized pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306 as well as programs administered through the Agency's Municipal Assistance Bureau, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, Municipal Mitigation Program, Municipal Park and Ride Program, Better Roads Program, Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program, and Grants in Aid.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the consultant's findings and any recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to improve or increase the efficiency of the Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs.

* * * Mileage-Based User Fee * * *

Sec. 17. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62, Secs. 27–29 are amended to read:

Sec. 27. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State:

(1) to start collecting a mileage-based user fee from all battery-electric vehicles registered in Vermont starting on ~~July 1, 2025, which is expected to be the first day of the first fiscal year when more than 15 percent of new pleasure car registrations in the State are plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs)~~ or before January 1, 2027 subject to sufficient funding being available for implementation;

(2) to ~~start subjecting~~ subject plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) that are a pleasure car to an ~~increased~~ annual or a biennial ~~registration~~ electric vehicle infrastructure fee starting on ~~July~~ January 1, 2025, and that PHEVs shall not be subject to a mileage-based user fee;

(3) to ~~work towards~~ examine collecting a fee on ~~kWhs~~ electricity that ~~are~~ is dispensed through certain electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public so as to supplant lost ~~gas~~ fuel tax revenue from out-of-state PEVs traveling in Vermont; and

(4) to not commence collecting a mileage-based user fee until ~~such~~ the General Assembly has enacted legislation that establishes the amount of the fee and codifies any necessary authorizing language ~~is codified~~ in statute and that legislation becomes effective.

Sec. 28. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE AUTHORIZATION

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Program for Environmental Policy and Sustainability, the Agency of Transportation, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, is authorized to apply for and accept a competitive federal Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection grant established pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (IIJA), Sec. 13001, with up to $350,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies authorized for the nonfederal match in fiscal year 2024 and ~~a to-be-determined amount for the nonfederal match in subsequent fiscal years~~ up to $350,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies authorized for the nonfederal match in fiscal year 2025.

(b) ~~As permitted under federal regulations and grant terms, the~~ The Agency shall utilize ~~grant monies to design~~ State or federal funding, or both, authorized to be used for the purpose of designing a mileage-based user fee that is consistent with Secs. 27 and 29 of this act.

(c) Subject to State procurement requirements and the availability of sufficient funding, the Agency may retain one or more contractors or consultants, or both, to assist with the design of a process to commence collecting a mileage-based user fee on ~~July 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2027.

Sec. 29. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE DESIGN

(a) Definitions. As used in Secs. 27–30 of this act:

(1) "Account manager" means a person under contract with the Agency of Transportation or Department of Motor Vehicles to administer and manage the mileage-based user fee.

(2) "Annual vehicle miles traveled" means the total number of miles that a BEV is driven between annual inspections as reported ~~by an inspection mechanic~~ to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(3) "Mileage-based user fee" means the total amount that an owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont owes the State and is calculated by:

(A) multiplying the mileage-based user fee rate by the annual vehicle miles traveled ~~or,~~;

(B) in the case of a terminating event, by multiplying the mileage-based user fee rate by the vehicle miles traveled between the last Vermont annual inspection and the terminating event; or

(C) in the absence of a recorded odometer reading during the mileage reporting period, by multiplying the mileage-based user fee by the 98th percentile of estimated annual vehicle miles traveled for a pleasure car in Vermont.

(4) "Mileage-based user fee rate" means the per-mile usage fee charged to the owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont.

(5) "Mileage reporting period" means the time between annual inspections or the time between ~~an~~ the most recent annual inspection and a terminating event.

(6) "Pleasure car" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(28).

(7) "Plug-in electric vehicle (PEV)" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) and includes battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), which have the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85)(A) and (B).

(8) "Terminating event" means either the registering of a BEV that had been registered in Vermont in a different state or a change in ownership or lesseeship of the BEV, or both.

(b) Commencement date. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee for miles driven by a BEV registered in Vermont to commence collecting revenue on ~~July 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2027.

(c) Covered vehicles. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee based on the annual vehicle miles traveled by BEVs registered in the State.

(d) Imposition of a mileage-based user fee. The Agency shall design a process to collect a mileage-based user fee from the owner or lessee of a BEV registered in Vermont for each mileage reporting period ~~within 60 days after the Vermont annual inspection~~ on an annual, quarterly, or monthly basis

selected by the owner or lessee and reconciled upon renewal of the vehicle registration or within 60 days after a terminating event that closes the mileage reporting period.

Sec. 18. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) the mileage-based user fee for a BEV pleasure car be approximately equivalent to the average amount collected by the State in fuel tax revenue from the use of a non-PEV pleasure car registered in Vermont and the average amount collected by the State in fuel tax revenue and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fee from the use of a PHEV pleasure car; and

(2) that the mileage-based user fee for BEV pleasure cars will be an interim step towards gradually expanding the mileage-based user fee to all motor vehicles upon elimination of the State fuel taxes for motor vehicles.

* * * Authority to Transfer Monies in State Fiscal Year 2026 * * *

Sec. 19. AUTHORIZATION TO USE MONIES TO CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP WITH DRIVE ELECTRIC VERMONT IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026

In State fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to spend up to $325,000.00 in remaining monies appropriated to the Electrify Your Fleet Program in State Fiscal Year 2024 to continue the Agency of Transportation's partnership with Drive Electric Vermont. The monies shall be used for programs and activities that support increased ownership and use of PEVs in the State through:

(1) stakeholder coordination;

(2) consumer education and outreach;

(3) infrastructure development; and

(4) the provision of technical assistance and support to Vermont municipalities and Vermont businesses desiring to electrify their vehicle fleets.

* * * Consideration of Vehicle Miles Traveled in Project Planning * * *

Sec. 20. 19 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

§ 1. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(26) "Vehicle miles traveled" means the estimated sum of the miles traveled by all motor vehicle trips within a specific area during a calendar year.

Sec. 21. 19 V.S.A. § 10b is amended to read:

§ 10b. STATEMENT OF POLICY; GENERAL

(a) The Agency shall be the responsible agency of the State for the development of transportation policy. It shall develop a mission statement to reflect:

(1) that State transportation policy shall be to encompass, coordinate, and integrate all modes of transportation and to consider complete streets, as defined in section 2401 of this title, principles; and

(2) the need for transportation projects that will improve the State's economic infrastructure~~,~~; ~~as well as the~~ use ~~of~~ resources in efficient, coordinated, integrated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound ways~~,~~; reduce vehicle miles traveled within the State when feasible; and that will be consistent with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) issued under 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

* * *

Sec. 22. 19 V.S.A. § 10c is amended to read:

§ 10c. STATEMENT OF POLICY; HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

* * *

(c) In choosing between the improvement of an existing highway and complete reconstruction, the Agency shall weigh the following factors:

* * *

(9) the impact on the historic, scenic, and aesthetic values of the municipality, as interpreted by the municipality, in which the highway is located; ~~and~~

(10) if it is a forest highway under federal jurisdiction; and

(11) opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled or otherwise reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the highway.

* * *

Sec. 23. 19 V.S.A. § 10i is amended to read:

§ 10i. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

* * *

(c) Transportation Program. The Transportation Program shall be developed in a fiscally responsible manner to accomplish the following objectives:

* * *

(3) strengthening the economy, protecting the quality of the natural environment, and improving Vermonters' quality of life; ~~and~~

(4) achieving the recommendations of the CEP; and

(5) striving to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

* * *

* * * Medical Transports * * *

Sec. 24. PUBLIC TRANSIT DEMAND RESPONSE VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS; GRANTS; APPROPRIATION

(a) The Agency of Transportation is authorized to utilize up to $600,000.00 in one-time funds appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Agency of Transportation in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of providing grants to public transit agencies to hire volunteer coordinators. Volunteer coordinators hired with grants provided pursuant to this section shall be responsible for the identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers to provide transportation services to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(b) The Agency shall, to the extent possible, seek to provide grants to public transit providers in a manner that is geographically balanced and ensures the distribution of volunteer coordinators throughout the State.

(c) Not later than December 15, 2026, the Agency, in consultation with public transit agencies that receive grants pursuant to this section, shall submit a written report the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the extent to which grants issued pursuant to this section resulted in an increase in volunteer capacity in the State.

Sec. 25. MEDICAID NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

(a) In fiscal year 2026, prior to executing a contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide to the Joint Fiscal Committee a detailed analysis outlining:

(1) any potential degradation or expansion of service to eligible individuals under a new contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services;

(2) any federal requirements contained in the request for proposals for the new contract; and

(3) the outcome of the consultation between the Department and the Agency of Transportation pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Transportation prior to developing the request for proposals for a new contract to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services.

Sec. 26. VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; BACKGROUND CHECKS; EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEER POOL; REPORT

(a) On or before July 15, 2025, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall commence meeting with the Vermont Public Transit Association, the Agency of Transportation, and, in the discretion of the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, other stakeholders to identify potential, federally permissible opportunities to expand the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program's pool of volunteer drivers. As part of this work, the Department and Association shall collaborate to determine if there are specific classes of offenses that currently prevent volunteer drivers from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program.

(1) The Vermont Public Transit Association shall, to the extent possible, gather and provide to the Department anonymized information from its members regarding:

(A) the number of potential volunteers who were barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program due to a background check during the past year;

(B) which of the background checks currently required by the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program resulted in potential volunteers being barred from providing transportation services, broken out by percentage; and

(C) a summary of the offenses that resulted in potential volunteers being barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program, broken out by:

(i) the type of offense;

(ii) whether the offense was a felony or misdemeanor;

(iii) whether the offense was under State or federal law;

(iv) the percentage of potential volunteers who were barred from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program for each type of offense; and

(v) to the extent that it is possible to determine, the number of rides that could have been provided by the individuals barred under each type of offense.

(2) The Department shall utilize the information provided by the Association pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to determine, to the extent possible, whether the identified offenses are:

(A) fraud-based or otherwise implicate potential Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse;

(B) an offense that otherwise bars an individual from providing transportation services through the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program; or

(C) an offense that caused harm to an individual other than the offender, or otherwise negatively impacted the safety of the general public.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access and the Vermont Public Transit Association shall, on or before January 30, 2026, make themselves available to provide an update to the House Committees on Transportation and on Health Care and to the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Health and Welfare regarding the work performed pursuant to this section and opportunities that were identified to expand the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program's pool of volunteer drivers.

Sec. 27. VOLUNTEER DRIVERS; PUBLICITY; OUTREACH

(a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Vermont Public Transit Association, shall identify and pursue opportunities to communicate with the Vermont driving public regarding volunteer and community driver participation in the State's demand response transportation programs, including the Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities program and the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program. Outreach conducted pursuant to this section may include:

(1) invitations for individuals to voluntarily indicate their interest through the operator licensing and vehicle registration processes, subject to any data privacy requirements under State or federal law;

(2) notices or other public outreach placed on the Department's website or other internet-based platforms; and

(3) messaging by the Agency of Transportation on social media platforms, including providing links to informational resources provided by the Vermont Public Transit Association.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop informational materials related to eligibility for the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program. The Department shall, in consultation with the Agency of Transportation and other relevant stakeholders, make the materials available to the public on the Department's website and other internet-based platforms.

Sec. 28. COORDINATION OF HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, shall convene a working group to improve the coordination of health care and transportation services in relation to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs. The working group shall be composed of stakeholders identified by the Secretary in consultation with the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, including representatives of the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, independent dialysis and methadone facilities, and the Vermont Public Transportation Association.

(b) The working group shall examine various options for improving the coordination of health care and transportation services, including:

(1) opportunities to coordinate the scheduling of health care appointments and treatments to maximize the use of shared rides; and

(2) opportunities to improve communication between the public transit agencies and health care providers to facilitate coordination of health care and transportation services for individuals enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary and Commissioner shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Transportation and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Health and Welfare with the working group's findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

* * * Vehicle Identification Numbers for Certain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 29. ULTRA-LOW VOLUME VEHICLE MANUFACTURING; KIT-CARS; HOMEBUILT MOTOR VEHICLES; VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; REPORT

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and representatives of the ultra-low volume vehicle manufacturing industry in Vermont, shall examine processes for issuing vehicle identification numbers to ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-

cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles and opportunities to facilitate the registration of such vehicles.

(2) As used in this section:

(A) "Homebuilt motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is constructed or assembled by an individual from new or used parts, or both, and is not a kit-car.

(B) "Kit-car" means a motor vehicle that is constructed by an individual from a manufactured kit that includes some or all parts and components necessary to construct the motor vehicle.

(C) "Ultra-low volume motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is manufactured for sale by a manufacturer whose annual worldwide production is not more than 325 motor vehicles.

(b) In preparing the report, the Commissioner shall:

(1) examine how other states address motor vehicle emissions requirements for ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles;

(2) identify a cost-effective process for certifying the safety of ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles; and

(3) develop a streamlined process to provide State Vehicle Identification Numbers to ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Commissioner shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the Commissioner's findings and identifying any legislative action necessary to enable the issuance of vehicle identification numbers to and registration of ultra-low volume motor vehicles, kit-cars, and homebuilt motor vehicles.

* * * Railroad Rights-of-Way * * *

Sec. 30. 5 V.S.A. § 3410 is added to read:

§ 3410. RAILROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY; COMMUNICATIONS LEASES; ANNUAL REPORT

Annually, on or before December 15, the Secretary shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the most recent fiscal year's lease revenues for State-owned railroad rights-of-way related to:

(1) wired or wireless telephone infrastructure located in the rights-of-way;

(2) broadband infrastructure located in the rights-of-way; and

(3) leases of the rights-of-way for purposes other than the operation of the railroads within the rights-of-way.

Sec. 31. AVAILABILITY OF STATE-OWNED RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR COMMUNICATIONS LEASES

In order to expand the use of State-owned railroad rights-of-way, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Service, shall provide information to communications companies regarding the availability for lease of property located in State-owned railroad rights-of-way.

* * * Dig Safe * * *

Sec. 32. 30 V.S.A. § 7006 is amended to read:

§ 7006. MARKING OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES

A company notified in accordance with section 7005 of this title shall, within ~~48~~ 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, ~~of~~ after the receipt of the notice, mark the approximate location of its underground utility facilities in the area of the proposed excavation activities; provided, however, if the company advises the person that the proposed excavation area is of such length or size that the company cannot reasonably mark all of the underground utility facilities within ~~48~~ 72 hours, the person shall notify the company of the specific locations in which the excavation activities will first occur and the company shall mark facilities in those locations within ~~48~~ 72 hours and the remaining facilities within a reasonable time thereafter. A company and an excavator may by agreement fix a later time for the company's marking of the facilities, provided the marking is made prior to excavation activities. For the purposes of this chapter, the approximate location of underground facilities shall be marked with stakes, paint, or other physical means as designated by the Commission.

Sec. 33. 30 V.S.A. § 7006a is amended to read:

§ 7006a. MAINTENANCE OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITY MARKINGS

After a company has marked its underground facilities in accordance with section 7006 of this title, the excavator shall be responsible for maintenance of the designated markings. In the event said markings are obliterated, destroyed, or removed, the person engaged in excavation activities shall notify the System referred to in section 7002 of this title that remarking is needed. The System shall then notify all member companies whose facilities may be affected. ~~The~~ Each applicable company shall within ~~48~~ 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays,

Sundays, and legal holidays, following receipt of the notice, remark the location of its underground utility facilities.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 34. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 32 and 33 (dig safe) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

RICHARD A. WESTMAN

ANDREW J. PERCHLIK

REBECCA E. WHITE

Committee on the part of the Senate

MATTHEW E. WALKER

TIMOTHY R. CORCORAN

MOLLIE SULLIVAN BURKE

Committee on the part of the House

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

S. 59

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 126

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

Was taken up and read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Black of Essex** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 99. Nays, 38.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bartholomew of Hartland
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston
Brown of Richmond
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Christie of Hartford
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol *
Critchlow of Colchester
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Donahue of Northfield
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Galfetti of Barre Town
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Harple of Glover
Harrison of Chittenden
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction*
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nigro of Bennington
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Olson of Starksboro
Pezzo of Colchester
Pouech of Hinesburg
Priestley of Bradford
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Squirrell of Underhill
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
White of Waitsfield
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax
Bosch of Clarendon
Branagan of Georgia
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Gregoire of Fairfield *
Hango of Berkshire
Harvey of Castleton
Higley of Lowell
Howland of Rutland Town
Nielsen of Brandon
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Pinsonault of Dorset

Casey of Hubbardton
Charlton of Chester
Coffin of Cavendish
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Luneau of St. Albans City
McCoy of Poultney
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington
Nelson of Derby
Powers of Waterford
Pritchard of Pawlet
Steady of Milton
Tagliavia of Corinth
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton
Wells of Brownington
Winter of Ludlow

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Berbeco of Winooski
Burtt of Cabot
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Cina of Burlington
Goslant of Northfield
Hooper of Randolph
Howard of Rutland City
Krasnow of South Burlington
Malay of Pittsford
Ode of Burlington
White of Bethel

Rep. Cordes of Bristol provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Our healthcare system is ailing. S.126 represents a strong and clear path forward to a sustainable system, leading Vermont through critically necessary transformation. Vermonters need this leadership."

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Our local hospital leadership has asked our delegation to vote no due to concerns about negative impacts they believe will be detrimental to their ability to serve our community. I stand with our local hospital leaders."

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Healthcare costs impact everything we do in Vermont. It impacts our education costs, our small businesses' ability to attract and keep employees, and of course all Vermonters' ability to thrive. I vote yes for the health of Vermonters and Vermont."

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 21st day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 398 **An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority**

H.493 **An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government**

Adjournment

At one o'clock and forty-five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Thursday, May 22, 2025

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Anne Donahue of Northfield.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 124

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to Other Committee

S. 45

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved that the Committee on Judiciary be relieved of Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, which was agreed to.

Recess

At one o'clock and nineteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At two o'clock and sixteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Action on Bill Postponed

S. 127

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

Was taken up and, pending second reading, on motion of **Rep. Mihaly of Calais**, action on the bill was postponed until May 23, 2025.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 1

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 1223 is amended to read:

§ 1223. PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTING AND REFERRING COMPLAINTS

(a) Accepting complaints.

(1) On behalf of the Commission, the Executive Director shall accept complaints from any source regarding governmental ethics in any of the three branches of State government or of the State's campaign finance law set forth in 17 V.S.A. chapter 61.

* * *

(b) Preliminary review by Executive Director. The Executive Director shall conduct a preliminary review of complaints made to the Commission in order to take action as set forth in this subsection ~~and section 1223a of this title~~, which shall include referring complaints to all relevant entities~~, including the Commission itself~~.

(1) Governmental conduct regulated by law.

* * *

(2) Department of Human Resources, Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

* * *

(3) Campaign finance.

* * *

(4) Legislative and Judicial Branches; attorneys.

* * *

(5) Municipal Code of Ethics. If the complaint alleges a violation of the Municipal Code of Ethics, the Executive Director shall refer the complaint to the designated ethics liaison of the appropriate municipality.

(6) The Executive Director shall close any complaint that the Executive Director does not refer as set forth in subdivisions (1)–(5) of this subsection.

(c) ~~Consultation on unethical conduct~~ Commission advice on the application of the State Code of Ethics on referred complaints.

(1) If the Executive Director refers a complaint under subsection (b) of this section, the Executive Director shall signify any likely unethical conduct described in the complaint~~. Any entity receiving a referred complaint~~ and, except ~~those~~ for complaints alleging a violation of the Municipal Code of Ethics as set forth in subdivision (b)(5) of this section, shall ~~consult with the Commission regarding the~~ specify any application of the State Code of Ethics to ~~facts~~ the allegations presented in the complaint and include a recommended action. ~~The consultation shall be in writing and occur within 60 days after an entity receives a referred complaint and prior to the entity making a~~

~~determination on the complaint, meaning either closing a complaint without further investigation or issuing findings following an investigation.~~

(2) Any advice the Commission provides to the referred entity under this subsection shall be confidential and nonbinding on the entity.

(d) Confidentiality. Complaints and related documents in the custody of the Commission shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and kept confidential~~, except as provided for in section 1231 of this title~~.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 1223 is amended to read:

§ 1223. PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTING AND REFERRING COMPLAINTS

* * *

(b) Preliminary review by Executive Director. The Executive Director shall conduct a preliminary review of complaints made to the Commission in order to take action as set forth in this subsection, which shall include referring complaints to all relevant entities, including the Commission itself.

* * *

(d) Confidentiality. Complaints and related documents in the custody of the Commission shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and kept confidential, except as provided for in section 1231 of this title.

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 1231 is amended to read:

§ 1231. RECORDS; CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) Intent. It is the intent of this section both to protect the reputation of public servants from public disclosure of frivolous complaints against them and to fulfill the public's right to know any unethical conduct committed by a public servant that results in issued warnings, reprimands, or recommended actions.

(b) Public records. Except as where otherwise provided in this chapter, public records relating to the Commission's handling of complaints, alleged unethical conduct, investigations, proceedings, and executed resolution agreements are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential, except those public records required or permitted to be released under this chapter. Records subject to public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act shall include:

* * *

(6) any records, as determined by the Commission, that support a warning, reprimand, recommendation, or summary of an executed resolution agreement, including ~~consultations created pursuant to subsection 1223(c) of this title and~~ investigation reports in accordance with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 4. 2024, Acts and Resolves No. 171 (2024 Ethics Act), Sec. 24 is amended to read:

Sec. 24. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) Sec. 13 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1230, Commission procedure, rulemaking) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2027;

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

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

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

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

(6) Secs. 10 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1227, Commission investigations), 11 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1228, Commission hearings), 12 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1229, Commission warnings, reprimands, recommended actions, and agreements), and 14 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1231, Commission public records regarding complaints) shall take effect on September 1, ~~2025~~ 2027; and

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

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

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

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

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

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 44

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 4 V.S.A. § 33 is amended to read:

§ 33. JURISDICTION; FAMILY DIVISION

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Family Division shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and dispose of the following proceedings filed or pending on or after October 1, 1990:

* * *

(8) All ~~juvenile~~ proceedings filed pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapters 51, 52, 52A, and 53, including proceedings involving "youthful offenders" pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 5281 whether the matter originated in the Criminal or Family Division of the Superior Court, except for a proceeding charging the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4103 ~~with an offense or violation listed in 23 V.S.A. § 4116 that would result in the license holder being disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle if convicted~~ or operating a commercial motor vehicle with any offense or violation of any traffic control law other than parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations.

* * *

(b) The Family Division of the Superior Court has jurisdiction to hear and dispose of proceedings involving ~~misdemeanor~~ motor vehicle offenses filed ~~or pending on or after July 1, 2016,~~ pursuant to 33 V.S.A. §§ 5201, 5203, ~~and~~ 5280, and 5281. The Family Division of the Superior Court shall forward a record of any conviction or adjudication for violation of a law related to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, to the Commissioner of

Motor Vehicles pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1709. As used in this subsection, "conviction" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(60).

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. chapter 13, subchapter 13 is amended to read:

Subchapter 13. Drunken Driving

§ 1200. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(11) "Serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as in 13 V.S.A. § 1021(a)(2)(A).

§ 1201. OPERATING VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER SUBSTANCE; CRIMINAL REFUSAL; ENHANCED PENALTY FOR BAC OF 0.16 OR MORE

(a) A person shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway:

(1) when the person's alcohol concentration is:

(A) 0.08 or more; or

(B) 0.02 or more if the person is operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title; or

(C) 0.04 or more if the person is operating a commercial vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title; or

(2) when the person is under the influence of alcohol; or

(3) when the person is under the influence of any other drug or under the combined influence of alcohol and any other drug.

(b) A person who has previously been convicted of a violation of this section shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway and refuse a law enforcement officer's reasonable request under the circumstances for an evidentiary test where the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the person was in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A person shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway and be involved in a crash or collision resulting in serious bodily injury or death to another and refuse a law enforcement officer's reasonable request under the circumstances for an evidentiary test where the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person has any amount of alcohol or drugs in ~~his or her~~ the person's system.

(d)(1) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section when the person's alcohol concentration is proven to be 0.16 or more shall not, for three years from the date of the conviction for which the person's alcohol concentration is 0.16 or more, operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway when the person's alcohol concentration is 0.02 or more. The prohibition imposed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other penalties imposed by law.

(2) A person shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway when the person's alcohol concentration is 0.02 or more if the person has previously been convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section within the preceding three years and the person's alcohol concentration for the second or subsequent violation was proven to be 0.16 or greater. A violation of this subsection shall be considered a third or subsequent violation of this section and shall be subject to the penalties of subsection 1210(d) of this title.

(e) The fact that a person charged with a violation of this section is or has been entitled to use a drug under the laws of this State shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violating this section.

(f) A person may not be convicted of more than one violation of subsection (a) or (j) of this section arising out of the same incident.

(g) For purposes of this section and section 1205 of this title, the defendant may assert as an affirmative defense that the person was not operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of the vehicle because the person:

(1) had no intention of placing the vehicle in motion; and

(2) had not placed the vehicle in motion while under the influence.

(h) As used in subdivision (a)(3) of this section, "under the influence of a drug" means that a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely is diminished or impaired in the slightest degree. This subsection shall not be construed to affect the meaning of the term "under the influence of alcohol."

(i) Evidence of the results of a standardized field sobriety test conducted by a law enforcement officer trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement or a certified Drug Recognition Expert's systematic evaluation of observable signs and symptoms of a person charged with a violation of this section shall be presumptively admissible at trial to demonstrate whether or not the person was operating under the influence in violation of this section.

(j) A person suspected of violating this section shall submit to the collection of an evidentiary blood sample when a warrant for that person's blood is issued pursuant to subdivision 1202(f)(1) of this title. This subsection shall not be construed as impairing a person's right to challenge the validity of a search warrant in any subsequent legal proceedings.

* * *

§ 1202. CONSENT TO TAKING OF TESTS TO DETERMINE BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT OR PRESENCE OF OTHER DRUG

(a)(1) Implied consent. Every person who operates, attempts to operate, or is in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway in this State is deemed to have given consent to an evidentiary test of that person's breath for the purpose of determining the person's alcohol concentration or the presence of other drug in the blood. The test shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer.

(2) Blood test. If breath testing equipment is not reasonably available or if the officer has reason to believe that the person is unable to give a sufficient sample of breath for testing or if the law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person is under the influence of a drug other than alcohol, the person is deemed to have given consent to the taking of an evidentiary sample of blood. If in the officer's opinion the person is incapable of decision or unconscious or dead, it is deemed that the person's consent is given and a sample of blood shall be taken. A blood test sought pursuant to this subdivision shall be obtained pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(3) Saliva test. If the law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person is under the influence of a drug other than alcohol, or under the combined influence of alcohol and a drug, the person is deemed to have given consent to providing of an evidentiary sample of saliva. A saliva test sought pursuant to this subdivision shall be obtained pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. Any saliva test administered under this section shall be used only for the limited purpose of detecting the presence of a drug in the person's body and shall not be used to extract DNA information.

(4) Evidentiary test. The evidentiary test shall be required of a person when a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title.

(5) Fatal collision or incident resulting in serious bodily injury. The evidentiary test shall also be required if the person is the surviving operator of a motor vehicle involved in a fatal incident or collision or an incident or collision resulting in serious bodily injury and the law enforcement officer has

reasonable grounds to believe that the person has any amount of alcohol or other drug in ~~his or her~~ the person's system.

* * *

(d) At the time a test is requested, the person shall be informed of the following statutory information:

(1) Vermont law authorizes a law enforcement officer to request a test to determine whether the person is under the influence of alcohol or other drug.

(2) If the officer's request is reasonable and testing is refused, the person's license or privilege to operate will be suspended for at least six months.

(3) If a test is taken and the results indicate that the person is under the influence of alcohol or other drug, the person will be subject to criminal charges and the person's license or privilege to operate will be suspended for at least 90 days.

(4) A person who is requested by a law enforcement officer to submit to an evidentiary test or tests has the limited right to consult an attorney before deciding whether or not to submit to such a test or tests. The person must decide whether or not to submit to the evidentiary test or tests within a reasonable time and not later than 30 minutes from the time of the initial attempt to contact the attorney, regardless of whether a consultation took place. The person also has the right to have additional tests made by someone of the person's own choosing at the person's own expense. The person shall also be informed of the location of one or more facilities available for drawing blood.

(5) A person who is requested by a law enforcement officer to submit to an evidentiary test administered with an infrared breath-testing instrument may elect to have a second infrared test administered immediately after receiving the results of the first test.

(6) If the person refuses to take an evidentiary test, the refusal may be offered into evidence against the person at trial, whether or not a search warrant is sought. The person may be charged with the crime of criminal refusal if the person:

(A) has previously been convicted of a violation of section 1201 of this title; ~~or~~

(B) is involved in a crash or collision resulting in serious bodily injury or death to another, in which case the court may issue a search warrant and order the person to submit to a blood test, the results of which may be offered into evidence against the person at trial; or

(C) knowingly hinders the collection of an evidentiary blood sample when a warrant for that person's blood is issued pursuant to subdivision (f)(1) of this section.

(e) In any proceeding under this subchapter, a law enforcement officer's testimony that ~~he or she~~ the officer is certified pursuant to section 20 V.S.A. § 2358 shall be prima facie evidence of that fact.

(f)(1) If a blood test is sought from a person pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, or if a person who has been involved in a crash or collision resulting in serious bodily injury or death to another refuses an evidentiary test, a law enforcement officer may apply for a search warrant pursuant to Rule 41 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure to obtain a sample of blood for an evidentiary test. Pursuant to subdivision (d)(6) of this section, if a blood sample is obtained by search warrant, the fact of the refusal may still be introduced in evidence, in addition to the results of the evidentiary test. Once a law enforcement official begins the application process for a search warrant, the law enforcement official is not obligated to discontinue the process even if the person later agrees to provide an evidentiary sample. The limitation created by Rule 41(g) of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding blood specimens shall not apply to search warrants authorized by this section.

(2) If an evidentiary saliva test is sought from a person pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section, a law enforcement officer may apply for a search warrant pursuant to Rule 41 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure to obtain a sample of saliva for the evidentiary test. Pursuant to subdivision (d)(6) of this section, if a saliva sample is obtained by search warrant, the fact of the refusal may still be introduced in evidence, in addition to the results of the evidentiary test.

(g) The Defender General shall provide statewide 24-hour coverage seven days a week to ensure that adequate legal services are available to persons entitled to consult an attorney under this section.

* * *

§ 1205. CIVIL SUSPENSION; SUMMARY PROCEDURE

(a) Refusal; alcohol concentration at or above legal limits; suspension periods.

* * *

(2) Upon affidavit of a law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201

of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a limit specified in subsection 1201(a) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control, the Commissioner shall suspend the person's operating license or nonresident operating privilege or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle for a period of 90 days and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. However, during the suspension, an eligible person may operate under the terms of an ignition interlock RDL or ignition interlock certificate issued pursuant to section 1213 of this title.

* * *

(b) Form of officer's affidavit. A law enforcement officer's affidavit in support of a suspension under this section shall be in a standardized form for use throughout the State and shall be sufficient if it contains the following statements:

(1) The officer is a certified law enforcement officer.

(2) The officer who administered the test was certified to operate the testing equipment.

(3) The officer had reasonable grounds to believe the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title (noting the time and date of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control).

(4) The officer informed the person of ~~his or her~~ the person's rights under subsection 1202(d) of this title.

(5) The officer obtained an evidentiary test (noting the time and date the test was taken) and the test indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, or the person refused to submit to an evidentiary test.

(6) The officer complied with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, codified at 50 U.S.C. chapter 50.

(7) The officer confirmed the person's correct mailing address.

(c) Notice of suspension. On behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a law enforcement officer requesting or directing the administration of an evidentiary test shall serve notice of intention to suspend and of suspension on a person who refuses to submit to an evidentiary test or on a person who submits to a test the results of which indicate that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or

being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title. The notice shall be signed by the law enforcement officer requesting the test. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and a copy shall be mailed or given to the defendant within three business days after the date the officer receives the results of the test. If mailed, the notice is deemed received three days after mailing to the address provided by the defendant to the law enforcement officer. A copy of the affidavit of the law enforcement officer shall also be mailed by first-class mail or given to the defendant and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles within seven days after the date of notice.

* * *

(f) Review by Superior Court. Within seven days following receipt of a notice of intention to suspend and of suspension, a person may make a request for a hearing before the Superior Court by mailing or delivering the form provided with the notice. The request shall be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who shall then notify the Criminal Division of the Superior Court that a hearing has been requested and provide the Criminal Division and the State's Attorney with a copy of the notice of intention to suspend and of suspension and the officer's affidavit.

* * *

(h) Final hearing.

(1) If the defendant requests a hearing on the merits, the court shall schedule a final hearing on the merits to be held within 21 days after the date of the preliminary hearing. In no event may a final hearing occur more than 42 days after the date of the alleged offense without the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The final hearing may only be continued by the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The issues at the final hearing shall be limited to the following:

(A) Whether the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title.

(B) Whether at the time of the request for the evidentiary test the officer informed the person of the person's rights and the consequences of taking and refusing the test substantially as set out in subsection 1202(d) of this title.

(C) Whether the person refused to permit the test.

(D) Whether the test was taken and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title, whether the testing methods used were valid and reliable, and whether the test results were accurate and accurately evaluated. Evidence that the test was taken and evaluated in compliance with rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety shall be prima facie evidence that the testing methods used were valid and reliable and that the test results are accurate and were accurately evaluated.

(E) Whether the requirements of section 1202 of this title were complied with.

(2) No less than seven days before the final hearing, and subject to the requirements of Vermont Rule of Civil Procedure 11, the defendant shall provide to the State and file with the court a list of the issues (limited to the issues set forth in this subsection) that the defendant intends to raise. Only evidence that is relevant to an issue listed by the defendant may be raised by the defendant at the final hearing. The defendant shall not be permitted to raise any other evidence at the final hearing, and all other evidence shall be inadmissible.

(i) Finding by the court. The court shall electronically forward a report of the hearing to the Commissioner. Upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person refused to submit to a test, or upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control, the person's operating license, or nonresident operating privilege, or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle shall be suspended or shall remain suspended for the required term and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. Upon a finding in favor of the person, the Commissioner shall cause the suspension to be canceled and removed from the record, without payment of any fee.

* * *

(n) Presumption. In a proceeding under this section, if at any time within two hours of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle a person had an alcohol concentration ~~of~~ at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's alcohol concentration was above the applicable limit at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

* * *

§ 1210. PENALTIES

* * *

(f) Death resulting.

(1) If the death of any person results from a violation of section 1201 of this title, the person convicted of the violation shall be fined not more than $10,000.00 or imprisoned not less than one year nor more than 15 years, or both. The provisions of this subsection do not limit or restrict prosecutions for manslaughter.

(2) If the death or serious bodily injury of more than one person results from a violation of section 1201 of this title, the operator may be convicted of a separate violation of this subdivision for each decedent or person injured.

(3)(A) If the death of any person results from a violation of section 1201 of this title and the person convicted of the violation previously has been convicted two or more times of a violation of that section, a sentence ordered pursuant to this subsection shall, except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (3), include at least a five-year term of imprisonment. The five-year minimum term of imprisonment required by this subdivision (3)(A) shall be served and may not be suspended, deferred, or served as a supervised sentence. The defendant shall not be eligible for probation, parole, furlough, or any other type of early release until the expiration of the five-year term of imprisonment.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), if the death or serious bodily injury of any person results from a violation of section 1201 of this title and the person convicted of the violation previously has been convicted two or more times of a violation of that section, the court may impose a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment or that includes a term of imprisonment of less than five years if the court makes written findings on the record that such a sentence will serve the interests of justice and public safety.

(g) Injury resulting.

(1) If serious bodily injury~~, as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1021(2),~~ results to any person other than the operator from a violation of section 1201 of this title, the person convicted of the violation shall be fined not more than $5,000.00 or imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both.

(2) If serious bodily injury ~~as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1021(2)~~ or death results to more than one person other than the operator from a violation of section 1201 of this title, the operator may be convicted of a separate violation of this subdivision for each person injured or decedent.

(3)(A) If serious bodily injury ~~as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1021(2)~~ results to any person other than the operator from a violation of section 1201 of this title and the person convicted of the violation previously has been convicted two or more times of a violation of section 1201, a sentence ordered pursuant to this subsection shall, except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (3), include at least a five-year term of imprisonment. The five-year minimum term of imprisonment required by this subdivision (3)(A) shall be served and may not be suspended, deferred, or served as a supervised sentence. The defendant shall not be eligible for probation, parole, furlough, or any other type of early release until the expiration of the five-year term of imprisonment.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), if serious bodily injury ~~as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1021(2)~~ results to any person other than the operator from a violation of section 1201 of this title and the person convicted of the violation previously has been convicted two or more times of a violation of section 1201, the court may impose a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment or that includes a term of imprisonment of less than five years if the court makes written findings on the record that such a sentence will serve the interests of justice and public safety.

* * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 5202 is amended to read:

§ 5202. ORDER OF ADJUDICATION; NONCRIMINAL

(a)(1) An order of the Family Division of the Superior Court in proceedings under this chapter shall not:

(A) be deemed a conviction of crime;

(B) impose any civil disabilities sanctions ordinarily resulting from a conviction; or

(C) operate to disqualify the child in any civil service application or appointment.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, ~~an order of delinquency in proceedings~~ a merits adjudication order issued pursuant to section 5229 of this title in proceedings concerning a child or youthful offender who is alleged to have committed a violation of those sections specified in 23 V.S.A. § 801(a)(1) shall be an event in addition to those specified therein, enabling the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to require proof of financial responsibility under 23 V.S.A. chapter 11.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a merits adjudication order issued pursuant to section 5229 of this title in proceedings concerning a child or youthful offender who is alleged to have committed a violation of 23 V.S.A. chapter 13, subchapter 13 shall be reported to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 1709.

* * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 5229 is amended to read:

§ 5229. MERITS ADJUDICATION

* * *

(g) If, based on the child's admission or the evidence presented, the court finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the child has committed a delinquent act, the court shall order the Department to prepare a disposition case plan not later than seven business days before the disposition hearing and shall send a record of the adjudication to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles within 10 days following its issuance. In no event shall a disposition hearing be held later than 35 days after a finding that a child is delinquent.

* * *

Sec. 5. IMPAIRED DRIVING; IMPLIED CONSENT; PROCESSING; TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Impaired Driving Processing Task Force to study the concept of implied consent during impaired driving investigations with the objective to recommend approaches that minimize the duration for which impaired driving suspects are held during investigations and to streamline the processing and paperwork associated with such investigations.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chief Judge of the Superior Court or designee;

(2) the Defender General or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(6) the President of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association or designee; and

(7) a representative from the Vermont Police Association.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study impaired driving investigations in Vermont, including the following issues:

(1) the constitutional and statutory requirements of implied consent;

(2) how constitutional and statutory requirements related to implied consent affect the duration for which suspected impaired drivers are held by law enforcement;

(3) methods to minimize statutory requirements related to implied consent that pass constitutional muster; and

(4) any other relevant issues in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Public Safety.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a written report in the form of proposed legislation to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary with any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Public Safety or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.

(4) A majority of the Task Force's membership shall constitute a quorum.

(5) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 1, 2026.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 22nd day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 41 An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person

H. 98 An act relating to confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships

H. 461 An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave

H. 494 An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

Adjournment

At two o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Friday, May 23, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Conor Casey of Montpelier.

Message from the Senate No. 63

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 479. An act relating to housing.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Message from the Senate No. 64

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 125. An act relating to collective bargaining

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 238. An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 504. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered joint resolution originating in the House of the following title:

J.R.H. 5. Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025 .

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

S. 126. An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Lyons
Senator Gulick
Senator Douglass

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 21st day of May, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 44. An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements.

S. 56. An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 122

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic and workforce development

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee of Conference Appointed

S. 126

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Black of Essex
Rep. McFaun of Barre Town
Rep. Berbeco of Winooski

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 130

Offered by Representative Casey of Montpelier

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette

Whereas, Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, best known as the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French aristocrat who, audaciously, at 19 years of age, set sail for America and amazingly persuaded Congress to commission him as a major general in the Continental Army, and

Whereas, Lafayette fought bravely in the Battles of Brandywine, where he was wounded, and Rhode Island, before returning to France to lobby the French government to increase support for the American cause, and

Whereas, upon his return to the United States, Lafayette, leading a contingent of American troops, blocked British General Lord Cornwallis's early action during the decisive Battle of Yorktown, and

Whereas, Lafayette long aspired someday to return to the nation whose independence he helped secure, and in 1824, President James Monroe and Congress invited Lafayette to tour the country, in celebration of the Revolutionary War's 50th anniversary, which became a 24-state sojourn beginning in New York on August 15, 1824 and concluding in Burlington on June 29, 1825, and

Whereas, Lafayette arrived in Vermont on June 28, 1825, was welcomed at an early morning ceremony in Windsor, journeyed through Hartland to an event in Woodstock, traveled via East Barnard on his way to Royalton, where more official greetings awaited, and continued through Tunbridge to Barre, from where a more elaborate entourage accompanied him to Montpelier, and

from the first State House's balcony he observed a military procession, delivered a speech in the Assembly's chamber, and attended a grand banquet in his honor, and a historic marker now commemorates Lafayette's Montpelier visit, and

Whereas, on June 29, 1825, Lafayette's American tour, after passing through Williston, concluded in Burlington, where the festivities consisted of large receptions, laying the cornerstone of the University of Vermont's Old Mill building, greetings from Governor Van Ness, and the delivery of the English-fluent Frenchman's carefully written farewell America speech of appreciation and reflection, and

Whereas, the American Friends of Lafayette has organized a bicentennial recreation of the 19th-century tour, following the original route to the day, including all the Vermont stops on June 28–29, 2025, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Friends of Lafayette.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 9, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 132

Offered by Representatives Bosch of Clarendon and Burditt of West Rutland

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship

Whereas, over the last four seasons, the on-court expertise and precision of the Golden Horde has greatly impressed the team's opponents, and

Whereas, as the Division IV titleholder in 2022, 2023, and 2024, West Rutland, with a roster featuring the all-time scorer in Vermont girls' high school basketball, was eager to extend this championship streak in 2025, and

Whereas, in the 2025 championship game, played at the Barre Auditorium, the top-seeded Golden Horde were matched against the second-ranked Long Trail School Mountain Lions, and

Whereas, the game's only mystery was the exact final score, as West Rutland commanded the scoreboard throughout, expanding a 21–6 halftime lead into a 46–21 victory, and

Whereas, the truly extraordinary Golden Horde basketball mavens were Peyton Guay, Isabella Coombs, Kennah Wright-Chapman, Aubrey Beaulieu, Camryn Williams, Maggie Therrien, Hayley Raiche, Bradee Traverse, Isabella Griffith, Myra Rocke, Brianna Gallipo, and Emma Haley, and

Whereas, Head Coach Carl Serrani; Assistant Coach Matt Serrani; student managers Kylie Duel, Jaquira Earley, and Sadie McGee; and Athletic Trainer Zach Royer each contributed to the great 2024–2025 Golden Horde season, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to West Rutland High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 9, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 133

Offered by Representatives Burditt of West Rutland and Bosch of Clarendon

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating West Rutland High School girls' basketball standout Peyton Guay and extending to her best wishes for every future success

Whereas, the prolific basketball career of Peyton Guay has always been focused on her team, the West Rutland High School Golden Horde, and

Whereas, despite her modesty and team focus, were it not for the presence of this outstanding player, the Golden Horde would never have compiled its amazing four-year consecutive string of Division IV crowns (2022–2025), and

Whereas, there is no doubt Peyton Guay has written a new page of achievements in the history of Vermont girls' high school basketball that will not easily be surpassed, and

Whereas, from the day Peyton Guay first walked onto the hardwood court as a ninth grader, her coaches and teammates knew she possessed an extraordinary talent for playing the game, as she demonstrated a keen ability to score from the field and at the foul line, and

Whereas, her unique leadership, combining exemplary talent with a genuine desire to share the ball with her teammates, contributed to West Rutland's astounding 86–8 win-loss record over the past four seasons, and

Whereas, Peyton Guay's personal statistics, averaging 21.3 points per game and scoring 2,279 points, the most ever of any Vermont girls' high school basketball player, are outstanding, and her contribution of assists is equally impressive, and

Whereas, the conclusion of her time as a Golden Horde player hardly ends her basketball playing days, as Peyton Guay eagerly anticipates embarking on an exciting new path as a college basketball player in Florida, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates West Rutland High School girls' basketball standout Peyton Guay and extends to her best wishes for every future success, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Peyton Guay.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 9, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 141

Offered by Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford

House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway

Whereas, Ed Hathaway graduated from the Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, Massachusetts, and Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts, as a business major, and

Whereas, business proved a temporary detour on Ed Hathaway's life path, as he discovered upon moving to the Southwest a deep love of nature, prompting him to return to school and earn a degree in environmental science from Northern Arizona University, and

Whereas, this second degree opened the door for a brilliant 36-year career at the EPA, initially as a manager in the Superfund Division, and

Whereas, Ed Hathaway's solid scientific knowledge was only one aspect of his superb public service, as he was an extraordinary facilitator who could bring conflicting parties, be they community groups, state, or other federal agencies, to viable solutions when addressing environmental problems, and

Whereas, the EPA valued Ed Hathaway's professional achievements, and he was repeatedly honored with agency awards, most recently "Mentor of the Year," and

Whereas, in Vermont, his enduring legacy was as the supervising EPA engineer for two Vermont Superfund cleanup projects: at the Ely Copper Mine in Vershire and the Elizabeth Mine in Strafford, the latter for which he enabled over $100 million to be directed to this challenging project, even arranging the replacement of roads that heavy truck traffic had damaged, and

Whereas, this truly kind and highly respected official's EPA role was cut short due to his contracting pancreatic cancer, which he fought valiantly until his death on March 7, 2025 at 63 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Ann-Marie Burke; his sons; and his parents, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Edward M. Hathaway, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Ed Hathaway's family.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 16, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Remarks Journalized

On motion by **Rep. Harvey of Castleton**, the following remarks by **Rep. Morgan, M. of Milton** were ordered printed in the Journal:

"Madam Speaker

While in the throes of the Battle of Britain during WWII, Winston Churchill paid tribute to his Royal Airforce pilots with these words: 'Never in the field of human conflict has so much been given by so many, to so few.'

Madam Speaker, we are usually not here this late in the month of May, but since we are I find it important to recognize this particular 3-day weekend; more specifically, Monday of this coming week, Memorial Day.

This day is more than "just a day off." Abraham Lincoln said during the Civil War, we are honoring 'those that have given the last full measure of devotion.' In other words, given their life in conflict for our great country. I

think it important to remember those that paid the supreme sacrifice so the rest of us can continue to sleep peacefully in our beds at night.

In our own body we have in our midst two members who have lost family as a result of service to our country during conflict. Tristan Southworth perished in the Afghanistan theater of war and is the son of the member from Walden. Danny Pinsonault lost his battle with indirect wounds from battle and was the husband of the member from Dorset. If there are other family members from members of our body that have perished in combat, I apologize for not knowing that.

Madam Speaker, I'd ask if we could take a moment and recognize the supreme sacrifice made by not only Tristan and Danny, but all of those that have given their lives in our nation's conflicts."

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto

H. 266

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 6 is added to read:

Subchapter 6. 340B Drug Pricing Program

§ 4681. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "340B contract pharmacy" means a pharmacy that has a contract with a 340B covered entity to receive and dispense 340B drugs to the 340B covered entity's patients on the covered entity's behalf.

(2) "340B covered entity" means an entity participating or authorized to participate in the federal 340B drug pricing program, as described in 42 U.S.C. § 256b. The term includes a 340B covered entity's pharmacy.

(3) "340B drug" means a drug that has been subject to any offer for reduced prices by a manufacturer pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 256b and is purchased by a 340B covered entity.

(4) "Discount" means a reduction in the amount a 340B covered entity is charged for a 340B drug at the time of purchase.

(5) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as in 26 V.S.A. § 2022.

(6) "Pharmacy" means a place licensed by the Vermont Board of Pharmacy at which drugs, chemicals, medicines, prescriptions, and poisons are compounded, dispensed, or sold at retail.

(7) "Pharmacy benefit manager" has the same meaning as in section 3602 of this title.

(8) "Rebate" means a discount in which the terms are fixed and are disclosed in writing to a 340B covered entity at the time of the initial purchase of the 340B drug to which the discount applies, but which discount is not applied at the time of purchase.

§ 4682. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST 340B ENTITIES PROHIBITED

(a) A manufacturer or its agent shall not deny, restrict, prohibit, or otherwise interfere with, directly or indirectly, the acquisition of a 340B drug by or delivery of a 340B drug to a 340B contract pharmacy on behalf of a 340B covered entity unless receipt by the 340B contract pharmacy is prohibited by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) A manufacturer or its agent shall not directly or indirectly require a 340B covered entity to submit any claims, utilization, encounter, purchase, or other data as a condition for allowing the acquisition of a 340B drug by or delivery of a 340B drug to a 340B contract pharmacy unless the claims or utilization data sharing is required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) A manufacturer or its agent shall not interfere with the ability of a pharmacy contracted with a 340B covered entity to dispense 340B drugs to eligible patients of the 340B covered entity.

(d) A manufacturer or its agent shall offer or otherwise make available 340B drug pricing to a 340B covered entity or 340B contract pharmacy in the form of a discount at the time of purchase and shall not offer or otherwise make available 340B drug pricing in the form of a rebate.

§ 4683. MEDICAID UNAFFECTED

Nothing in this subchapter shall be deemed to apply to the Vermont Medicaid program as payor.

§ 4684. VIOLATIONS

(a) A 340B covered entity, 340B contract pharmacy, or other person injured by a manufacturer's or its agent's violation of this subchapter may bring an action in Superior Court for injunctive relief, compensatory and punitive damages, costs and reasonable attorney's fees, and other appropriate relief.

(b) A violation occurs each time a prohibited act is committed. For purposes of section 4682 of this subchapter, a prohibited act is defined as each package of 340B drugs that is subject to a discriminatory action by a manufacturer or its agent.

§ 4685. NO CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL LAW

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed or applied to conflict with or to be less restrictive than federal law for a person regulated by this subchapter.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9406 is added to read:

§ 9406. REPORTING ON PARTICIPATION IN 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM

(a) Annually on or before January 31, each hospital participating in the federal 340B drug pricing program established by 42 U.S.C. § 256b shall submit to the Green Mountain Care Board, in a form and manner prescribed by the Board, a report detailing the hospital's participation in the program during the previous hospital fiscal year, which report shall be posted on the Green Mountain Care Board's website and which shall contain at least the following information:

(1)(A) For prescription drugs that the hospital or any entity acting on behalf of the hospital obtained through the 340B program and dispensed or administered to patients during the previous calendar year:

(i) the aggregated acquisition cost for all such prescription drugs; and

(ii) the aggregated payment amount that the hospital received for all such prescription drugs, with information reported separately for each of the following distribution channels:

(I) dispensed drugs from an in-house pharmacy;

(II) dispensed drugs from a contract pharmacy;

(III) administered drugs paid separately; and

(IV) administered drugs paid by bundled payments.

(B) For administered drugs for which payment was bundled with payment for other services, as set forth in subdivision (A)(ii)(IV) of this subdivision (1), the hospital shall estimate the payment amount by comparing the actual acquisition cost for a drug to the wholesale acquisition cost for that drug.

(2) The aggregated payment amount that the hospital made to pharmacies with which the hospital contracted to dispense drugs to its patients under the 340B program during the previous hospital fiscal year.

(3) The aggregated payment amount that the hospital made to any other outside vendor for managing, administering, or facilitating any aspect of the hospital's 340B drug program during the previous hospital fiscal year.

(4) A description of the ways in which the hospital uses revenue from its participation in the 340B program to benefit its community through programs and services funded in whole or in part by revenue from the 340B program, including services that support community access to care that the hospital could not continue without this revenue.

(5) A description of the hospital's internal review and oversight of its participation in the 340B program in compliance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration's 340B program rules and guidance.

(b) In addition to the vendor information required pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section, each hospital shall also provide to the Board a list of the names of all vendors that managed, administered, or facilitated any aspect of the hospital's 340B program during the previous calendar year, along with a brief description of the work performed by each vendor. The vendor information reported pursuant to this subsection shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential, except that the Board shall provide the information to the Office of the Health Care Advocate, which shall not further disclose this confidential information.

Sec. 3. REPEAL

Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9406; reporting on participation in 340B drug pricing program) is repealed on January 1, 2031.

Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 4089j is amended to read:

§ 4089j. RETAIL PHARMACIES; FILLING OF PRESCRIPTIONS

* * *

(d)(1) A health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager shall permit a participating network pharmacy to perform all pharmacy services within the lawful scope of the profession of pharmacy as set forth in 26 V.S.A. chapter 36.

* * *

(4) ~~A health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager shall not, by contract, written policy, or written procedure, require that a pharmacy designated by the health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager dispense a medication directly to a health care setting for a health care professional to administer to a patient.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 5. 8 V.S.A. § 4089j is amended to read:

§ 4089j. RETAIL PHARMACIES; FILLING OF PRESCRIPTIONS

* * *

(d)(1) A health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager shall permit a participating network pharmacy to perform all pharmacy services within the lawful scope of the profession of pharmacy as set forth in 26 V.S.A. chapter 36.

* * *

(4) ~~[Repealed.]~~ A health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager shall not, by contract, written policy, or written procedure, require that a pharmacy designated by the health insurer or pharmacy benefit manager dispense a medication directly to a health care setting for a health care professional to administer to a patient.

* * *

Sec. 6. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; WHITE BAGGING; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2029, the Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the impact of the repeal of 8 V.S.A. § 4089j(d)(4) on hospital budgets, on health insurance premiums, and on health insurer solvency.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 5 (restoring language in 8 V.S.A. § 4089j(d)(4)) shall take effect on January 1, 2030.

(b) The remainder of this act shall take effect on passage, with the first report under Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9406) due on or before January 31, 2026.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and Powers of Waterford** moved to concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto by striking out Secs. 4–7 in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9407 is added to read:

§ 9407. OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; LIMITATIONS ON HOSPITAL CHARGES

(a)(1) A hospital shall not submit a claim to a health insurer for reimbursement of a prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting in an amount that exceeds 120 percent of the average sales price (ASP), as calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for any drug for which the hospital charged any health insurer more than 120 percent of the ASP in effect as of April 1, 2025.

(2) For any prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting for which a hospital charged a health insurer 120 percent or less of the ASP in effect as of April 1, 2025, the hospital shall not charge the health insurer a greater percentage of the ASP, as calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, for that drug than the percentage of the ASP that the hospital charged the health insurer as of April 1, 2025.

(3) A hospital shall update the ASP for each drug annually on January 1 and July 1 based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' ASP calculations for the most recent calendar quarter.

(b)(1) The purpose of this section is to reduce health care costs. A hospital shall not charge or collect from the patient or health insurer any amount for a prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting that exceeds the amounts set forth in subsection (a) of this section or increase the amounts the hospital charges for other prescription drugs, procedures, tests, imaging, or other health care goods or services in an effort to offset revenue reduced as a result of implementing this section.

(2) If a hospital demonstrates to the Green Mountain Care Board in its budget submissions pursuant to subchapter 7 of this chapter that the price cap set forth in subsection (a) of this section is having a negative impact on access to care, the quality of care, or the sustainability of rural health care services, or a combination of these, the hospital may propose to increase the commercial reimbursement rates for one or more of its service lines, such as primary care,

and the Board shall consider both the demonstrated impact and the proposed increase to reimbursement rates.

(c) The provisions of this section shall remain in effect unless and until the Green Mountain Care Board establishes a different reference-based price pursuant to section 9376 of this title that applies to prescription drugs administered in an outpatient or office setting.

(d) This section shall not apply to an independent hospital that is designated as a critical access hospital and that is not affiliated with another hospital or hospital network based in or outside of Vermont.

Sec. 5. OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; LIMITATIONS ON HOSPITAL CHARGES FOR 2025

(a)(1) A hospital shall not submit a claim to a health insurer for reimbursement of a prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 in an amount that exceeds 130 percent of the average sales price (ASP), as calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the most recent calendar quarter, for any drug for which the hospital charged any health insurer more than 120 percent of the ASP in effect as of April 1, 2025.

(2) For any prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting for which a hospital charged a health insurer 120 percent or less of the ASP in effect as of April 1, 2025, the hospital shall not charge the health insurer a greater percentage of the ASP, as calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the most recent calendar quarter, for that drug between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 than the percentage of the ASP that the hospital charged the health insurer as of April 1, 2025.

(b)(1) The purpose of this section is to reduce health care costs. A hospital shall not charge or collect from the patient or health insurer any amount for a prescription drug administered in an outpatient or office setting that exceeds the amounts set forth in subsection (a) of this section or increase the amounts the hospital charges for other prescription drugs, procedures, tests, imaging, or other health care goods or services in an effort to offset revenue reduced as a result of implementing this section.

(2) If a hospital demonstrates to the Green Mountain Care Board in its budget submissions pursuant to subchapter 7 of this chapter that the price cap set forth in subsection (a) of this section is having a negative impact on access to care, the quality of care, or the sustainability of rural health care services, or a combination of these, the hospital may propose to increase the commercial reimbursement rates for one or more of its service lines, such as primary care,

and the Board shall consider both the demonstrated impact and the proposed increase to reimbursement rates.

(c) This section shall not apply to an independent hospital that is designated as a critical access hospital and that is not affiliated with another hospital or hospital network based in or outside of Vermont.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 4 (18 V.S.A. § 9407; outpatient prescription drugs; limitations on hospital charges) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

(b) Sec. 5 (outpatient prescription drugs; limitations on hospital charges for 2025) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(c) The remainder of this act shall take effect on passage, with the first report under Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9406) due on or before January 31, 2026.

Which was agreed to.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 69

Rep. Micklus of Milton, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to an age-appropriate design code

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 62, subchapter 6 is added to read:

Subchapter 6. Vermont Age-Appropriate Design Code Act

§ 2449a. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) "Affiliate" means a legal entity that shares common branding with another legal entity or controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another legal entity.

(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), "control" or "controlled" means:

(i) ownership of, or the power to vote, more than 50 percent of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of a company;

(ii) control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors or of individuals exercising similar functions; or

(iii) the power to exercise controlling influence over the management of a company.

(2) "Age assurance" encompasses a range of methods used to determine, estimate, or communicate the age or an age range of an online user.

(3) "Age range" means either an interval with an upper and lower age limit or a label indicating age above or below a specific age.

(4) "Algorithmic recommendation system" means a system that uses an algorithm to select, filter, and arrange media on a covered business's website for the purpose of selecting, recommending, or prioritizing media for a user.

(5)(A) "Biometric data" means data generated from the technological processing of an individual's unique biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that allow or confirm the unique identification of the consumer, including:

(i) iris or retina scans;

(ii) fingerprints;

(iii) facial or hand mapping, geometry, or templates;

(iv) vein patterns;

(v) voice prints or vocal biomarkers; and

(vi) gait or personally identifying physical movement or patterns.

(B) "Biometric data" does not include:

(i) a digital or physical photograph;

(ii) an audio or video recording; or

(iii) any data generated from a digital or physical photograph, or an audio or video recording, unless such data is generated to identify a specific individual.

(6) "Business associate" has the same meaning as in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191 (HIPAA).

(7) "Collect" means buying, renting, gathering, obtaining, receiving, or accessing any personal data by any means. This includes receiving data from the consumer, either actively or passively, or by observing the consumer's behavior.

(8) "Compulsive use" means the repetitive use of a covered business's service that materially disrupts one or more major life activities of a minor, including sleeping, eating, learning, reading, concentrating, communicating, or working.

(9)(A) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of the State.

(B) "Consumer" does not include an individual acting in a commercial or employment context or as an employee, owner, director, officer, or contractor of a company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit, or government agency whose communications or transactions with the covered business occur solely within the context of that individual's role with the company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit, or government agency.

(10) "Covered business" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, association, other legal entity, or an affiliate thereof:

(A) that conducts business in this State;

(B) that generates a majority of its annual revenue from online services;

(C) whose online products, services, or features are reasonably likely to be accessed by a minor;

(D) that collects consumers' personal data or has consumers' personal data collected on its behalf by a processor; and

(E) that alone or jointly with others determines the purposes and means of the processing of consumers personal data.

(11) "Covered entity" has the same meaning as in HIPAA.

(12) "Covered minor" is a consumer who a covered business actually knows is a minor or labels as a minor pursuant to age assurance methods in rules adopted by the Attorney General.

(13) "Default" means a preselected option adopted by the covered business for the online service, product, or feature.

(14) "De-identified data" means data that does not identify and cannot reasonably be used to infer information about, or otherwise be linked to, an identified or identifiable individual, or a device linked to the individual, if the covered business that possesses the data:

(A)(i) takes reasonable measures to ensure that the data cannot be used to reidentify an identified or identifiable individual or be associated with an individual or device that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual or household; and

(ii) for purposes of this subdivision (A), "reasonable measures" includes the de-identification requirements set forth under 45 C.F.R. § 164.514 (other requirements relating to uses and disclosures of protected health information);

(B) publicly commits to process the data only in a de-identified fashion and not attempt to reidentify the data; and

(C) contractually obligates any recipients of the data to comply with all provisions of this subchapter.

(15) "Derived data" means data that is created by the derivation of information, data, assumptions, correlations, inferences, predictions, or conclusions from facts, evidence, or another source of information or data about a minor or a minor's device.

(16) "Genetic data" means any data, regardless of its format, that results from the analysis of a biological sample of an individual, or from another source enabling equivalent information to be obtained, and concerns genetic material, including deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA), ribonucleic acids (RNA), genes, chromosomes, alleles, genomes, alterations or modifications to DNA or RNA, single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), epigenetic markers, uninterpreted data that results from analysis of the biological sample or other source, and any information extrapolated, derived, or inferred therefrom.

(17) "Identified or identifiable individual" means an individual who can be readily identified, directly or indirectly, including by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, specific geolocation data, or an online identifier.

(18) "Known adult" is a consumer who a covered business actually knows is an adult or labels as an adult pursuant to age assurance methods in rules adopted by the Attorney General.

(19) "Minor" means an individual under 18 years of age.

(20) "Online service, product, or feature" means a digital product that is accessible to the public via the internet, including a website or application, and does not mean any of the following:

(A) telecommunications service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153;

(B) a broadband internet access service as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 54.400; or

(C) the sale, delivery, or use of a physical product.

(21)(A) "Personal data" means any information, including derived data and unique identifiers, that is linked or reasonably linkable, alone or in combination with other information, to an identified or identifiable individual or to a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to one or more identified or identifiable individuals in a household.

(B) Personal data does not include de-identified data or publicly available information.

(22) "Process" or "processing" means any operation or set of operations performed, whether by manual or automated means, on personal data or on sets of personal data, such as the collection, use, storage, disclosure, analysis, deletion, modification, or otherwise handling of personal data.

(23) "Processor" means a person who processes personal data on behalf of:

(A) a covered business;

(B) another processor; or

(C) a federal, state, tribal, or local government entity.

(24) "Profiling" means any form of automated processing performed on personal data to evaluate, analyze, or predict personal aspects, including an individual's economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behavior, location, movements, or identifying characteristics.

(25)(A) "Publicly available information" means information that:

(i) is made available through federal, state, or local government records or to the general public from widely distributed media; or

(ii) a covered business has a reasonable basis to believe that the consumer has lawfully made available to the general public.

(B) "Publicly available information" does not include:

(i) biometric data collected by a business about a consumer without the consumer's knowledge;

(ii) information that is collated and combined to create a consumer profile that is made available to a user of a publicly available website either in exchange for payment or free of charge;

(iii) information that is made available for sale;

(iv) an inference that is generated from the information described in subdivision (ii) or (iii) of this subdivision (25)(B);

(v) any obscene visual depiction, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1460;

(vi) personal data that is created through the combination of personal data with publicly available information;

(vii) genetic data, unless otherwise made publicly available by the consumer to whom the information pertains;

(viii) information provided by a consumer on a website or online service made available to all members of the public, for free or for a fee, where the consumer has maintained a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information, such as by restricting the information to a specific audience; or

(ix) intimate images, authentic or computer-generated, known to be nonconsensual.

(26) "Reasonably likely to be accessed" means an online service, product, or feature that is reasonably likely to be accessed by a covered minor based on any of the following indicators:

(A) the online service, product, or feature is directed to children, as defined by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6506 and the Federal Trade Commission rules implementing that Act;

(B) the online service, product, or feature is determined, based on competent and reliable evidence regarding audience composition, to be routinely accessed by an audience that is composed of at least two percent minors two through 17 years of age;

(C) the audience of the online service, product, or feature is determined, based on internal company research, to be composed of at least two percent minors two through 17 years of age; or

(D) the covered business knew or should have known that at least two percent of the audience of the online service, product, or feature includes minors two through 17 years of age, provided that, in making this assessment, the business shall not collect or process any personal data that is not reasonably necessary to provide an online service, product, or feature with which a minor is actively and knowingly engaged.

(27)(A) "Social media platform" means a public or semipublic internet-based service or application that is primarily intended to connect and allow a user to socially interact within such service or application and enables a user to:

(i) construct a public or semipublic profile for the purposes of signing into and using such service or application;

(ii) populate a public list of other users with whom the user shares a social connection within such service or application; or

(iii) create or post content that is viewable by other users, including content on message boards and in chat rooms, and that presents the user with content generated by other users.

(B) "Social media platform" does not mean a public or semipublic internet-based service or application that:

(i) exclusively provides email or direct messaging services; or

(ii) is used by and under the direction of an educational entity, including a learning management system or a student engagement program.

(28) "Third party" means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or body other than the covered minor or the covered business.

§ 2449b. EXCLUSIONS

This subchapter does not apply to:

(1) a federal, state, tribal, or local government entity in the ordinary course of its operation;

(2) protected health information that a covered entity or business associate processes in accordance with, or documents that a covered entity or business associate creates for the purpose of complying with, HIPAA;

(3) information used only for public health activities and purposes described in 45 C.F.R. § 164.512;

(4) information that identifies a consumer in connection with:

(A) activities that are subject to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects as set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 46;

(B) research on human subjects undertaken in accordance with good clinical practice guidelines issued by the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use;

(C) activities that are subject to the protections provided in 21 C.F.R. Part 50 and 21 C.F.R. Part 56; or

(D) research conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (4) or otherwise in accordance with State or federal law;

(5) an entity whose primary purpose is journalism as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 1615(a)(2) and that has a majority of its workforce consisting of individuals engaging in journalism; and

(6) a financial institution subject to Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, Pub. L. No. 106-102, and regulations adopted to implement that act.

§ 2449c. MINIMUM DUTY OF CARE

(a) A covered business that processes a covered minor's data in any capacity owes a minimum duty of care to the covered minor.

(b) As used in this subchapter, "a minimum duty of care" means the use of the personal data of a covered minor and the design of an online service, product, or feature will not result in:

(1) reasonably foreseeable emotional distress as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1061(2) to a covered minor;

(2) reasonably foreseeable compulsive use of the online service, product, or feature by a covered minor; or

(3) discrimination against a covered minor based upon race, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, or national origin.

(c) The content of the media viewed by a covered minor shall not establish emotional distress, compulsive use, or discrimination, as those terms are used in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a covered business to prevent or preclude a covered minor from accessing or viewing any piece of media or category of media.

§ 2449d. REQUIRED DEFAULT PRIVACY SETTINGS AND TOOLS

(a) Default privacy settings.

(1) A covered business shall configure all default privacy settings provided to a covered minor through the online service, product, or feature to the highest level of privacy, including the following default settings:

(A) not displaying the existence of the covered minor's account on a social media platform to any known adult user unless the covered minor has expressly and unambiguously allowed a specific known adult user to view their account or has expressly and unambiguously chosen to make their account's existence public;

(B) not displaying media created or posted by the covered minor on a social media platform to any known adult user unless the covered minor has expressly and unambiguously allowed a specific known adult user to view their media or has expressly and unambiguously chosen to make their media publicly available;

(C) not permitting any known adult users to like, comment on, or otherwise provide feedback on the covered minor's media on a social media platform unless the covered minor has expressly and unambiguously allowed a specific known adult user to do so;

(D) not permitting direct messaging on a social media platform between the covered minor and any known adult user unless the covered minor has expressly and unambiguously decided to allow direct messaging with a specific known adult user;

(E) not displaying the covered minor's location to other users, unless the covered minor expressly and unambiguously shares their location with a specific user;

(F) not displaying the users connected to the covered minor on a social media platform unless the covered minor expressly and unambiguously chooses to share the information with a specific user;

(G) disabling search engine indexing of the covered minor's account profile; and

(H) not sending push notifications to the covered minors.

(2) A covered business shall not:

(A) provide a covered minor with a single setting that makes all of the default privacy settings less protective at once; or

(B) request or prompt a covered minor to make their privacy settings less protective, unless the change is strictly necessary for the covered minor to access a service or feature they have expressly and unambiguously requested.

(b) Timely deletion of account. A covered business shall:

(1) provide a prominent, accessible, and responsive tool to allow a covered minor to request the covered minor's account on a social media platform be unpublished or deleted; and

(2) honor that request not later than 15 days after a covered business receives the request.

§ 2449e. TRANSPARENCY

(a) A covered business shall prominently and clearly provide on their website or mobile application:

(1) the covered business' privacy information, terms of service, policies, and community standards;

(2) the purpose of each algorithmic recommendation system in use by the covered business;

(3) inputs used by the algorithmic recommendation system and how each input:

(A) is measured or determined;

(B) uses the personal data of covered minors;

(C) influences the recommendation issued by the system; and

(D) is weighed relative to the other inputs reported in this subdivision (3); and

(4) descriptions, for every feature of the service that uses the personal data of covered minors, of:

(A) the purpose of the service feature;

(B) the personal data collected by the service feature;

(C) the personal data used by the service feature;

(D) how the personal data is used by the service feature;

(E) any personal data transferred to or shared with a processor or third party by the service feature, the identity of the processor or third party, and the purpose of the transfer or sharing; and

(F) how long the personal data is retained.

§ 2449f. PROHIBITED DATA AND DESIGN PRACTICES

(a) Data privacy. A covered business shall not:

(1) collect, sell, share, or retain any personal data of a covered minor that is not necessary to provide an online service, product, or feature with which the covered minor is actively and knowingly engaged;

(2) use previously collected personal data of a covered minor for any purpose other than a purpose for which the personal data was collected, unless necessary to comply with any obligation under this chapter;

(3) permit any individual, including a parent or guardian of a covered minor, to monitor the online activity of a covered minor or to track the location of the covered minor without providing a conspicuous signal to the covered minor when the covered minor is being monitored or tracked;

(4) use the personal data of a covered minor to select, recommend, or prioritize media for the covered minor, unless the personal data is:

(A) the covered minor's express and unambiguous request to receive:

(i) media from a specific account, feed, or user, or to receive more or less media from that account, feed, or user;

(ii) a specific category of media, such as "cat videos" or "breaking news," or to see more or less of that category of media; or

(iii) more or less media with similar characteristics as the media they are currently viewing;

(B) user-selected privacy or accessibility settings; or

(C) a search query, provided the search query is only used to select and prioritize media in response to the search; or

(5) send push notifications to a covered minor between 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m.

(b) Rulemaking. The Attorney General shall, on or before January 1, 2027, adopt rules pursuant to this subchapter that prohibits data processing or design practices of a covered business that, in the opinion of the Attorney General, lead to compulsive use or subvert or impair user autonomy, decision making, or choice during the use of an online service, product, or feature of the covered business. The Attorney General shall, at least once every two years, review and update these rules as necessary to keep pace with emerging technology.

§ 2449g. AGE ASSURANCE PRIVACY

(a) Privacy protections for age assurance data. During the process of conducting age assurance, covered businesses and processors shall:

(1) only collect personal data of a user that is strictly necessary for age assurance;

(2) immediately upon determining whether a user is a covered minor, delete any personal data collected of that user for age assurance, except the determination of the user's age range;

(3) not use any personal data of a user collected for age assurance for any other purpose;

(4) not combine personal data of a user collected for age assurance, except the determination of the user's age range, with any other personal data of the user;

(5) not disclose personal data of a user collected for age assurance to a third party that is not a processor; and

(6) implement a review process to allow users to appeal their age determination.

(b) Rulemaking.

(1) Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Attorney General shall, on or before January 1, 2027, adopt rules identifying commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods for covered businesses and processors to determine if a user is a covered minor, describing appropriate review processes for users appealing their age designations, and providing any additional privacy protections for age assurance data. The Attorney General shall periodically review and update these rules as necessary to keep pace with emerging technology.

(2) In adopting these rules, the Attorney General shall:

(A) prioritize user privacy and accessibility over the accuracy of age assurance methods; and

(B) consider:

(i) the size, financial resources, and technical capabilities of covered businesses and processors;

(ii) the costs and effectiveness of available age assurance methods;

(iii) the impact of age assurance methods on users' safety, utility, and experience;

(iv) whether and to what extent transparency measures would increase consumer trust in an age assurance method; and

(v) the efficacy of requiring covered businesses and processors to:

(I) use previously collected data to determine user age;

(II) adopt interoperable age assurance methods; and

(III) provide users with multiple options for age assurance.

§ 2449h. ENFORCEMENT

(a) A covered business or processor that violates this subchapter or rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

(b) The Attorney General shall have the same authority under this subchapter to make rules, conduct civil investigations, bring civil actions, and enter into assurances of discontinuance as provided under chapter 63 of this title.

§ 2449i. LIMITATIONS

Nothing in this subchapter shall be interpreted or construed to:

(1) impose liability in a manner that is inconsistent with 47 U.S.C. § 230; or

(2) prevent or preclude any covered minor from deliberately or independently searching for, or specifically requesting, any media.

§ 2449j. RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF COVERED MINORS

It is the intent of the General Assembly that nothing in this subchapter may be construed to infringe on the existing rights and freedoms of covered minors or be construed to discriminate against the covered minors based on race, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, or national origin.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027, except that 9 V.S.A. § 2449f(b) and 9 V.S.A. § 2449g(b) shall each take effect on July 1, 2025.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development?, **Rep. Harvey of Castleton** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 133. Nays, 9.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston *	Eastes of Guilford	Micklus of Milton
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Mihaly of Calais
Bailey of Hyde Park	Feltus of Lyndon	Minier of South Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Galfetti of Barre Town	Morgan, L. of Milton
Bartley of Fairfax	Garofano of Essex	Morgan, M. of Milton
Berbeco of Winooski *	Goldman of Rockingham	Morris of Springfield
Birong of Vergennes	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Morrissey of Bennington
Bishop of Colchester	Goslant of Northfield	Morrow of Weston
Black of Essex	Graning of Jericho *	Mrowicki of Putney
Bluemle of Burlington	Greer of Bennington	Nelson of Derby

Bosch of Clarendon
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston *
Branagan of Georgia
Brown of Richmond
Burditt of West Rutland
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Burtt of Cabot
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Casey of Hubbardton
Chapin of East Montpelier*
Charlton of Chester
Christie of Hartford
Cina of Burlington
Coffin of Cavendish
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harple of Glover
Harrison of Chittenden
Headrick of Burlington
Higley of Lowell
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
Howland of Rutland Town
James of Manchester
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington
Labor of Morgan
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Luneau of St. Albans City
Maguire of Rutland City
Malay of Pittsford
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Ode of Burlington
Olson of Starksboro
Page of Newport City
Pezzo of Colchester
Pouech of Hinesburg
Powers of Waterford
Priestley of Bradford *
Pritchard of Pawlet
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Squirrell of Underhill
Steady of Milton
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Toof of St. Albans Town
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
Wells of Brownington
White of Waitsfield
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Canfield of Fair Haven
Harvey of Castleton
McCoy of Poultney *
Nielsen of Brandon
Oliver of Sheldon
Parsons of Newbury
Pinsonault of Dorset
Tagliavia of Corinth
Walker of Swanton

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Donahue of Northfield
Hunter of Manchester
Nigro of Bennington
White of Bethel
Winter of Ludlow

Rep. Arsenault of Williston provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

S.69 is a first step toward life-changing and life-saving legislation of products that are harmful by design. I dedicate my vote to the hundreds of children who have died as a result of this irresponsible product design and to the thousands who may be spared harm as a result of this bill."

Rep. Berbeco of Winooski provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I'm voting yes because this is one of the single most important things we can do to address the youth mental health crisis."

Rep. Brady of Williston provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted for this bill because I will always vote for kids and families over big business. Through unregulated screens, social media, and now rapidly developing AI, we have been running a massive, uncontrolled experiment with our kids as the guinea pigs. Parents, teachers, and medical professionals know the results. Morally, this bill is the right thing to do. But it is also economically the right thing to do. The only economic interest that I know would be harmed, if we fail to act, is the Vermont property taxpayer as we continue to pay for dramatically increased mental health costs in our school budgets, conservatively at least $50 million just last year."

Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Protection of our children from the intentionally addictive designs of social media companies and lack of federal regulation are long overdue. I dedicate my vote to all the children and parents who struggle with this every day."

Rep. Graning of Jericho provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

S.69 will protect Vermont's children from the harmful features that are prevalent in today's social media platforms, that cause distress and anxiety and are damaging a generation of kids. We needed this law years ago. These protections will change the lives of future generations."

Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I would have supported the Senate version of the bill; however, with a Private Right of Action included, and lawsuits in other states still pending, I cannot support this bill."

Rep. Priestley of Bradford provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

S.69 is not a speech law. It's a safety law. And it's carefully designed to ensure our kids have stronger protections without compromising constitutional rights. If Big Tech wants to litigate against kids' safety, let them. But let's be clear: Vermont stands on the right side of the Constitution — and of history."

Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto

H. 209

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1388 is amended to read:

§ 1388. STOCK SUPPLY AND EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE ~~AUTO-INJECTORS~~

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Designated personnel" means a school employee, agent, or volunteer who has completed training required by State Board policy and who has been authorized by the school administrator or delegated by the school nurse to ~~provide and~~ administer epinephrine ~~auto-injectors under~~ in accordance with a provider's standing order or protocol pursuant to this section ~~and who has completed the training required by State Board policy~~.

(2) "Epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~" means a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved single-use ~~device that delivers a~~ epinephrine delivery system containing a premeasured single dose of epinephrine.

(3) "Health care professional" means a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe drugs and medical devices pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe drugs and medical devices pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31.

(4) "School" means a public or approved independent school and extends to school grounds, school-sponsored activities, school-provided transportation, and school-related programs.

(5) "School administrator" means a school's principal or headmaster.

(6) "School nurse" means a school nurse or associate school nurse endorsed by the Agency of Education pursuant to the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals rule (CVR 22-000-010).

(b)(1) A health care professional may prescribe ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ in a school's name, which may be maintained by the school for use as described in subsection (d) of this section. The health care professional shall issue to the school a standing order for the use of ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ prescribed under this section, including protocols for:

(A) ~~assessing~~ recognizing whether an individual is experiencing a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction;

(B) administering ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ to an individual experiencing a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction;

(C) caring for an individual after administering ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector to him or her~~, including contacting emergency services personnel and documenting the incident; and

(D) disposing of used or expired epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~.

(2) A pharmacist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 36 or a health care professional may dispense epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ prescribed to a school.

(c) A school may maintain a stock supply of epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~. A school may enter into arrangements with epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ manufacturers or suppliers to acquire ~~epinephrine auto-injectors~~ these products for free or at reduced or fair market prices.

(d) The school administrator may authorize a school nurse or appropriately trained designated personnel, ~~or both,~~ to:

(1) provide ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ to a student for self-administration according to a plan of action for managing the student's life-threatening allergy maintained in the student's school health records pursuant to section 1387 of this title;

(2) administer ~~a~~ prescribed epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ to a student according to a plan of action maintained in the student's school health records; and

(3) administer ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~, in accordance with the protocol issued under subsection (b) of this section, to a student or other individual at a school if the school nurse or designated personnel believe in good faith that the student or individual is experiencing anaphylaxis, regardless of whether the student or individual has a prescription for ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~.

(e) Designated personnel, a school, a school nurse, and a health care professional prescribing ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ to a school shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability arising from the administration or self-administration of ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ under this section, unless the person's conduct constituted intentional misconduct. Providing or administering ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ under this section does not constitute the practice of medicine.

(f) ~~On or before January 1, 2014, the~~ The State Board, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall adopt policies for managing students with life-threatening allergies and other individuals with life-threatening allergies who may be present at a school. The policies shall:

(1) establish protocols to prevent exposure to allergens in schools;

(2) establish procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions in schools, including postemergency procedures;

(3) implement a process for schools and the parents or guardians of students with a life-threatening allergy to jointly develop a written individualized allergy management plan of action that:

(A) incorporates instructions from a student's ~~physician~~ health care professional regarding the student's life-threatening allergy and prescribed treatment;

(B) includes the requirements of section 1387 of this title~~,~~ if a student is authorized to possess and self-administer emergency medication at school;

(C) becomes part of the student's health records maintained by the school; and

(D) is updated each school year;

(4) require education and training for school nurses and designated personnel, including training related to storing and administering ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ and recognizing and responding to a life-threatening allergic reaction; and

(5) require each school to make publicly available protocols and procedures developed in accordance with the policies adopted by the State Board under this section.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Reps. Harple of Glover, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Long of Newfane, McCann of Montpelier, Quimby of Lyndon, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town** moved to concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with a further proposal of amendment thereto in Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. § 1388, in subdivision (a)(6), by inserting "or registered nurses certified through the Office of Professional Regulation and contracted to perform the duties of a school nurse" before the period

Which was agreed to.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 222

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to civil orders of protection

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 2, 15 V.S.A. § 1103, in subdivision (c)(2)(J), in the second sentence, after "civil contempt proceedings" by inserting "pursuant to Rule 16 of the Vermont Rules of Family Proceedings"

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Recess

At twelve o'clock and twelve minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At one o'clock and eighteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Message from the Senate No. 65

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 231. An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

S. 12. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Hashim
Senator Norris
Senator Mattos

Rules Suspended, Immediate Reconsideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto

H. 209

House bill, entitled

An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools

Assuring the Chair that he voted with the prevailing side to concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Harple of Glover and others, which occurred prior to the recess earlier today, **Rep. Conlon of Cornwall** moved to suspend rules to permit immediate reconsideration of the Senate proposal of amendment and the proposed further amendment thereto, which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the House concurred in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Harple of Glover and others.

Second Reading; Amendment Offered; Point of Order; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered
S. 127

Rep. Mihaly of Calais, for the Committee on General and Housing, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program.

* * *

(5)(A) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and governmental subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out the purposes of this ~~subsection~~ section.

(B) Solely with regards to actions undertaken pursuant to this subdivision (5), entities carrying out the provisions of this section, including grantees, subgrantees, and contractors of the State, shall be exempt from the provisions of 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators, sales finance companies, and loan solicitation companies).

* * *

(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.

(1)(A) A grant or loan shall not exceed~~:~~

~~(i) $70,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of an eligible rental housing unit meeting the applicable building accessibility requirements under the Vermont Access Rules; or~~

~~(ii)~~ $50,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of any other eligible rental housing unit. Up to an additional $20,000.00 per unit may be made available for specific elements that collectively bring the unit to the visitable standard outlined in the rules adopted by the Vermont Access Board.

* * *

(e) Program requirements applicable to grants and five-year forgivable loans. For a grant or five-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:

(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local ~~coordinated entry~~ homelessness service organizations approved by the Department to identify potential tenants.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision ~~(2)~~(B) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (e)(2), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:

(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;

(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; ~~or~~

(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who receives or is ~~eligible~~ approved to receive Medicaid-funded ~~home and community based~~ home- and community-based services or Social Security Disability Insurance;

(iv) displaced due to a natural disaster; or

(v) with approval from the Department in writing, an organization that will hold a master lease that explicitly states the unit will be used in service of the populations described in this subsection (e).

* * *

(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the grant.

(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive a ~~10-percent~~ prorated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the landlord participates in the Program.

(f) Requirements applicable to 10-year forgivable loans. For a 10-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of 10 years:

(1) ~~A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local coordinated entry organizations to identify potential tenants~~ The total cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, except that a landlord may accept a housing voucher that exceeds fair market rent, if available.

~~(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (f), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:~~

~~(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;~~

~~(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; or~~

~~(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who is eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.~~

~~(B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing organization that issued the grant determines that a household under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (f) is not available to lease the unit, then the landlord shall lease the unit:~~

~~(i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of area median income; or~~

~~(ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with the approval of the Department or housing organization.~~

~~(3)(A)~~ A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.

~~(B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.~~

~~(4)~~(3) The Department shall forgive ~~10 percent of the~~ a prorated amount of a forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.

(g) Minimum funding for grants and five-year forgivable loans.

(1) Annually, the Department shall establish a minimum allocation of funding set aside to be used for five-year grants or forgivable loans to serve eligible households pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Remaining funds may be used for either five-year grants or forgivable loans or 10-year forgivable loans pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. The set aside shall be a minimum of 30 percent of funds disbursed annually.

(2) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to evaluate factors in establishing the amount of the set aside, including:

(A) the availability of housing vouchers;

(B) the current need for housing for eligible households;

(C) the ability and desire of landlords to house eligible households;

(D) the support services available for landlords; and

(E) the prior uptake and success rates for participating landlords.

(3) The Department shall coordinate with the local Coordinated Entry Lead Agencies and Homeownership Centers to direct referrals for those individuals or families prioritized to be housed pursuant to the five-year grants or forgivable loans.

(4) Funds from the set aside not utilized after nine months shall become available for 10-year forgivable loans.

(5) The Department shall annually publish the amount of the set aside on its website.

* * *

(i) Creation of the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program Revolving Fund. Funds repaid or returned to the Department from forgivable loans or grants funded by the Program shall return to the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Revolving Fund to be used for Program expenditures and administrative costs at the discretion of the Department.

(j) Annual report. Annually, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the following:

(1) separately, the number of units funded and the number of units rehabilitated through grants, through a five-year forgivable loan, and through a 10-year forgivable loan;

(2) for grants and five-year forgivable loans, for the first year after the expiration of the lease requirements outlined in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, whether the unit is still occupied by a tenant who meets the qualifications of that subdivision;

(3) for each program, for the first year after the expiration of the applicable lease requirements outlined in this section, the amount of rent charged by the landlord and how that rent compares to fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(4) the rate of turnover for tenants housed utilizing grants or five-year forgivable loans and 10-year forgivable loans separately.

* * * MHIR * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 700 is added to read:

§ 700. VERMONT MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) There is created within the Department of Housing and Community Development the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program. The Department shall design and implement the Program to award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide financial assistance or awards to manufactured homeowners and manufactured home park owners to improve existing homes, incentivize new slab placement for prospective homeowners, and incentivize park improvements for infill of more homes.

(b) The following projects are eligible for funding through the Program:

(1) The Department may award up to $20,000.00 to owners of manufactured housing communities to complete small-scale capital needs to help infill vacant lots with homes, including disposal of abandoned homes, lot grading and preparation, the siting and upgrading of electrical boxes, enhancing E-911 safety issues, transporting homes out of flood zones, and improving individual septic systems. Costs awarded under this subdivision may also cover legal fees and marketing to help make it easier for home-seekers to find vacant lots around the State.

(2) The Department may award funding to manufactured homeowners for which the home is their primary residence to address habitability and accessibility issues to bring the home into compliance with safe living conditions.

(3) The Department may award up to $15,000.00 per grant to a homeowner to pay for a foundation or federal Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved slab, site preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and utility connections on vacant lots within a manufactured home community.

(c) The Department may adopt rules, policies, and guidelines to aid in enacting the Program.

* * * Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund * * *

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. chapter 119, subchapter 6 is amended to read:

Subchapter 6. Special Funds

* * *

§ 4686. VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund within the Vermont Bond Bank.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to provide capital to extend and increase capacity of water and sewer service and other public infrastructure in municipalities where lack of extension or capacity is a barrier to housing development.

(c) Administration. The Vermont Bond Bank may administer the Fund in coordination with and support from other State agencies, government component parts, and quasi-governmental agencies.

(d) Program parameters.

(1) The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall develop program guidelines to effectively implement the Fund.

(2) The program shall provide low-interest loans or purchase bonds from municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. Eligible activities include:

(A) preliminary engineering and planning;

(B) engineering design and bid specifications;

(C) construction for municipal water and wastewater systems;

(D) transportation investments, including those required by municipal regulation, the municipality's official map, designation requirements, or other planning or engineering identifying complete streets and transportation and transit related improvements, including improvements to existing streets; and

(E) other eligible activities as determined by the guidelines produced by the Vermont Bond Bank in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Application requirements. Eligible project applications shall demonstrate:

(1) the project will create reserve capacity necessary for new housing unit development;

(2) the project has a direct link to housing unit production; and

(3) the municipality has a commitment to own and operate the project throughout its useful life.

(f) Application criteria. In addition to any criteria developed in the program guidelines, project applications shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

(1) whether there is a direct connection to proposed or in-progress housing development with demonstrable progress toward regional housing targets;

(2) whether the project is an expansion of an existing system;

(3) the proximity to a designated area;

(4) the project readiness and estimated time until the need for financing;

(5) the demonstration of financing for project completion or completion of a project component; and

(6) the relative need and capacity of the community.

(g) Award terms. The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall establish award terms that may include:

(1) the maximum loan or bond amount;

(2) the maximum term of the loan or bond amount;

(3) the time by which amortization shall commence;

(4) the maximum interest rate;

(5) whether the loan is eligible for forgiveness and to what percentage or amount;

(6) the necessary security for the loan or bond; and

(7) any additional covenants required to further secure the loan or bond.

(h) Revolving fund.

(1) Any funds repaid or returned from the Infrastructure Sustainability Fund shall be deposited into the Fund and used to continue the program established in this section.

(2) The Bank may use the funds in conjunction with other Bank programs to accomplish the policy objectives outlined in this section.

* * * VHFA Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program * * *

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

* * *

* * * Universal Design Study Committee * * *

Sec. 5. RESIDENTIAL UNIVERSAL DESIGN STANDARDS; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Residential Universal Design Study Committee to explore implementation of statewide universal design standards for all residential buildings.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members with preference for appointment of members with lived experience:

(1) one member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) one member, appointed by the Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association;

(4) one member, appointed by the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects;

(5) the Director of Fire Safety or designee;

(6) one member of the Vermont Access Board, appointed by the Chair;

(7) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency;

(8) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board;

(9) one member, appointed by the Vermont Center for Independent Living;

(10) one member, appointed by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(11) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(12) one member, appointed by the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns;

(13) one member, appointed by the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association;

(14) one member, appointed by the Vermont Association of Realtors;

(15) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living or designee;

(16) one member, appointed by ADA Inspections Nationwide, LLC; and

(17) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the development and implementation of statewide universal design standards for residential buildings, including identification and analysis of the following issues:

(1) existing federal and state laws regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12213, standards and building codes;

(2) existing federal, state, and international best practices and standards addressing accessibility and adaptability characteristics of single-family and multiunit buildings;

(3) opportunities and challenges for supporting the residential building industry in meeting universal design standards, including considerations of workforce education and training;

(4) cost benefits and impacts of adopting a universal design standard for residential buildings;

(5) opportunities and challenges with enforcement of identified standards; and

(6) impacts to the valuation and financing of impacted buildings.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Report. On or before November 1, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The member of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before June 1, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 1, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subdivision (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee * * *

Sec. 6. STATE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee to generate a State plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) the State Treasurer or designee;

(7) one member, appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative;

(8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(9) one member, appointed by Green Mountain Self-Advocates;

(10) one member, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(11) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; and

(12) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall create an actionable plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities that reflects the diversity of needs expressed by those individuals and their families, including individuals with high-support needs who require 24-hour care and those with specific communication needs. The plan shall include:

(1) a schedule for the creation of at least 600 additional units of service-supported housing;

(2) the number and description of the support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities anticipated to be served annually;

(3) anticipated funding needs; and

(4) recommendations for changes in State laws or policies that are obstacles to the development of housing needed by individuals with Medicaid-funded home-and community-based services.

(d) Assistance.

(1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(2) Upon request of the Committee, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall provide an analysis of the current state of housing in Vermont for individuals with development disabilities and, to the extent available, an analysis of the level of community support needed for these individuals.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on November 30, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subsection (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Tax Department Housing Data Access * * *

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 5404 is amended to read:

§ 5404. DETERMINATION OF EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND LIST

* * *

(b) Annually, on or before August 15, the clerk of a municipality, or the supervisor of an unorganized town or gore, shall transmit to the Director in an electronic or other format as prescribed by the Director: education and municipal grand list data, including exemption information and grand list abstracts; tax rates; an extract of the assessor database also referred to as a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system or Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal database; and the total amount of taxes assessed in the town or unorganized town or gore. The data transmitted shall identify each parcel by a parcel identification number assigned under a numbering system prescribed by the Director. Municipalities may continue to use existing numbering systems in addition to, but not in substitution for, the parcel identification system prescribed by the Director. If changes or additions to the grand list are made by the listers or other officials authorized to do so after such abstract has been so transmitted, such clerks shall forthwith certify the same to the Director.

* * *

* * * Landlord Certificate * * *

Sec. 8. REPEAL; ACT 181 PROSPECTIVE LANDLORD CERTIFICATE CHANGES

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Secs. 98 (landlord certificate amendments) and 114(5) (effective date of landlord certificate amendments) are repealed.

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 6069 is amended to read:

§ 6069. LANDLORD CERTIFICATE

* * *

(b) The owner of each rental property shall, on or before January 31 of each year, furnish a certificate of rent to the Department of Taxes.

(c) A certificate under this section shall be in a form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include the following:

(1) the name of ~~the~~ each renter~~,~~;

(2) the address and ~~any property tax parcel identification number of the homestead, the information required under subsection (f) of this section,~~ the School Property Account Number of the rental property;

(3) the name of the owner or landlord of the rental property;

(4) the phone number, email address, and mailing address of the owner or landlord of the rental property, as available;

(5) the type or types of rental units on the rental property;

(6) the number of rental units on the rental property;

(7) the number of ADA-accessible units on the rental property; and

(8) any additional information that the Commissioner determines is appropriate.

* * *

(f) ~~Annually on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this section:~~

~~(1) name of owner or landlord;~~

~~(2) mailing address of landlord;~~

~~(3) location of rental unit;~~

~~(4) type of rental unit;~~

~~(5) number of units in building; and~~

~~(6) School Property Account Number.~~ Annually on or before December 15, the Department shall submit a report on the aggregated data collected under this section to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

* * * Land Bank Report * * *

Sec. 10. DHCD LAND BANK REPORT

(a) On or before November 1, 2025, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue a report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs outlining a legal framework for implementation of a State land bank. The report shall include proposed legislative language specific to:

(1) the creation of a statewide land bank;

(2) the authorization of regional or municipal land banks; and

(3) the identification of funding proposals to support the sustainability of each separate model.

(b) The report shall include an analysis on which option, the creation of a statewide land bank or the authorization of regional or municipal land banks, best serves the interest of Vermont communities, including rural communities.

* * * Housing and Public Accommodations Protections * * *

Sec. 11. 9 V.S.A. § 4456a is amended to read:

§ 4456a. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL APPLICATION ~~FEES; PROHIBITED~~

(a) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not charge an application fee to any individual in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit. This ~~section~~ subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a person from charging a fee to a person in order to apply to rent commercial or nonresidential property.

(b)(1) In order to conduct a background or credit check, a landlord shall accept any of the following:

(A) an original or a copy of any unexpired form of government-issued identification;

(B) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; or

(C) a Social Security number.

(2) A residential rental application shall inform an applicant that the applicant may provide any of the above forms of identification in order to conduct a background or credit check.

Sec. 12. 9 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12)(A) "Harass" means to engage in unwelcome conduct that detracts from, undermines, or interferes with a person's:

(i) use of a place of public accommodation or any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of a place of public accommodation because of the person's race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(ii) terms, conditions, privileges, or protections in the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the person's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability, or because the person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because the person is a recipient of public assistance, or because the person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

Sec. 13. 9 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

(a) An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of such owner or operator shall not, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person, refuse, withhold from, or deny to that person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of the place of public accommodation.

* * *

Sec. 14. 9 V.S.A. § 4503 is amended to read:

§ 4503. UNFAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(1) To refuse to sell or rent, or refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling or other real estate to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(2) To discriminate against, or to harass, any person in the terms, conditions, privileges, and protections of the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) To make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(4) To represent to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, that any dwelling or other real estate is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when the dwelling or real estate is in fact so available.

* * *

(6) To discriminate against any person in the making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance for real-estate-related transactions or in the selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(7) To engage in blockbusting practices, for profit, which may include inducing or attempting to induce a person to sell or rent a dwelling by representations regarding the entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation, on account of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

(12) To discriminate in land use decisions or in the permitting of housing because of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, disability, the presence of one or more minor children, income, or because of the receipt of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, except as otherwise provided by law.

* * *

(d) If required by federal law, the verification of immigration status or differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status shall not constitute a violation of subsection (a) of this section with respect to the sale and rental of dwellings.

(e) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6) of this section, it shall not constitute unlawful discrimination for a lender to consider a credit applicant's immigration status to the extent such status has bearing on the lender's rights and remedies regarding loan repayment and further provided such consideration is consistent with any applicable federal law or regulation.

* * * Housing Appeals * * *

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 8502 is amended to read:

§ 8502. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Person aggrieved" means a person who alleges an injury to a particularized interest protected by the provisions of law listed in section 8503 of this title, attributable to an act or decision by a district coordinator, District Commission, the Secretary, an appropriate municipal panel, or the Environmental Division that can be redressed by the Environmental Division or the Supreme Court.

* * *

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:

§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

* * *

(b) Planning and zoning chapter appeals.

(1) Within 30 days of the date of the act or decision, an interested person, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4465, or a person aggrieved, who has participated as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4471 in the municipal regulatory proceeding under that chapter may appeal to the Environmental Division an act or decision made under that chapter by a board of adjustment, a planning commission, or a development review board; provided, however, that decisions of a development review board under 24 V.S.A. § 4420 with respect to local Act 250 review of municipal impacts are not subject to appeal but shall serve as presumptions under chapter 151 of this title.

* * *

(h) De novo hearing. The Environmental Division, applying the substantive standards that were applicable before the tribunal appealed from, shall hold a de novo hearing on those issues that have been appealed~~, except~~. For a municipal land use permit application for a housing development, if the appeal is of a denial, the Environmental Division shall determine if the

application is consistent with the municipal bylaw or land use regulation that directly affects the property or if the appeal is of an approval, if the application is inconsistent with the municipal bylaw or land use regulation that directly affects the property. It shall not be de novo in the case of:

(1) a decision being appealed on the record pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 117; or

(2) a decision of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation under section 2625 of this title being appealed on the record, in which case the court shall affirm the decision, unless it finds that the Commissioner did not have reasonable grounds on which to base the decision.

* * *

(k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section:

(1) there shall be no appeal from a District Commission decision when the Commission has issued a permit and no hearing was requested or held, or no motion to alter was filed following the issuance of an administrative amendment;

(2) a municipal decision regarding whether a particular application qualifies for a recorded hearing under 24 V.S.A. § 4471(b) shall not be subject to appeal;

(3) if a District Commission issues a partial decision under subsection 6086(b) of this title, any appeal of that decision must be taken within 30 days following the date of that decision; ~~and~~

(4) it shall be the goal of the Environmental Division to issue a decision on a case regarding an appeal of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 90 days following the close of the hearing; and

(5) except for cases the court considers of greater importance, appeals of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 involving housing development take precedence on the docket over other cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument accordingly.

* * *

Sec. 17. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

* * *

(b) As used in this chapter, an "interested person" means any one of the following:

(1) A person owning title to property, or a municipality or solid waste management district empowered to condemn it or an interest in it, affected by a bylaw, who alleges that the bylaw imposes on the property unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions of present or potential use under the particular circumstances of the case.

(2) The municipality that has a plan or a bylaw at issue in an appeal brought under this chapter or any municipality that adjoins that municipality.

(3) ~~A person owning or occupying property in the immediate neighborhood of a property that is the subject of any decision or act taken under this chapter, who can demonstrate a physical or environmental impact on the person's interest under the criteria reviewed, and who alleges that the decision or act, if confirmed, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality~~.

~~(4) Any 20 persons who may be any combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection who, by signed petition to the appropriate municipal panel of a municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is at issue in any appeal brought under this title, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the appropriate municipal panel must designate one person to serve as the representative of the petitioners regarding all matters related to the appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, an appeal shall not include the character of the area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable housing.~~

~~(5)~~ Any department and administrative subdivision of this State owning property or any interest in property within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development of this State.

* * *

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4441 is amended to read:

§ 4441. PREPARATION OF BYLAWS AND REGULATORY TOOLS; AMENDMENT OR REPEAL

* * *

(i) Notwithstanding this section and any other law to the contrary, for bylaw amendments that are required to comply with amendments to this chapter, no hearings are required to be held on the bylaw amendments.

* * * LURB Study * * *

Sec. 19. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 11a is amended to read:

Sec. 11a. ACT 250 APPEALS STUDY

(a) On or before ~~January 15, 2026~~ November 15, 2025, the Land Use Review Board shall issue a report evaluating whether to transfer appeals of permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to the Land Use Review Board or whether they should remain at the Environmental Division of the Superior Court. The Board shall convene a stakeholder group that at a minimum shall be composed of a representative of environmental interests, attorneys that practice environmental and development law in Vermont, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Association of Realtors, a representative of ~~non-profit~~ nonprofit housing development interests, a representative of for-profit housing development interests, a representative of commercial development interests, an engineer with experience in development, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Natural Resources in preparing the report. The Board shall provide notice of the stakeholder meetings on its website and each meeting shall provide time for public comment.

(b) The report shall at minimum recommend:

(1) whether to allow consolidation of appeals at the Board, or with the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, and how, including what resources the Board would need, if transferred to the Board, appeals of permit decisions issued under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the Agency of Natural Resources can be consolidated with Act 250 appeals;

(2) how to prioritize and expedite the adjudication of appeals related to housing projects, including the use of hearing officers to expedite appeals and the setting of timelines for processing of housing appeals;

(3) procedural rules to govern the Board's administration of Act 250 and the adjudication of appeals of Act 250 decisions. These rules shall include procedures to create a firewall and eliminate any potential for conflicts with the Board managing appeals and issuing permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions; and

(4) other actions the Board should take to promote the efficient and effective adjudication of appeals, including any procedural improvements to the Act 250 permitting process and jurisdictional opinion appeals.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment ~~and Energy~~.

* * * Brownfields * * *

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 6604c is amended to read:

§ 6604c. MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) Management of development soils. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter to the contrary, development soils may be managed at a location permitted pursuant to an insignificant waste event approval authorization issued pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Rules that contains, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the development soils are generated from a hazardous materials site managed pursuant to a corrective action plan or a soil management plan approved by the Secretary;

(2) the development soils have been tested for arsenic, lead, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Secretary that ensures that the soils do not leach above groundwater enforcement standards;

(3) the location where the soils are managed is appropriate for the amount and type of material being managed;

(4) the soils are capped in a manner approved by the Secretary;

(5) any activity that may disturb the development soils at the permitted location shall be conducted pursuant to a soil management plan approved by the Secretary; and

(6) the permittee files a record notice of where the soils are managed in the land records.

* * *

Sec. 21. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) As part of the biennial report to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy under 10 V.S.A. § 6604(c), the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report on the status of the

management of development soils in the State under 10 V.S.A. § 6604c. The report shall include:

(1) the number of insignificant waste event approval authorizations issued by the Secretary in the previous two years for the management of development soils;

(2) the number of certified categorical solid waste facilities operating in the State for the management of development soils;

(3) a summary of how the majority of development soils in the State are being managed;

(4) an estimate of the cost to manage development soils, depending on management method; and

(5) any additional information the Secretary determines relevant to the management of development soils in the State.

(b) As used in this section, "development soil" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6602(39).

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6641 is amended to read:

§ 6641. BROWNFIELD PROPERTY CLEANUP PROGRAM; CREATION; POWERS

(a) There is created the Brownfield Property Cleanup Program to enable certain interested parties to request the assistance of the Secretary to review and oversee work plans for investigating, abating, removing, remediating, and monitoring a property in exchange for protection from certain liabilities under section 6615 of this title. The Program shall be administered by the Secretary who shall:

* * *

(c) When conducting any review required by this subchapter, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of remediation at a site that contains housing or that is planned for the construction or rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing.

Sec. 23. BROWNFIELDS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT; REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House Committees on Environment and on General and Housing and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy with proposals to make the Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 3

(brownfields reuse and liability limitation) substantially more efficient. At a minimum, the report shall include both of the following:

(1) A survey of stakeholders in the brownfields program to identify areas that present challenges to the redevelopment of contaminated properties, with a focus on redevelopment for housing. The Secretary shall provide recommendations to resolve these challenges.

(2) An analysis of strengths and weaknesses of implementing a licensed site professional program within the State. The Secretary shall make a recommendation on whether such a program should be implemented. If the Secretary recommends implementation, the report shall include any changes to statute or budget needed to implement this program.

Sec. 24. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1103, as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 43, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1103 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2024

ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(h) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of $2,500,000 General Fund is appropriated to the ~~Department of Environmental Conservation~~ Environmental Contingency Fund established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1283 for the Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act as codified in 10 V.S.A. chapter 159. Funds shall be used for the assessment ~~and cleanup~~, planning, and cleanup of brownfields sites.

* * *

* * * Tax Increment Financing * * *

Sec. 25. 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Community and Housing Infrastructure Program

§ 1906. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Brownfield" means a property on which the presence or potential presence of a hazardous material, pollutant, or contaminant complicates the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property.

(2) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the current and future payment of financing and related costs.

(3) "Developer" means the person undertaking to construct a housing development.

(4) "Financing" means debt, including principal, interest, and any fees or charges directly related to that debt, incurred by a sponsor, or other instruments or borrowing used by a sponsor, to pay for a housing infrastructure project and, in the case of a sponsor that is a municipality, authorized by the municipality pursuant to section 1910a of this subchapter.

(5) "Household of low income" means a household earning up to 80 percent of area median income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) "Household of moderate income" means a household earning up to 120 percent of area median income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(7) "Housing development" means the construction, rehabilitation, or renovation of any building on a housing development site approved under this subchapter.

(8) "Housing development site" means the parcel or parcels encompassing a housing development as authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(9) "Housing infrastructure agreement" means a legally binding agreement to finance and develop a housing infrastructure project and to construct a housing development among a municipality, a developer, and, if applicable, a third-party sponsor.

(10) "Housing infrastructure project" means one or more improvements authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(11) "Improvements" means:

(A) the installation, construction, or rehabilitation of infrastructure that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose of housing infrastructure tax increment financing as stated in section 1907 of this subchapter, including utilities, digital infrastructure, roads, bridges, sidewalks, parking, public facilities and amenities, public recreation, land and property acquisition and demolition, brownfield remediation, site preparation, and flood remediation and mitigation; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

(12) "Legislative body" means the mayor and alderboard, the city council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated village, as appropriate.

(13) "Low or moderate income housing" means housing for which the total annual cost of renting or ownership, as applicable, does not exceed 30 percent of the gross annual income of a household of low income or a household of moderate income.

(14) "Low or moderate income housing development" means a housing development of which at least 20 percent of the units are low or moderate income housing units. Low or moderate income housing units shall be subject to covenants or restrictions that preserve their affordability until all indebtedness for the housing infrastructure project of which the housing development is part has been retired.

(15) "Municipality" means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(16) "Original taxable value" means the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within a housing development site as of its creation date, provided that no parcel within the housing development site shall be divided or bisected.

(17) "Related costs" means expenses incurred and paid by a municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of the municipality's housing infrastructure project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the municipality for those purposes. Related costs may include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the housing infrastructure project to the extent they are paid from the tax increment realized from municipal and not education taxes and using only that portion of the municipal increment above the percentage required for serving debt as determined in accordance with subsection 1910c(c) of this subchapter.

(18) "Sponsor" means the person undertaking to finance a housing infrastructure project. Any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards may serve as a sponsor for a housing infrastructure project.

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of housing infrastructure tax increment financing is to provide revenues for improvements and related costs to encourage the development of primary residences for households of low or moderate income.

§ 1908. CREATION OF HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may create within its jurisdiction a housing infrastructure project, which shall consist of improvements that stimulate the development of housing, and a housing development site, which shall consist of the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is installed or constructed and any immediately contiguous parcels.

(b) To create a housing infrastructure project and housing development site, a municipality, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop a housing development plan, including:

(A) a description of the proposed housing infrastructure project, the proposed housing development, and the proposed housing development site;

(B) identification of a sponsor;

(C) a tax increment financing plan meeting the standards of subsection 1910(f) of this subchapter;

(D) a pro forma projection of expected costs of the proposed housing infrastructure project;

(E) a projection of the tax increment to be generated by the proposed housing development;

(F) a development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for the proposed housing infrastructure project and the proposed housing development; and

(G) a determination that the proposed housing development furthers the purposes of section 1907 of this subchapter;

(2) develop a plan describing the housing development site by its boundaries and the properties therein, entitled "Proposed Housing Development Site (municipal name), Vermont";

(3) hold one or more public hearings, after public notice, on the proposed housing infrastructure project, including the plans developed pursuant to this subsection; and

(4) adopt by act of the legislative body of the municipality the plan developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection, which shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor.

(c) The creation of a housing development site shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the calendar year in which the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the use of tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

§ 1909. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

(a) The housing infrastructure agreement for a housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) clearly identify the sponsor for the housing infrastructure project;

(2) clearly identify the developer and the housing development for the housing development site;

(3) obligate the tax increments retained pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter for not more than the financing and related costs for the housing infrastructure project;

(4) provide terms and sufficient remedies or, if the municipality so elects, an ordinance to ensure that any housing unit within the housing development be initially offered exclusively as a bona fide domicile; and

(5) provide for performance assurances to reasonably secure the obligations of all parties under the housing infrastructure agreement.

(b) A municipality shall provide notice of the terms of the housing infrastructure agreement for the municipality's housing infrastructure project to the legal voters of the municipality and shall provide the same information as set forth in subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter.

§ 1910. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION;

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Application. A municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council to use tax increment financing for a housing infrastructure project.

(b) Review. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve only applications that:

(1) meet the process requirements, either of the project criteria, and either of the location criteria of this section; and

(2) are submitted on or before December 31, 2035.

(c) Process requirements. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the municipality has:

(1) created a housing infrastructure project and housing development site pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter;

(2) executed a housing infrastructure agreement for the housing infrastructure project adhering to the standards of section 1909 of this subchapter with a developer and, if the municipality is not financing the housing infrastructure project itself, a sponsor; and

(3) approved or pledged to use incremental municipal tax revenues for the housing infrastructure project in the proportion provided for municipal tax revenues in section 1910c of this subchapter.

(d) Project criteria.

(1) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether:

(A) at least 70 percent of the gross floor area of the projected housing development is dedicated to housing; and

(B) the proposed housing development furthers the purposes of section 1907 of this title.

(2) If the Vermont Economic Progress Council determines that a municipality's housing infrastructure project application satisfies the process requirements and either of the location criteria of this section but does not satisfy the project criterion under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Council shall request the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program Board to determine whether the projected housing development will meaningfully address the purposes in section 1907 of this subchapter and the housing needs of the community, and the Board's affirmative determination will satisfy this project criterion.

(e) Location criteria. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the housing development site is located within one of the following areas, provided that a housing development for which all permits required pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) have been secured as of the time of application shall be deemed to have satisfied the location criteria of this subsection:

(1) an area designated Tier 1A or Tier 1B pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) or an area exempt from the provisions of that chapter pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6081(dd) (interim housing exemptions);

(2) an existing settlement or an area within one-half mile of an existing settlement, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(16); or

(3) an area located in Tier 2 pursuant to 10 V.S.A chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) that has permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws and where the project site would be eligible to become Tier 1 when the improvements funded in the housing infrastructure project are complete.

(f) Low or moderate affordability criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the projected housing development is a low or moderate income housing development.

(g) Tax increment financing plan. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve a municipality's tax increment financing plan prior to a sponsor's incurrence of debt for the housing infrastructure project, including, if the sponsor is a municipality, prior to a public vote to pledge the credit of the municipality under section 1910a of this subchapter. The tax increment financing plan shall include:

(1) a statement of costs and sources of revenue;

(2) estimates of assessed values within the housing development site;

(3) the portion of those assessed values to be applied to the housing infrastructure project;

(4) the resulting tax increments in each year of the financial plan;

(5) the amount of bonded indebtedness or other financing to be incurred;

(6) other sources of financing and anticipated revenues; and

(7) the duration of the financial plan.

§ 1910a. INDEBTEDNESS

(a) A municipality approved for tax increment financing under section 1910 of this subchapter may incur indebtedness against revenues of the housing development site at any time during a period of up to five years following the creation of the housing development site. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may extend this debt incursion period by up to three years. If no debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project during

the debt incursion period, whether by the municipality or sponsor, the housing development site shall terminate.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter, each instance of borrowing by a municipality to finance or otherwise pay for a housing infrastructure project shall occur only after the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so warned.

(c) Any indebtedness incurred under this section may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of the municipality.

(d) The housing development site shall continue until the date and hour the indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, five years following the creation of the housing development site.

(e) A municipal legislative body shall provide information to the public prior to the public vote required under subsection (b) of this section. This information shall include the amount and types of debt and related costs to be incurred, including principal, interest, and fees; terms of the debt; the housing infrastructure project to be financed; the housing development projected to occur because of the housing infrastructure project; and notice to the voters that if the tax increment received by the municipality from any property tax source is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt in any year, the municipality shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of the indebtedness. If interfund loans within the municipality are used, the information must also include documentation of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(f) If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of financing, no interest shall be charged.

(g) The use of a bond anticipation note shall not be considered a first incurrence of debt pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1910b. ORIGINAL TAXABLE VALUE; TAX INCREMENT

(a) As of the date the housing development site is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the housing development site the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property within the housing development site has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.

(b) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the lister or assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which the housing development site is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year.

(c) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, a municipality shall remit not less than the aggregate education property tax due on the original taxable value to the Education Fund.

(d) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts, that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the housing development site that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount held apart each year is the "tax increment" for that year. The tax increment shall only be used for financing and related costs.

(e) Not more than the percentages established pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter of the municipal and State education tax increments received with respect to the housing development site and committed for the payment for financing for improvements and related costs shall be segregated by the municipality in a special tax increment financing account and in its official books and records until all capital indebtedness incurred for the housing infrastructure project has been fully paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter include the entire assessed valuation of the housing development site in the assessed valuations upon which the municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended, and thereafter no taxes from the housing development site shall be deposited in the special tax increment financing account.

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87 of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site.

§ 1910c. USE OF TAX INCREMENT; RETENTION PERIOD

(a) Uses of tax increments. A municipality may apply tax increments retained pursuant to this subchapter to debt incurred within the period permitted under section 1910a of this subchapter, to related costs, and to the

direct payment of the cost of a housing infrastructure project. A municipality may provide tax increment to a sponsor only upon receipt of an invoice for payment of the financing, and the sponsor shall confirm to the municipality once the tax increment has been applied to the financing. Any direct payment shall be subject to the same public vote provisions of section 1910a of this subchapter as apply to debt.

(b) Education property tax increment.

(1) For a housing infrastructure project that does not satisfy the low or moderate affordability criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 70 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(2) For a housing infrastructure project that satisfies the low or moderate affordability criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 80 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(3) Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the retention period of the education property tax increment.

(c) Municipal property tax increment. Not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment may be retained, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(d) Excess tax increment.

(1) Of the municipal and education property tax increments received in any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the financing and related costs for a housing infrastructure project, equal portions of each increment may be retained for the following purposes:

(A) to prepay principal and interest on the financing;

(B) to place in a special tax increment financing account required pursuant to subsection 1910b(e) of this subchapter and use for future financing payments; or

(C) to use for defeasance of the financing.

(2) Any remaining portion of the excess education property tax increment shall be distributed to the Education Fund. Any remaining portion of the excess municipal property tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village budget in the proportion that each budget bears to the

combined total of the budgets unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village.

(e) Adjustment of percentage. During the 10th year following the creation of a housing development site, the municipality shall submit an updated tax increment financing plan to the Vermont Economic Progress Council that shall include adjustments and updates of appropriate data and information sufficient for the Vermont Economic Progress Council to determine, based on tax increment financing debt actually incurred and the history of increment generated during the first 10 years, whether the percentages approved under this section should be continued or adjusted to a lower percentage to be retained for the remaining duration of the retention period and still provide sufficient municipal and education increment to service the remaining debt.

§ 1910d. INFORMATION REPORTING

(a) A municipality with an active housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) develop a system, segregated for the housing infrastructure project, to identify, collect, and maintain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting requirements of this section;

(2) provide timely notification to the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of any housing infrastructure project debt, public vote, or vote by the municipal legislative body immediately following the debt incurrence or public vote on a form prescribed by the Council, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a copy of the information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter;

(3) annually on or before February 15, submit on a form prescribed by the Vermont Economic Progress Council an annual report to the Council and the Department of Taxes, including the information required by subdivision (2) of this subsection if not previously submitted, the information required for annual audit under section 1910e of this subchapter, and any information required by the Council or the Department of Taxes for the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Annually on or before April 1, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means on housing infrastructure projects approved pursuant to this subchapter, including for each:

(1) the date of approval;

(2) a description of the housing infrastructure project;

(3) the original taxable value of the housing development site;

(4) the scope and value of projected and actual improvements and developments in the housing development site, including the number of housing units created;

(5) the expected or actual sale and rental prices of any housing units;

(6) the number of housing units known to be occupied on a basis other than as primary residences;

(7) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

(8) projected and actual incremental revenue amounts;

(9) the allocation of incremental revenue, including the amount allocated to related costs; and

(10) projected and actual financing.

(c) On or before January 15, 2030, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means that:

(1) describes for each housing development site the change in assessed valuation and the municipal grand list across the life of the housing infrastructure project;

(2) describes barriers municipalities, developers, and sponsors encounter in using the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program; and

(3) provides considerations for updating the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program to address any barriers identified under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(d) On or before January 15, 2035, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through

the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criterion and location criteria of section 1910 of this chapter.

§ 1910e. AUDITING

Annually on or before April 1 until the year following the end of the period for retention of education property tax increment, a municipality with a housing infrastructure project approved under this subchapter shall ensure that the special tax increment financing account required by section 1910b of this subchapter is subject to the annual audit prescribed in section 1681 or 1690 of this title and submit a copy to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. If an account is subject only to the audit under section 1681 of this title, the Council shall ensure a process is in place to subject the account to an independent audit. Procedures for the audit must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total municipal and education property tax increments generated, expenditures for financing and related costs, and current balance.

§ 1910f. GUIDANCE

(a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, after reasonable notice to a municipality and an opportunity for a hearing, may issue decisions to a municipality on questions and inquiries concerning the administration of housing infrastructure projects, statutes, rules, noncompliance with this subchapter, and any instances of noncompliance identified in audit reports conducted pursuant to section 1910e of this subchapter.

(b) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall prepare recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development prior to any decision issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The Council may prepare recommendations in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer. In preparing recommendations, the Council shall provide a municipality with a reasonable opportunity to submit written information in support of its position.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall review the recommendations of the Council and issue a final written decision on each matter within 60 days following receipt of the recommendations. The Secretary may permit an appeal to be taken by any party to a Superior Court for determination of questions of law in the same manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from a Superior Court before issuing a final decision.

(d) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter.

§ 1910g. COMMUNITY AND HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM BOARD

(a) Creation. There is created the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program Board to assist the Vermont Economic Progress Council with evaluating a municipality's housing infrastructure project application pursuant to subsection 1910(d) of this subchapter.

(b) Membership. The Board shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the State Treasurer, who shall serve as chair of the Board;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency;

(3) the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Economic Development Authority;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank; and

(5) the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

(c) Duties. Upon request of the Vermont Economic Progress Council, the Board shall evaluate the housing development plan component of a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the proposed housing development will meaningfully serve the housing needs of the community. The Board shall respond with its determination not later than 30 days following receipt of the request from the Vermont Economic Progress Council.

(d) Assistance. The Board shall have the administrative and technical assistance of the Office of the State Treasurer.

(e) Meetings. The Board shall meet upon request of the Vermont Economic Progress Council.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Board shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under section 1010 of this title.

(g) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Board under subsection (c) of this section is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

Sec. 26. 24 V.S.A. § 1910(e) is amended to read:

(e) Location criteria. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the housing development site is located within one of the following areas, provided that a housing development for which all permits required

pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) have been secured as of the time of application shall be deemed to have satisfied the location criteria of this subsection:

(1) an area designated Tier 1A or Tier 1B pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) or an area exempt from the provisions of that chapter pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6081(dd) (interim housing exemptions); ~~or~~

(2) an existing settlement or an area within one-half mile of an existing settlement, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(16); ~~or~~

(3) an area located in Tier 2 pursuant to 10 V.S.A chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) that has permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws and where the project site would be eligible to become Tier 1 when the improvements funded in the housing infrastructure project are complete; or

(4) an area located in Tier 2 pursuant to 10 V.S.A chapter 151 (State and use and development plans) that has permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws and has been delineated as a Transition or Infill area on the regional plan future land use map pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4348.

* * * Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms * * *

Sec. 27. 9 V.S.A. chapter 77 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77. SMOKE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS

§ 2881. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Smoke ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

(3) "Carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device with an assembly that incorporates a sensor control component and an alarm notification that detects elevations in carbon monoxide levels and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

§ 2882. INSTALLATION

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling, and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) Any single-family dwelling when transferred by sale or exchange shall contain ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A single-family dwelling constructed before January 1, 1994 may contain smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after January 1, 1994 that is provided with electrical power, smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after July 1, 2005 that is provided with electrical power, carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require an owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling to maintain or use a smoke ~~detector~~ alarm or a carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm after installation.

§ 2883. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF DWELLING

(a) The seller of a single-family dwelling, including one constructed for first occupancy, whether the transfer is by sale or exchange, shall certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in accordance with this chapter. This certification shall be signed and dated by the seller.

(b) If the buyer notifies the seller within 10 days by certified mail from the date of conveyance of the dwelling that the dwelling lacks any ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms, or any carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms, or that any ~~detector~~ alarm is not operable, the seller shall comply with this chapter within 10 days after notification.

* * *

Sec. 28. 20 V.S.A. § 2731 is amended to read:

§ 2731. RULES; INSPECTIONS; VARIANCES

* * *

(j) ~~Detectors~~ Alarms. Rules adopted under this section shall require that information written, approved, and distributed by the Commissioner on the type, placement, and installation of ~~photoelectric~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms be conspicuously posted in the retail sales area where the ~~detectors~~ alarms are sold.

* * *

* * * VHFA Off-Site Construction * * *

Sec. 29. VHFA OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Provided there are sufficient resources, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall issue a report by December 15, 2026 that, at a minimum:

(1) identifies and recommends a set of State policy objectives and priorities related to off-site housing construction;

(2) defines the structure and relevant actors for using bulk purchases of single- and multi-family homes produced through off-site construction to achieve lower construction costs;

(3) gathers input from potential manufacturers about how to best achieve cost savings through a bulk purchase program;

(4) determines any business planning support needed for existing Vermont businesses seeking to develop or expand off-site construction;

(5) explores creating a working group of neighboring states that considers a regional market and shared approach; and

(6) prepares an analysis of the funding and structure needed to support greater development of off-site homes.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 30. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that:

(1) Secs. 4 (Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program), Sec. 5 (Universal Design Study Committee), and Sec. 8 (repeal, Act 181 prospective landlord certificate changes) and this section shall take effect on passage; and

(2) Sec. 26 (24 V.S.A. § 1910(e)) shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the report of the Committee on General and Housing be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program.

* * *

(5)(A) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and governmental subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out the purposes of this ~~subsection~~ section.

(B) Solely with regards to actions undertaken pursuant to this subdivision (5), entities carrying out the provisions of this section, including grantees, subgrantees, and contractors of the State, shall be exempt from the provisions of 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators, sales finance companies, and loan solicitation companies).

* * *

(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.

(1)(A) A grant or loan shall not exceed~~:~~

~~(i) $70,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of an eligible rental housing unit meeting the applicable building accessibility requirements under the Vermont Access Rules; or~~

~~(ii)~~ $50,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of any other eligible rental housing unit. Up to an additional $20,000.00 per unit may be made available for specific elements that collectively bring the unit to the visitable standard outlined in the rules adopted by the Vermont Access Board.

* * *

(e) Program requirements applicable to grants and five-year forgivable loans. For a grant or five-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:

(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local ~~coordinated entry~~ homelessness service organizations approved by the Department to identify potential tenants.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision ~~(2)~~(B) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (e)(2), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:

(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;

(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; ~~or~~

(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who receives or is ~~eligible~~ approved to receive Medicaid-funded ~~home and community based~~ home- and community-based services or Social Security Disability Insurance;

(iv) displaced due to a natural disaster; or

(v) with approval from the Department in writing, an organization that will hold a master lease that explicitly states the unit will be used in service of the populations described in this subsection (e).

* * *

(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the grant.

(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive a ~~10-percent~~ prorated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the landlord participates in the Program.

(f) Requirements applicable to 10-year forgivable loans. For a 10-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of 10 years:

(1) ~~A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local coordinated entry organizations to identify potential tenants~~ The total cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, except that a landlord may accept a housing voucher that exceeds fair market rent, if available.

(2)~~(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (f), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:~~

~~(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;~~

~~(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; or~~

~~(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who is eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.~~

~~(B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing organization that issued the grant determines that a household under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (f) is not available to lease the unit, then the landlord shall lease the unit:~~

~~(i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of area median income; or~~

~~(ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with the approval of the Department or housing organization.~~

~~(3)(A)~~ A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.

~~(B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.~~

~~(4)~~(3) The Department shall forgive ~~10 percent of the~~ a prorated amount of a forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.

(g) Minimum funding for grants and five-year forgivable loans.

(1) Annually, the Department shall establish a minimum allocation of funding set aside to be used for five-year grants or forgivable loans to serve eligible households pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Remaining funds may be used for either five-year grants or forgivable loans or 10-year forgivable loans pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. The set aside shall be a minimum of 30 percent of funds disbursed annually.

(2) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to evaluate factors in establishing the amount of the set aside, including:

(A) the availability of housing vouchers;

(B) the current need for housing for eligible households;

(C) the ability and desire of landlords to house eligible households;

(D) the support services available for landlords; and

(E) the prior uptake and success rates for participating landlords.

(3) The Department shall coordinate with the local Coordinated Entry Lead Agencies and Homeownership Centers to direct referrals for those individuals or families prioritized to be housed pursuant to the five-year grants or forgivable loans.

(4) Funds from the set aside not utilized after nine months shall become available for 10-year forgivable loans.

(5) The Department shall annually publish the amount of the set aside on its website.

* * *

(i) Creation of the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program Revolving Fund. Funds repaid or returned to the Department from forgivable loans or grants funded by the Program shall return to the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Revolving Fund to be used for Program expenditures and administrative costs at the discretion of the Department.

(j) Annual report. Annually, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the following:

(1) separately, the number of units funded and the number of units rehabilitated through grants, through a five-year forgivable loan, and through a 10-year forgivable loan;

(2) for grants and five-year forgivable loans, for the first year after the expiration of the lease requirements outlined in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, whether the unit is still occupied by a tenant who meets the qualifications of that subdivision;

(3) for each program, for the first year after the expiration of the applicable lease requirements outlined in this section, the amount of rent charged by the landlord and how that rent compares to fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(4) the rate of turnover for tenants housed utilizing grants or five-year forgivable loans and 10-year forgivable loans separately.

* * * MHIR * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 700 is added to read:

§ 700. VERMONT MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) There is created within the Department of Housing and Community Development the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program. The Department shall design and implement the Program to award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide financial assistance or awards to manufactured homeowners and manufactured home park owners to improve existing homes, incentivize new slab placement for prospective homeowners, and incentivize park improvements for infill of more homes.

(b) The following projects are eligible for funding through the Program:

(1) The Department may award up to $20,000.00 to owners of manufactured housing communities to complete small-scale capital needs to help infill vacant lots with homes, including disposal of abandoned homes, lot grading and preparation, the siting and upgrading of electrical boxes, enhancing E-911 safety issues, transporting homes out of flood zones, and improving individual septic systems. Costs awarded under this subdivision may also cover legal fees and marketing to help make it easier for home-seekers to find vacant lots around the State.

(2) The Department may award funding to manufactured homeowners for which the home is their primary residence to address habitability and accessibility issues to bring the home into compliance with safe living conditions.

(3) The Department may award up to $15,000.00 per grant to a homeowner to pay for a foundation or federal Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved slab, site preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and utility connections on vacant lots within a manufactured home community.

(c) The Department may adopt rules, policies, and guidelines to aid in enacting the Program.

* * * Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund * * *

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. chapter 119, subchapter 6 is amended to read:

Subchapter 6. Special Funds

* * *

§ 4686. VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund within the Vermont Bond Bank.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to provide capital to extend and increase capacity of water and sewer service and other public infrastructure in municipalities where lack of extension or capacity is a barrier to housing development.

(c) Administration. The Vermont Bond Bank may administer the Fund in coordination with and support from other State agencies, government component parts, and quasi-governmental agencies.

(d) Program parameters.

(1) The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall develop program guidelines to effectively implement the Fund.

(2) The program shall provide low-interest loans or purchase bonds from municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. Eligible activities include:

(A) preliminary engineering and planning;

(B) engineering design and bid specifications;

(C) construction for municipal water and wastewater systems;

(D) transportation investments, including those required by municipal regulation, the municipality's official map, designation requirements, or other planning or engineering identifying complete streets and transportation and transit related improvements, including improvements to existing streets; and

(E) other eligible activities as determined by the guidelines produced by the Vermont Bond Bank in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Application requirements. Eligible project applications shall demonstrate:

(1) the project will create reserve capacity necessary for new housing unit development;

(2) the project has a direct link to housing unit production; and

(3) the municipality has a commitment to own and operate the project throughout its useful life.

(f) Application criteria. In addition to any criteria developed in the program guidelines, project applications shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

(1) whether there is a direct connection to proposed or in-progress housing development with demonstrable progress toward regional housing targets;

(2) whether the project is an expansion of an existing system;

(3) the proximity to a designated area;

(4) the project readiness and estimated time until the need for financing;

(5) the demonstration of financing for project completion or completion of a project component; and

(6) the relative need and capacity of the community.

(g) Award terms. The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall establish award terms that may include:

(1) the maximum loan or bond amount;

(2) the maximum term of the loan or bond amount;

(3) the time by which amortization shall commence;

(4) the maximum interest rate;

(5) whether the loan is eligible for forgiveness and to what percentage or amount;

(6) the necessary security for the loan or bond; and

(7) any additional covenants required to further secure the loan or bond.

(h) Revolving fund.

(1) Any funds repaid or returned from the Infrastructure Sustainability Fund shall be deposited into the Fund and used to continue the program established in this section.

(2) The Bank may use the funds in conjunction with other Bank programs to accomplish the policy objectives outlined in this section.

* * * VHFA Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program * * *

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

* * *

* * * Universal Design Study Committee * * *

Sec. 5. RESIDENTIAL UNIVERSAL DESIGN STANDARDS; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Residential Universal Design Study Committee to explore implementation of statewide universal design standards for all residential buildings.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members with preference for appointment of members with lived experience:

(1) one member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) one member, appointed by the Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association;

(4) one member, appointed by the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects;

(5) the Director of Fire Safety or designee;

(6) one member of the Vermont Access Board, appointed by the Chair;

(7) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency;

(8) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board;

(9) one member, appointed by the Vermont Center for Independent Living;

(10) one member, appointed by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(11) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(12) one member, appointed by the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns;

(13) one member, appointed by the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association;

(14) one member, appointed by the Vermont Association of Realtors;

(15) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living or designee;

(16) one member, appointed by ADA Inspections Nationwide, LLC; and

(17) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the development and implementation of statewide universal design standards for residential buildings, including identification and analysis of the following issues:

(1) existing federal and state laws regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12213, standards and building codes;

(2) existing federal, state, and international best practices and standards addressing accessibility and adaptability characteristics of single-family and multiunit buildings;

(3) opportunities and challenges for supporting the residential building industry in meeting universal design standards, including considerations of workforce education and training;

(4) cost benefits and impacts of adopting a universal design standard for residential buildings;

(5) opportunities and challenges with enforcement of identified standards; and

(6) impacts to the valuation and financing of impacted buildings.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Report. On or before November 1, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The member of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before June 1, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 1, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subdivision (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee * * *

Sec. 6. STATE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee to generate a State plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) the State Treasurer or designee;

(7) one member, appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative;

(8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(9) one member, appointed by Green Mountain Self-Advocates;

(10) one member, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(11) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; and

(12) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall create an actionable plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities that reflects the diversity of needs expressed by those individuals and their families, including individuals with high-support needs who require 24-hour care and those with specific communication needs. The plan shall include:

(1) a schedule for the creation of at least 600 additional units of service-supported housing;

(2) the number and description of the support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities anticipated to be served annually;

(3) anticipated funding needs; and

(4) recommendations for changes in State laws or policies that are obstacles to the development of housing needed by individuals with Medicaid-funded home-and community-based services.

(d) Assistance.

(1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(2) Upon request of the Committee, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall provide an analysis of the current state of housing in Vermont for individuals with development disabilities and, to the extent available, an analysis of the level of community support needed for these individuals.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on November 30, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subsection (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Tax Department Housing Data Access * * *

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 5404 is amended to read:

§ 5404. DETERMINATION OF EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND LIST

* * *

(b) Annually, on or before August 15, the clerk of a municipality, or the supervisor of an unorganized town or gore, shall transmit to the Director in an electronic or other format as prescribed by the Director~~:~~ education and municipal grand list data, including exemption information and grand list abstracts; tax rates; an extract of the assessor database also referred to as a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system or Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal database; and the total amount of taxes assessed in the town or unorganized town or gore. The data transmitted shall identify each parcel by a parcel identification number assigned under a numbering system prescribed by the Director. Municipalities may continue to use existing numbering systems in addition to, but not in substitution for, the parcel identification system prescribed by the Director. If changes or additions to the grand list are made by the listers or other officials authorized to do so after such abstract has been so transmitted, such clerks shall forthwith certify the same to the Director.

* * *

* * * Landlord Certificate * * *

Sec. 8. REPEAL; ACT 181 PROSPECTIVE LANDLORD CERTIFICATE CHANGES

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Secs. 98 (landlord certificate amendments) and 114(5) (effective date of landlord certificate amendments) are repealed.

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 6069 is amended to read:

§ 6069. LANDLORD CERTIFICATE

* * *

(b) The owner of each rental property shall, on or before January 31 of each year, furnish a certificate of rent to the Department of Taxes.

(c) A certificate under this section shall be in a form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include the following:

(1) the name of ~~the~~ each renter~~,~~;

(2) the address and ~~any property tax parcel identification number of the homestead, the information required under subsection (f) of this section,~~ the School Property Account Number of the rental property;

(3) the name of the owner or landlord of the rental property;

(4) the phone number, email address, and mailing address of the owner or landlord of the rental property, as available;

(5) the type or types of rental units on the rental property;

(6) the number of rental units on the rental property;

(7) the number of ADA-accessible units on the rental property; and

(8) any additional information that the Commissioner determines is appropriate.

* * *

(f) ~~Annually on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this section:~~

~~(1) name of owner or landlord;~~

~~(2) mailing address of landlord;~~

~~(3) location of rental unit;~~

~~(4) type of rental unit;~~

~~(5) number of units in building; and~~

~~(6) School Property Account Number.~~ Annually on or before December 15, the Department shall submit a report on the aggregated data collected under this section to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

* * * Land Bank Report * * *

Sec. 10. DHCD LAND BANK REPORT

(a) On or before November 1, 2025, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue a report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs outlining a legal framework for implementation of a State land bank. The report shall include proposed legislative language specific to:

(1) the creation of a statewide land bank;

(2) the authorization of regional or municipal land banks; and

(3) the identification of funding proposals to support the sustainability of each separate model.

(b) The report shall include an analysis on which option, the creation of a statewide land bank or the authorization of regional or municipal land banks, best serves the interest of Vermont communities, including rural communities.

* * * Housing and Public Accommodations Protections * * *

Sec. 11. 9 V.S.A. § 4456a is amended to read:

§ 4456a. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL APPLICATION ~~FEES; PROHIBITED~~

(a) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not charge an application fee to any individual in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit. This ~~section~~ subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a person from charging a fee to a person in order to apply to rent commercial or nonresidential property.

(b)(1) In order to conduct a background or credit check, a landlord shall accept any of the following:

(A) an original or a copy of any unexpired form of government-issued identification;

(B) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; or

(C) a Social Security number.

(2) A residential rental application shall inform an applicant that the applicant may provide any of the above forms of identification in order to conduct a background or credit check.

Sec. 12. 9 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12)(A) "Harass" means to engage in unwelcome conduct that detracts from, undermines, or interferes with a person's:

(i) use of a place of public accommodation or any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of a place of public accommodation because of the person's race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(ii) terms, conditions, privileges, or protections in the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the person's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability, or because the person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because the person is a recipient of public assistance, or because the person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

Sec. 13. 9 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

(a) An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of such owner or operator shall not, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person, refuse, withhold from, or deny to that person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of the place of public accommodation.

* * *

Sec. 14. 9 V.S.A. § 4503 is amended to read:

§ 4503. UNFAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(1) To refuse to sell or rent, or refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling or other real estate to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(2) To discriminate against, or to harass, any person in the terms, conditions, privileges, and protections of the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) To make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(4) To represent to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, that any dwelling or other real estate is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when the dwelling or real estate is in fact so available.

* * *

(6) To discriminate against any person in the making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance for real-estate-related transactions or in the selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(7) To engage in blockbusting practices, for profit, which may include inducing or attempting to induce a person to sell or rent a dwelling by representations regarding the entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation, on account of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

(12) To discriminate in land use decisions or in the permitting of housing because of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, disability, the presence of one or more minor children, income, or because of the receipt of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, except as otherwise provided by law.

* * *

(d) If required by federal law, the verification of immigration status or differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status shall not constitute a violation of subsection (a) of this section with respect to the sale and rental of dwellings.

(e) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6) of this section, it shall not constitute unlawful discrimination for a lender to consider a credit applicant's immigration status to the extent such status has bearing on the lender's rights and remedies regarding loan repayment and further provided such consideration is consistent with any applicable federal law or regulation.

* * * Housing Appeals * * *

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 8502 is amended to read:

§ 8502. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Person aggrieved" means a person who alleges an injury to a particularized interest protected by the provisions of law listed in section 8503 of this title, attributable to an act or decision by a district coordinator, District Commission, the Secretary, an appropriate municipal panel, or the Environmental Division that can be redressed by the Environmental Division or the Supreme Court.

* * *

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:

§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

* * *

(b) Planning and zoning chapter appeals.

(1) Within 30 days of the date of the act or decision, an interested person, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4465, or a person aggrieved, who has participated as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4471 in the municipal regulatory proceeding under that chapter may appeal to the Environmental Division an act or decision made under that chapter by a board of adjustment, a planning commission, or a development review board; provided, however, that decisions of a development review board under 24 V.S.A. § 4420 with respect to local Act 250 review of municipal impacts are not subject to appeal but shall serve as presumptions under chapter 151 of this title.

* * *

(h) De novo hearing. The Environmental Division, applying the substantive standards that were applicable before the tribunal appealed from, shall hold a de novo hearing on those issues that have been appealed~~, except~~. For a municipal land use permit application for a housing development, if the appeal is of a denial, the Environmental Division shall determine if the

application is consistent with the municipal bylaw or land use regulation that directly affects the property or if the appeal is of an approval, if the application is inconsistent with the municipal bylaw or land use regulation that directly affects the property. It shall not be de novo in the case of:

(1) a decision being appealed on the record pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 117; or

(2) a decision of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation under section 2625 of this title being appealed on the record, in which case the court shall affirm the decision, unless it finds that the Commissioner did not have reasonable grounds on which to base the decision.

* * *

(k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section:

(1) there shall be no appeal from a District Commission decision when the Commission has issued a permit and no hearing was requested or held, or no motion to alter was filed following the issuance of an administrative amendment;

(2) a municipal decision regarding whether a particular application qualifies for a recorded hearing under 24 V.S.A. § 4471(b) shall not be subject to appeal;

(3) if a District Commission issues a partial decision under subsection 6086(b) of this title, any appeal of that decision must be taken within 30 days following the date of that decision; ~~and~~

(4) it shall be the goal of the Environmental Division to issue a decision on a case regarding an appeal of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 90 days following the close of the hearing; and

(5) except for cases the court considers of greater importance, appeals of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 involving housing development take precedence on the docket over other cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument accordingly.

* * *

Sec. 17. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

* * *

(b) As used in this chapter, an "interested person" means any one of the following:

(1) A person owning title to property, or a municipality or solid waste management district empowered to condemn it or an interest in it, affected by a bylaw, who alleges that the bylaw imposes on the property unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions of present or potential use under the particular circumstances of the case.

(2) The municipality that has a plan or a bylaw at issue in an appeal brought under this chapter or any municipality that adjoins that municipality.

(3) ~~A person owning or occupying property in the immediate neighborhood of a property that is the subject of any decision or act taken under this chapter, who can demonstrate a physical or environmental impact on the person's interest under the criteria reviewed, and who alleges that the decision or act, if confirmed, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality~~.

~~(4) Any 20 persons who may be any combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection who, by signed petition to the appropriate municipal panel of a municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is at issue in any appeal brought under this title, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the appropriate municipal panel must designate one person to serve as the representative of the petitioners regarding all matters related to the appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, an appeal shall not include the character of the area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable housing.~~

~~(5)~~ Any department and administrative subdivision of this State owning property or any interest in property within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development of this State.

* * *

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4441 is amended to read:

§ 4441. PREPARATION OF BYLAWS AND REGULATORY TOOLS; AMENDMENT OR REPEAL

* * *

(i) Notwithstanding this section and any other law to the contrary, for bylaw amendments that are required to comply with amendments to this chapter, no hearings are required to be held on the bylaw amendments.

* * * LURB Study * * *

Sec. 19. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 11a is amended to read:

Sec. 11a. ACT 250 APPEALS STUDY

(a) On or before ~~January 15, 2026~~ November 15, 2025, the Land Use Review Board shall issue a report evaluating whether to transfer appeals of permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to the Land Use Review Board or whether they should remain at the Environmental Division of the Superior Court. The Board shall convene a stakeholder group that at a minimum shall be composed of a representative of environmental interests, attorneys that practice environmental and development law in Vermont, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Association of Realtors, a representative of ~~non-profit~~ nonprofit housing development interests, a representative of for-profit housing development interests, a representative of commercial development interests, an engineer with experience in development, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Natural Resources in preparing the report. The Board shall provide notice of the stakeholder meetings on its website and each meeting shall provide time for public comment.

(b) The report shall at minimum recommend:

(1) whether to allow consolidation of appeals at the Board, or with the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, and how, including what resources the Board would need, if transferred to the Board, appeals of permit decisions issued under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the Agency of Natural Resources can be consolidated with Act 250 appeals;

(2) how to prioritize and expedite the adjudication of appeals related to housing projects, including the use of hearing officers to expedite appeals and the setting of timelines for processing of housing appeals;

(3) procedural rules to govern the Board's administration of Act 250 and the adjudication of appeals of Act 250 decisions. These rules shall include procedures to create a firewall and eliminate any potential for conflicts with the Board managing appeals and issuing permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions; and

(4) other actions the Board should take to promote the efficient and effective adjudication of appeals, including any procedural improvements to the Act 250 permitting process and jurisdictional opinion appeals.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment ~~and Energy~~.

* * * Brownfields * * *

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 6604c is amended to read:

§ 6604c. MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) Management of development soils. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter to the contrary, development soils may be managed at a location permitted pursuant to an insignificant waste event approval authorization issued pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Rules that contains, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the development soils are generated from a hazardous materials site managed pursuant to a corrective action plan or a soil management plan approved by the Secretary;

(2) the development soils have been tested for arsenic, lead, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Secretary that ensures that the soils do not leach above groundwater enforcement standards;

(3) the location where the soils are managed is appropriate for the amount and type of material being managed;

(4) the soils are capped in a manner approved by the Secretary;

(5) any activity that may disturb the development soils at the permitted location shall be conducted pursuant to a soil management plan approved by the Secretary; and

(6) the permittee files a record notice of where the soils are managed in the land records.

* * *

Sec. 21. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) As part of the biennial report to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy under 10 V.S.A. § 6604(c), the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report on the status of the

management of development soils in the State under 10 V.S.A. § 6604c. The report shall include:

(1) the number of insignificant waste event approval authorizations issued by the Secretary in the previous two years for the management of development soils;

(2) the number of certified categorical solid waste facilities operating in the State for the management of development soils;

(3) a summary of how the majority of development soils in the State are being managed;

(4) an estimate of the cost to manage development soils, depending on management method; and

(5) any additional information the Secretary determines relevant to the management of development soils in the State.

(b) As used in this section, "development soil" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6602(39).

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6641 is amended to read:

§ 6641. BROWNFIELD PROPERTY CLEANUP PROGRAM; CREATION; POWERS

(a) There is created the Brownfield Property Cleanup Program to enable certain interested parties to request the assistance of the Secretary to review and oversee work plans for investigating, abating, removing, remediating, and monitoring a property in exchange for protection from certain liabilities under section 6615 of this title. The Program shall be administered by the Secretary who shall:

* * *

(c) When conducting any review required by this subchapter, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of remediation at a site that contains housing or that is planned for the construction or rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing.

Sec. 23. BROWNFIELDS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT; REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House Committees on Environment and on General and Housing and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy with proposals to make the Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 3

(brownfields reuse and liability limitation) substantially more efficient. At a minimum, the report shall include both of the following:

(1) A survey of stakeholders in the brownfields program to identify areas that present challenges to the redevelopment of contaminated properties, with a focus on redevelopment for housing. The Secretary shall provide recommendations to resolve these challenges.

(2) An analysis of strengths and weaknesses of implementing a licensed site professional program within the State. The Secretary shall make a recommendation on whether such a program should be implemented. If the Secretary recommends implementation, the report shall include any changes to statute or budget needed to implement this program.

Sec. 24. FISCAL YEAR 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINGENCY FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR BROWNFIELDS

In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to disburse up to $2,000,000.00 from the Environmental Contingency Fund for the assessment, planning, and cleanup of brownfields sites.

* * * Tax Increment Financing * * *

Sec. 25. 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Community and Housing Infrastructure Program

§ 1906. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Brownfield" means a property on which the presence or potential presence of a hazardous material, pollutant, or contaminant complicates the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property.

(2) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the current and future payment of financing and related costs.

(3) "Developer" means the person undertaking to construct a housing development.

(4) "Financing" means debt, including principal, interest, and any fees or charges directly related to that debt, incurred by a sponsor, or other instruments or borrowing used by a sponsor, to pay for a housing infrastructure project and, in the case of a sponsor that is a municipality, authorized by the municipality pursuant to section 1910a of this subchapter.

(5) "Housing development" means the construction, rehabilitation, or renovation of any building on a housing development site approved under this subchapter.

(6) "Housing development site" means the parcel or parcels encompassing a housing development as authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(7) "Housing infrastructure agreement" means a legally binding agreement to finance and develop a housing infrastructure project and to construct a housing development among a municipality, a developer, and, if applicable, a third-party sponsor.

(8) "Housing infrastructure project" means one or more improvements authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(9) "Improvements" means:

(A) any of the following that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter:

(i) the installation or construction of:

(I) wastewater, storm water, water dispersal, water collection, water treatment facilities and equipment, or related wastewater, storm water, or water equipment;

(II) public roads, streets, bridges, multimodal facilities, public transit stop equipment and amenities, street and sidewalk lighting, sidewalks, streetscapes, way-finding signs and kiosks, traffic signals, medians, or turn lanes; or

(III) digital or telecommunications infrastructure;

(ii) site preparation for development or redevelopment, including land and property acquisition, demolition, brownfield remediation, or flood remediation and mitigation; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

(10) "Legislative body" means the mayor and alderboard, the city council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated village, as appropriate.

(11) "Lifetime education property tax increment retention" means the total education property tax increment to be retained for a housing infrastructure project across its lifetime.

(12) "Middle-income housing" means housing that is subject to a housing subsidy covenant, as defined in 27 V.S.A. § 610, of perpetual duration.

(13) "Middle-income housing development" means a housing development of which at least 20 percent of the units are middle-income housing units.

(14) "Municipality" means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(15) "Original taxable value" means the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within a housing development site as of its creation date, provided that no parcel within the housing development site shall be divided or bisected.

(16) "Related costs" means expenses incurred and paid by a municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of the municipality's housing infrastructure project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the municipality for those purposes. Related costs may include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the housing infrastructure project to the extent they are paid from the tax increment realized from municipal and not education taxes and using only that portion of the municipal increment above the percentage required for servicing debt as determined in accordance with subsection 1910c of this subchapter.

(17) "Sponsor" means the person undertaking to finance a housing infrastructure project. Any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards may serve as a sponsor for a housing infrastructure project.

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of the pilot Community and Housing Infrastructure Program is to encourage the development of new primary residences for households of low or moderate income that would not be created but for the infrastructure improvements funded by the Program.

§ 1908. CREATION OF HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may create within its jurisdiction a housing infrastructure project, which shall consist of improvements that stimulate the development of housing, and a housing development site, which shall consist of the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is installed or constructed.

(b) To create a housing infrastructure project and housing development site, a municipality, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop a housing development plan, including:

(A) a description of the proposed housing infrastructure project, the proposed housing development, and the proposed housing development site;

(B) identification of a sponsor;

(C) a tax increment financing plan meeting the standards of subsection 1910(h) of this subchapter;

(D) a pro forma projection of expected costs of the proposed housing infrastructure project;

(E) a projection of the tax increment to be generated by the proposed housing development;

(F) a development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for the proposed housing infrastructure project and the proposed housing development; and

(G) a determination that the proposed housing development furthers the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter;

(2) develop a plan describing the housing development site by its boundaries and the properties therein, entitled "Proposed Housing Development Site (municipal name), Vermont";

(3) hold one or more public hearings, after public notice, on the proposed housing infrastructure project, including the plans developed pursuant to this subsection; and

(4) adopt by act of the legislative body of the municipality the plan developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection, which shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor.

(c) The creation of a housing development site shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the calendar year in which the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the use of tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

§ 1909. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

(a) The housing infrastructure agreement for a housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) clearly identify the sponsor for the housing infrastructure project;

(2) clearly identify the developer and the housing development for the housing development site;

(3) obligate the tax increments retained pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter for not more than the financing and related costs for the housing infrastructure project;

(4) provide terms and sufficient remedies or, if the municipality so elects, an ordinance to ensure that any housing unit within the housing development be offered exclusively as a bona fide domicile in perpetuity; and

(5) provide for performance assurances to reasonably secure the obligations of all parties under the housing infrastructure agreement.

(b) A municipality shall provide notice of the terms of the housing infrastructure agreement for the municipality's housing infrastructure project to the legal voters of the municipality and shall provide the same information as set forth in subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter.

§ 1910. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION; VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Application. A municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council to use tax increment financing for a housing infrastructure project.

(b) Review. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may recommend for approval by the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program Board only applications:

(1) that meet the but-for test, the process requirements, the project criterion, and either of the location criteria of this section;

(2) for which the Council has approved the tax increment financing plan; and

(3) that are submitted on or before December 31, 2031.

(c) But-for test. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review each application to determine whether the infrastructure improvements proposed to serve the housing development site and the proposed housing development would not have occurred as proposed in the application or would have occurred in a significantly different and less desirable manner than as proposed in the application but for the proposed utilization of the incremental tax revenues. The review shall take into account:

(1) the amount of additional time, if any, needed to complete the proposed housing development and the amount of additional cost that might be incurred if the project were to proceed without education property tax increment financing;

(2) how the proposed housing development components and size would differ, if at all, including, if applicable to the housing development, in the number of units of middle-income housing, without education property tax increment financing; and

(3)(A) the amount of additional revenue expected to be generated as a result of the proposed housing development;

(B) the percentage of that revenue that shall be paid to the Education Fund;

(C) the percentage that shall be paid to the municipality; and

(D) the percentage of the revenue paid to the municipality that shall be used to pay financing incurred for the infrastructure improvements.

(d) Process requirements. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the municipality has:

(1) created a housing infrastructure project and housing development site pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter;

(2) executed a housing infrastructure agreement for the housing infrastructure project that adheres to the standards of section 1909 of this subchapter with a developer and, if the municipality is not financing the housing infrastructure project itself, a sponsor; and

(3) approved or pledged to use incremental municipal tax revenues for the housing infrastructure project in the proportion provided for municipal tax revenues in section 1910c of this subchapter.

(e) Project criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether at least 65 percent of the floor area of the projected housing development is dedicated to housing.

(f) Location criteria. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the housing development site is located within one of the following areas:

(1) an area exempt from the provisions of 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6081(dd) (interim housing exemptions); or

(2) an existing settlement or an area within one-half mile of an existing settlement, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(16).

(g) Middle-income criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the projected housing development is a middle-income housing development for purposes of the increased education property tax increment retention percentage under section 1910c of this subchapter.

(h) Tax increment financing plan. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve a municipality's tax increment financing plan prior to a sponsor's incurrence of debt for the housing infrastructure project, including, if the sponsor is a municipality, prior to a public vote to pledge the credit of the municipality under section 1910a of this subchapter. The tax increment financing plan shall include:

(1) a statement of costs and sources of revenue;

(2) estimates of assessed values within the housing development site;

(3) the portion of those assessed values to be applied to the housing infrastructure project;

(4) the resulting tax increments in each year of the financial plan and the lifetime education property tax increment retention;

(5) the amount of bonded indebtedness or other financing to be incurred;

(6) other sources of financing and anticipated revenues; and

(7) the duration of the financial plan.

(i) Board approval. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall recommend to the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program Board for approval any application that meets the standards of subsection (b) of this section. The Board shall review the Council's recommendation and approve the application unless the Board determines that the application fails to satisfy the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter or fails to meet the standards of subsection (b) of this section.

(j) Tax increment financing approval; limit. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may only approve pursuant to this subchapter tax increment financing for applications that have received Board approval pursuant to subsection (i) of this section. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall

not annually approve more than $40,000,000.00 in aggregate lifetime education property tax increment retention.

§ 1910a. INDEBTEDNESS

(a) A municipality approved for tax increment financing under section 1910 of this subchapter may incur indebtedness against revenues of the housing development site at any time during a period of up to five years following the creation of the housing development site. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may extend this debt incursion period by up to three years. If no debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project during the debt incursion period, whether by the municipality or sponsor, the housing development site shall terminate.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter, each instance of borrowing by a municipality to finance or otherwise pay for a housing infrastructure project shall occur only after the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so warned.

(c) Any indebtedness incurred under this section may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of the municipality.

(d) The housing development site shall continue until the date and hour the indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, five years following the creation of the housing development site.

(e) A municipal legislative body shall provide information to the public prior to the public vote required under subsection (b) of this section. This information shall include the amount and types of debt and related costs to be incurred, including principal, interest, and fees; terms of the debt; the housing infrastructure project to be financed; the housing development projected to occur because of the housing infrastructure project; and notice to the voters that if the tax increment received by the municipality from any property tax source is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt in any year, the municipality shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of the indebtedness. If interfund loans within the municipality are used, the information must also include documentation of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(f) If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of financing, no interest shall be charged.

(g) The use of a bond anticipation note shall not be considered a first incurrence of debt pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1910b. ORIGINAL TAXABLE VALUE; TAX INCREMENT

(a) As of the date the housing development site is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the housing development site the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property within the housing development site has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.

(b) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the lister or assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which the housing development site is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year.

(c) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, a municipality shall remit not less than the aggregate education property tax due on the original taxable value to the Education Fund.

(d) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts, that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the housing development site that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount held apart each year is the "tax increment" for that year. The tax increment shall only be used for financing and related costs.

(e) Not more than the percentages established pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter of the municipal and State education tax increments received with respect to the housing development site and committed for the payment for financing for improvements and related costs shall be segregated by the municipality in a special tax increment financing account and in its official books and records until all capital indebtedness incurred for the housing infrastructure project has been fully paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter include the entire assessed valuation of the housing development site in the assessed valuations upon which the municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended, and thereafter no taxes from the housing development site shall be deposited in the special tax increment financing account.

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87

of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site.

§ 1910c. USE OF TAX INCREMENT; RETENTION PERIOD

(a) Uses of tax increments. A municipality may apply tax increments retained pursuant to this subchapter to debt incurred within the period permitted under section 1910a of this subchapter, to related costs, and to the direct payment of the cost of a housing infrastructure project. A municipality may provide tax increment to a sponsor only upon receipt of an invoice for payment of the financing, and the sponsor shall confirm to the municipality once the tax increment has been applied to the financing. Any direct payment shall be subject to the same public vote provisions of section 1910a of this subchapter as apply to debt.

(b) Education property tax increment.

(1) For a housing infrastructure project that does not satisfy the middle-income criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 60 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(2) For a housing infrastructure project that satisfies the middle-income criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 80 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(3) Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the retention period of the education property tax increment.

(c) Municipal property tax increment. Not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment may be retained, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(d) Excess tax increment.

(1) Of the municipal and education property tax increments received in any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the financing and related costs for a housing infrastructure project, equal portions of each increment may be retained for the following purposes:

(A) to prepay principal and interest on the financing;

(B) to place in a special tax increment financing account required pursuant to subsection 1910b(e) of this subchapter and use for future financing payments; or

(C) to use for defeasance of the financing.

(2) Any remaining portion of the excess education property tax increment shall be distributed to the Education Fund. Any remaining portion of the excess municipal property tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village budget in the proportion that each budget bears to the combined total of the budgets unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village.

(e) Adjustment of percentage. During the fifth year following the creation of a housing development site, the municipality shall submit an updated tax increment financing plan to the Vermont Economic Progress Council that shall include adjustments and updates of appropriate data and information sufficient for the Vermont Economic Progress Council to determine, based on tax increment financing debt actually incurred and the history of increment generated during the first five years, whether the percentages approved under this section should be continued or adjusted to a lower percentage to be retained for the remaining duration of the retention period and still provide sufficient municipal and education increment to service the remaining debt.

§ 1910d. INFORMATION REPORTING

(a) A municipality with an active housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) develop a system, segregated for the housing infrastructure project, to identify, collect, and maintain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting requirements of this section;

(2) provide timely notification to the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of any housing infrastructure project debt, public vote, or vote by the municipal legislative body immediately following the debt incurrence or public vote on a form prescribed by the Council, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a copy of the information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter; and

(3) annually on or before February 15, submit on a form prescribed by the Vermont Economic Progress Council an annual report to the Council and the Department of Taxes, including the information required by subdivision (2) of this subsection if not previously submitted, the information required for annual audit under section 1910e of this subchapter, and any information required by the Council or the Department of Taxes for the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Annually on or before April 1, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means on housing infrastructure projects approved pursuant to this subchapter, including for each:

(1) the date of approval;

(2) a description of the housing infrastructure project;

(3) the original taxable value of the housing development site;

(4) the scope and value of projected and actual improvements and developments in the housing development site, including the number of housing units created;

(5) the expected or actual sale and rental prices of any housing units;

(6) the number of housing units known to be occupied on a basis other than as primary residences;

(7) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

(8) projected and actual incremental revenue amounts;

(9) the allocation of incremental revenue, including the amount allocated to related costs;

(10) projected and actual financing; and

(11) an evaluation of the amount of public funds flowing to private ownership or usage.

(c) On or before January 15, 2030, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criterion and location criteria of section 1910 of this chapter.

§ 1910e. AUDITING

Annually on or before April 1 until the year following the end of the period for retention of education property tax increment, a municipality with a housing infrastructure project approved under this subchapter shall ensure that the special tax increment financing account required by section 1910b of this subchapter is subject to the annual audit prescribed in section 1681 or 1690 of this title and submit a copy to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. If an account is subject only to the audit under section 1681 of this title, the Council shall ensure a process is in place to subject the account to an independent audit. Procedures for the audit must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total municipal and education property tax increments generated, expenditures for financing and related costs, and current balance.

§ 1910f. RULEMAKING

(a) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter. The Council shall specifically adopt rules to:

(1) govern the prioritization of applications submitted for approval of tax increment financing under this subchapter that take into consideration the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter, blight, regional equity and verifiable housing shortages, and labor sheds; and

(2) determine the appropriate floor area measure for purposes of the project criterion under subsection 1910(e) of this subchapter.

(b) At least 45 days prior to prefiling a rule authorized under this section with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules under 3 V.S.A. § 837, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a copy of the draft rule to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review.

§ 1910g. GUIDANCE

(a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, after reasonable notice to a municipality and an opportunity for a hearing, may issue decisions to a municipality on questions and inquiries concerning the administration of housing infrastructure projects, statutes, rules, noncompliance with this subchapter, and any instances of noncompliance identified in audit reports conducted pursuant to section 1910e of this subchapter.

(b) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall prepare recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development prior to any decision issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The Council may prepare recommendations in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer. In preparing recommendations, the Council shall provide a municipality with a reasonable opportunity to submit written information in support of its position.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall review the recommendations of the Council and issue a final written decision on each matter within 60 days following receipt of the recommendations. The Secretary may permit an appeal to be taken by any party to a Superior Court for determination of questions of law in the same manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from a Superior Court before issuing a final decision.

§ 1910h. COMMUNITY AND HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM BOARD

(a) Creation. There is created the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program Board to review applications for tax increment financing recommended by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

(b) Membership. The Board shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the chair of the Vermont Economic Progress Council, who shall serve as chair of the Board;

(2) the State Treasurer or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development or designee;

(8) a representative of the Regional Planning Commissions; and

(9) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee.

(c) Duties. The Board shall review applications for tax increment financing recommended by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter. The Board shall respond with its approval or denial not later than 45 days following receipt of the recommendation from the Vermont Economic Progress Council.

(d) Assistance. The Board shall receive administrative support from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Taxes.

(e) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Board shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(f) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Board under subsection (c) of this section is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

(g) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Board shall submit to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means a report describing the Board's recommended process and membership for reviewing housing infrastructure project applications.

Sec. 26. 32 V.S.A. § 3325 is amended to read:

§ 3325. VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Creation. The Vermont Economic Progress Council is created to exercise the authority and perform the duties assigned to it, including its authority and duties relating to:

(1) the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter; ~~and~~

(2) tax increment financing districts pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title; and

(3) the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7.

* * *

(g) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Council to approve or deny an application under subchapter 2 of this chapter, ~~or~~ to approve or deny a tax increment financing district pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title, or to approve or deny a housing

infrastructure project pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

Sec. 27. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(f) is amended to read:

(f) A municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 shall collect all property taxes on properties contained within the district and apply not more than 70 percent of the State education property tax increment, and not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment, to repayment of financing of the improvements and related costs for up to 20 years pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1894, if approved by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to this section, subject to the following:

(1) In a municipality with one or more approved districts, the Council shall not approve an additional district until the municipality retires the debt incurred for all of the districts in the municipality.

(2) The Council shall not approve more than six districts in the State, and not more than two per county, provided:

(A) The districts listed in 24 V.S.A. § 1892(d) shall not be counted against the limits imposed in this subdivision (2).

(B) The Council shall consider complete applications in the order they are submitted, except that if during any calendar month the Council receives applications for more districts than are actually available in a county, the Council shall evaluate each application and shall approve the application that, in the Council's discretion, best meets the economic development needs of the county.

(3)(A) A municipality shall immediately notify the Council if it resolves not to incur debt for an approved district within five years of approval or a five-year extension period as required in 24 V.S.A. § 1894.

(B) Upon receiving notification pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), the Council shall terminate the district and may approve a new district, subject to the provisions of this section and 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5.

(4) The Council shall only approve under this section applications for tax increment financing submitted prior to July 1, 2028.

* * * Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms * * *

Sec. 28. 9 V.S.A. chapter 77 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77. SMOKE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS

§ 2881. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Smoke ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

(3) "Carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device with an assembly that incorporates a sensor control component and an alarm notification that detects elevations in carbon monoxide levels and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

§ 2882. INSTALLATION

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling, and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) Any single-family dwelling when transferred by sale or exchange shall contain ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A single-family dwelling constructed before January 1, 1994 may contain smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after January 1, 1994 that is provided with electrical power, smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after July 1, 2005 that is provided with electrical power, carbon

monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require an owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling to maintain or use a smoke ~~detector~~ alarm or a carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm after installation.

§ 2883. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF DWELLING

(a) The seller of a single-family dwelling, including one constructed for first occupancy, whether the transfer is by sale or exchange, shall certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in accordance with this chapter. This certification shall be signed and dated by the seller.

(b) If the buyer notifies the seller within 10 days by certified mail from the date of conveyance of the dwelling that the dwelling lacks any ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms, or any carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms, or that any ~~detector~~ alarm is not operable, the seller shall comply with this chapter within 10 days after notification.

* * *

Sec. 29. 20 V.S.A. § 2731 is amended to read:

§ 2731. RULES; INSPECTIONS; VARIANCES

* * *

(j) ~~Detectors~~ Alarms. Rules adopted under this section shall require that information written, approved, and distributed by the Commissioner on the type, placement, and installation of ~~photoelectric~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms be conspicuously posted in the retail sales area where the ~~detectors~~ alarms are sold.

* * *

* * * VHFA Off-Site Construction * * *

Sec. 30. VHFA OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Provided there are sufficient resources, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall issue a report by December 15, 2026 that, at a minimum:

(1) identifies and recommends a set of State policy objectives and priorities related to off-site housing construction;

(2) defines the structure and relevant actors for using bulk purchases of single- and multi-family homes produced through off-site construction to achieve lower construction costs;

(3) gathers input from potential manufacturers about how to best achieve cost savings through a bulk purchase program;

(4) determines any business planning support needed for existing Vermont businesses seeking to develop or expand off-site construction;

(5) explores creating a working group of neighboring states that considers a regional market and shared approach; and

(6) prepares an analysis of the funding and structure needed to support greater development of off-site homes.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 31. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 4 (Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program), Sec. 5 (Residential Universal Design Study Committee), Sec. 8 (repeal; Act 181 prospective landlord certificate changes), and this section shall take effect on passage.

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on General and Housing, when further amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the report of the Committee on General and Housing be amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means?, **Rep. North of Ferrisburgh** moved that the report of the Committee on Ways and Means be amended by adding two new sections to be Sec. 19a and Sec. 19b to read as follows:

Sec. 19a. 10 V.S.A. § 6001(3)(D)(viii)(III) is amended to read:

(III) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, until ~~January 1, 2027~~ December 31, 2031, the last date by which applications for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 may be submitted, the construction of a priority housing project located entirely within areas of a designated downtown development district, designated neighborhood development area, or a designated growth center or within one-half mile around such designated center with permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws

served by public sewer or water services or soils that are adequate for wastewater disposal. For purposes of this subdivision (III), in order for a parcel to qualify for the exemption, at least 51 percent of the parcel shall be located within one-half mile of the designated center boundary. If the one-half mile around the designated center extends into an adjacent municipality, the legislative body of the adjacent municipal may inform the Board that it does not want the exemption to extend into that area.

Sec. 19b. 10 V.S.A. § 6081(dd) is amended to read:

(dd) Interim housing exemptions.

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, until ~~January 1, 2027~~ December 31, 2031, the last date by which applications for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 may be submitted, no permit or permit amendment is required for the construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile homes, with 75 units or fewer, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land, located entirely within the areas of a designated new town center, a designated growth center, or a designated neighborhood development area served by public sewer or water services or soils that are adequate for wastewater disposal. Housing units constructed pursuant to this subdivision shall not count towards the total units constructed in other areas. This exemption shall not apply to areas within mapped river corridors and floodplains except those areas containing preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development as defined in 29-201 of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, until ~~July 1, 2027~~ December 31, 2031, the last date by which applications for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 may be submitted, no permit or permit amendment is required for the construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile homes, with 50 or fewer units, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land of 10 acres or less, located entirely within:

* * *

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, until ~~January 1, 2027~~ December 31, 2031, the last date by which applications for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 may be submitted, no permit or permit amendment is required for the construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile homes, constructed or maintained on a

tract or tracts of land, located entirely within a designated downtown development district with permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws served by public sewer or water services or soils that are adequate for wastewater disposal. Housing units constructed pursuant to this subdivision shall not count towards the total units constructed in other areas. This exemption shall not apply to areas within mapped river corridors and floodplains except those areas containing preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development as defined in 29-201 of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule.

Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland raised a Point of Order in that the amendment expands the scope of the bill and is not germane, which the Speaker ruled well-taken because none of the provisions of the bill propose amendments to land use regulations, whereas the amendment would amend provisions of Act 250 to extend the sunset of current-law exemptions from Act 250 review for specified housing projects – from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2031 – to align with the sunset of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP). None of the CHIP provisions would allow building in areas not permissible under current law. Therefore, the Speaker found that the amendment was not germane and could not be considered because it deals with a separate topic of land use regulations, and introduces the independent question of amending Act 250 exemptions.

Pending the question, Shall the report of the Committee on General and Housing be amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means?, **Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock, Graning of Jericho, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Marcotte of Coventry, and Mihaly of Calais** moved that the report of the Committee on Ways and Means be amended by striking out Secs. 25–27 and their reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof a new reader assistance heading and three new sections to be Secs. 25–27 to read as follows:

* * * Tax Increment Financing * * *

Sec. 25. 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Community and Housing Infrastructure Program

§ 1906. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Brownfield" means a property on which the presence or potential presence of a hazardous material, pollutant, or contaminant complicates the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property.

(2) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the current and future payment of financing and related costs.

(3) "Developer" means the person undertaking to construct a housing development.

(4) "Financing" means debt, including principal, interest, and any fees or charges directly related to that debt, incurred by a sponsor, or other instruments or borrowing used by a sponsor, to pay for a housing infrastructure project and, in the case of a sponsor that is a municipality, authorized by the municipality pursuant to section 1910a of this subchapter.

(5) "Housing development" means the construction, rehabilitation, or renovation of any building on a housing development site approved under this subchapter.

(6) "Housing development site" means the parcel or parcels encompassing a housing development as authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(7) "Housing infrastructure agreement" means a legally binding agreement to finance and develop a housing infrastructure project and to construct a housing development among a municipality, a developer, and, if applicable, a third-party sponsor.

(8) "Housing infrastructure project" means one or more improvements authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(9) "Improvements" means:

(A) any of the following that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter:

(i) the installation or construction of:

(I) wastewater, storm water, water dispersal, water collection, water treatment facilities and equipment, or related wastewater, storm water, or water equipment;

(II) public roads, streets, bridges, multimodal facilities, public transit stop equipment and amenities, street and sidewalk lighting, sidewalks, streetscapes, way-finding signs and kiosks, traffic signals, medians, or turn lanes; or

(III) digital or telecommunications infrastructure;

(ii) site preparation for development or redevelopment, including land and property acquisition, demolition, brownfield remediation, or flood remediation and mitigation; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

(10) "Legislative body" means the mayor and alderboard, the city council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated village, as appropriate.

(11) "Lifetime education property tax increment retention" means the total education property tax increment to be retained for a housing infrastructure project across its lifetime.

(12) "Mixed-income housing" means housing that is subject to a housing subsidy covenant, as defined in 27 V.S.A. § 610, of perpetual duration.

(13) "Mixed-income housing development" means a housing development of which at least 20 percent of the units are mixed-income housing units.

(14) "Municipality" means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(15) "Original taxable value" means the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within a housing development site as of its creation date, provided that no parcel within the housing development site shall be divided or bisected.

(16) "Related costs" means expenses incurred and paid by a municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of the municipality's housing infrastructure project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the municipality for those purposes. Related costs may include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the housing infrastructure project to the extent they are paid from the tax increment realized from municipal and not education taxes and using only that portion of the municipal increment above the percentage required for servicing debt as determined in accordance with subsection 1910c of this subchapter.

(17) "Sponsor" means the person undertaking to finance a housing infrastructure project. Any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards may serve as a sponsor for a housing infrastructure project.

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of the pilot Community and Housing Infrastructure Program is to encourage the development of new primary residences for households of low and moderate income across both rural and urban areas of all Vermont

counties that would not be created but for the infrastructure improvements funded by the Program.

§ 1908. CREATION OF HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may create within its jurisdiction a housing infrastructure project, which shall consist of improvements that stimulate the development of housing, and a housing development site, which shall consist of the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is installed or constructed.

(b) To create a housing infrastructure project and housing development site, a municipality, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop a housing development plan, including:

(A) a description of the proposed housing infrastructure project, the proposed housing development, and the proposed housing development site;

(B) identification of a sponsor;

(C) a tax increment financing plan meeting the standards of subsection 1910(h) of this subchapter;

(D) a pro forma projection of expected costs of the proposed housing infrastructure project;

(E) a projection of the tax increment to be generated by the proposed housing development;

(F) a development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for the proposed housing infrastructure project and the proposed housing development; and

(G) a determination that the proposed housing development furthers the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter;

(2) develop a plan describing the housing development site by its boundaries and the properties therein, entitled "Proposed Housing Development Site (municipal name), Vermont";

(3) hold one or more public hearings, after public notice, on the proposed housing infrastructure project, including the plans developed pursuant to this subsection; and

(4) adopt by act of the legislative body of the municipality the plan developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection, which shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor.

(c) The creation of a housing development site shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the calendar year in which the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the use of tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

§ 1909. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

(a) The housing infrastructure agreement for a housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) clearly identify the sponsor for the housing infrastructure project;

(2) clearly identify the developer and the housing development for the housing development site;

(3) obligate the tax increments retained pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter for not more than the financing and related costs for the housing infrastructure project;

(4) provide terms and sufficient remedies or, if the municipality so elects, an ordinance to ensure that any housing unit within the housing development be offered exclusively as a bona fide domicile in perpetuity; and

(5) provide for performance assurances to reasonably secure the obligations of all parties under the housing infrastructure agreement.

(b) A municipality shall provide notice of the terms of the housing infrastructure agreement for the municipality's housing infrastructure project to the legal voters of the municipality and shall provide the same information as set forth in subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter.

§ 1910. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION; VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Application. A municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council to use tax increment financing for a housing infrastructure project.

(b) But-for test. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review each application to determine whether the infrastructure improvements proposed to serve the housing development site and the proposed housing development would not have occurred as proposed in the application or would have occurred in a significantly different and less desirable manner than as proposed in the application but for the proposed utilization of the incremental tax revenues. The review shall take into account:

(1) the amount of additional time, if any, needed to complete the proposed housing development and the amount of additional cost that might be incurred if the project were to proceed without education property tax increment financing;

(2) how the proposed housing development components and size would differ, if at all, including, if applicable to the housing development, in the number of units of mixed-income housing, without education property tax increment financing; and

(3)(A) the amount of additional revenue expected to be generated as a result of the proposed housing development;

(B) the percentage of that revenue that shall be paid to the Education Fund;

(C) the percentage that shall be paid to the municipality; and

(D) the percentage of the revenue paid to the municipality that shall be used to pay financing incurred for the infrastructure improvements.

(c) Process requirements. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the municipality has:

(1) created a housing infrastructure project and housing development site pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter;

(2) executed a housing infrastructure agreement for the housing infrastructure project that adheres to the standards of section 1909 of this subchapter with a developer and, if the municipality is not financing the housing infrastructure project itself, a sponsor; and

(3) approved or pledged to use incremental municipal tax revenues for the housing infrastructure project in the proportion provided for municipal tax revenues in section 1910c of this subchapter.

(d) Project criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether at least 65 percent of the floor area of the projected housing development is dedicated to housing.

(e) Mixed-income criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the projected housing development is a mixed-income housing development for purposes of the increased education property tax increment retention percentage under section 1910c of this subchapter.

(f) Tax increment financing plan. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve a municipality's tax increment financing plan prior to a sponsor's incurrence of debt for the housing infrastructure project, including, if the sponsor is a municipality, prior to a public vote to pledge the credit of the municipality under section 1910a of this subchapter. The tax increment financing plan shall include:

(1) a statement of costs and sources of revenue;

(2) estimates of assessed values within the housing development site;

(3) the portion of those assessed values to be applied to the housing infrastructure project;

(4) the resulting tax increments in each year of the financial plan and the lifetime education property tax increment retention;

(5) the amount of bonded indebtedness or other financing to be incurred;

(6) other sources of financing and anticipated revenues; and

(7) the duration of the financial plan.

(g) Approval. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve or deny an application submitted pursuant to this section not later than 45 days following receipt of the completed application. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall only approve tax increment financing for applications:

(1) that meet the but-for test, the process requirements, and the project criterion of this section;

(2) for which the Council has approved the tax increment financing plan; and

(3) that are submitted on or before December 31, 2031.

(h) Limit. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall not annually approve more than $40,000,000.00 in aggregate lifetime education property tax increment retention. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may increase this limit by not more than $5,000,000.00 upon application by the Governor to, and approval of, the Joint Fiscal Committee. In evaluating the Governor's request, the Joint Fiscal Committee shall consider the economic and fiscal condition of the State, including recent revenue forecasts and budget projections. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall provide the Joint Fiscal Committee with testimony, documentation, housing infrastructure project application data, and any other information the Committee requests to demonstrate that increasing the cap will create an opportunity for the creation

of additional housing to meet the needs of a municipality or municipalities and the State.

§ 1910a. INDEBTEDNESS

(a) A municipality approved for tax increment financing under section 1910 of this subchapter may incur indebtedness against revenues of the housing development site at any time during a period of up to five years following the creation of the housing development site. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may extend this debt incursion period by up to three years.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter, each instance of borrowing by a municipality to finance or otherwise pay for a housing infrastructure project shall occur only after the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so warned.

(c) Any indebtedness incurred under this section may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of the municipality.

(d) The housing development site shall continue until the date and hour the indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, the debt incursion period ends.

(e) A municipal legislative body shall provide information to the public prior to the public vote required under subsection (b) of this section. This information shall include the amount and types of debt and related costs to be incurred, including principal, interest, and fees; terms of the debt; the housing infrastructure project to be financed; the housing development projected to occur because of the housing infrastructure project; and notice to the voters that if the tax increment received by the municipality from any property tax source is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt in any year, the municipality shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of the indebtedness. If interfund loans within the municipality are used, the information must also include documentation of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(f) If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of financing, no interest shall be charged.

(g) The use of a bond anticipation note shall not be considered a first incurrence of debt pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1910b. ORIGINAL TAXABLE VALUE; TAX INCREMENT

(a) As of the date the housing development site is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the housing development site the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property within the housing development site has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.

(b) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the lister or assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which the housing development site is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year.

(c) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, a municipality shall remit not less than the aggregate education property tax due on the original taxable value to the Education Fund.

(d) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts, that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the housing development site that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount held apart each year is the "tax increment" for that year. The tax increment shall only be used for financing and related costs.

(e) Not more than the percentages established pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter of the municipal and State education tax increments received with respect to the housing development site and committed for the payment for financing for improvements and related costs shall be segregated by the municipality in a special tax increment financing account and in its official books and records until all capital indebtedness incurred for the housing infrastructure project has been fully paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter include the entire assessed valuation of the housing development site in the assessed valuations upon which the municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended, and thereafter no taxes from the housing development site shall be deposited in the special tax increment financing account.

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87

of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site.

§ 1910c. USE OF TAX INCREMENT; RETENTION PERIOD

(a) Uses of tax increments. A municipality may apply tax increments retained pursuant to this subchapter to debt incurred within the period permitted under section 1910a of this subchapter, to related costs, and to the direct payment of the cost of a housing infrastructure project. A municipality may provide tax increment to a sponsor only upon receipt of an invoice for payment of the financing, and the sponsor shall confirm to the municipality once the tax increment has been applied to the financing. Any direct payment shall be subject to the same public vote provisions of section 1910a of this subchapter as apply to debt.

(b) Education property tax increment.

(1) For a housing infrastructure project that does not satisfy the mixed-income criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 60 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(2) For a housing infrastructure project that satisfies the mixed-income criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 80 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(3) Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the retention period of the education property tax increment.

(c) Municipal property tax increment. Not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment may be retained, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(d) Excess tax increment.

(1) Of the municipal and education property tax increments received in any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the financing and related costs for a housing infrastructure project, equal portions of each increment may be retained for the following purposes:

(A) to prepay principal and interest on the financing;

(B) to place in a special tax increment financing account required pursuant to subsection 1910b(e) of this subchapter and use for future financing payments; or

(C) to use for defeasance of the financing.

(2) Any remaining portion of the excess education property tax increment shall be distributed to the Education Fund. Any remaining portion of the excess municipal property tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village budget in the proportion that each budget bears to the combined total of the budgets unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village.

(e) Adjustment of percentage. During the fifth year following the creation of a housing development site, the municipality shall submit an updated tax increment financing plan to the Vermont Economic Progress Council that shall include adjustments and updates of appropriate data and information sufficient for the Vermont Economic Progress Council to determine, based on tax increment financing debt actually incurred and the history of increment generated during the first five years, whether the percentages approved under this section should be continued or adjusted to a lower percentage to be retained for the remaining duration of the retention period and still provide sufficient municipal and education increment to service the remaining debt.

§ 1910d. INFORMATION REPORTING

(a) A municipality with an active housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) develop a system, segregated for the housing infrastructure project, to identify, collect, and maintain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting requirements of this section;

(2) provide timely notification to the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of any housing infrastructure project debt, public vote, or vote by the municipal legislative body immediately following the debt incurrence or public vote on a form prescribed by the Council, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a copy of the information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter; and

(3) annually on or before February 15, submit on a form prescribed by the Vermont Economic Progress Council an annual report to the Council and the Department of Taxes, including the information required by subdivision (2) of this subsection if not previously submitted, the information required for annual audit under section 1910e of this subchapter, and any information required by the Council or the Department of Taxes for the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Annually on or before April 1, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means on housing infrastructure projects approved pursuant to this subchapter, including for each:

(1) the date of approval;

(2) a description of the housing infrastructure project;

(3) the original taxable value of the housing development site;

(4) the scope and value of projected and actual improvements and developments in the housing development site, including the number of housing units created;

(5) the expected or actual sale and rental prices of any housing units;

(6) the number of housing units known to be occupied on a basis other than as primary residences;

(7) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

(8) projected and actual incremental revenue amounts;

(9) the allocation of incremental revenue, including the amount allocated to related costs;

(10) projected and actual financing; and

(11) an evaluation of the amount of public funds flowing to private ownership or usage.

(c) On or before January 15, 2030, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criterion of section 1910 of this chapter.

§ 1910e. AUDITING

Annually on or before April 1 until the year following the end of the period for retention of education property tax increment, a municipality with a housing infrastructure project approved under this subchapter shall ensure that the special tax increment financing account required by section 1910b of this subchapter is subject to the annual audit prescribed in section 1681 or 1690 of this title and submit a copy to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. If an account is subject only to the audit under section 1681 of this title, the Council shall ensure a process is in place to subject the account to an independent audit. Procedures for the audit must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total municipal and education property tax increments generated, expenditures for financing and related costs, and current balance.

§ 1910f. RULEMAKING

The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter. The Council shall specifically adopt rules to:

(1) govern the prioritization of applications submitted for approval of tax increment financing under this subchapter that take into consideration the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter, vacancy or dilapidation, regional equity and verifiable housing shortages, and labor sheds;

(2) determine the appropriate floor area measure for purposes of the project criterion under subsection 1910(e) of this subchapter; and

(3) supplement the but-for test under subsection 1910(c) of this subchapter giving due consideration to any rulemaking undertaken to supplement the but-for test under 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(h)(1)(A).

§ 1910g. GUIDANCE

(a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, after reasonable notice to a municipality and an opportunity for a hearing, may issue decisions to a municipality on questions and inquiries concerning the administration of housing infrastructure projects, statutes, rules, noncompliance with this subchapter, and any instances of noncompliance identified in audit reports conducted pursuant to section 1910e of this subchapter.

(b) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall prepare recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development prior to any decision issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The Council may prepare recommendations in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer. In

preparing recommendations, the Council shall provide a municipality with a reasonable opportunity to submit written information in support of its position.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall review the recommendations of the Council and issue a final written decision on each matter within 60 days following receipt of the recommendations. The Secretary may permit an appeal to be taken by any party to a Superior Court for determination of questions of law in the same manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from a Superior Court before issuing a final decision.

Sec. 26. 32 V.S.A. § 3325 is amended to read:

§ 3325. VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Creation. The Vermont Economic Progress Council is created to exercise the authority and perform the duties assigned to it, including its authority and duties relating to:

(1) the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter; ~~and~~

(2) tax increment financing districts pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title; and

(3) the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Council shall have 11 voting members:

(A) nine residents of the State appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate who are knowledgeable and experienced in the subjects of community development and planning, education funding requirements, economic development, State fiscal affairs, property taxation, or entrepreneurial ventures and represent diverse geographical areas of the State and municipalities of various sizes;

(B) one member of the Vermont House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(C) one member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees.

(2)(A) The Council shall have two regional members from each region of the State, one appointed by the regional development corporation of the region and one appointed by the regional planning commission of the region.

(B) A regional member shall be a nonvoting member and shall serve during consideration by the Council of an application from ~~his or her~~ the member's region.

(3) Exclusively for purposes of reviewing and approving housing infrastructure project applications under the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program, the Council shall additionally have:

(A) two voting members as follows:

(i) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency or designee; and

(ii) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee; and

(B) as a nonvoting member, the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee.

* * *

(g) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Council to approve or deny an application under subchapter 2 of this chapter, ~~or~~ to approve or deny a tax increment financing district pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title, or to approve or deny a housing infrastructure project pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

Sec. 27. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(f) is amended to read:

(f) A municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 shall collect all property taxes on properties contained within the district and apply not more than 70 percent of the State education property tax increment, and not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment, to repayment of financing of the improvements and related costs for up to 20 years pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1894, if approved by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to this section, subject to the following:

(1) In a municipality with one or more approved districts, the Council shall not approve an additional district until the municipality retires the debt incurred for all of the districts in the municipality.

(2) The Council shall not approve more than six districts in the State, and not more than two per county, provided:

(A) The districts listed in 24 V.S.A. § 1892(d) shall not be counted against the limits imposed in this subdivision (2).

(B) The Council shall consider complete applications in the order they are submitted, except that if during any calendar month the Council receives applications for more districts than are actually available in a county, the Council shall evaluate each application and shall approve the application that, in the Council's discretion, best meets the economic development needs of the county.

(3)(A) A municipality shall immediately notify the Council if it resolves not to incur debt for an approved district within five years of approval or a five-year extension period as required in 24 V.S.A. § 1894.

(B) Upon receiving notification pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), the Council shall terminate the district and may approve a new district, subject to the provisions of this section and 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5.

(4) The Council shall only approve under this section applications for tax increment financing submitted prior to December 31, 2031.

Pending the question, Shall report of the Committee on Ways and Means be amended as offered by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, and others?, **Reps. Sibilia of Dover, Hango of Berkshire, Priestley of Bradford, Boyden of Cambridge, Bartley of Fairfax, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Kleppner of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Morris of Springfield, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Parsons of Newbury, and Sweeney of Shelburne** moved to amend the amendment offered by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock and others as follows:

First: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1906, by striking out subdivision (9) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (9) to read as follows:

(9) "Improvements" means:

(A) any of the following that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter:

(i) the installation or construction of:

(I) wastewater, storm water, water dispersal, water collection, water treatment facilities and equipment, or related wastewater, storm water, or water equipment;

(II) public roads, streets, bridges, multimodal facilities, public transit stop equipment and amenities, street and sidewalk lighting, sidewalks, streetscapes, way-finding signs and kiosks, traffic signals, medians, or turn lanes;

(III) digital or telecommunications infrastructure; or

(IV) electricity infrastructure;

(ii) site preparation for development or redevelopment, including land and property acquisition, demolition, brownfield remediation, or flood remediation and mitigation; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

Second: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910, by striking out subsection (d) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Project criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether at least 51 percent of the floor area of the projected housing development is dedicated to housing.

Third: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, by striking out section 1907 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 1907 to read as follows:

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of the pilot Community and Housing Infrastructure Program is to encourage the development of new primary residences for households of low and moderate income across both rural and urban areas of all Vermont counties.

Fourth: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910, in subsection (g), by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (1) to read as follows:

(1) that meet the process requirements and the project criterion of this section;

Fifth: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and relettering the remaining subdivisions to be alphabetically correct

Sixth: In Sec. 25, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, by striking out section 1910f in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 1910f to read as follows:

§ 1910f. RULEMAKING

The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter. The Council shall specifically adopt rules to:

(1) govern the prioritization of applications submitted for approval of tax increment financing under this subchapter that take into consideration the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter, vacancy or dilapidation, regional equity and verifiable housing shortages, and labor sheds; and

(2) determine the appropriate floor area measure for purposes of the project criterion under subsection 1910(e) of this subchapter.

Pending the question, Shall the amendment offered by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock and others be amended as offered by Rep. Sibilia of Dover and others?, **Rep. Harrison of Chittenden** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the amendment offered by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock and others be amended as offered by Rep. Sibilia of Dover and others?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 53. Nays, 86.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Bartley of Fairfax *
Bosch of Clarendon
Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Burditt of West Rutland
Burtt of Cabot
Canfield of Fair Haven
Casey of Hubbardton
Charlton of Chester
Coffin of Cavendish
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Galfetti of Barre Town
Goslant of Northfield
Gregoire of Fairfield *
Hango of Berkshire *
Harrison of Chittenden
Hooper of Randolph
Howland of Rutland Town
Kascenska of Burke
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Luneau of St. Albans City
Maguire of Rutland City
Malay of Pittsford
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town
Micklus of Milton
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington
Nelson of Derby
Nielsen of Brandon
North of Ferrisburgh
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Pinsonault of Dorset
Powers of Waterford
Priestley of Bradford *
Pritchard of Pawlet
Quimby of Lyndon
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Steady of Milton
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Milton
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bartholomew of Hartland
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Garofano of Essex
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McGill of Bridport
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield

Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Brady of Williston
Branagan of Georgia
Brown of Richmond
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Christie of Hartford
Cina of Burlington
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Harple of Glover
Harvey of Castleton
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
James of Manchester
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
Ode of Burlington
Olson of Starksboro *
Pezzo of Colchester
Pouech of Hinesburg
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Squirrell of Underhill
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Tomlinson of Winooski
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
Wells of Brownington
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown *

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Donahue of Northfield
Higley of Lowell
Hunter of Manchester
McCann of Montpelier
Nigro of Bennington
White of Waitsfield
White of Bethel
Winter of Ludlow

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Today I vote yes, not only as an individual but as a representative for my community. Our constituents' voices are integral to our democratic process. I will ensure they are heard and not stifled."

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes on this amendment because at some point the concerns of rural Vermont have to be taken seriously and today seems like a good day to do that."

Rep. Hango of Berkshire provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

But…For…if infrastructure were going to be built without public dollars, it would have been built long ago, and we would not be in a housing crisis."

Rep. Olson of Starksboro provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no on these amendments, but I expect a Committee of Conference to come back with an improved bill that rises to the challenge of Vermont's housing crisis."

Rep. Priestley of Bradford provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes because the need for housing is self-evident. The tax increment being used is public revenue to fund public infrastructure. Let's show the people of Vermont that we are listening — and that we are serious about building homes, not building hurdles."

Rep. Yacovone of Morristown provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

This amendment is supposed to show support for rural Vermont. I am not sure what 'but for,' utilities, or square footage have to do with rurality. Location surely does, and that has been addressed. I vote no."

Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Ways and Means was amended as offered by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock and others, and the report of the Committee on General and Housing was amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, as amended.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on General and Housing, as amended?, **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on General and Housing, as amended?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 100. Nays, 36.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Dolan of Essex Junction	McFaun of Barre Town
Austin of Colchester	Dolgin of St. Johnsbury *	McGill of Bridport
Bartholomew of Hartland	Duke of Burlington	Micklus of Milton *
Bartley of Fairfax	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mihaly of Calais

Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bosch of Clarendon
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston
Brown of Richmond
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington *
Burrows of West Windsor
Burtt of Cabot
Canfield of Fair Haven
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Charlton of Chester
Christie of Hartford
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal *
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Dodge of Essex *
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Galfetti of Barre Town
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Graning of Jericho *
Greer of Bennington
Harple of Glover
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
James of Manchester
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington *
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nelson of Derby
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Ode of Burlington
Olson of Starksboro *
Pezzo of Colchester
Pouech of Hinesburg
Priestley of Bradford
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Squirrell of Underhill
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Tomlinson of Winooski
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
Wells of Brownington
Wood of Waterbury *
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Branagan of Georgia
Burditt of West Rutland
Casey of Hubbardton
Coffin of Cavendish
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Goslant of Northfield
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Harvey of Castleton
Howland of Rutland Town
Kascenska of Burke
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Luneau of St. Albans City
Malay of Pittsford
McCoy of Poultney
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington
Nielsen of Brandon
North of Ferrisburgh *
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Pinsonault of Dorset
Powers of Waterford
Pritchard of Pawlet
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Steady of Milton *
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Milton
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Hooper of Randolph	White of Waitsfield
Cina of Burlington	Hunter of Manchester	White of Bethel
Dobrovich of Williamstown	McCann of Montpelier	Winter of Ludlow
Donahue of Northfield	Nigro of Bennington	
Higley of Lowell	Parsons of Newbury	

Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Addressing market failure is where there is a role for government subsidy. The guardrails on CHIP are meant to target precious taxpayer dollars toward the part of the market that has failed most spectacularly – houses for low-, moderate-, and middle-income Vermonters. My hope for CHIP is that the 'but for' test helps ensure that incentives are directed to smaller developers, doing smaller scale projects in parts of the State that have not attracted private capital."

Rep. Cooper of Pownal provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because the bill allows the State of Vermont to invest in its own middle class. Today, the middle class must rely more on luck than anything to find a home. If the American Dream is not accessible in Vermont, Americans will continue to pursue that dream beyond our borders. Worse still, Vermonters will be forced to do the same. I am sorry to say that they are doing so now. I do believe that we could have done more here, as do many on the third, fourth, and fifth floors. But it is my expectation that this legislation will demonstrate how much more we need, in a concrete way. This lifts us out of the hypothetical realm that has stifled us for too long."

Rep. Dodge of Essex provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I enthusiastically support S.127 because it removes permitting hurdles and makes powerful investments for those seeking and for those developing our much-needed housing. But as we heard from contractors, these investments won't expand housing if we cannot expand our labor force. So, to that end, this bill protects Vermont's growing immigrant population's right to rent housing without facing discrimination. The very people who will help us build our way out of our housing crisis should have fair housing access."

Rep. Dolgin of St. Johnsbury provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because Vermont needs housing. I was pushing for a housing bill that would use the Vermont landlords as a partner in the landscape of this housing crisis. S.127 does not do that."

Rep. Graning of Jericho provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

We currently need many programs to build housing and the infrastructure that is required to support that housing. S.127 gives all of Vermont more resources to do both. It will take all of these tools and more to reach our goals, but this sets us on the path to build the affordable primary residences we so desperately need."

Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Across our State, more Vermonters are struggling to find housing. This crisis disproportionately impacts low- to- moderate income families, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those transitioning out of homelessness. The need for action is urgent."

Rep. Micklus of Milton provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

This bill is still too restrictive to be of practical use solving the housing crisis. Nevertheless, I voted yes because I would rather have 50% of something than 100% of nothing."

Rep. North of Ferrisburgh provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no on S.127. This bill falls short of what we need to support rural housing development. I'm holding out for H.479 as passed back to us by the Senate."

Rep. Olson of Starksboro provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on this bill and amendment. I expect a Committee of Conference will come back with an improved bill that rises to the challenge of Vermont's housing crisis in all areas of the State."

Rep. Steady of Milton provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

While I understand the need for affordable housing, I voted 'no' due to the 'what ifs.' I was voted as a Representative to make well-informed votes and not a 'what if' bill. I believe we can do better."

Rep. Wood of Waterbury provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes because I represent two of the most rural towns in Chittenden County – Bolton and Huntington. S.127 is more likely to incentivize housing development rather than penalize those parts of the State, which currently have less development activity."

Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 482

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9384 is added to read:

§ 9384. REDUCTION OR REALLOCATION OF REIMBURSEMENT RATES; RISKS TO HEALTH INSURER SOLVENCY

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Hospital" has the same meaning as in section 9451 of this title.

(2) "Hospital network" means a system comprising two or more affiliated hospitals, and may include other health care professionals and facilities, that derives 50 percent or more of its operating revenue, at the consolidated network level, from Vermont hospitals and in which the affiliated hospitals deliver health care services in a coordinated manner using an integrated financial and governance structure.

(b) If the Green Mountain Care Board determines, after consultation with the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, that a domestic health insurer faces an acute and immediate threat to its solvency because its risk-based capital level has triggered a regulatory action level event pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 8304, the Board may order a reduction of the insurer's reimbursement rates to one or

more Vermont hospitals as set forth in subsection (c) of this section until such time as the amount of the insurer's risk-based capital exceeds the company action level risk-based capital threshold defined in 8 V.S.A. § 8301. Notwithstanding any provision of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to the contrary, the Board's activities under this section shall not be construed to be a contested case. Any person aggrieved by a final Board action, order, or determination under this section may appeal as set forth in section 9381 of this title.

(c)(1) The Board shall only order a reduction in the reimbursement rates to a hospital that meets one or both of the following criteria:

(A) the hospital has more than 135 days' cash on hand and had a positive operating margin in the previous fiscal year; or

(B) the hospital is a member of a hospital network that, at the consolidated network level, has more than 135 days' cash on hand or had a positive operating margin in the previous fiscal year, or both.

(2) The Board shall order a reduction in reimbursement rates to a hospital pursuant to this section only to the extent necessary to remediate the threat to the domestic health insurer's solvency. In determining whether and to what extent to reduce a hospital's reimbursement rates pursuant to this section, the Board shall consider the competing financial obligations of the hospital and of the domestic health insurer.

(3) The Board shall provide a hospital with the opportunity to request relief from a rate reduction ordered pursuant to this section.

(4) In no event shall a reduction ordered by the Board pursuant to this section result in a decrease to a hospital's or hospital network's projected days' cash on hand to below 125 days.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

§ 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

* * *

(c) Individual hospital budgets established under this section shall:

* * *

(4) reflect budget performances for prior years and, if not already addressed pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, account for any significant deviation in revenue during the most recently completed fiscal year in excess of the budget established for the hospital pursuant to this section;

* * *

(f)(1) The Board may, upon application, adjust a budget established under this section upon a showing of need based upon exceptional or unforeseen circumstances in accordance with the criteria and processes established under section 9405 of this title.

(2) The Board may, on its own initiative, adjust the commercial health insurance reimbursement rates payable to a hospital at any time during the hospital's fiscal year in order to ensure that the hospital operates within the budget established under this section.

(g)(1) The Board may request, and a hospital shall provide, information determined by the Board to be necessary to determine whether the hospital is operating within a budget established under this section. For purposes of this subsection, subsection (h) of this section, and subdivision 9454(a)(7) of this title, the Board's authority shall extend to an affiliated corporation or other person in the control of or controlled by the hospital to the extent that such authority is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection, subsection (h) of this section, or subdivision 9454(a)(7) of this title. As used in this subsection, a rebuttable presumption of "control" is created if the entity, hospital, or other person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing 20 percent or more of the voting securities or membership interest or other governing interest of the hospital or other controlled entity.

(2)(A) The Board may, upon finding that a hospital has made a material misrepresentation in information or documents provided to the Board or that a hospital is materially noncompliant with the budget established by the Board pursuant to this section, appoint an independent observer with respect to any matter related to the Board's review or enforcement under this section if the Board believes that doing so is in the public interest. The independent observer shall be a person with experience and expertise relevant to the specific circumstances. At the direction of the Board, the independent observer may monitor the hospital's operations, obtain information from the hospital, and report findings and recommendations to the Board.

(B) An independent observer appointed pursuant to this subdivision (2) shall have the right to receive copies of all materials related to the Board's review under this section and the hospital shall provide any information requested by the independent observer, including any information regarding the hospital's participation in a hospital network. The independent observer shall share information provided by the hospital with the Board and with the Office of the Health Care Advocate in accordance with subdivision (d)(3) of this section but shall not otherwise disclose any confidential or proprietary information that the independent observer obtained from the hospital.

(C) The Board may order a hospital to pay for all or a portion of the costs of an independent observer appointed for the hospital pursuant to this subdivision (2).

* * *

Sec. 3. INDEPENDENT HOSPITAL OBSERVER AUTHORITY; PROSPECTIVE REPEAL

18 V.S.A. § 9456(g)(2) (authority to appoint independent hospital observer) is repealed on January 1, 2030.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Committee of Conference Appointed

S. 12

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington
Rep. Burditt of West Rutland
Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar
Bill Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

S. 122

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic and workforce development

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Message from the Senate No. 66

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 53. An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

H. 105. An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

H. 106. An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area.

H. 454. An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.

H. 472. An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 151. House concurrent resolution congratulating Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary.

H.C.R. 152. House concurrent resolution honoring Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable.

H.C.R. 153. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ronald Loomis on his receipt of the 2025 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award.

H.C.R. 154. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont.

Adjournment

At four o'clock and three minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 27.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 151

House concurrent resolution congratulating Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary

H.C.R. 152

House concurrent resolution honoring Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable

H.C.R. 153

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ronald Loomis on his receipt of the 2025 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award

H.C.R. 154

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2025 Biennial Session.]

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Jonathan Cooper of Pownal.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 152

Offered by Representatives Harvey of Castleton and Canfield of Fair Haven

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution honoring Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable

Whereas, a lifelong Castleton resident, Si Loomis remembered his father's sage advice that "you owe more to your town than just paying taxes," and when approached to run for Castleton's first constable, he agreed, and

Whereas, when assuming this position in 1972, he probably never dreamed that his policing duties would extend until 2025, constituting one of the longest tenures ever for any elected Castleton law enforcement officer, and

Whereas, unique among Vermont constables, Si Loomis conducted his summer patrols on a police motorcycle, enabling him to work with the public on a more direct basis than if driving a police cruiser, and

Whereas, in an act of true bravery, Si Loomis once rescued a man from his car that had broken through the ice; on other occasions he assisted in roadside deliveries of babies; and he was especially proud to provide law enforcement support at the Castleton Elementary School for several years following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut, and

Whereas, from 1990 to 1992, Si Loomis served as Castleton Chief of Police, and over the years he had also worked as a part-time law enforcement official with the Addison County Sheriff's Department and the Rutland County Sheriff's Office and the Brandon and Middlebury Police Departments, and his first public safety position was as a Castleton volunteer firefighter, and

Whereas, Si Loomis chaired the Vermont Constables' Association, served as a member of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, and is a life member of the National Constables and Marshals Association, and

Whereas, militarily, Si Loomis served as a U.S. Navy Seabee during the Vietnam War and later with the Army National Guard, including postings to Kuwait and Iraq, serving our country for a total of 40 years in uniform, and

Whereas, on March 4, 2025, after 53 years of patrolling the Castleton beat and earning a wonderful reputation for dedication and loyalty to his hometown, Si Loomis concluded his law enforcement career, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Si Loomis and to the Castleton town clerk.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 23, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 69

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to an age-appropriate design code

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 127

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Second Reading; Amendments Offered and Withdrawn; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended, All Remaining Stages of Passage; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 123

Rep. Walker of Swanton, for the Committee on Transportation, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Plug-in Electric Vehicles * * *

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 4(28) is amended to read:

(28) "Pleasure car" shall include all motor vehicles not otherwise defined in this title and shall include plug-in electric vehicles, battery electric vehicles, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles as defined pursuant to subdivision (85) of this section.

* * * Veteran's Designation * * *

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

§ 7. ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE; MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE INFORMATION; FEE

* * *

(b)(1) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced license may be issued to an individual, the individual shall present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to determine identity and U.S. citizenship. ~~An~~ A new application shall be accompanied by a photo identity document, documentation showing the individual's date and place of birth, proof of the individual's Social Security number, and documentation showing the individual's principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the enhanced license.

(2) If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of Veterans' Affairs confirms the individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term "veteran" on its face.

(3) To be issued, an enhanced license must meet the same requirements as those for the issuance of a U.S. passport. Before an application may be processed, the documents and information shall be verified as determined by the Commissioner.

(4) Any additional personal identity information not currently required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security shall need the approval of either the General Assembly or the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules prior to the implementation of the requirements.

* * *

* * * Documentation of Anatomical Gift * * *

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

§ 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

* * *

(g) An identification card issued to a first-time applicant and any subsequent renewals by that person shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the applicant. The photographic identification card shall be available at a location designated by the Commissioner. An individual issued an identification card under this subsection that contains an imaged likeness may renew ~~his or her~~ the individual's identification card by mail. Except that a renewal by an individual required to have a photograph or imaged likeness under this subsection must be made in person so that an updated imaged likeness of the individual is obtained not less often than once every nine years.

* * *

(k) At the option of the applicant, ~~his or her~~ the applicant's valid Vermont license may be surrendered in connection with an application for an identification card. In those instances, the fee due under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by:

* * *

(n) The Commissioner shall provide a form that, upon the individual's execution, shall serve as a document of an anatomical gift under 18 V.S.A. chapter 110. An indicator shall be placed on the nondriver identification card of any individual who has executed an anatomical gift form in accordance with this section.

* * * Disability Placards for Volunteer Drivers * * *

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 304a is amended to read:

§ 304a. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES AND PLACARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Ambulatory disability" means an impairment that prevents or impedes walking. An individual shall be considered to have an ambulatory disability if ~~he or she~~ the individual:

* * *

(F) is severely limited in ~~his or her~~ the individual's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.

* * *

(b) Special registration plates or removable windshield placards, or both, shall be issued by the Commissioner. The placard shall be issued without a fee to an individual who is blind or has an ambulatory disability. One set of plates shall be issued without additional fees for a vehicle registered or leased to an individual who is blind or has an ambulatory disability or to a parent or guardian of an individual with a permanent disability. The Commissioner shall issue these placards or plates under rules adopted by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner after proper application has been made to the Commissioner by any person residing within the State. Application forms shall be available on request at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(1) Upon application for a special registration plate or removable windshield placard, the Commissioner shall send a form prescribed by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner to the applicant to be signed and returned by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The Commissioner shall file the form for future reference and issue the placard or plate. A new application shall be submitted every four years in the case of placards and at every third registration renewal for plates but in no case greater than every four years. When a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse has previously certified to the Commissioner that an applicant's condition is both

permanent and stable, a special registration plate or placard need not be renewed.

* * *

(3) An individual with a disability who abuses such privileges or allows individuals not disabled to abuse the privileges provided in this section may have this privilege revoked after suitable notice and opportunity for hearing has been given ~~him or her~~ the individual by the Commissioner. Hearings under the provisions of this section shall be held in accordance with sections 105–107 of this title and shall be subject to review by the Civil Division of the Superior Court of the county where the individual with a disability resides.

(4) An applicant for a registration plate or placard for individuals with disabilities may request the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which ~~he or she~~ the applicant resides to review a decision by the Commissioner to deny ~~his or her~~ the applicant's application for a special registration plate or placard.

* * *

(6) On a form prescribed by the Commissioner, a nonprofit organization that provides volunteer drivers to transport individuals who have an ambulatory disability or are blind may apply to the Commissioner for a placard. ~~Placards shall be marked "volunteer driver."~~ The organization shall ensure proper use of placards and maintain an accurate and complete record of the volunteer drivers to whom the placards are given by the organization. Placards shall be returned to the organization when the volunteer driver is no longer performing that service. Abuse of the privileges provided by the placards may result in the privileges being revoked and the placards repossessed by the Commissioner. Revocation may occur only after suitable notice and opportunity for a hearing. Hearings shall be held in accordance with sections 105–107 of this title.

* * *

(e)(1) An individual, other than an eligible person, who for ~~his or her~~ the individual's own purposes parks a vehicle in a space for individuals with disabilities shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $200.00 for each violation and shall be liable for towing charges.

(2) An individual, other than an eligible person, who displays a special registration plate or removable windshield placard not issued to ~~him or her~~ the individual under this section and parks a vehicle in a space for individuals with disabilities, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $400.00 for each violation and shall be liable for towing charges.

* * *

(f) Individuals who have a temporary ambulatory disability may apply for a temporary removable windshield placard to the Commissioner on a form prescribed by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner. The placard shall be valid for a period of up to six months and displayed as required under the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. The application shall be signed by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The validation period of the temporary placard shall be established on the basis of the written recommendation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The Commissioner shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

* * * Fees * * *

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 115(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis.

(2) Every application for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (l) of this section. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the applicant's identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of Veterans' Affairs confirms the veteran's status as an honorably discharged veteran; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term "veteran" on its face.

(3) The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of $29.00 at the time application for an identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card shall be issued at no charge to:

(A) an individual who surrenders the individual's license in connection with a suspension or revocation under subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition; or

(B) an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 376 is amended to read:

§ 376. STATE, MUNICIPAL, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION MOTOR VEHICLES

* * *

(h)(1) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for vehicles owned by the State.

(2) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for vehicles that are owned by any county or municipality in the State and used by that county or municipality or another county or municipality in this State for county or municipal purposes.

(i)(1) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for a motor truck, trailer, ambulance, or other motor vehicle that is:

(A) owned by a volunteer fire department or other volunteer firefighting organization, an ambulance service, or an organization conducting rescue operations; and

(B) used solely for firefighting, emergency medical, or rescue purposes, or any combination of those activities.

(2) A motor vehicle or trailer subject to the provisions of this subsection shall be plainly marked on both sides of the body or cab to indicate its ownership.

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 378 is amended to read:

§ 378. VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS

No fees, including the annual emissions fee required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2822(m)(1) and the electric vehicle infrastructure fees required pursuant to section 361 of this subchapter, shall be charged ~~an honorably discharged~~ to a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who received a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions and is a resident of the State of Vermont for the registration of a motor vehicle that the veteran has acquired with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or for the registration

of a motor vehicle owned by ~~him or her~~ the veteran during ~~his or her~~ the veteran's lifetime obtained as a replacement thereof, when ~~his or her~~ the veteran's application is accompanied by a copy of an approved VA Form 21-4502 issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying ~~him or her~~ the veteran to be entitled to the financial assistance.

Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FEES

* * *

(b) An additional fee of $4.00 per year shall be paid for a motorcycle endorsement. The endorsement may be obtained for either a two-year or four-year period, to be coincidental with the length of the operator's license.

(c)(1) Individuals under 23 years of age who were in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall be provided with operator's licenses or operator privilege cards at no charge.

(2) No additional fee shall be due for a motorcycle endorsement for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

* * * Learner's Permits * * *

Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

§ 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

* * *

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall offer both a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only and a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of any motorcycle. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of $24.00 at the time application is made, except that no fee shall be charged for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

(2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the Commissioner may issue to the applicant a learner's permit that entitles the applicant, subject to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle only, or to operate any motorcycle, upon the public highways for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance. The fee for the examination shall be $11.00, except that no fee shall be charged for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

(3) A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon payment of a $24.00 fee. An individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall not be charged a fee for the renewal of a motorcycle learner's permit.

(4) If, during the original permit period and two renewals the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or motorcycle rider training course, the permittee may not obtain another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the expiration of the permit unless:

(A) ~~he or she~~ the permittee has successfully completed the applicable motorcycle rider training course; or

(B) the learner's permit and renewals thereof authorized the operation of any motorcycle and the permittee is seeking a learner's permit for the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only.

* * *

(c) No learner's permit may be issued to any person under 18 years of age unless the parent or guardian of, or a person standing in loco parentis to, the applicant files ~~his or her~~ written consent to the issuance with the Commissioner.

(d)(1) An applicant shall pay $24.00 to the Commissioner for each learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

(2) An applicant under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall not be charged a fee for a learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

(3) A replacement learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle may be generated from the applicant's electronic account for no charge.

(e)(1) A learner's permit~~, which is not a learner's permit~~ for the operation of a motorcycle~~,~~ shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the individual. A learner's permit for a motor vehicle shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the individual if the permit is obtained in person. ~~The photographic learner's permit shall be available at locations designated by the Commissioner.~~

(2) An individual issued a permit under this subsection may renew ~~his or her~~ the individual's permit by mail or online, but a permit holder who chooses to have a photograph or imaged likeness under this subsection must renew in person so that an updated imaged likeness of the individual is obtained not less often than once every nine years.

* * *

* * * Commercial Learner's Permit * * *

Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 4111a is amended to read:

§ 4111a. COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT

(a) Contents of permit. A commercial learner's permit shall contain the following:

* * *

(3) physical and other information to identify and describe the permit holder, including the month, day, and year of birth; sex; ~~and~~ height; and photograph;

* * *

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 4122 is amended to read:

§ 4122. DEFERRING IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE; PROHIBITION ON MASKING OR DIVERSION

(a) No court, State's Attorney, or law enforcement officer may utilize the provisions of 13 V.S.A. § 7041 or any other program to defer imposition of sentence or judgment if the defendant holds a commercial driver's license, commercial learner's permit, or was operating a commercial motor vehicle when the violation occurred and is charged with violating any State or local traffic law other than ~~a~~ parking ~~violation~~, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations.

* * *

* * * License Examinations * * *

Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 632 is amended to read:

§ 632. EXAMINATION REQUIRED; WAIVER

(a) Before an operator's or a junior operator's license is issued to an applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory examination, except that the Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, waive the examination when the applicant holds a chauffeur's, junior operator's, or operator's license in force at the time of application or within three years prior to the application in some other jurisdiction where an examination is required similar to the examination required in this State.

(b) The examination shall consist of:

* * *

(3) at the discretion of the Commissioner, such other examination or demonstration as ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner may prescribe, including an oral eye examination.

(c) An applicant may have an individual of ~~his or her~~ the applicant's choosing at the oral examination or road test to serve as an interpreter, including to translate any oral commands given as part of the road test.

Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 634 is amended to read:

§ 634. FEE FOR EXAMINATION

* * *

(b)(1) ~~A~~ Beginning on or before July 1, 2026, a scheduling fee of $29.00 shall be paid by the applicant before the applicant may schedule the road test required under section 632 of this title. ~~Unless an applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation, if~~

(2) If the applicant does not appear as scheduled, the $29.00 scheduling fee ~~is~~ shall be forfeited, unless either:

(A) the applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice; or

(B) the applicant shows good cause for the cancellation, as determined by the Commissioner.

(3) If the applicant appears for the scheduled road test, the fee shall be applied toward the license examination fee. ~~The Commissioner may waive the scheduling fee until the Department is capable of administering the fee electronically.~~

* * *

* * * Non-Real ID Operator's Privilege Cards * * *

Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:

§ 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

(a)(1) The Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's authorized agent may license operators and junior operators when an application, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, signed and sworn to by the applicant for the license, is filed with ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner, accompanied by the required license fee and any valid license from another state or Canadian jurisdiction is surrendered.

(2) The Commissioner may, however, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, refuse to issue a license to any person whenever ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner is satisfied from information given ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner by credible persons, and upon investigation, that the person is mentally or physically unfit or, because of ~~his or her~~ the person's habits or record as to crashes or convictions, is unsafe to be trusted with the operation of motor vehicles. A person refused a license under the provisions of this subsection shall be entitled to hearing as provided in sections 105–107 of this title.

* * *

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section:

(1) ~~A~~ An applicant who is a citizen of a foreign country shall produce ~~his or her~~ the applicant's passport and visa, alien registration receipt card (green card), or other proof of legal presence for inspection and copying as a part of the application process for an operator's license, junior operator's license, or learner's permit.

(2) An operator's license, junior operator's license, or learner's permit issued to an applicant who is a citizen of a foreign country shall expire coincidentally with ~~his or her~~ the applicant's authorized duration of stay.

(e)(1) A citizen of a foreign country unable to establish legal presence in the United States who furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date of birth, and place of birth, and who satisfies all other requirements of this chapter for obtaining a license or permit, shall be eligible to obtain an

operator's privilege card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card.

* * *

(f) ~~Persons~~ Applicant's able to establish lawful presence in the United States but who otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201-202, shall be eligible for an operator's privilege card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card, provided the applicant furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date of birth, and place of birth, and satisfies all other requirements of this chapter for obtaining a license or permit. The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the applicant's Vermont residence and ~~his or her~~ the applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth.

* * *

(h) A privilege card issued under this section shall:

(1) on its face bear the phrase ~~"privilege card"~~ "non-Real ID" and text indicating that it is not valid for federal identification or official purposes; and

* * *

* * * License Extension * * *

Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A § 604 is added to read:

§ 604. EARLY RENEWAL

(a) The holder of an operator's license or privilege card issued under the provisions of this subchapter may renew the operator's license or privilege card at any time prior to the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card. If one or more years remain before the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed operator's license or privilege card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card.

(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of an operator's license or privilege card shall apply to the early renewal of an operator's license or privilege card.

Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. § 115b is added to read:

§ 115b. EARLY RENEWAL

(a) The holder of nondriver identification card issued under the provisions of section 115 of this chapter may renew the nondriver identification card at any time prior to the expiration of the nondriver identification card. If one or more years remain before the expiration of the nondriver identification card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed nondriver identification card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the nondriver identification card.

(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of a nondriver identification card pursuant to section 115 of this chapter shall apply to the early renewal of a nondriver identification card.

Sec. 17. INFORMATION REGARDING PRIVILEGE CARDS AND NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall ensure that any individual who is unable to or does not wish to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201 and 202 shall continue to be informed of the option of obtaining an operator's privilege card pursuant to the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 603(f) or a nondriver identification card pursuant to the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 115.

Sec. 18. OUTREACH; UPDATES

(a) On or before November 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall develop and implement a public education and outreach campaign to inform Vermont residents about:

(1) an individual's ability to obtain an operator's license, operator's privilege card, or nondriver identification card;

(2) an individual's ability under Vermont law to self-attest with respect to the gender marker on the individual's operator's license, operator's privilege card, or nondriver identification card; and

(3) reduced fees that are available to individuals who meet certain requirements.

(b) The Commissioner shall provide two brief, written updates to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the implementation and utilization of 23 V.S.A. §§ 115b and 604. The first shall be due not more than 30 days after the Department implements the provisions of 23 V.S.A. §§ 115b and 604 and the second shall be due in January 2026.

* * * Commercial Driving Instructors * * *

Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 705 is amended to read:

§ 705. QUALIFICATIONS FOR INSTRUCTOR'S LICENSE

(a) In order to qualify for an instructor's license, each applicant shall:

(1) not have been convicted of:

(A) a felony nor incarcerated for a felony within the 10 years prior to the date of application;

(B) a violation of section 1201 of this title or a like offense in another jurisdiction reported to the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision 3905(a)(2) of this title within the three years prior to the date of application;

(C) a subsequent violation of an offense listed in subdivision 2502(a)(5) of this title or of section 674 of this title; or

(D) a sex offense that requires registration pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 3;

(2) pass ~~such~~ an examination ~~as~~ required by the Commissioner ~~shall require~~ on:

(A) traffic laws;

(B) safe driving practices;

(C) operation of motor vehicles; and

(D) qualifications as a teacher;

(3) be physically able to operate a motor vehicle and to train others in such operation;

(4) have five years' experience as a licensed operator and be at least 21 years of age on date of application; and

(5) pay the application and license fees prescribed in section 702 of this title.

(b) Commercial motor vehicle instructors shall satisfy the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (3), and (5) of this section, and:

(1) If the commercial motor vehicle instructor is a behind the wheel (BTW) instructor, shall either:

(A)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years of experience driving a commercial motor vehicle requiring the same or higher class of CDL and any applicable endorsements required to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors; or

(B)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years' experience as a BTW instructor; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors.

(2) If the commercial motor vehicle instructor is a theory instructor, the instructor shall:

(A)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years of experience driving a commercial motor vehicle requiring the same or higher class of CDL and any applicable endorsements required to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors; or

(B)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years' experience as a BTW instructor; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors.

* * * Motorcycle Instructors * * *

Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 734 is amended to read:

§ 734. INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING

* * *

(b) The Department shall establish minimum requirements for the qualifications of a rider training instructor. The minimum requirements shall include the following:

* * *

(3) the instructor shall have at least ~~four~~ two years of licensed experience as a motorcycle ~~riding experience~~ operator during the last ~~five~~ four years;

* * *

(7) an applicant shall not be eligible for instructor status until ~~his or her~~ the applicant's driving record for the preceding five years, or the maximum number of years less than five for which a state retains driving records, is furnished; and

* * *

* * * Motor Vehicle Taxes * * *

Sec. 21. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

§ 8902. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly provided, as used in this chapter:

* * *

(5)(A) "Taxable cost" means the purchase price as defined in subdivision (4) of this section or the taxable cost as determined under section 8907 of this title.

(B) For any purchaser who has paid tax on the purchase or use of a motor vehicle that was sold or traded by the purchaser or for which the purchaser received payment under a contract of insurance, the taxable cost of the replacement motor vehicle other than a leased vehicle shall exclude:

~~(A)~~(i) The value allowed by the seller on any motor vehicle accepted by the seller as part of the consideration of the motor vehicle, provided the motor vehicle accepted by the seller is owned and previously or currently registered or titled by the purchaser, with no change of ownership since registration or titling, except for motor vehicles for which registration is not required under the provisions of Title 23 or motor vehicles received under the provisions of subdivision 8911(8) of this title.

~~(B)~~(ii) The amount received from the sale of a motor vehicle last registered or titled in the seller's name, the amount not to exceed the clean trade-in value of the same make, type, model, and year of manufacture as designated by the manufacturer and as shown in the ~~NADA Official Used Car~~

~~Guide (New England edition)~~ J.D. Power Values, or any comparable publication, provided ~~such~~ the sale occurs within three months after the taxable purchase. However, this three-month period shall be extended day-for-day for any time that a member of a guard unit or of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), spends outside Vermont due to activation or deployment and an additional 60 days following the individual's return from activation or deployment. ~~Such~~ The amount shall be reported on forms supplied by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

~~(C)~~(iii) The amount actually paid to the purchaser within three months prior to the taxable purchase by any insurer under a contract of collision, comprehensive, or similar insurance with respect to a motor vehicle owned by ~~him or her~~ the purchaser, provided that the vehicle is not subject to the tax imposed by subsection 8903(d) of this title and provided that one of these events occur:

~~(i)~~(I) the motor vehicle with respect to which ~~such~~ the payment is made by the insurer is accepted by the seller as a trade-in on the purchased motor vehicle before the repair of the damage giving rise to insurer's payment; or

~~(ii)~~(II) the motor vehicle with respect to which ~~such~~ the payment is made to the insurer is treated as a total loss and is sold for dismantling.

~~(D)~~(C) A purchaser shall be entitled to a partial or complete refund of taxes paid under subsection 8903(a) or (b) of this title if an insurer makes a payment to ~~him or her~~ the purchaser under contract of collision, comprehensive, or similar insurance after ~~he or she~~ the purchaser has paid the tax imposed by this chapter, if ~~such~~ the payment by the insurer is either:

* * *

~~(E)~~(D) The purchase price of a motor vehicle subject to the tax imposed by subsections 8903(a) and (b) of this title shall not be reduced by the value received or allowed in connection with the transfer of a vehicle that was registered for use as a short-term rental vehicle.

* * *

Sec. 22. 32 V.S.A. § 8907 is amended to read:

§ 8907. COMMISSIONER; COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE COSTS

(a) The Commissioner may investigate the taxable cost of any motor vehicle transferred subject to the provisions of this chapter. If the motor vehicle is not acquired by purchase in Vermont or is received for an amount that does not represent actual value, or if no tax form is filed or it appears to the Commissioner that a tax form contains fraudulent or incorrect information,

the Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's discretion, fix the taxable cost of the motor vehicle at the clean trade-in value of vehicles of the same make, type, model, and year of manufacture as designated by the manufacturer, as shown in ~~the NADA Official Used Car Guide (New England Edition)~~ J.D. Power Values or any comparable publication, less the lease end value of any leased vehicle. The Commissioner may develop a process to determine the value of vehicles that do not have clean trade-in value in J.D. Power Values. The Commissioner may compute and assess the tax due and notify the purchaser verbally, if the purchaser is at a DMV location, or immediately by ~~certified~~ mail, and the purchaser shall remit the same within 15 days ~~thereafter~~ after notice is sent or provided.

* * *

Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 8914 is amended to read:

§ 8914. REFUND

Any overpayment of such tax as determined by the Commissioner shall be refunded. To be eligible to receive a refund, a person shall submit a request for a refund within one year after paying the tax.

* * * Refund of Registration Fee * * *

Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 326 is amended to read:

§ 326. REFUND UPON LOSS OF VEHICLE

The Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle when the owner of the motor vehicle proves to the Commissioner's satisfaction that the motor vehicle has been totally destroyed by fire or, through crash or wear, has become wholly unfit for use and has been dismantled. After the Commissioner cancels the registration and the owner returns to the Commissioner either the registration certificate or the number plate or number plates, or other proof of cancellation to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall certify to the Commissioner of Finance and Management the fact of the cancellation, giving the name of the owner of the motor vehicle, the owner's address, the amount of the registration fee paid, and the date of cancellation. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue the Commissioner of Finance and Management's warrant in favor of the owner for such percent of the registration fee paid as the unexpired term of the registration bears to the entire registration period, but in no case shall the Commissioner of Finance and Management retain less than $5.00 of the fee paid.

* * * Fuel Tax Refunds * * *

Sec. 25. 23 V.S.A. § 3020 is amended to read:

§ 3020. CREDITS AND REFUNDS

(a) Credits.

(1) A user who purchased fuel within this State from a dealer or distributor upon which ~~he or she~~ the user paid the tax at the time of purchase, or a user exempt from the payment of the tax under subsection 3003(d) of this title who purchased fuel within this State upon which ~~he or she~~ the user paid tax at the time of purchase, shall be entitled to a credit equal to the amount of tax per gallon in effect when the fuel was purchased. When the amount of the credit to which any user is entitled for any reporting period exceeds the amount of ~~his or her~~ the user's tax for the same period, the excess shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

* * *

(3) A user who also sells or delivers fuel subject to the tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 upon which the tax imposed by this chapter has been paid shall be entitled to a credit equal to the amount of such tax paid pursuant to this chapter. When the amount of the credit to which any user is entitled for any reporting period exceeds the amount of ~~his or her~~ the user's tax for the same period, the excess shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

* * *

(b) Refunds. A user may request, in writing by mail, a refund of any credits in the user's tax account, but in no case may a user collect a refund requested more than ~~33~~ 12 months following the date the amount was credited to the user's tax account.

* * *

* * * Alteration of Odometers * * *

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 1704a is amended to read:

§ 1704a. ALTERATION OF ODOMETERS

(a) ~~Any person who sells~~ No person shall:

(1) sell, ~~attempts~~ attempt to sell, or ~~causes~~ cause to be sold any motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile ~~and has actual knowledge that~~ if the odometer, hubometer reading, or clock meter reading has been changed, tampered with, or defaced

without first disclosing ~~same and a person who changes, tampers with, or defaces, or who attempts~~ that information to the buyer;

(2) change, tamper with, or deface, or attempt to change, tamper with, or deface~~,~~ any ~~gauge, dial, or other mechanical instrument, commonly known as an~~ odometer, hubometer, or clock meter~~,~~ in a motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile~~, which, under normal circumstances and without being changed, tampered with, or defaced, is designed to show by numbers or words the distance that the motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile travels,~~; or ~~who~~

(3) willfully ~~misrepresents~~ misrepresent the odometer, hubometer, or clock meter reading on the odometer disclosure statement or similar statement, title, or bill of sale.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than $1,000.00 for a first offense and fined not more than $2,500.00 for each subsequent offense.

* * * Definition of Conviction * * *

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 102 is amended to read:

§ 102. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

* * *

(d)(1) The Commissioner may authorize background investigations for potential employees, which may include criminal, traffic, and financial records checks; provided, however, that the potential employee is notified and has the right to withdraw ~~his or her~~ their name from application. Additionally, employees who are involved in the manufacturing or production of operator's licenses and identification cards, including enhanced licenses, or who have the ability to affect the identity information that appears on a license or identification card, or current employees who will be assigned to such positions, shall be subject to appropriate background checks and shall be provided notice of the background check and the contents of that check. These background checks shall include a name-based and fingerprint-based criminal history records check using at a minimum the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification database and State repository records on each covered employee.

(2) Employees may be subject to further appropriate security clearances if required by federal law, including background investigations that may include criminal and traffic records checks and providing proof of U.S. citizenship.

(3) The Commissioner may, in connection with a formal disciplinary investigation, authorize a criminal or traffic record background investigation of a current employee; provided, however, that the background review is relevant to the issue under disciplinary investigation. Information acquired through the investigation shall be provided to the Commissioner or designated division director and must be maintained in a secure manner. If the information acquired is used as a basis for any disciplinary action, it must be given to the employee during any pretermination hearing or contractual grievance hearing to allow the employee an opportunity to respond to or dispute the information. If no disciplinary action is taken against the employee, the information acquired through the background check shall be destroyed.

(e) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 108 is amended to read:

§ 108. APPLICATION FORMS

(a) The Commissioner shall prepare and furnish all forms for applications, crash reports, conviction reports, a pamphlet containing the full text of the motor vehicle laws of the State, and all other forms needed in the proper conduct of ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's office. ~~He or she~~ The Commissioner shall furnish an adequate supply of ~~such~~ registration forms, license applications, and motor vehicle laws each year to each town clerk, and to ~~such~~ other persons ~~as may so~~ upon request.

(b) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 1709 is amended to read:

§ 1709. REPORT OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES

(a) The Judicial Bureau and every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under any law of this State or municipal ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on the highways shall forward a record of any conviction to the Commissioner within 10 days for violation of any State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation.

(b) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 1200 is amended to read:

§ 1200. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(11) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

* * * Drunken Driving * * *

Sec. 31. 23 V.S.A. § 1205 is amended to read:

§ 1205. CIVIL SUSPENSION; SUMMARY PROCEDURE

(a) Refusal; alcohol concentration at or above legal limits; suspension periods.

* * *

(2) Upon affidavit of a law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a limit specified in subsection 1201(a) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control, the Commissioner shall suspend the person's operating license or nonresident operating privilege or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle for a period of 90 days and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. However, during the suspension, an eligible person may operate under the terms of an ignition interlock RDL or ignition interlock certificate issued pursuant to section 1213 of this title.

* * *

(b) Form of officer's affidavit. A law enforcement officer's affidavit in support of a suspension under this section shall be in a standardized form for use throughout the State and shall be sufficient if it contains the following statements:

* * *

(4) The officer informed the person of ~~his or her~~ the person's rights under subsection 1202(d) of this title.

(5) The officer obtained an evidentiary test (noting the time and date the test was taken) and the test indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, or the person refused to submit to an evidentiary test.

* * *

(c) Notice of suspension. On behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a law enforcement officer requesting or directing the administration of an evidentiary test shall serve notice of intention to suspend and of suspension on a person who refuses to submit to an evidentiary test or on a person who submits to a test the results of which indicate that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title. The notice shall be signed by the law enforcement officer requesting the test. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and a copy shall be mailed or given to the defendant within three business days after the date the officer receives the results of the test. If mailed, the notice is deemed received three days after mailing to the address provided by the defendant to the law enforcement officer. A copy of the affidavit of the law enforcement officer shall also be mailed by first-class mail or given to the defendant within seven days after the date of notice.

* * *

(h) Final hearing.

(1) If the defendant requests a hearing on the merits, the court shall schedule a final hearing on the merits to be held within 21 days after the date of the preliminary hearing. In no event may a final hearing occur more than 42 days after the date of the alleged offense without the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The final hearing may only be continued by the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The issues at the final hearing shall be limited to the following:

* * *

(D) Whether the test was taken and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title, whether the testing methods used were valid and reliable, and whether the test results were accurate and accurately evaluated. Evidence that the test was taken and evaluated in compliance with rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety shall be prima facie evidence that the testing

methods used were valid and reliable and that the test results are accurate and were accurately evaluated.

* * *

(i) Finding by the court. The court shall electronically forward a report of the hearing to the Commissioner. Upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person refused to submit to a test, or upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control, the person's operating license, or nonresident operating privilege, or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle shall be suspended or shall remain suspended for the required term and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. Upon a finding in favor of the person, the Commissioner shall cause the suspension to be canceled and removed from the record, without payment of any fee.

* * *

(n) Presumption. In a proceeding under this section, if at any time within two hours of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle a person had an alcohol concentration ~~of~~ at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above the applicable limit at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

* * *

Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 1205(d) is amended to read:

(d) Form of notice. The notice of intention to suspend and of suspension shall be in a form prescribed by the Supreme Court. The notice shall include an explanation of rights, a form to be used to request a hearing, and, if a hearing is requested, the date, time, and location of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court where the person must appear for a preliminary hearing. The notice shall also contain, in boldface print, the following:

(1) You have the right to ask for a hearing to contest the suspension of your operator's license.

(2) ~~This notice shall serve as a temporary operator's license and is valid until 12:01 a.m. of the date of suspension.~~ If this is your first violation of section 1201 of this title and if you do not request a hearing, your license will be suspended as provided in this notice. If this is your second or subsequent violation of section 1201 of this title, your license will be suspended on the 11th day after you receive this notice. It is a crime to drive while your license is suspended unless you have been issued an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or ignition interlock certificate.

* * *

* * * Registration Fees for Trucks * * *

Sec. 33. 23 V.S.A. § 367 is amended to read:

§ 367. TRUCKS

(a)(1) The annual fee for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks except truck cranes, truck shovels, road oilers, bituminous distributors, and farm trucks used as specified in subsection (f) of this section shall be based on the total weight of the truck-tractor or motor truck, including body and cab plus the heaviest load to be carried. In computing the fees for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks with trailers or semi-trailers attached, except trailers or semi-trailers with a gross weight of less than ~~6,000~~ 6,099 pounds, the fee shall be based upon the weight of the tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck, the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer, and the weight of the heaviest load to be carried by the combined vehicles. In addition to the fee set out in the following schedule, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~10,000~~ 10,100 and ~~25,999~~ 26,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $42.53, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~26,000~~ 26,100 and ~~39,999~~ 40,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $85.03, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~40,000~~ 40,100 and ~~59,999~~ 60,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $297.68, and the fee for vehicles ~~60,000~~ 60,100 pounds and over shall be an additional $467.80. The fee shall be computed at the following rates per 1,000 pounds of weight determined pursuant to this subdivision and rounded up to the nearest whole dollar; the minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck to ~~6,000~~ 6,099 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:

$18.21 when the weight ~~exceeds 6,000 pounds but does not exceed 8,000 pounds~~ is at least 6,100 pounds but not more than 8,099 pounds.

$20.83 when the weight ~~exceeds 8,000 pounds but does not exceed 12,000 pounds~~ is at least 8,100 pounds but not more than 12,099 pounds.

$22.97 when the weight ~~exceeds 12,000 pounds but does not exceed 16,000 pounds~~ is at least 12,100 pounds but not more than 16,099 pounds.

$24.56 when the weight ~~exceeds 16,000 pounds but does not exceed 20,000 pounds~~ is at least 16,100 pounds but not more than 20,099 pounds.

$25.71 when the weight ~~exceeds 20,000 pounds but does not exceed 30,000 pounds~~ is at least 20,100 pounds but not more than 30,099 pounds.

$26.26 when the weight ~~exceeds 30,000 pounds but does not exceed 40,000 pounds~~ 30,100 pounds but not more than 40,099 pounds.

$26.90 when the weight ~~exceeds 40,000 pounds but does not exceed 50,000 pounds~~ is at least 40,100 pounds but not more than 50,099 pounds.

$27.13 when the weight ~~exceeds 50,000 pounds but does not exceed 60,000 pounds~~ is at least 50,100 pounds but not more than 60,099 pounds.

$28.06 when the weight ~~exceeds 60,000 pounds but does not exceed 70,000 pounds~~ is at least 60,100 pounds but not more than 70,099 pounds.

$29.00 when the weight ~~exceeds 70,000 pounds but does not exceed 80,000 pounds~~ is at least 70,100 pounds but not more than 80,099 pounds.

$29.94 when the weight ~~exceeds 80,000 pounds but does not exceed 90,000 pounds~~ is at least 80,100 pounds but not more than 90,099 pounds.

(2) ~~Fractions of 1,000 pounds shall be computed at the next highest 1,000 pounds, excepting, however, fractions of hundredweight shall be disregarded.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

* * * Purchase and Use Tax * * *

Sec. 34. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

§ 8902. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly provided, as used in this chapter:

* * *

(6) "Motor vehicle" ~~shall have~~ has the same ~~definition~~ meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(21).

* * *

(12) "Mail" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(87).

Sec. 35. 32 V.S.A. § 8905 is amended to read:

§ 8905. COLLECTION OF TAX; EDUCATION; APPEALS

(a) Every purchaser of a motor vehicle subject to a tax under subsection 8903(a) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax form to the Commissioner,

together with the amount of tax due at the time of first registering or transferring a registration to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to registration ~~thereof~~ of the vehicle.

(b) Every person subject to a use tax under subsection 8903(b) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax form and the tax due to the Commissioner with the registration application or transfer, as the case may be, and fee at the time of first registering or transferring a registration to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to registration ~~thereof~~ of the vehicle.

* * *

(d) Every person required to collect the use tax under subsection 8903(d) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax and a report of ~~same~~ the tax on forms prescribed and furnished by the Commissioner at the frequency determined by the Commissioner.

* * *

(f) Every person subject to the tax imposed by subsection 8903(g) of this title shall forward the tax form and the tax due to the Commissioner along with the title application and fee at the time of applying for a certificate of title to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to the titling ~~thereof~~ of the motor vehicle.

(g) The Commissioner shall establish procedures for taxpayers to file an appeal regarding the taxpayer's liability for the tax due pursuant to section 8903 of this chapter and compliance with the requirements of this section. The procedures shall include a process by which a taxpayer can resolve the dispute prior to the issuance of a final administrative decision on the appeal.

(h) The Commissioner shall create educational and outreach materials for taxpayers that provide information regarding the appeal process established pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and opportunities to resolve disputes.

* * * Excessive Speed * * *

Sec. 36. 23 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

§ 2502. POINT ASSESSMENT; SCHEDULE

(a) Unless the assessment of points is waived by a Superior judge or a Judicial Bureau hearing officer in the interests of justice and in accordance with subsection 2501(b) of this title, a person operating a motor vehicle shall have points assessed against ~~his or her~~ the person's driving record for convictions for moving violations of the indicated motor vehicle statutes in accord with the following schedule: (All references are to this title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.)

* * *

(9) Eight points assessed for sections 1003 ~~and~~, 1007, and 1097. State speed zones and local speed limits, more than 30 miles per hour over and in excess of the speed limit.

* * *

* * * Tinted Windows * * *

Sec. 37. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 165, Secs. 14, 15, and 16 are amended to read:

Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Sec. 16. [Deleted.]

* * * All-Terrain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 38. 23 V.S.A. § 3501 is amended to read:

§ 3501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means any nonhighway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having not less than two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less); not wider than ~~64~~ 72 inches, with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels; and having a dry weight of less than 2,500 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (AAA); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A) and (B); and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device, a motor-assisted bicycle, or an electric bicycle.

* * *

* * * Purchase and Use Tax and Inspections Report * * *

Sec. 39. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASE AND USE TAX; INSPECTIONS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 31, 2026, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Transportation and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Finance and on

Transportation regarding the process for determining the taxable cost of a used motor vehicle for purposes of the purchase and use tax and the impact of annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections on Vermonters.

(b) The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the number of persons during calendar years 2024 and 2025 who utilized the dealer appraisal process for determining the taxable cost of a used motor vehicle for purposes of the purchase and use tax;

(2) the age and type of vehicles for which the dealer appraisal process was utilized during calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(3) the difference between the clean trade-in value and the appraised value of vehicles for which the dealer appraisal process was utilized during calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(4) the number of appeals of the taxable cost of a motor vehicle that were filed in calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(5) the number appeals that resulted in a revision of the taxable cost and the difference between the originally assessed taxable cost and the revised taxable cost following the appeal;

(6) a summary of issues identified by persons contacting the Department pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;

(7) a summary of funding and other assistance related to annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections that is available to Vermonters with lower income;

(8) an examination of the potential approaches to reduce the financial burden of annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections on Vermonters, including the potential to reduce the frequency of inspections to every two years; and

(9) any recommendations for legislative action.

(c)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish an email address or other electronic means, or both, for Vermonters to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding concerns with the motor vehicle purchase and use tax process.

(2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish an email address or other electronic means, or both, for Vermonters to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the affordability of the annual motor vehicle inspection process and suggestions for reducing the financial impact of the inspection process on Vermonters.

(3) The Commissioner shall conduct outreach at Department locations, on the Department's website, and through motor vehicle dealers to make the public aware of the opportunity to contact the Department pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

* * * Operation of Bicycles * * *

Sec. 40. 23 V.S.A. § 1139 is amended to read:

§ 1139. RIDING ON ROADWAYS AND BICYCLE PATHS

(a) ~~A person~~ Due care and riding on the right. An individual operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Bicyclists generally shall ride as near to the right side of the improved area of the highway right-of-way as is safe, except that a bicyclist:

* * *

(b) ~~Persons riding~~ Riding two abreast. Individuals operating bicycles upon a roadway ~~may~~ shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or except as otherwise permitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety in connection with a public sporting event in which case the Commissioner shall be authorized to adopt such rules as the public good requires. ~~Persons~~ Individuals riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(c) Obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals. An individual operating a bicycle shall follow all traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals governing motor vehicles except that an individual operating a bicycle who is facing a "walk" signal, as defined in section 1023 of this chapter, may make a turn or proceed across the roadway or intersection in the direction of the signal but shall yield the right of way to any vehicles or pedestrians in the roadway or intersection.

(d) Riding on a partially controlled access highway. Bicycles may be operated on the shoulders of partially controlled access highways, which are those highways where access is controlled by public authority but where there are some connections with selected public highways, some crossings at grade, and some private driveway connections. The Traffic Committee may determine that any portion of these highways is unsafe and therefore closed to bicycle operation.

Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 1139a is added to read:

§ 1139a. BICYCLE CONTROL SIGNALS

(a) Bicycles shall obey bicycle-control signals. An individual operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of a bicycle-control signal, if present, instead of any traffic-control signal for motor vehicles.

(b) Bicycle-control signal legend.

(1) Green bicycle signal.

(A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a green bicycle signal may proceed straight through the intersection or turn right or left unless a sign prohibits such a turn, provided that:

(i) the individual operating the bicycle will not be in conflict with any simultaneous motor vehicle movements at that location; or

(ii) the bicycle movement at that location is not modified by lane-use signs, turn-prohibition signs, pavement markings, separate turn signal indications, or other traffic-control devices.

(B) An individual operating a bicycle pursuant to a green bicycle signal, including when turning right and left, shall yield the right-of-way to other individuals operating bicycles and pedestrians that are in the intersection when the signal is exhibited.

(2) Steady yellow bicycle signal. An individual operating a bicycle facing a steady yellow bicycle signal is warned that the steady green signal is being terminated and that the red signal will be exhibited immediately following the steady yellow signal, at which time bicycle traffic traveling in that direction shall not enter the intersection.

(3) Steady red bicycle signal.

(A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, or if there is none, shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.

(B) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, an individual operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal may:

(i) cautiously enter the intersection to turn right; or

(ii) after stopping as required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(3), turn left from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

(C) An individual making a turn pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (b)(3) shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles that are in the intersection.

(D) An individual operating a bicycle shall not turn right when facing a red arrow signal unless a sign permitting such a turn is present.

(E) An individual operating a bicycle to the left of adjacent motor vehicle traffic approaching the same intersection shall be prohibited from turning right when facing a steady red bicycle signal and an individual operating a bicycle to the right of adjacent motor vehicle traffic approaching the same intersection shall be prohibited from turning left when facing a steady red bicycle signal.

Sec. 42. BICYCLE OPERATION AT STOP SIGNS AND SIGNALS; EDUCATION; OUTREACH

On or before April 1, 2026, the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Public Safety, in consultation with stakeholders representing bicyclists, pedestrians, municipalities, and law enforcement agencies, shall develop education and outreach materials to inform vehicle operators, law enforcement officers, municipalities, and members of the public regarding the laws governing to the operation of bicycles on roadways, including at signalized intersections. The materials shall include both written and graphical materials explaining permitted bicycle operations and requirements for the operation of motor vehicles in relation to bicycles, including safe passing distance requirements.

* * * Legal Trails * * *

Sec. 43. FINDINGS; INTENT; LEGAL TRAILS

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds the following:

(1) Outdoor recreation is a significant part of Vermont's identity and economy.

(2) Trails provide Vermonters and visitors with access to natural beauty throughout the State and are used for a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities throughout the year.

(3) Some trails are also used by Vermonters for travel or to access their homes and properties.

(4) The State and municipalities use some trails to provide maintenance to State and municipal lands and facilities, as well as to provide public safety and rescue services.

(5) Trails may require regular maintenance to ensure that they remain passable and can continue to support recreation, travel, access, and various public services.

(6) While many trails in Vermont have been established through private easements or other agreements, a subset of trails, known as legal trails, lie along public rights-of-way that were once town highways and are governed by the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify municipalities' authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain legal trails under the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.

Sec. 44. 19 V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 3. TOWN HIGHWAYS

§ 301. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Legislative body" ~~includes boards of selectmen, aldermen, and village trustees~~ means a legislative body as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.

(3) ~~"Selectmen" includes village trustees and aldermen~~ "Selectboard" means a selectboard as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.

* * *

(8)(A) "Trail" means a public right-of-way that is not a highway and that:

(i) municipalities have the authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain; and

~~(A)~~(ii)(I) previously was a designated town highway having the same width as the designated town highway, or a lesser width if so designated; or

~~(B)~~(II) a new public right-of-way laid out as a trail by the ~~selectmen~~ legislative body for the purpose of providing access to abutting properties or for recreational use.

(B) Nothing in this ~~section~~ subdivision (8) shall be deemed to independently authorize the condemnation of land for recreational purposes or to affect the authority of ~~selectmen~~ legislative bodies to reasonably regulate the uses of recreational trails.

§ 302. CLASSIFICATION OF TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) For the purposes of this section and receiving State aid, all town highways shall be categorized into one or another of the following classes:

* * *

(2) Class 2 town highways are those town highways selected as the most important highways in each town. As far as practicable, they shall be selected with the purposes of securing trunk lines of improved highways from town to town and to places that by their nature have more than normal amount of traffic. The ~~selectmen~~ legislative body, with the approval of the Agency, shall determine which highways are to be class 2 highways.

(3) Class 3 town highways:

(A) Class 3 town highways are all traveled town highways other than class 1 or 2 highways. The ~~selectmen~~ legislative body, after conference with a representative of the Agency, shall determine which highways are class 3 town highways.

* * *

(5) Trails shall not be considered highways ~~and the town~~. A municipality shall have the authority to maintain trails but shall not be responsible for any maintenance, including culverts and bridges.

* * *

§ 303. TOWN HIGHWAY CONTROL

Town highways shall be under the general supervision and control of the ~~selectmen~~ legislative body of the town where the roads are located. ~~Selectmen~~ The legislative body of a town shall supervise all expenditures.

§ 304. DUTIES OF SELECTBOARD

(a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the selectboard of the town to, or acting as a board, it shall have the authority to:

* * *

(16) Unless the town electorate votes otherwise, under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2646, appoint a road commissioner, or remove ~~him or her~~ the road commissioner from office, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651. Road commissioners, elected or appointed, shall have only the powers and authority regarding highways granted to them by the selectboard.

* * *

(24) Maintain trails, but shall not be required to maintain trails.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 45. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 15 and 16 (early renewal of operator's licenses, operator's privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Transportation.

Rep. Kascenska of Burke, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Transportation.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Transportation?, **Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Galfetti of Barre Town, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, Nelson of Derby, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Tomlinson of Winooski** moved to amend the report of the Committee on Transportation as follows:

First: After Sec. 15, 23 V.S.A. § 604, early renewal, by adding four new sections to be Secs. 15a–15d to read as follows:

Sec. 15a. 23 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

§ 601. LICENSE REQUIRED

* * *

(b)(1) All operator's licenses issued under this chapter shall expire, unless earlier cancelled, at midnight on the eve of the second ~~or,~~ fourth, or eighth anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following the date of issue. Renewed licenses shall expire at midnight on the eve of the second ~~or,~~ fourth, or eighth anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following the date the renewed license expired.

(2) All junior operator's licenses shall expire, unless earlier cancelled, at midnight on the eve of the second anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following the date of issue.

(3) A person born on February 29 shall, for the purposes of this section, be considered as born on March 1.

* * *

Sec. 15b. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:

§ 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

* * *

(h) A privilege card issued under this section shall:

* * *

(2) expire at midnight on the eve of the second ~~birthday of the applicant following the date of issuance or, at the option of an applicant for an operator's privilege card and upon payment of the required four-year fee, at midnight on the eve of the,~~ fourth, or eighth birthday of the applicant following the date of issuance.

* * *

Sec. 15c. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FEES

(a)(1) The eight-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be $156.00.

(2) The four-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be $62.00.

(3) The two-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an operator or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be $39.00, and the two-year fee for licensing a junior operator or for issuing a junior operator's privilege card shall be $39.00.

* * *

(c)(1) The Operator's License Revenue Stabilization Special Fund is established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 11(1), one-half of the fees for eight-year operator's licenses collected pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be deposited into the Treasury and credited to the Fund.

(2)(A) Monies in the Fund shall be used to support the operations of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the State's Transportation Program and for necessary costs incurred in administering the Fund.

(B) Monies to support the operations of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the State's Transportation Program shall be transferred into the Transportation Fund each fiscal year in an amount necessary to offset cyclical variation in license fee revenue, provided that the amount transferred shall not result in a negative balance in the Fund.

(3) All interest earned on Fund balances shall be credited to the Fund and any balance remaining in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward in the Fund.

Sec. 15d. 23 V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

§ 7. ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE; MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE INFORMATION; FEE

* * *

(d) The fee for an enhanced license shall be:

(1) for a two-year or four-year license, $36.00 in addition to the fees otherwise established by this title; and

(2) for an eight-year license, $72.00 in addition to the fees otherwise established by this title.

Second: After Sec. 16, 23 V.S.A. § 115b, early renewal, by adding a new section to be Sec. 16a to read as follows:

Sec. 16a. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

§ 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

(a)(1) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other identifying data ~~as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in~~ required by the Commissioner. In the case of minor applicants, the Commissioner shall require the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis.

(2) Every application for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (l) of this section.

(3) New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the applicant's identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of Veterans' Affairs confirms the veteran's status as an honorably discharged veteran; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term "veteran" on its face.

(4) The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of $29.00 for a four-year nondriver identification card or $58.00 for an eight-year nondriver identification card at the time application for an identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card shall be issued at no charge to an individual who surrenders the individual's license in connection with a suspension or revocation under subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition.

(b)(1) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth or eighth anniversary of the date of birth of the cardholder following the date of original issue and may be renewed ~~every~~ for four years upon payment of a $29.00 fee or for eight years upon payment of a $58.00 fee.

(2) A renewed identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at 12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth or eighth anniversary of the date of birth of the cardholder following the expiration of the card being renewed.

(3) At least 30 days before an identification card will expire, the Commissioner shall mail first-class to the cardholder or send the cardholder electronically an application to renew the identification card~~; a~~. A cardholder shall be sent the renewal notice by mail unless the cardholder opts in to receive electronic notification.

(4) An individual born on February 29 shall, for the purposes of this section, be considered as born on March 1.

* * *

Thereupon, **Rep. Headrick of Burlington** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Transportation?, **Rep. Noyes of Wolcott** moved to amend the report of the Committee on Transportation by striking out Sec. 45, effective dates, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and by inserting three new sections to be Secs. 45, 46, and 47 and their associated reader assistance headings to read as follows:

* * * Motor Vehicle Inspections * * *

Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 1222 is amended to read:

§ 1222. INSPECTION OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

(a) Except for school buses, which shall be inspected as prescribed in section 1282 of this title, and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of this title, which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall undergo a safety and visual emissions inspection once ~~each year~~ every two years and all motor vehicles that are registered in this State and are 16 model years old or less shall undergo an emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection once ~~each year~~ every two years as applicable. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not currently inspected in this State shall be inspected within 15 days following the date of its registration in the State of Vermont.

* * *

Sec. 46. 23 V.S.A. § 1230 is amended to read:

§ 1230. CHARGE

For each inspection certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Commissioner shall be paid ~~$8.00~~ $16.00, provided that State and municipal inspection stations that inspect only State or municipally owned and registered vehicles shall not be required to pay a fee. All vehicle inspection certificate charge revenue shall be allocated to the Transportation Fund with one-half reserved for bridge maintenance activities.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 47. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 15 and 16 (early renewal of operator's licenses, operator's privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Thereupon, **Rep. Noyes of Wolcott** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Thereafter, the report of the Committee on Transportation was agreed to, and third reading ordered.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed in all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 479

House bill, entitled

An act relating to housing

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Mihaly of Calais**, action on the bill was postponed until May 30, 2025.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred in; Committee of Conference Requested and Appointed; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 91

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Findings and Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, Vermont had the fourth highest rate of homelessness in 2024 in that 53 of every 10,000 Vermonters are experiencing homelessness, with only Hawaii, New York, and Oregon experiencing higher rates;

(2) in 2023, according to the same Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, 51 of every 10,000 Vermonters were experiencing homelessness;

(3) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, there were approximately 3,458 unhoused individuals in Vermont, which represents a 300 percent increase over the 1,110 unhoused individuals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020;

(4) of the 3,458 unhoused individuals in Vermont identified by the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 166 experienced unsheltered homelessness, which is the highest count of unsheltered homeless individuals in Vermont within the past decade;

(5) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, over 35 percent of those Vermonters experiencing homelessness were unhoused for more than one year and over 72 percent were unhoused for more than 90 days;

(6) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 737 of those Vermonters experiencing homelessness were children and youth under 18 years of age and 646 were 55 years of age or older;

(7) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, Black Vermonters are 5.6 times more likely to be unhoused as compared to white Vermonters;

(8) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that 36,000 primary homes are needed in Vermont between 2025–2029, 3,295 of which are needed to address homelessness;

(9) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that "[h]alf of all Vermont renters are cost-burdened, and one-in-four pay more than 50 [percent] of their income on housing costs, putting them at high risk of eviction," which "is heightened by Vermont's rental vacancy rate of 3 [percent], which is well below the 5 [percent] rate of a healthy market"; and

(10) since 2020, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has constructed 170 new single-family homeownership units and 269 new shelter beds.

Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that unsheltered homelessness be eliminated and that homelessness in Vermont be rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is a step toward ensuring that:

(1) homelessness be reduced in Vermont and interim shelter opportunities be available to provide a stable pathway to permanent housing for all Vermonters experiencing homelessness, including safe shelter options for individuals living in unsheltered homelessness;

(2) Vermont increase the supply of emergency shelter as well as permanent supportive housing that meets the specific needs of individuals;

(3) community components of all shelter types are integrated in a systemic manner;

(4) time limits, night-by-night shelter, relocation between interim shelter sites, and other disruptions in housing stability be eliminated to the extent possible;

(5) Vermont's emergency housing statutes, rules, policies, procedures, and practices be modeled on Housing First principles where appropriate;

(6) noncongregate shelter be used to the extent possible; and

(7) Vermont reduce reliance on the inefficient use of hotel and motel rooms to shelter participating households and expand the use of emergency shelters throughout the State for this purpose.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 replaces the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 21 beginning in fiscal year 2027 and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program beginning in fiscal year 2028.

* * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program; Effective July 1, 2025 * * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is added to read:

CHAPTER 22. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

§ 2201. SHORT TITLE

The Program established in this chapter may be cited as "VHEARTH" or the "VHEARTH Program."

§ 2202. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the General Assembly to:

(1) replace the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in chapter 21 of this title and use funds and resources previously attributed to this program, and any other identified State and federal monies, to fund the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in this chapter;

(2) reduce reliance on the inefficient use of hotel and motel rooms to shelter participating households and expand the use of emergency shelters throughout the State for this purpose; and

(3) assist in maintaining housing for households at-risk of homelessness and transition households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

§ 2203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "At-risk of homelessness" means precariously housed without sufficient income, resources, or support to prevent homelessness.

(2) "Community action agency" means an agency designated pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59.

(3) "Community-based shelter" means a shelter that meets the Department's standards for the operation of shelters.

(4) "Department" means the Department for Children and Families.

(5) "Extreme weather event" means extreme hot or cold temperatures or weather events, such as hurricanes, flooding, or blizzards, that create hazardous conditions for outdoor habitation by humans.

(6) "Homeless" means:

(A) lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;

(B) facing imminent loss of primary nighttime residence;

(C) fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; or

(D) otherwise defined as homeless under federal law.

(7) "Household" means an individual and any dependents for whom the individual is legally responsible who are domiciled in Vermont as evidenced by an intent to dwell in Vermont and to return to Vermont if temporarily absent, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent. "Household" includes individuals who reside together as one economic unit, including those who are married, parties to a civil union, or unmarried.

(8) "Unsheltered homelessness" means sleeping in a location not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation.

§ 2204. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

(a) Each community action agency shall convene a regional advisory council whose membership reflects, to the extent possible, the growing diversity among Vermonters, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, as well as with regards to socioeconomic status, geographic location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status. Members of an advisory council shall include organizations providing services in the region, the Department, and representatives of the Agency and each department of the Agency, as needed. A regional advisory council may collaborate with individuals with lived experience of homelessness, community partners, State partners, housing providers, local housing coalitions, statewide homelessness organizations, providers of coordinated entry, continuums of care, faith-based organizations, and municipalities in the region served by the community action agency.

(b) Each regional advisory council shall provide advice and recommendations to the community action agency in its region regarding the design and implementation of the Program. The work of each regional advisory council shall be informed by regional planning commissions' housing targets.

(c) Each regional advisory council shall meet on at least a quarterly basis.

(d) The regional advisory councils shall have the legal and technical support of the Department.

* * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program; Effective July 1, 2026 * * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 22. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

* * *

§ 2203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Community action agency" means an agency designated pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 or the entity or entities otherwise authorized by the Department pursuant to section 2205 of this chapter to fulfill the duties of a community action agency under this chapter.

* * *

§ 2204. ESTABLISHMENT; VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program is established in the Department to provide services to households that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, to the extent funds exist.

(1) The Department shall select and enter into an agreement with a statewide organization that has population-specific service experience to provide or cause to be provided supportive services and shelter to those households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

(2) All other participating households shall be served by or through a community action agency responsible for a geographically distinct region of the State. Community action agencies participating in the Program shall provide or cause to be provided supportive services, extreme weather event shelter, and emergency shelter.

§ 2205. AUTHORIZATION PROCESS; REAUTHORIZATION REVIEW

(a) The Department shall select and enter into an agreement with a statewide organization to provide or cause to be provided supportive services and shelter to those households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The Department shall conduct regular reviews of the statewide organization to ensure compliance with this chapter. The statewide organization may be subject to corrective actions by the Department if, within the constraint of appropriated resources, it no longer meets the requirements of this chapter or has failed to adequately meet the needs of households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. If the statewide organization cannot fulfill its responsibilities under this chapter, the Department shall work with another entity to ensure that there is not a gap in services.

(b)(1) The Department shall authorize a community action agency to serve or cause to be served households that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in a geographically distinct region of the State if it meets the criteria in this section. If a community action agency cannot fulfill its responsibilities

under this chapter, the Department shall work with other community action agencies or other appropriate community entities to ensure that there is not a gap in services in a community action agency's region.

(2) A community action agency providing or causing to provide services in accordance with this chapter shall have:

(A) existing or planned infrastructure to support households in the region, including an established leadership team, a human resources staff, and the ability to receive grant funding and issue subgrants;

(B) the ability to meet the Department's reporting requirements, including having a past history of reporting compliance;

(C) the capacity to perform the core services required pursuant to section 2206 of this chapter;

(D) the capacity to seek and accept charitable contributions, grants, and services of volunteers, including money, clothing, and furniture;

(E) any outcome measures established in this chapter;

(F) community connections with other providers in the region, including local housing coalitions, housing providers, providers of coordinated entry, continuums of care, faith-based organizations, and providers of services to individuals who are older Vermonters; individuals who have disabilities, a substance use disorder, or a mental health condition; individuals reentering the community after incarceration; individuals transitioning from the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families; and families with children; and

(G) the ability to provide plain language communications to households receiving services.

(3) Not less than every three years, the Department shall conduct a reauthorization review of each community action agency providing or causing to provide services pursuant to this chapter. An organization may be subject to corrective actions by the Department if, within the constraint of appropriated resources, it no longer meets the requirements in subdivision (2) of this subsection or has failed to adequately meet the needs of households in its region that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Lack of compliance may result in the Department deciding not to reauthorize the community action agency. The Department may review progress of any previously required corrective actions and may review community action agency performance between reauthorization reviews.

§ 2206. VHEARTH CORE SERVICES

(a) The Department shall enter into an agreement with a statewide organization with population-specific experience serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The organization shall provide or cause to be provided various shelter and case management services that support households.

(b) Each community action agency shall offer or cause to be offered, in collaboration with community partners, each of the following services within its region:

(1) supportive services, including:

(A) intake assessments and services for diversion from homelessness, which shall include regional intake shelters;

(B) household needs assessments;

(C) individualized household plans to address identified needs;

(D) housing navigation and retention services;

(E) assistance obtaining and retaining housing, including financial assistance;

(F) landlord-tenant outreach, education, and conflict resolution;

(G) navigation to other services and supports as identified in the household's housing plan, including economic benefits, peer-supported services, job training and employment services, services related to disability and independent living, and referral to health care assistance such as treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorder as provided by the designated and specialized services agencies and preferred providers, respectively;

(H) advocacy; and

(I) progress monitoring and interventions; and

(2) the operation of extreme weather event shelters, which may include time-limited congregate accommodations and may be provided through agreements with municipalities or other entities, utilizing available data and considering geographic access to prioritize funding for this purpose; and

(3) the operation of emergency shelters in a manner that builds upon the federally required community planning process and prioritizes households in need of the services of an emergency shelter, which may include community-based shelters, temporary use of hotels or motels, lease agreements for full or partial use of an existing building, need-specific shelter arrangements, master

grant leases, the development of shelter capacity, or other arrangements or combinations of arrangements that comply with the intent of this chapter.

§ 2207. USE OF HOTEL AND MOTEL ROOMS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to decrease reliance on hotel and motel rooms for emergency housing. Annually, as shelter capacity increases in each region of the State, the use of hotel and motel rooms for emergency housing in that region shall decrease. Annually, as part of the Department's budget presentation, the Department shall set goals for increased housing capacity, including shelter beds, permanent supportive housing, and permanent affordable housing, in addition to proposed corresponding decreases in the use of hotel and motel rooms. The Department shall provide data pertaining to the percentage of increased shelter capacity from the previous fiscal year in each region and how that increase impacts the corresponding hotel and motel room usage for emergency housing in each region pursuant to this subsection for the purpose of informing regional planning and expectations.

(b) If hotels and motels are used to provide emergency shelter pursuant to this chapter, the hotel and motel operators shall comply with Program rules and the following rules:

(1) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(2) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(c) Annually, the Department shall propose hotel and motel rates as part of its budget presentation for approval by the General Assembly. A community action agency shall not pay or cause to be paid with State monies a per room, per night basis that exceeds the rate approved by the General Assembly.

(d) If a hotel or motel is being utilized, a community action agency:

(1) shall enter into agreements for the use of blocks of hotel and motel rooms and negotiate the conditions of use for those blocks, including access for providers of case management or other supportive services;

(2) shall prioritize the use of hotel and motel room agreements over individual per room, per night hotel or motel room use, unless it is not appropriate to a household's needs; and

(3) may use strategic placements to the extent certain populations are not isolated from the wider community served through the Program.

§ 2208. VHEARTH; DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

(a) The Department and the Agency of Human Services shall have statewide responsibility for meeting the intent of this chapter, including statewide planning, system development, proposing adequate funding, and the involvement of all the Agency's departments.

(b) For the purpose of providing administrative oversight and monitoring of the Program established in this chapter, the Department shall:

(1)(A) maintain guidance regarding when extreme weather event shelters shall be operated, including flexibility for regional weather conditions; and

(B) maintain a website with the locations of all extreme weather event shelters;

(2) include as part of any review of a community action agency required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 the community action agency's ability to perform the requirements of this chapter;

(3)(A) consult with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence to develop appropriate resource allocations and methods for adjustment that take into account available data, the presence of community-based providers, and customary resource allocation methods, economic indicators, rate of homelessness, rental vacancy rates, and other variables, as appropriate; and

(B) annually, distribute funding to each community action agency and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence using the allocation formula developed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(3), or if the Department and community action agencies agree, disperse a joint allocation for all community action agencies, which the community action agencies shall determine how to distribute amongst themselves;

(4) provide support and technical assistance to the community action agencies, other community partners, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence;

(5) identify specific administrative resources that could be transitioned to community operations;

(6) develop and maintain standards for the core services listed in section 2206 of this chapter, including the operation of community-based shelters; and

(7) adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, in consultation with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, as appropriate, for the implementation of this chapter, including accommodations for individuals with a disability.

§ 2209. REGIONAL PLANNING; NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

(a) As part of the plan required every three years pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3904 and the federally required planning and needs assessments for the continuums of care, the community action agencies shall develop a regional needs assessment and planning process, in collaboration with community and State partners, for use in each community action agency's region to inform future plans addressing housing and homelessness in each region of the State. The regional needs assessment and planning process plans shall include:

(1) addressing progress in reducing the number of households experiencing homelessness in a region;

(2) assessing the rate households placed in permanent housing return to homelessness and the underlying reasons;

(3) identifying resources developed and utilized in the region to address homelessness and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of these resources in the region;

(4) reporting the rate of household participation with coordinated entry processes and case management services;

(5) identifying system gaps and the funding needed to address those gaps, including periodic inflationary adjustments; and

(6) utilizing data, including Vermont's Point-in-Time Count, coordinated entry assessment results, and community conversations.

(b) Every three years, each community action agency shall submit plans developed pursuant to this section to the Department in a format prescribed by the Department. Upon receipt of the plans, the Department shall consolidate the results of these reports and submit the consolidated report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

§ 2210. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

On or before the last day of every third month, the Department shall submit a report, in consultation with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households experiencing domestic or sexual violence, to

the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Joint Fiscal Committee addressing:

(1) the number of households served through the Program, by household size and, if applicable, by eligibility category, region, service provider, and type of service;

(2) the number of household members employed on a part-time and full-time basis and the number of household members receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability insurance;

(3) changes in capacity for shelter beds, nursing homes, and residential care homes since the previous reporting period;

(4) the number of diversions made during the previous reporting period;

(5) the number of households whose intake assessment indicated a potential need for services from each department within the Agency;

(6) the number of households that have been successfully transitioned to permanent housing since the previous reporting period, the types of housing settings in which they have been placed, and any supportive services they are receiving in conjunction with their housing;

(7) the number of households that may be transitioned to permanent housing in the coming months;

(8) any State rules and local regulations and ordinances that are impeding the timely development of safe, decent, affordable housing in Vermont communities in order to:

(A) identify areas in which flexibility or discretion are available; and

(B) advise whether the temporary suspension of relevant State rules and local regulations and ordinances, or the adoption or amendment of State rules, would facilitate faster and less costly revitalization of existing housing and construction of new housing units; and

(9) an inventory of all subgrants issued by the statewide organization serving households experiencing or who have experienced domestic or sexual violence and by each community action agency.

§ ~~2204~~ 2211. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

(a) Each community action agency shall convene a regional advisory council whose membership reflects, to the extent possible, the growing diversity among Vermonters, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, as well as with regards to socioeconomic status, geographic location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status. Members of

an advisory council shall include organizations providing services in the region, the Department, and representatives of the Agency and each department of the Agency, as needed. A regional advisory council may collaborate with individuals with lived experience of homelessness, community partners, State partners, housing providers, local housing coalitions, statewide homelessness organizations, providers of coordinated entry, continuums of care, faith-based organizations, and municipalities in the region served by the community action agency.

* * *

* * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program; Effective July 1, 2027 * * *

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 2202 is amended to read:

§ 2202. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the General Assembly to:

(1) replace the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in chapter 21 of this title and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program and use funds and resources previously attributed to those programs, and any other identified State and federal monies, to fund the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in this chapter; and

(2) reduce reliance on the use of hotel and motel rooms to shelter participating households and expand the use of emergency shelters throughout the State for this purpose.

* * * Implementation Planning and Initial Regional Assessments * * *

Sec. 6. VHEARTH IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

(a) On or before October 1, 2025, the Department for Children and Families, in collaboration with the community action agencies, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, shall submit the first of two written implementation plans to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Joint Fiscal Committee outlining its initial plans for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established by 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 on or before July 1, 2026. Specifically, the first implementation plan shall include:

(1) a process that community action agencies, in coordination with the Department, shall use to conduct regularly occurring regional needs assessments and develop future regional plans, including consideration of municipal needs;

(2) recommended performance measures to evaluate the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence in carrying out their duties under 33 V.S.A. chapter 22, including:

(A) the provision of any previously agreed upon information to enable the Department to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect on households receiving services, and an accounting of expended grant funds; and

(B) performance measures that may be specific to an individual region of the State or provider;

(3) recommended eligibility for each of the services offered through 33 V.S.A. chapter 22;

(4) guidance regarding when extreme weather event shelters shall be operated, including flexibility for regional weather conditions;

(5) a timeline for the implementation of core services listed in 33 V.S.A. § 2206 for the first six months of fiscal year 2027;

(6) recommended intake and assessment processes to determine appropriate shelter and services for households based on Program eligibility; and

(7) a recommended process to enable an unwilling community action agency to opt-out of participation in the Program in a manner that gives the State adequate notice.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department for Children and Families, in collaboration with the community action agencies, regional advisory councils established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2204, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, shall submit the second of two written implementation plans to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare outlining its initial plans for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established by 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 on or before July 1, 2026. Specifically, the second implementation plan shall include recommendations on the following:

(1) funding allocations among the community action agencies and other providers, including for services specific to households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence;

(2) additional State and federal funding and other resources identified for the Program;

(3) establishing an appeals process that includes a hearing before the Human Services Board and an option for an expedited appeals process;

(4) the role of 211 within the intake system;

(5) whether access to all or some services should include an expectation regarding household participation in case management services or other expectations such as night limits on the use of hotels and motels, and, if so, what elements and in what circumstances participation in case management services or other expectations should be applied;

(6) whether the use of emergency shelter should include financial participation, and, if so, what that participation should include;

(7) whether intake and assessment processes should include verification of residency, homelessness, and household income;

(8) how to best ensure that there is equitable access to shelter and supportive services for households experiencing homelessness;

(9) the number of housing vouchers that Vermont lost in the past year, if the data is available; and

(10) any anticipated challenges requiring a legislative solution.

Sec. 7. INTERIM AND FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLANS

Prior to the enactment of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program on July 1, 2026, the statewide organization serving households experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence and community action agencies shall conduct initial needs assessments in accordance with the process developed in Sec. 6(a)(1) of this act. On or before January 15, 2026, the community action agencies shall submit one comprehensive progress report and the statewide organization shall submit a separate report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare, including estimated fiscal year 2027 budget proposals, estimated costs of administering the Program, and an analysis of any barriers to generating additional shelter and permanent housing in the region. On or before April 1, 2026, the statewide organization shall submit a report and the community action agencies shall submit a separate

comprehensive report detailing the results of each region's needs assessment and implementation plans, which shall not exceed the budgetary proposals provided in the January 15, 2026 progress report, to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. The initial needs assessment conducted pursuant to this section shall include:

(1) addressing progress in reducing the number of households experiencing homelessness in a region;

(2) assessing the rate households placed in permanent housing return to homelessness and the underlying reasons;

(3) identifying resources developed and utilized in the region to address homelessness and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of these resources in the region;

(4) reporting the rate of household participation with coordinated entry processes and case management services;

(5) identifying system gaps and the funding needed to address those gaps, including periodic inflationary adjustments; and

(6) utilizing data, including Vermont's Point-in-Time Count, coordinated entry assessment results, and community conversations.

Sec. 8. ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY

On or before November 1, 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall submit for consideration a detailed written plan, including a timeline, to accelerate implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program as part of the fiscal year 2026 budget adjustment process to the Joint Fiscal Committee, to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services, and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. The plan shall address the readiness of community providers to implement the Program prior to July 1, 2026, fiscal estimates for the remainder of fiscal year 2026, and an assessment as to whether the Program is anticipated to be operable on or before July 1, 2026.

* * * Community Action Agencies * * *

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES

§ 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains evident that ~~poverty continues to be the lot of~~ a substantial number of Vermont's population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of ~~this~~ the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the State as a whole.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts that further this policy through:

(1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning, coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance related to the problem of poverty;

(2) the better organization and utilization of a range of services related to the needs of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income; and

(3) the broadening of the resource base of programs to secure a more active role in assisting ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income from business, labor, and other groups from the private sector.

§ 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community ~~services~~ action agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and regulation.

(b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community ~~services~~ action agencies for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of community ~~service~~ action programs to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or in areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. Components of those services and activities may involve, without limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed to assist ~~low income~~ participants with low income:

(1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

(2) to obtain adequate education;

(3) to make better use of available income;

(4) to ~~provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment~~ have access to safe, secure, permanent housing;

(5) to obtain prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for ~~the prevention of narcotics addiction, alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation of narcotic addicts and alcoholics~~ individuals with substance use disorder;

(6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;

(7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems ~~which~~ that block achievement of self-sufficiency;

(8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;

(9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to the purposes of this chapter; and

(10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and other social service programs to ~~assure~~ ensure the effective delivery of such services to ~~low-income~~ persons~~;~~ with low income and to encourage the use of entities in the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community.

(c) The Director is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of this title appropriate to the carrying out of this chapter and the purposes thereof.

§ 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

The Director shall designate private nonprofit ~~community based~~ community-based organizations ~~who~~ that have demonstrated or ~~who~~ that can demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in subsection 3902(b) of this title as community ~~services~~ action agencies.

§ 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY PLAN

Each designated community ~~services~~ action agency shall determine the need for activities and services within the area served by the agency and shall thereafter prepare a community services plan ~~which~~ that describes the method by which the agency will provide those services. The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or additional services and shall specify the resources ~~which~~ that are needed by and available to the agency to implement the plan. The community services plan shall be completed every three years and updated annually. The plan shall include the regional needs assessment required under 33 V.S.A. § 2209.

§ 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES; ADMINISTRATION

(a) Each community ~~services~~ action agency shall administer its programs as set out in the community services plan and as approved by its board of directors.

(b) Each board of a nonprofit ~~community based~~ community-based organization that is designated a community ~~services~~ action agency under section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the board and the board shall be so constituted that:

* * *

(2) one-third of the members of the board are persons chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to ~~assure~~ ensure that they are representative of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income in the area served; and

(3) the remainder of the members of the board are officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community.

(c) Each member of ~~the~~ a board selected to represent a specific geographic area within a community shall reside in the area ~~he or she~~ the member represents. ~~No person selected under subdivisions (2) or (3) of subsection (b) as a member of a board shall serve on such board for more than five consecutive years, or more than a total of 10 years~~ Each board shall adopt term limits to govern its members.

* * * Appropriations * * *

Sec. 10. APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION PLANNING

In fiscal year 2026, $10,000,000.00 of one-time funding is appropriated from the General Fund as follows:

(1) $5,085,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families to plan for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program as needed, which may be distributed to entities such as the community action agencies;

(2) $400,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for distribution to the statewide organization serving households experiencing or who have experienced domestic or sexual violence;

(3) $515,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Bridges to Health for services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless;

(4) $1,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for the distribution of grants to municipalities planning and implementing services for households that are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the community action agency serving a municipality's region; and

(5) $3,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families to enhance capacity for the creation and expansion of emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing capacity, a subset of which shall be distributed to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for infrastructure investments and administered in consultation with the Department to ensure new investments are paired with appropriate support services.

Sec. 11. FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) in fiscal year 2027 and thereafter, funds and resources previously appropriated for General Assistance emergency housing be redesignated for the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 22; and

(2) in fiscal year 2028 and thereafter, funds and resources previously appropriated for the Housing Opportunity Grant program be redesignated for the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 22.

Sec. 12. TRANSITION; HOUSING OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department for Children and Families shall present a plan for transitioning Housing Opportunity Grant Program funding and duties to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that:

(1) Secs. 4 (Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program) and 9 (community action agencies) shall take effect on July 1, 2026;

(2) Sec. 5 (Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program) shall take effect on July 1, 2027; and

(3) the Department for Children and Families shall commence the rulemaking process prior July 1, 2026 in order to have rules in place on that date.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Wood of Waterbury** moved that the House refuse to concur and ask for a Committee of Conference, which was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Wood of Waterbury
Rep. Maguire of Rutland City
Rep. McGill of Bridport

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Recess

At eleven o'clock and nine minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 67

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 480. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Called to Order

At three o'clock and ten minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred in; Committee of Conference Requested and Appointed; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 454

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Findings and Intent * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS; INTENT; PLAN

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In 1997, the first piece of law the General Assembly enacted in response to the Brigham decision stated, "[t]he right to public education is integral to Vermont's constitutional form of government and its guarantees of political and civil rights…[and] fundamental for the success of Vermont's children in a rapidly-changing society and global marketplace as well as the State's own economic and social prosperity." 16 V.S.A. § 1.

(2) From the very first attempt at creating a basic frame of government, Vermont's founders chose to include a right to public education, the only governmental service included in Vermont's first Constitution of 1777.

(3) As the U.S. Supreme Court stated in Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), "education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments…[i]t is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities…[i]t is the very foundation of good citizenship."

(4) The most enduring legacy of *Brigham v. State*, 166 Vt. 246 (1997) is the State's responsibility to ensure substantially equal educational opportunities for all Vermont students.

(5) The education system is still reeling from the effects of a global pandemic, yet the same challenges that have faced Vermont's education system remain. Thirty to 40 years ago, Vermont educated more than 110,000 students each year. Today, there are approximately 84,000 students in the public education system. Many schools have lost a significant number of students

and, with them, the ability to offer robust services and programs at every school. Vermont's youth need to be prepared for a rapidly evolving future.

(6) Vermonters deserve an exceptional educational system that is stable and predictable and where a student's home address does not dictate the quality of education they receive. School district size and boundaries, school size, and class size are all influential factors in shaping the quality of instruction and overall student outcomes. The effectiveness of our schools depends on teacher quality, resource availability, and the unique strengths of local communities. Change in our educational system is needed. Systems are made of people, so change must come carefully and thoughtfully, with meaningful engagement by all Vermonters.

(b) Intent; plan.

(1) To ensure each student is provided substantially equal educational opportunities that will prepare them to thrive in a 21st-century world, it is the intent of the General Assembly to work strategically, intentionally, and thoughtfully to ensure that each incremental change made to Vermont's public education system provides strength and support to its only constitutionally required governmental service.

(2) It is further the intent of the General Assembly to:

(A) in the 2026 session:

(i) enact new, larger school district boundaries that would be effective July 1, 2027;

(ii) enact updates to career and technical education governance systems, both at the local and statewide levels, that are reflective of the larger public education governance transformation to new, larger school districts; and

(iii) create a coordinated and coherent statewide strategy for career and technical education that is responsive to students and the State's workforce needs and that provides opportunities for more integration between career and technical education and traditional high school work;

(B) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing, resources, and support to the Agency of Education, the Secretary of State's Office, town clerks, and other integral parties to the election system to hold the first school board member elections within the newly created school districts in a special election in March 2028; and

(C) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing, resources, and support to the Agency of Education, State Board of Education, and other integral parties to ensure that the necessary guidance and funding is in place to allow for a smooth and successful transition between the operation

of Vermont's current 119 school districts to the new, larger school districts, with new school districts assuming responsibility for the education of all resident students on July 1, 2029.

* * * Commission on the Future of Public Education * * *

Sec. 2. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION; REPORTS

(a) Creation. There is hereby created the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont. The right to education is fundamental for the success of Vermont's children in a rapidly changing society and global marketplace as well as for the State's own economic and social prosperity. The Commission shall study the provision of education in Vermont and make recommendations for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system to ensure that all students are afforded substantially equal educational opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and stable education system. The Commission shall also make recommendations for the strategic policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality for all Vermont students.

(b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following members and, to the extent possible, the members shall represent the State's geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity:

(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee;

(3) the Tax Commissioner or designee;

(4) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(5) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(6) one representative from the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), appointed by the VSBA Executive Director;

(7) one representative from the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA), appointed by the VPA Executive Director;

(8) one representative from the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA), appointed by the VSA Executive Director;

(9) one representative from the Vermont National Education Association (VTNEA), appointed by the VTNEA Executive Director;

(10) one representative from the Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) with experience in school construction projects, appointed by the President of VASBO;

(11) the Chair of the Census-Based Funding Advisory Group, created under 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173;

(12) the Executive Director of the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative; and

(13) one representative from the Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA), appointed by the President of VISA.

(c) Steering group. On or before July 1, 2024, the Speaker of the House shall appoint two members of the Commission, the Committee on Committees shall appoint two members of the Commission, and the Governor shall appoint two members of the Commission to serve as members of a steering group. The steering group shall provide leadership to the Commission and shall work with a consultant or consultants to analyze the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing Vermont's public education system, as well as develop and propose a work plan to formalize the process through which the Commission shall seek to achieve its final recommendations. The formal work plan shall be approved by a majority of the Commission members. The steering group ~~shall form a subcommittee of the Commission to address education finance topics in greater depth and~~ may form one or more ~~additional~~ subcommittees of the Commission to address ~~other~~ key topics in greater depth, as necessary. ~~The steering group may appoint non-Commission members to the education finance subcommittee. All other subcommittees shall be composed solely of Commission members.~~

(d) Collaboration and information review.

(1) The Commission ~~shall~~ may seek input from and collaborate with key stakeholders, as directed by the steering group. At a minimum, the Commission shall consult with:

(A) the Department of Mental Health;

(B) the Department of Labor;

(C) the President of the University of Vermont or designee;

(D) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation or designee;

(E) a representative from the Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee;

(F) the Office of Racial Equity;

(G) a representative with expertise in the Community Schools model in Vermont;

(H) the Vermont Youth Council;

(I) the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits; and

(J) an organization committed to ensuring equal representation and educational equity.

(2) The Commission shall also review and take into consideration existing educational laws and policy, including legislative reports the Commission deems relevant to its work and, at a minimum, 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 76.

(e) Duties of the Commission. The Commission shall study Vermont's public education system and make recommendations to ensure all students are afforded quality educational opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and equitable education system that will enable students to achieve the highest academic outcomes. The result of the Commission's work shall be ~~a recommendation for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system, with recommendations for the policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality~~ recommendations for the State-level education governance system, including the roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Education and the State Board of Education. In creating and making its recommendations, the Commission shall engage in the following:

(1) Public engagement. The Commission shall conduct not fewer than 14 public meetings to inform the work required under this section. At least one meeting of the Commission as a whole or a subcommittee of the Commission shall be held in each county. The Commission shall publish a draft of its final recommendations on or before October 1, 2025, solicit public feedback, and incorporate such feedback into its final recommendations. When submitting its final recommendations to the General Assembly, the Commission shall include all public feedback received as an addendum to its final report. The public feedback process shall include:

(A) a minimum 30-day public comment period, during which time the Commission shall accept written comments from the public and stakeholders; and

(B) a public outreach plan that maximizes public engagement and includes notice of the availability of language assistance services when requested.

(2) Policy considerations. In developing its recommendations, the Commission shall consider and prioritize the following topics:

(A) Governance, resources, and administration. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding education governance at the State level, including the role of the Agency of Education in the provision of services and support for the education system. Recommendations under this subdivision (A) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) whether changes need to be made to the structure of the Agency of Education, including whether it better serves the recommended education vision of the State as an agency or a department;

(ii) what are the staffing needs of the Agency of Education;

(iii) whether changes need to be made to the composition, role, and function of the State Board of Education to better serve the recommended education vision of the State;

(iv) what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of local control and what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of control at the State level, including whether there should be a process for the community served by an elementary school to have a voice in decisions regarding school closures and, if so, recommendations for what that process shall entail; ~~and~~

(v) ~~the effective integration of career and technical education in the recommended education vision of the State~~ how to maintain and improve community engagement and local decision-making with transitional and new school boards and how to improve voter turnout for school elections throughout the creation and implementation of new school districts and a new school funding formula; and

(vi) an analysis of the impact of health care costs on the Education Fund, including recommendations for whether, and if so, what, changes need to be made to contain costs.

(B) ~~Physical size and footprint of the education system. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding how the unique geographical and socioeconomic needs of different communities should factor into the provision of education in Vermont, taking into account and building upon the recommendations of the State Aid to School Construction Working Group. Recommendations under this subdivision (B) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) an analysis and recommendation for the most efficient and effective number and location of school buildings, school districts, and supervisory unions needed to achieve Vermont's vision for education, provided that if there is a recommendation for any change, the recommendation shall include an implementation plan;~~

~~(ii) an analysis of the capacity and ability to staff all public schools with a qualified workforce, driven by data on class-size recommendations;~~

~~(iii) analysis of whether, and if so, how, collaboration with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support the development and retention of a qualified educator workforce;~~

~~(iv) an analysis of the current town tuition program and whether, and if so, what, changes are necessary to meet Vermont's vision for education, including the legal and financial impact of funding independent schools and other private institutions, including consideration of the following:~~

~~(I) the role designation, under 16 V.S.A. § 827, should play in the delivery of public education; and~~

~~(II) the financial impact to the Education Fund of public dollars being used in schools located outside Vermont; and~~

~~(v) an analysis of the current use of private therapeutic schools in the provision of special education services and whether, and if so, what, changes are necessary to meet Vermont's special education needs, including the legal and financial impact of funding private therapeutic schools.~~ [Repealed.]

(C) ~~The role of public schools. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the role public schools should play in both the provision of education and the social and emotional well-being of students. Recommendations under this subdivision (C) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) how public education in Vermont should be delivered;~~

~~(ii) whether Vermont's vision for public education shall include the provision of wraparound supports and collocation of services;~~

~~(iii) whether, and if so, how, collaboration with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support and strengthen the delivery of public education; and~~

~~(iv) what the consequences are for the Commission's recommendations regarding the role of public schools and other service providers, including what the role of public schools means for staffing, funding, and any other affected system, with the goal of most efficiently utilizing State funds and services and maximizing federal funding.~~ [Repealed.]

(D) ~~Education finance system. The Commission shall explore the efficacy and potential equity gains of changes to the education finance system, including weighted educational opportunity payments as a method to fund public education. The Commission's recommendations shall be intended to result in an education funding system designed to afford substantially equal access to a quality basic education for all Vermont students in accordance with State v. Brigham, 166 Vt. 246 (1997). Recommendations under this subdivision (D) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) allowable uses for the Education Fund that shall ensure sustainable and equitable use of State funds;~~

~~(ii) the method for setting tax rates to sustain allowable uses of the Education Fund;~~

~~(iii) whether, and if so, what, alternative funding models would create a more affordable, sustainable, and equitable education finance system in Vermont, including the consideration of a statutory, formal base amount of per pupil education spending and whether school districts should be allowed to spend above the base amount;~~

~~(iv) adjustments to the excess spending threshold, including recommendations that target specific types of spending;~~

~~(v) the implementation of education spending caps on different services, including administrative and support services and categorical aid;~~

~~(vi) how to strengthen the understanding and connection between school budget votes and property tax bills;~~

~~(vii) adjustments to the property tax credit thresholds to better match need to the benefit;~~

~~(viii) a system for ongoing monitoring of the Education Fund and Vermont's education finance system, to include consideration of a standing Education Fund advisory committee;~~

~~(ix) an analysis of the impact of healthcare costs on the Education Fund, including recommendations for whether, and if so, what, changes need to be made to contain costs; and~~

~~(x) implementation details for any recommended changes to the education funding system.~~ [Repealed.]

(E) Additional considerations. The Commission may consider any other topic, factor, or issue that it deems relevant to its work and recommendations.

(f) Reports. The Commission shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly the following:

(1) a formal, written work plan, which shall include a communication plan to maximize public engagement, on or before September 15, 2024;

(2) a written report containing its preliminary findings and recommendations, including short-term cost containment considerations for the 2025 legislative session, on or before December 15, 2024; and

(3) a written report containing its final findings and recommendations ~~for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system and the policy changes necessary to make that educational vision a reality~~ based on its analysis of the State-level governance topics contained in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, on or before December 1, 2025~~; and~~

~~(4) proposed legislative language to advance any recommendations for the education funding system on or before December 15, 2025~~.

(g) Assistance. The Agency of Education shall contract with one or more independent consultants or facilitators to provide technical and legal assistance to the Commission for the work required under this section. For the purposes of scheduling meetings and providing administrative assistance, the Commission shall have the assistance of the Agency of Education. The Agency shall also provide the educational and financial data necessary to facilitate the work of the Commission. School districts shall comply with requests from the Agency to assist in data collections.

(h) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Commission to occur on or before July 15, 2024.

(2) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore shall jointly select a Commission chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

(5) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2025.

(i) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 30 meetings, including subcommittee meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Education.

* * * School District Redistricting * * *

Sec. 3. SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the School District Redistricting Task Force to recommend new school district boundaries and configurations to the General Assembly.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Director of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information;

(2) the Chair of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(4) the Chair of the Vermont Superintendents Association or designee:

(5) the Chair of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or designee;

(6) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House:

(A) one member who shall be a current member of the House of Representatives; and

(B) one member with expertise in education data analysis who shall not be a current member of the House of Representatives;

(7) two members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees:

(A) one member who shall be a current member of the Senate; and

(B) one member with expertise in GIS analysis who shall not be a current member of the Senate;

(8) the chair of the Commission on the Future of Public Education or designee; and

(9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of School Business Officials or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. In consultation with the Commission on the Future of Public Education, the Task Force shall study and consider different configurations for school district consolidation and propose not fewer than three options for new school district boundaries. At least one boundary proposal recommendation shall consider the use of supervisory unions and supervisory districts, allow for the continuation of a tuitioning system that provides continued access to independent schools that have served geographic areas that do not operate public schools for the grades served by the independent schools, and to the extent practical, not separate geographic areas that contain nonoperating school districts as such districts exist on July 1, 2025.

(1) Proposed new school districts shall not have an average daily membership of more than 8,000 prekindergarten through grade 12 students.

(2) Proposed new school districts shall also be, to the greatest extent possible, grand list and pupil count balanced, demographically equitable, logistically feasible, and create the least amount of disruption to students as possible.

(3) In creating the proposed districts, the Task Force shall consider:

(A) current school district and town boundaries and other historic and current community connections, including access to regional services for students, such as designated agencies;

(B) geographic barriers, including mountains and rivers;

(C) population distribution;

(D) location, capacity, and the facility condition index score of current school buildings;

(E) transportation and employment patterns and practices:

(F) grand list values and current education spending;

(G) student demographics;

(H) the debt, liabilities, and assets of current school districts;

(I) staffing levels and salary scales; and

(J) any other factor the Task Force deems relevant.

(4) The report of the Task Force shall include detailed maps for each proposal, which shall include:

(A) boundaries of the new proposed school districts;

(B) average daily membership for the new proposed school districts;

(C) grand list value of the new proposed school districts; and

(D) the pros and cons for each proposal.

(5) The Task Force shall hold not fewer than two public hearings to receive and consider feedback from members of the public regarding school district consolidation and proposed boundaries and may coordinate with the Commission on the Future of Public Education's public engagement process to maximize public input regarding the development of the proposed new school district boundaries.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Digital Services, Vermont Center for Geographic Information. The Task Force may also retain the services of one or more independent third parties to provide contracted resources as the Task Force deems necessary.

(e) Report and maps. On or before November 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Education and on Government Operations with its proposals for new consolidated school district boundaries. The report shall include how each proposal meets the requirements contained in subdivisions (c)(1) and (2) of this section, how the considerations in subdivision (c)(3) of this section factored into each proposal, and the pros and cons of each proposal. The detailed maps required under subdivision (c)(4) of this section shall also be included with the report.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Chair of the Vermont School Boards Association shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Chair of the Vermont School Boards Association shall be the chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on May 31, 2026.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Digital Services.

(h) Appropriation. The sum of $100,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of Legislative Counsel from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to hire one or more consultants pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

Sec. 3a. TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS; TRANSITION GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Base amount" means a per pupil amount of $15,033.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the base dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(2) "Forming districts" means all school districts, including union school districts, that are located within the geographical boundaries of a new school district created by the General Assembly during the 2026 session, prior to the operational date of the new school district.

(3) "New school district" means a larger, consolidated school district created by the General Assembly during the 2026 session.

(4) "New school district school board" means the elected school board of a new school district.

(5) "Operational date" means the date on which the new school district will assume full and sole responsibility for the education of all resident students in the grades for which it is organized.

(b) Creation of transitional school boards. On or before January 1, 2027, a transitional school board shall be formed for each new school district created by the General Assembly during the 2026 session. Each transitional school board shall be composed of the chair of each school board from each of the forming districts, as such school boards existed on December 31, 2026; provided, however, that by majority vote the board of a forming district may designate another board member to serve on the transitional board instead of the chair.

(c) Initial meeting of transitional board. The superintendent of the supervisory union with the forming district with the highest average daily membership shall convene the first meeting of the transitional board to occur not later than 14 days after the organizational meeting of the new school district. The agenda for the first meeting of the transitional board shall include the election by the transitional board members of:

(1) one of their members to serve as chair of the transitional board; and

(2) one of their members to serve as clerk of the transitional board.

(d) Duties and authority of transitional board. During the period of its existence, the transitional board shall serve as the new district's school board and shall perform all functions required of and have all authority granted to the transitional board and the new school district school board, including:

(1) preparing an initial budget for the new school district;

(2) following the principles of apportionment followed by the legislative apportionment board, create voting districts within each new school district that are compact, contiguous, and drawn to achieve substantially equal weighting of votes and that meet the requirements of applicable State and federal law to allow for initial elections of the new school district school board members to occur in March 2028; and

(3) performing all necessary transitional processes, including:

(A) the transitional processes enumerated in 16 V.S.A. § 716;

(B) the hiring of a superintendent; and

(C) any other business process necessary to ensure the new school district is ready to assume the full and sole responsibility for the education of all resident students in the grades for which it is organized on July 1, 2029.

(e) New school district school board. The transitional board shall cease to exist and the new school district school board shall be solely responsible for the governance of the new school district upon the swearing in of all new school district school board members, which shall occur within 14 days after the initial election of new school district school board members in March 2028.

(f) Transition facilitation grants.

(1) Upon notice of formation of a transitional school board pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Education shall pay the transitional school board of each new school district a transition facilitation grant from the Education Fund equal to the lesser of:

(A) five percent of the base amount, as defined in subdivision (a)(1) of this section, multiplied by the greater of either the combined enrollment or the average daily membership of the forming districts on October 1, 2026; or

(B) $250,000.00.

(2) Grants awarded under this subsection shall be used by new school districts for the legal and other consulting services necessary ensure new school districts are fully operational on July 1, 2029.

* * * Scale * * *

Sec. 4. SCALE; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to transform education in Vermont by leveraging attainable and research-based scale to increase equity of opportunity and promote efficiency and affordability.

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

§ 165. EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; INDEPENDENT SCHOOL MEETING EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS

(a) In order to carry out Vermont's policy that all Vermont children will be afforded educational opportunities that are substantially equal in quality, each Vermont public school, including each career technical center, shall meet the following education quality standards:

* * *

(9) The school complies with average class size minimum standards; provided, however, that when class size minimums apply to content areas, an individual class may be smaller than the minimum average. As used in this subdivision, "content area" means a group of courses within a specific licensing endorsement area.

(A) Class size standards.

(i) The average class size minimum for kindergarten and first grade classes shall be 10 students.

(ii) The average class size minimum for grades two through five shall be 12 students.

(iii) The average class size minimum for grades six through eight in all required content areas shall be 15 students.

(iv) The average class size minimum for grades nine through 12 in all required content area classes shall be 18 students.

(v) Multiage classrooms for grades kindergarten through eight shall be limited to two grade levels per classroom.

(vi) Prekindergarten, career and technical education, flexible pathways, terminal courses, advanced placement courses, courses that require specialized equipment, and driver's education classes shall be excluded from the class size minimum requirements in this subdivision (9). Small group services for the purpose of providing special education, supplemental or

targeted academic intervention, or English learner instruction shall also be excluded from the class size minimum requirements in this subdivision (9).

(vii) Class sizes shall not exceed the maximum occupancy limits established by local and State fire codes, including egress and safety requirements.

(B) Waivers. If a school board determines that it operates a school that is unable to comply with the class size minimum standards due to geographic isolation, or a school has developed an implementation plan to meet the standards contained in this subdivision (9) that may include consolidation or merger, the school board may ask the State Board of Education to grant it waiver from this subdivision (9). The State Board shall define what qualifies as geographic isolation in its rules adopted pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section. The State Board's decision shall be final.

(C) State Board action. If the Secretary determines that a school is not meeting the class size minimum standards set forth in this subdivision (9) over the course of three consecutive school years, the Secretary may recommend to the State Board one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section, regardless of whether the school is meeting all other education quality standards. The State Board shall then follow the procedure of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Annually, the Secretary shall determine whether students in each Vermont public school are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other public schools. If the Secretary determines that a school is not meeting the education quality standards listed in subsection (a) of this section or that the school is making insufficient progress in improving student performance in relation to the standards for student performance set forth in subdivision 164(9) of this title, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall describe in writing actions that a district must take in order to meet either or both sets of standards and shall provide technical assistance to the school. If the school fails to meet the standards or make sufficient progress within two years ~~of~~ following the determination, the Secretary shall recommend to the State Board one or more of the following actions:

(1) the Agency continue to provide technical assistance for one more cycle of review;

(2) the State Board adjust supervisory union boundaries or responsibilities of the superintendency pursuant to section 261 of this title;

(3) the Secretary assume administrative control of an individual school, school district, or supervisory union, including budgetary control to ensure sound financial practices, only to the extent necessary to correct deficiencies;

(4) the State Board close an individual school or schools and require that the school district pay tuition to another public school or an approved independent school pursuant to chapter 21 of this title; or

(5) the State Board require two or more school districts to consolidate their governance structures.

(c) The State Board, after offering the school board an opportunity for a hearing, shall either dismiss the Secretary's recommendation or order that one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section be taken. The action ordered by the State Board shall be the least intrusive consistent with the need to provide students attending the school substantially equal educational opportunities. A school board aggrieved by an order of the State Board may appeal the order in accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure.

* * *

(e) If the Secretary determines at any time that the failure of a school to meet the education quality standards listed in subsection (a) of this section is severe or pervasive, potentially results in physical or emotional harm to students or significant deprivation of equal education opportunities, and the school has either unreasonably refused to remedy the problem or its efforts have proved ineffective, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary may recommend to the State Board one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section. The State Board shall then follow the procedure of subsection (c) of this section.

* * *

(g) In addition to the education quality standards provided in subsection (a) of this section, each Vermont school district shall meet the school district quality standards adopted by rule of the Agency of Education regarding the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts. These standards shall include a process for school district quality reviews to be conducted by the Agency of Education. Annually, the Secretary shall publish metrics regarding the outcomes of school district quality reviews.

Sec. 6. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; STATE BOARD ACTION

Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 165(b)(4) and (5) and any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Board shall be prohibited from ordering school district consolidation or school consolidation if a school fails to comply with class size minimum education quality standards and the resulting consolidation would result in school construction costs in excess of the applicable district's capital reserve account until the General Assembly establishes new school district boundaries and takes further action regarding the consequences for failure to meet education quality standards.

Sec. 7. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; RULES; REPORT

(a) Rules. On or before August 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall initiate rulemaking to amend:

(1) The Education Quality Standards rule 2000 series, Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (22-000-003), pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to ensure compliance with the class size minimum standards set pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9).

(2) The approved independent school rule 2200 series, Agency of Education, Independent School Program Approval (22-000-004), pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to require approved independent schools that intend to accept public tuition to comply with the class size minimum standards set pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9). The amendments shall also create a process for review by the State Board for failure to meet the class size minimum requirements and the corresponding actions the Board may take for such noncompliance; provided, however, that the Board shall provide an approved independent school a substantially similar opportunity to come into compliance with class size minimum standards that it would provide to a public school.

(b) Report. On or before December 1, 2025, the State Board of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with proposed standards for schools to be deemed "small by necessity."

Sec. 8. PROHIBITION ON SCHOOL CLOSURE AND TRANSITION TO PAYING TUITION

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a school district shall be prohibited from closing an existing public school and then providing for the education of its resident students by paying tuition for its students to attend a public or approved independent school chosen by the parents of the district's students. If a school district that closes an existing public school is unable to provide for the education of its affected resident students in a different school or schools operated by the district, the school district shall provide for the education of its resident students by designating three or fewer public schools to serve as the public school or schools of the district; provided, however, that if the closed public school is located in a geographically isolated area, as defined by the State Board of Education, and there is no reasonably accessible public school to designate, the applicable school district may provide for the education of its affected resident students by offering tuition pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 21. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if designation is required pursuant to this section, the designation process

contained in 16 V.S.A. § 827 shall apply to schools operating grades kindergarten through grade 12, or any subset of grades therein.

Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 3440 is added to read:

§ 3440. STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the intent of this chapter to encourage the efficient use of public funds to modernize school infrastructure in alignment with current educational needs. School construction projects supported by this chapter should be developed taking consideration of standards of quality for public schools under section 165 of this title and prioritizing cost, geographic accessibility, 21st century education facilities standards, statewide enrollment trends, and capacity and scale that support best educational practices. Further, it is the intent of this chapter to encourage the use of existing infrastructure to meet the needs of Vermont students. Joint construction projects between two or more school districts and consolidation of buildings within a district where feasible and educationally appropriate are encouraged.

Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 3442 is added to read:

§ 3442. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Agency of Education shall be responsible for implementing the State Aid for School Construction Program according to the provisions of this chapter. The Agency shall be responsible for:

(1) reviewing all preliminary applications for State school construction aid and issuing an approval or denial in accordance with section 3445 of this chapter;

(2) adopting rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 pertaining to school construction and capital outlay, including rules to specify a point prioritization methodology and a bonus incentive structure aligned with the legislative intent expressed in section 3440 of this title;

(3) including as part of its budget submitted to the Governor pursuant to subdivision 212(21) of this title its annual school construction funding request;

(4) developing a prequalification and review process for project delivery consultants and architecture and engineering firms specializing in prekindergarten through grade 12 school design, renovation, or construction and maintaining a list of such prequalified firms and consultants;

(5) providing technical assistance and guidance to school districts and supervisory unions on all phases of school capital projects;

(6) providing technical advice and assistance, training, and education to school districts, supervisory unions, general contractors, subcontractors, construction or project managers, designers, and other vendors in the planning, maintenance, and establishment of school facility space;

(7) maintaining a current list of school construction projects that have received preliminary approval, projects that have received final approval, and the priority points awarded to each project;

(8) collecting, maintaining, and making publicly available quarterly progress reports of all ongoing school construction projects that shall include, at a minimum, the costs of the project and the time schedule of the project;

(9) recommending policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school construction programs at both State and local levels;

(10) conducting a needs survey at least every five years to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for all public schools and maintaining such data in a publicly accessible format;

(11) developing a formal enrollment projection model or using projection models already available;

(12) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or supervisory union;

(13) collecting and maintaining a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans, as appropriate, that may be consulted by eligible applicants;

(14) retaining the services of consultants, as necessary, to effectuate the roles and responsibilities listed within this section; and

(15) notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before December 15, submitting a written report to the General Assembly regarding the status and implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program, including the data required to be collected pursuant to this section.

Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 3443 is added to read:

§ 3443. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD

(a) Creation. There is hereby created the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board, which shall advise the Agency on the implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including the adoption of rules, setting of statewide priorities, criteria for project approval, and recommendations for project approval and prioritization.

(b) Membership.

(1) Composition. The Board shall be composed of the following eight members:

(A) four members who shall serve as ex officio members:

(i) the State Treasurer or designee;

(ii) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

(iii) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank or designee; and

(iv) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee; and

(B) four members, none of whom shall be a current member of the General Assembly, who shall serve four-year terms as follows:

(i) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House, each of whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or finance and one of whom shall represent a supervisory union; and

(ii) two members, appointed by the Committee on Committees, each of whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or finance and one of whom shall be an educator.

(2) Members with four-year terms.

(A) A member with a term limit shall serve a term of four years and until a successor is appointed. A term shall begin on January 1 of the year of appointment and run through December 31 of the last year of the term. Terms of these members shall be staggered so that not all terms expire at the same time.

(B) A vacancy created before the expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.

(C) A member with a term limit shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. A member appointed to fill a vacancy created before the expiration of a term shall not be deemed to have served a term for the purpose of this subdivision (C).

(c) Duties. The Board shall advise the Agency on the implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including:

(1) rules pertaining to school construction and capital outlay;

(2) project priorities;

(3) proposed legislation the Board deems desirable or necessary related to the State Aid for School Construction Program, the provisions of this chapter, and any related laws;

(4) policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school construction programs at both State and local levels;

(5) development of a formal enrollment projection model or the consideration of using projection models already available;

(6) processes and procedures necessary to apply for, receive, administer, and comply with the conditions and requirements of any grant, gift, appropriation of property, services, or monies;

(7) the collection and maintenance of a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans that may be consulted by eligible applicants and recommended incentives to utilize such prototypes;

(8) the determination of eligible cost components of projects for funding or reimbursement, including partial or full eligibility for project components for which the benefit is shared between the school and other municipal and community entities;

(9) development of a long-term vision for a statewide capital plan in accordance with needs and projected funding;

(10) collection and maintenance of data on all public school facilities in the State, including information on size, usage, enrollment, available facility space, and maintenance;

(11) advising districts on the use of a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for schools across the State; and

(12) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or supervisory union.

(d) Meetings.

(1) The Chair of the State Board of Education shall call the first meeting of the Board to occur on or before September 1, 2025.

(2) The Board shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Board shall meet not more than six times per year.

(e) Assistance. The Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Board shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings per year.

(g) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Board shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education and on Finance on recommendations for addressing the transfer of any debt obligations from current school districts to future school districts as contemplated by Vermont's education transformation.

Sec. 12. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL OF STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD

16 V.S.A. § 3443 (State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board) is repealed on July 1, 2035.

Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 3444 is added to read:

§ 3444. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID SPECIAL FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the School Construction Aid Special Fund, to be administered by the Agency of Education. Monies in the Fund shall be used for the purposes of:

(1) awarding aid to school construction projects under section 3445 of this title;

(2) awarding grants through the Facilities Master Plan Grant Program established in section 3441 of this title;

(3) funding administrative costs of the State Aid for School Construction Program; and

(4) awarding emergency aid under section 3445 of this title.

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred or appropriated to it by the General Assembly;

(2) any amounts deposited in the Fund from the Supplemental District Spending Reserve; and

(3) any interest earned by the Fund.

Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 3445 is added to read:

§ 3445. APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

(a) Construction aid.

(1) Preliminary application for construction aid. A school district eligible for assistance under section 3447 of this title that intends to construct or purchase a new school, or make extensive additions or alterations to its existing school, and desires to avail itself of State school construction aid shall submit a written preliminary application to the Secretary. A preliminary application shall include information required by the Agency by rule and shall specify the need for and purpose of the project.

(2) Approval of preliminary application.

(A) When reviewing a preliminary application for approval, the Secretary shall consider:

(i) regional educational opportunities and needs, including school building capacities across school district boundaries, and available infrastructure in neighboring communities;

(ii) economic efficiencies;

(iii) the suitability of an existing school building to continue to meet educational needs; and

(iv) statewide educational initiatives.

(B) The Secretary may approve a preliminary application if:

(i)(I) the project or part of the project fulfills a need occasioned by:

(aa) conditions that threaten the health or safety of students or employees;

(bb) facilities that are inadequate to provide programs required by State or federal law or regulation;

(cc) excessive energy use resulting from the design of a building or reliance on fossil fuels or electric space heat; or

(dd) deterioration of an existing building; or

(II) the project results in consolidation of two or more school buildings and will serve the educational needs of students in a more cost-effective and educationally appropriate manner as compared to individual projects constructed separately;

(ii) the need addressed by the project cannot reasonably be met by another means;

(iii) the proposed type, kind, quality, size, and estimated cost of the project are suitable for the proposed curriculum and meet all legal standards;

(iv) the applicant achieves the level of "proficiency" in the school district quality standards regarding facilities management adopted by rule by the Agency; and

(v) the applicant has completed a facilities master planning process that:

(I) engages robust community involvement;

(II) considers regional solutions;

(III) evaluates environmental contaminants; and

(IV) produces a facilities master plan that unites the applicant's vision statement, educational needs, enrollment projections, renovation needs, and construction projects.

(3) Priorities. Following approval of a preliminary application and provided that the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of a project, the Agency, with the advice of the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board, shall assign points to the project as prescribed by rule of the Agency so that the project can be placed on a priority list based on the number of points received.

(4) Request for legislative appropriation. The Agency shall submit its annual school construction funding request to the Governor as part of its budget pursuant to subdivision 212(21) of this title. Following submission of the Governor's recommended budget to the General Assembly pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 306, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education shall recommend a total school construction appropriation for the next fiscal year to the General Assembly.

(5) Final approval for construction aid.

(A) Unless approved by the Secretary for good cause in advance of commencement of construction, a school district shall not begin construction before the Secretary approves a final application. A school district may submit a written final application to the Secretary at any time following approval of a preliminary application.

(B) The Secretary may approve a final application for a project provided that:

(i) the project has received preliminary approval;

(ii) the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of the project;

(iii) the district has made arrangements for project construction supervision by persons competent in the building trades;

(iv) the district has provided for construction financing of the project during a period prescribed by the Agency;

(v) the project has otherwise met the requirements of this chapter;

(vi) if the proposed project includes a playground, the project includes a requirement that the design and construction of playground equipment follow the guidelines set forth in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety; and

(vii) if the total estimated cost of the proposed project is less than $50,000.00, no performance bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be required.

(C) The Secretary may provide that a grant for a high school project is conditioned upon the agreement of the recipient to provide high school instruction for any high school pupil living in an area prescribed by the Agency who may elect to attend the school.

(D) A district may begin construction upon receipt of final approval. However, a district shall not be reimbursed for debt incurred due to borrowing of funds in anticipation of aid under this section.

(6) Award of construction aid.

(A) The base amount of an award shall be 20 percent of the eligible debt service cost of a project. Projects are eligible for additional bonus incentives as specified in rule for up to an additional 20 percent of the eligible debt service cost. Amounts shall be awarded annually.

(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6), "eligible debt service cost" of a project means the product of the lifetime cost of the bond authorized for the project and the ratio of the approved cost of a project to the total cost of the project.

(b) Emergency aid. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary may grant aid for a project the Secretary deems to be an emergency in the amount of 30 percent of eligible project costs, up to a maximum eligible total project cost of $300,000.00.

Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 3446 is added to read:

§ 3446. APPEAL

Any municipal corporation as defined in section 3447 of this title aggrieved by an order, allocation, or award of the Agency of Education may, within 30 days, appeal to the Superior Court in the county in which the project is located.

Sec. 16. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF RULES

(a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education pertaining to school construction and capital outlay adopted under 16 V.S.A. § 3448(e) and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

(b) All rules pertaining to school construction and capital outlay adopted by the State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2026 shall be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(c) The Agency of Education shall provide notice of the transfer to the Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 848(d)(2).

Sec. 17. REPEALS

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 3448 (approval of funding of school construction projects; renewable energy) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

(b) 16 V.S.A. § 3448a (appeal) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

Sec. 18. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

§ 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

(a) A school district shall not pay the tuition of a student except to:

(1) a public school~~,~~ located in Vermont;

(2) an approved independent school~~,~~ that:

(A) is located in Vermont;

(B) is approved under section 166 of this title on or before July 1, 2025;

(C) is located within either:

(i) a supervisory district that does not operate a public school for some or all grades as of July 1, 2024; or

(ii) a supervisory union with one or more member school districts that does not operate a public school for some or all grades as of July 1, 2024;

(D) had at least 25 percent of its Vermont resident student enrollment composed of students attending on a district-funded tuition basis pursuant to chapter 21 of this title during the 2023–2024 school year; and

(E) complies with the minimum class size requirements contained in subdivision 165(a)(9) of this title and State Board rule; provided, however, that if a school is unable to comply with the class size minimum standards due to geographic isolation or a school has developed an implementation plan to meet the class size minimum requirements, the school may ask the State Board to grant it a waiver from this subdivision (E), which decision shall be final;

(3) an independent school meeting education quality standards~~,~~;

(4) a tutorial program approved by the State Board~~,~~;

(5) an approved education program~~, or~~;

(6) ~~an independent school in another state or country approved under the laws of that state or country, that complies with the reporting requirement under subsection 4010(c) of this title,~~ a public school located in another state; or

(7) a therapeutic approved independent school located in Vermont or another state or country that is approved under the laws of that state or country.

(b) ~~nor shall payment~~ Payment of tuition on behalf of a person shall not be denied on account of age.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, a person who is aggrieved by a decision of a school board relating to eligibility for tuition payments, the amount of tuition payable, or the school the person may attend, may appeal to the State Board and its decision shall be final.

(d) As used in this section, "therapeutic approved independent school" means an approved independent school that limits enrollment for publicly funded students residing in Vermont to students who are on an individualized education program or plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, or who are enrolled pursuant to a written agreement between a local education agency and the school or pursuant to a court order.

Sec. 19. TUITION TRANSITION

A school district that pays tuition pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. chapter 21 in effect on June 30, 2025 shall continue to pay tuition on behalf of a resident student enrolled for the 2024–2025 school year in or who has been accepted for enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year by an approved independent school subject to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 828 in effect on June 30, 2025, until such time as the student graduates from that school.

* * * Statewide Cohesion * * *

Sec. 20. STATEWIDE COHESION; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to consolidate structures and systems that are foundational to the administration of education.

Sec. 21. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; REPORT

On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report and recommended legislative language, as applicable, to the House and Senate Committees on Education with the following:

(1) In consultation with educators and administrators, a proposed implementation plan for statewide financial data and student information systems.

(2) Recommendations for a school construction division within the Agency of Education, including position descriptions and job duties for each position within the division, a detailed description of the assistance the division would provide to the field, and the overall role the Agency would play within a State aid to school construction program.

(3) A progress report regarding the development of clear, unambiguous guidance that would be provided to school officials and school board members regarding the business processes and transactions that would need to occur to facilitate school district mergers into larger, consolidated school districts, including the merging of data systems, asset and liability transfers, and how to address collective bargaining agreements for both educators and staff. The report shall include a detailed description of how the Agency will provide support and consolidation assistance to the field in each of these areas and an estimate of the costs associated with such work.

(4) In consultation with superintendents, directors of therapeutic independent schools, special education directors, and, in the opinion of the Agency, other experts, recommendations for the need for cooperative education services and the oversight of therapeutic schools within the school governance framework both at a State and local level.

* * * State-Level Governance * * *

Sec. 22. STATE-LEVEL GOVERNANCE; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that the State Board of Education is the independent, transparent, and public facing body for public education and to ensure the Board maintains its ability provide an important outlet for the public to engage in the rulemaking process and regularly provide public comment regarding the state of Vermont's education system.

Sec. 23. 16 V.S.A. § 161 is amended to read:

§ 161. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERM; VACANCY

The State Board shall consist of ~~ten~~ 10 members. Two of the members shall be secondary students, one of whom shall be a full member and the other of whom shall be a junior member who may not vote. ~~All~~ Eight members, including the two student members, shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees. In the appointment of the nonstudent members, priority shall be given to the selection of persons with a demonstrated commitment to ensuring quality education for Vermont students. To the extent possible, the members shall represent the State's geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity. The Secretary shall serve on the State Board as a nonvoting member.

(1) Upon the expiration of the respective terms of those members of the Board previously appointed, excluding the student members, the ~~Governor~~ appointing authority that made the initial appointment to the expired term shall, biennially in the month of February with the advice and consent of the Senate, as applicable, appoint members for terms of six years. The terms shall begin March 1 of the year in which the appointments are made. A member serving a term of six years shall not be eligible for reappointment for successive terms.

(2) In the event of any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board, the ~~Governor~~ appointing authority that made the initial appointment to the vacated term shall fill the vacancy with a qualified person whose appointment shall be for the unexpired portion of the term.

(3) Biennially, the Board shall choose a member of the Board to be its chair.

(4) Annually, using an application process that is open and accessible to all eligible students, the Governor shall appoint a Vermont secondary school student who will continue to be a secondary student for at least two years following taking office, to serve on the State Board for two years, beginning on July 1 of the year of appointment. The student member shall not vote during the first year and shall be a full and voting member during the second year of ~~his or her~~ the student's term.

Sec. 24. TRANSITION PERIOD APPOINTMENTS; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(a) Members currently serving on the State Board of Education may continue to serve for the duration of the term to which they were appointed.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2025, as terms of currently serving members expire, appointments of successors shall be made in accordance with the considerations and appointment authority contained in 16 V.S.A. § 161.

(1) The Speaker of the House shall make the first appointment to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(2) The Senate Committee on Committees shall make the second appointment to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(3) The Governor shall make the third appointment, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(c) Once the first three appointments after July 1, 2025 are made in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the Governor shall make all subsequent appointments for the remaining five non-student seats, with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 161.

Sec. 25. 16 V.S.A. § 162 is amended to read:

§ 162. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS

After notice and hearing, the Governor may remove a member of the State Board for incompetency, failure to discharge ~~his or her~~ the member's duties, malfeasance, illegal acts, or other cause inimical to the welfare of the public schools; and in case of such removal, ~~he or she~~ the appointing authority that made the initial appointment shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term.

Sec. 26. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; REVIEW OF RULES; APPROPRIATION

(a) The State Board of Education shall review each rule series the State Board is responsible for and make a determination as to the continuing need for, appropriateness of, or need for updating of said rules. On or before December 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its recommendation for rules that are no longer needed and a plan to update rules that are still necessary, including the order in which the Board proposes to update the rules and any associated costs or staffing needs.

(b) The sum of $200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to provide the State Board of Education with the contracted resources necessary to review and update the Board's rules.

* * * Tuition * * *

Sec. 27. 16 V.S.A. § 823 is amended to read:

§ 823. ~~ELEMENTARY~~ TUITION

(a) Tuition for ~~elementary~~ students shall be paid by the district in which the student is a resident. The district shall pay ~~the full tuition charged its students attending a public elementary school~~ to a receiving school an amount equal to the base amount contained in subdivision 4001(16) of this title multiplied by the sum of one and any weights applicable to the resident student under section 4010 of this title, for each resident student attending the receiving school. ~~If a payment made to a public elementary school is three percent more or less than the calculated net cost per elementary pupil in the receiving school district for the year of attendance, the district shall be reimbursed, credited, or refunded pursuant to section 836 of this title. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection or of subsection 825(b) of this title, the boards of both the receiving and sending districts may enter into tuition agreements with terms differing from the provisions of those subsections, provided that the receiving district must offer identical terms to all sending districts, and further provided that the statutory provisions apply to any sending district that declines the offered terms.~~

(b) ~~Unless the electorate of a school district authorizes payment of a higher amount at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the tuition paid to an approved independent elementary school or an independent school meeting education quality standards shall not exceed the least of:~~

~~(1) the average announced tuition of Vermont union elementary schools for the year of attendance;~~

~~(2) the tuition charged by the approved independent school for the year of attendance; or~~

~~(3) the average per-pupil tuition the district pays for its other resident elementary students in the year in which the student is enrolled in the approved independent school.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 28. REPEALS

16 V.S.A. §§ 824 (high school tuition), 825 (maximum tuition rate; calculated net cost per pupil defined), 826 (notice of tuition rates; special education charges), and 836 (tuition overcharge or undercharge) are repealed on July 1, 2029.

* * * Special Education Delivery * * *

Sec. 29. STATE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION DELIVERY; AGENCY OF EDUCATION; REPORT

(a) On or before September 1, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance addressing the factors contributing to growth in extraordinary special education reimbursement costs. The report shall include detailed information regarding the current state of special education delivery in Vermont, including an update on the implementation of special education changes enacted pursuant to 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 (Act 173). The report shall include a description of the current state of support for students with disabilities in Vermont and recommended changes to structure, practice, and law with the goal of:

(1) improving the delivery of special education services and managing the rising extraordinary special education costs as Vermont's special education finance system transitions from a census block grant to a weight for special education costs;

(2) ensuring better, more inclusive services in the least restrictive environment in a way that makes efficient and effective use of limited resources while resulting in the best outcomes;

(3) responding to the challenges of fully implementing Act 173 and the lessons learned from implementation efforts to date;

(4) ensuring that the delivery of special education is responsive to student needs; and

(5) addressing drivers of growth of extraordinary expenditures in special education.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) An analysis of the costs of and services provided for students with extraordinary needs in specialized settings, separated by school-district-operated specialized programs, independent nonprofit programs, and independent for-profit programs. The report shall include a geographic map with the location of all specialized programs within the State of Vermont, as well as the following information for each individual specialized program:

(A) disability categories served;

(B) grade levels served;

(C) the number of students with IEPs and the average duration of time each student spent in the program over the last 10 years;

(D) average cost per pupil, inclusive of extraordinary spending and any costs in excess of general tuition rates;

(E) years of experience, training, and tenure of licensed special education staff;

(F) a review of the findings of all investigations conducted by the Agency of Education; and

(G) a review of the Agency's public assurance capabilities, with respect to special education programs in all settings, and an analysis of the effectiveness of current oversight or rule, and recommended changes if needed.

(2) An evaluation of the state of implementation of Act 173, including examples of where implementation has been successful, where it has not, and why.

(3) Identification of drivers of accelerating costs within the special education system.

(4) Identification of barriers to the success of students with disabilities.

(5) A description of how specialized programs for students with extraordinary needs operated by school districts, independent nonprofit schools, and independent for-profit schools are funded, with an analysis of the benefits and risks of each funding model.

(6) An assessment of whether Vermont's current special education laws ensure equitable access for all students with disabilities to education alongside their peers in a way that is consistent with the Vermont education quality standards for public schools and the right to a free appropriate public

education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400–1482.

(7) A review of the capacity of the Agency to support and guide school districts on the effective support of students with disabilities, as well as compliance with federal law, which shall include:

(A) a review of final reports of investigations conducted by the Agency in school-district-operated specialized programs, independent nonprofit programs, and independent for-profit programs in the previous 10 years and an evaluation of what practices could reduce adverse findings in these settings;

(B) an assessment of the ability of the State to ensure State resources are used in the most efficient and effective way possible to support the success of students with disabilities and their access to a free and appropriate public education;

(C) a review of any pending and recent federal findings against the State or school districts, as well as progress on corrective actions;

(D) a review of the Agency's staffing and capacity to review and conduct monitoring and visits to schools, especially independent settings;

(E) a description of the process and status of reviews and approvals of approved independent schools that provide special education and therapeutic schools; and

(F) recommendations for whether the Agency has capacity to ensure timely review of approved independent schools and provide sufficient oversight for specialized programs in nonprofit independent schools and for-profit independent schools.

(8) Recommendations for needed capacity at the Agency to provide technical assistance and support to school districts in the provision of special education services.

(9) An analysis of whether more strategic support for better primary first instruction and more successful implementation of Act 173 needs to be in place for a weighted funding model for special education to succeed, including a suggested transition timeline, with indicators, to be incorporated into the Agency's strategic plan.

(10) If warranted, a review of options for changes to practice, structure, and law that ensure students with disabilities are provided access to quality education, in the least restrictive environment, in a cost-effective way that is consistent with State and federal law, which may include a review of the

possible role of BOCES and the impact of larger districts on effective, high-quality support for students with disabilities.

Sec. 30. SPECIAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

(a) Strategic plan. In consultation with the State Advisory Panel on Special Education established under 16 V.S.A. § 2945, the Agency of Education shall develop a three-year strategic plan for the delivery of special education services in Vermont. The strategic plan shall include unambiguous measurable outcomes and a timeline for implementation. The strategic plan shall be informed by the analysis and findings of the report required of the Agency under Sec. 29 of this act and be designed to ensure successful implementation of 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 (Act 173) and provide the supports and processes that need to be in place for the transition to a weighted funding model for special education to succeed, including a suggested transition timeline, with benchmarks for success. The strategic plan shall also include contingency recommendations for special education funding in the event federal special education funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400–1482, is no longer available or transitions to a system that requires more planning and management on the part of the State to ensure funds are distributed equitably.

(b) Reports.

(1) On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency shall submit the three-year strategic plan created pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

(2) On or before December 1 of 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, the Agency shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance with a detailed update on the Agency's implementation of its strategic plan and any recommendations for legislative changes needed to ensure a successful transition to a weighted funding model and continued successful implementation of Act 173.

Sec. 31. POSITION; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

(a) Establishment of one new permanent, classified position is authorized in the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026, to support development and implementation of the three-year strategic plan required under Sec. 30 of this act.

(b) The sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education's base budget in fiscal year 2026 for the purposes of funding the position created in subsection (a) of this section. The Agency shall include funding for this permanent position in their annual base budget request in subsequent years.

* * * Agency of Education Transformation Support * * *

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION APPROPRIATION

The sum of $3,400,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work as follows:

(1) $200,000.00 to support school boards transitioning to new governance models as contemplated in this act;

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

(3) $2,637,500.00 for contracted services to support school districts with administrative activities relating to consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula, instructional materials, and teaching activities.

Sec. 33. EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION; POOL POSITIONS

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

(1) one Business Operations Support Specialist;

(2) one Data Integration Support Specialist;

(3) one Curriculum and Education Quality Standards Integration Specialist;

(4) one Learning and Teaching Integration Specialist; and

(5) one School Facilities Field Support Specialist.

* * * State Funding of Public Education * * *

Sec. 34. 16 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Average daily membership" of a school district ~~or, if needed in order to calculate the appropriate homestead tax rate, of the municipality as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(9),~~ in any year means:

* * *

(6) ~~"Education spending" means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.~~

~~(A) [Repealed.]~~

~~(B) For all bonds approved by voters prior to July 1, 2024, voter-approved bond payments toward principal and interest shall not be included in "education spending" for purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12).~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(13) "~~Base education~~ Categorical base amount" means a number used to calculate categorical grants awarded under this title that is equal to $6,800.00 per equalized pupil, adjusted as required under section 4011 of this title.

(14) ~~"Per pupil education spending" of a school district in any school year means the per pupil education spending of that school district as determined under subsection 4010(f) of this title.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(16) "Base amount" means a per pupil cost-factor amount of $15,033.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the base dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic

Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(17) "Educational opportunity payment" means the base amount multiplied by the school district's weighted long-term membership as determined under section 4010 of this title.

Sec. 35. 16 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. DETERMINATION OF WEIGHTED LONG-TERM MEMBERSHIP AND ~~PER PUPIL EDUCATION SPENDING~~ EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PAYMENT

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "EL pupils" means pupils described under section 4013 of this title.

(2) "FPL" means the Federal Poverty Level.

(3) "Weighting categories" means the categories listed under subsection (b) of this section.

(4) "Child with a disability" has the same meaning as in section 2942 of this title.

(5) "Disability" means any of:

(A) a specific learning disability or a speech or language impairment, each of which is identified as "Category A";

(B) an emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or other health impairment, each of which is identified as "Category B"; or

(C) autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment, each of which is identified as "Category C."

(6) "English language proficiency level" means each of the English language proficiency levels published as a standardized measure of academic language proficiency in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and available to members of the WIDA consortium of state departments of education.

(7) "Newcomer or SLIFE" means a pupil identified as a New American or as a student with limited or interrupted formal education.

(b) Determination of average daily membership and weighting categories. On or before the first day of December during each school year, the Secretary shall determine the average daily membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(1) of this title, of each school district for the current school year and shall ~~perform the following tasks.~~,

~~(1) Using~~ using average daily membership, list for each school district the number of:

~~(A) pupils in prekindergarten;~~

~~(B) pupils in kindergarten through grade five;~~

~~(C) pupils in grades six through eight;~~

~~(D) pupils in grades nine through 12;~~

~~(E)~~(1) pupils whose families are at or below 185 percent of FPL, using the highest number of pupils in the district:

~~(i)~~(A) that meet this definition under the universal income declaration form; or

~~(ii)~~(B) who are directly certified for free and reduced-priced meals; ~~and~~

~~(F)~~(2) EL pupils that have been most recently assessed at an English language proficiency level of:

(A) Level 1;

(B) Level 2 or 3;

(C) Level 4; or

(D) Level 5 or 6;

(3) EL pupils that are identified as Newcomer or SLIFE; and

(4) Children with a disability whose disability is identified as:

(A) Category A;

(B) Category B; or

(C) Category C, provided that a child with multiple disabilities shall be counted solely under this subdivision (C).

~~(2)(A) Identify all school districts that have low population density, measured by the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of the year of determination, equaling:~~

~~(i) fewer than 36 persons per square mile;~~

~~(ii) 36 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 55 persons per square mile; or~~

~~(iii) 55 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 100 persons per square mile.~~

~~(B) Population density data shall be based on the best available U.S. Census data as provided to the Agency of Education by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.~~

~~(C) Using average daily membership, list for each school district that has low population density the number of pupils in each of subdivisions (A)(i) (iii) of this subdivision (2).~~

~~(3)(A) Identify all school districts that have one or more small schools, which are schools that have an average two-year enrollment of:~~

~~(i) fewer than 100 pupils; or~~

~~(ii) 100 or more pupils but fewer than 250 pupils.~~

~~(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), "average two-year enrollment" means the average enrollment of the two most recently completed school years, and "enrollment" means the number of pupils who are enrolled in a school operated by the district on October 1. A pupil shall be counted as one whether the pupil is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student.~~

~~(C) Using average two-year enrollment, list for each school district that has a small school the number of pupils in each of subdivisions (A)(i) (ii) of this subdivision (3).~~

(c) Reporting on weighting categories to the Agency of Education. Each school district shall annually report to the Agency of Education by a date established by the Agency the information needed in order for the Agency to compute the weighting categories under subsection (b) of this section for that district. In order to fulfill this obligation, a school district that pays public tuition on behalf of a resident student (sending district) to a public school in another school district, an approved independent school, or an out-of-state school (each a receiving school) may request the receiving school to collect this information on the sending district's resident student, and if requested, the receiving school shall provide this information to the sending district in a timely manner.

(d) Determination of weighted long-term membership. For each weighting category ~~except the small schools weighting category under subdivision (b)(3) of this section~~, the Secretary shall compute the weighting count by using the long-term membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(7) of this title, in that category.

(1) ~~The Secretary shall first apply grade level weights. Each pupil included in long-term membership shall count as one, multiplied by the following amounts:~~

~~(A) prekindergarten – negative 0.54;~~

~~(B) grades six through eight – 0.36; and~~

~~(C) grades nine through 12 – 0.39.~~ [Repealed.]

(2) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a weight for pupils whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL.~~ Each pupil included in long-term membership whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL shall receive an additional weighting amount of ~~1.03~~ 1.02.

(3) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a weight for EL pupils.~~ Each EL pupil included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the EL pupil's English language proficiency level, of ~~2.49~~:

(A) 2.11, if assessed as Level 1;

(B) 1.41, if assessed as Level 2 or 3;

(C) 1.20, if assessed as Level 4; or

(D) 0.12, if assessed as Level 5 or 6.

(4) ~~The Secretary shall then apply a weight for pupils living in low population density school districts.~~ Each EL pupil that is a Newcomer or SLIFE included in long-term membership ~~residing in a low population density school district, measured by the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of the year of determination,~~ shall receive an additional weighting amount of~~:~~ 0.42

~~(A) 0.15, where the number of persons per square mile is fewer than 36 persons;~~

~~(B) 0.12, where the number of persons per square mile is 36 or more but fewer than 55 persons; or~~

~~(C) 0.07, where the number of persons per square mile is 55 or more but fewer than 100~~.

(5) ~~The Secretary shall lastly apply a weight for pupils who attend a small school. If the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of a school district as of July 1 of the year of determination is 55 or fewer, then, for each pupil listed under subdivision (b)(3)(C) of this section (pupils who attend small schools)~~ Each child with a disability included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the categorization of the child's disability, of:

(A) ~~where the school has fewer than 100 pupils in average two-year enrollment, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of 0.21 for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment~~ 0.79, if the disability is identified as Category A; ~~or~~

(B) ~~where the small school has 100 or more but fewer than 250 pupils, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of 0.07 for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment~~ 1.89, if the disability is identified as Category B; or

(C) 2.49, if the disability is identified as Category C.

(6) A school district's weighted long-term membership shall equal long-term membership plus the cumulation of the weights assigned by the Secretary under this subsection.

(e) Hold harmless. A district's weighted long-term membership shall in no case be less than 96 and one-half percent of its actual weighted long-term membership the previous year prior to making any adjustment under this subsection.

(f) Determination of ~~per pupil education spending~~ educational opportunity payment. ~~As soon as reasonably possible after a school district budget is approved by voters, the Secretary shall determine the per pupil education spending for the next fiscal year for the school district. Per pupil education spending shall equal a school district's education spending divided by its weighted long-term membership~~ The Secretary shall determine each school district's educational opportunity payment by multiplying the school district's weighted long-term membership determined under subsection (d) of this section by the base amount.

* * *

(h) Updates to weights, base amount, and transportation reimbursement. On or before January 1, ~~2027~~ 2026 and on or before January 1 of every fifth year thereafter, the Agency of Education and the Joint Fiscal Office shall calculate, based on their consensus view, updates to the weights and the base amount, including any inflationary measure, to account for cost changes underlying those weights and shall issue a written report on their work to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The General Assembly shall update the weights under this section, the base amount, and transportation reimbursement under section 4016 of this title not less than every five years and the implementation date for the updated weights and transportation reimbursement shall be delayed by a year in order to provide school districts with time to prepare their budgets. Updates to the weights may include

recalibration, recalculation, adding or eliminating weights, or any combination of these actions.

Sec. 36. 16 V.S.A. § 4011 is amended to read:

§ 4011. EDUCATION PAYMENTS

(a) Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for ~~statewide education spending~~ each school district's educational opportunity payment and supplemental district spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, the small schools and sparsity support grants under section 4019 of this chapter, and a portion of a ~~base education~~ categorical base amount for each adult education and secondary credential program student.

(b) For each fiscal year, the categorical base ~~education~~ amount shall be $6,800.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subsection, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the categorical base dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(c) Annually, each school district shall receive ~~an education spending payment~~ for support of education costs its educational opportunity payment determined pursuant to subsection 4010(f) of this chapter and a dollar amount equal to its supplemental district spending, if applicable to that school district, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401. ~~An unorganized town or gore shall receive an amount equal to its per pupil education spending for that year for each student. No district shall receive more than its education spending amount.~~

(d) [Repealed.]

(e) [Repealed.]

(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the categorical base ~~education~~ amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the program, based on an average of the previous two years; 40 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.

* * *

(i) Annually, on or before October 1, the Secretary shall send to school boards for inclusion in town reports and publish on the Agency website ~~the following information:~~

~~(1) the statewide average district per pupil education spending for the current fiscal year; and~~

~~(2)~~ a statewide comparison of student-teacher ratios among schools that are similar in number of students and number of grades.

Sec. 37. 16 V.S.A. § 4019 is added to read:

§ 4019. SMALL SCHOOLS; SPARSE SCHOOLS; SUPPORT GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Enrollment" means the number of students who are enrolled in a school operated by the school district on October 1. A student shall be counted as one whether the student is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student.

(2) "Small school" means a school that:

(A) has fewer than 100 pupils in two-year average enrollment; and

(B) has been determined by the State Board of Education, on an annual basis, to be "small by necessity" under standards consistent with those submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Sec. 7(b) of this act.

(3) "Sparse area" means a geographic area corresponding to a zip code where the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the zip code as of July 1 of the year of determination is fewer than 55 persons.

(4) "Sparse school" means a school within a sparse area.

(4) "Two-year average enrollment" means the average enrollment of the two most recently completed school years.

(b) Small schools support grant. Annually, the Secretary shall pay a small schools support grant to each school district for each small school within the school district in an amount determined by multiplying the two-year average enrollment in the small school by $3,157.00.

(c) Sparse schools support grant. Annually, the Secretary shall pay a sparse schools support grant to each school district for each sparse school within the school district in an amount determined by multiplying the two-year average enrollment in the sparse school by $1,954.00.

(d) Inflationary adjustment. Each dollar amount under subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary. As used in this subsection, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

Sec. 38. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

(a) The Education Fund is established to comprise the following:

(1) all revenue paid to the State from the statewide education tax on nonhomestead and homestead property under 32 V.S.A. chapter 135;

(2) all revenue paid to the State from the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f);

* * *

(b) Monies in the Education Fund shall be used for the following:

* * *

(3) ~~To make payments required under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a)(1) and only that portion attributable to education taxes, as determined by the Commissioner of Taxes, of payments required under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a)(3).~~ The State Treasurer shall withdraw funds from the Education Fund upon warrants issued by the Commissioner of Finance and Management based on information supplied by the Commissioner of Taxes. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from the Fund in anticipation of receipts. All balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain a part of the Fund. Interest accruing from the Fund shall remain in the Fund.

* * *

Sec. 39. 16 V.S.A. § 4026 is amended to read:

§ 4026. EDUCATION FUND BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE~~; CREATION AND PURPOSE~~

* * *

(e) ~~The enactment of this chapter and other provisions of the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of which it is a part have been premised upon estimates of balances of revenues to be raised and expenditures to be made under the act for such purposes as education spending payments, categorical State support grants, provisions for property tax income sensitivity, payments in lieu of taxes, current use value appraisals, tax stabilization agreements, the stabilization reserve established by this section, and for other purposes.~~ If the stabilization reserve established under this section should in any fiscal year be less than 5.0 percent of the prior fiscal year's appropriations from the Education Fund, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, the Joint Fiscal Committee shall review the information provided pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b and provide the General Assembly its recommendations for change necessary to restore the stabilization reserve to the statutory level provided in subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 40. 16 V.S.A. § 4028 is amended to read:

§ 4028. FUND PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) On or before September 10, December 10, and April 30 of each school year, one-third of ~~the education spending payment under section 4011 of this title~~ each school district's educational opportunity payment as determined under subsection 4010(f) of this chapter and supplemental district spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, shall become due to school districts~~, except that districts that have not adopted a budget by 30 days before the date of payment under this subsection shall receive one-quarter of the base education amount and upon adoption of a budget shall receive additional amounts due under this subsection~~.

(b) Payments made for special education under chapter 101 of this title, for career technical education under chapter 37 of this title, and for other aid and categorical grants paid for support of education shall also be from the Education Fund.

(c)~~(1) Any district that has adopted a school budget that includes high spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12), shall, upon timely notice, be authorized to use a portion of its high spending penalty to reduce future education spending:~~

~~(A) by entering into a contract with an operational efficiency consultant or a financial systems consultant to examine issues such as transportation arrangements, administrative costs, staffing patterns, and the potential for collaboration with other districts;~~

~~(B) by entering into a contract with an energy or facilities management consultant; or~~

~~(C) by engaging in discussions with other school districts about reorganization or consolidation for better service delivery at a lower cost.~~

~~(2) To the extent approved by the Secretary, the Agency shall pay the district from the property tax revenue to be generated by the high spending increase to the district's spending adjustment as estimated by the Secretary, up to a maximum of $5,000.00. For the purposes of this subsection, "timely notice" means written notice from the district to the Secretary by September 30 of the budget year. If the district enters into a contract with a consultant pursuant to this subsection, the consultant shall not be an employee of the district or of the Agency. A copy of the consultant's final recommendations or a copy of the district's recommendations regarding reorganization, as appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretary, and each affected town shall include in its next town report an executive summary of the consultant's or district's final recommendations and notice of where a complete copy is available. No district is authorized to obtain funds under this section more than one time in every five years.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 41. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

§ 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and authority specifically assigned by law:

* * *

(11)(A) Shall prepare and distribute annually a proposed budget for the next school year according to such major categories as may from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary.

(B) [Repealed.]

(C) At a school district's annual or special meeting, the electorate may vote to provide notice of availability of the school budget required by this subdivision to the electorate in lieu of distributing the budget. If the electorate of the school district votes to provide notice of availability, it must specify how notice of availability shall be given, and such notice of availability shall be provided to the electorate at least 30 days before the district's annual meeting. The proposed budget shall be prepared and distributed at least ~~ten~~ 10 days before a sum of money is voted on by the electorate. Any proposed budget shall show the following information in a format prescribed by the Secretary:

(i) all revenues from all sources, and expenses, including as separate items any assessment for a supervisory union of which it is a member and any tuition to be paid to a career technical center; and including the report required in subdivision 242(4)(D) of this title itemizing the component costs of the supervisory union assessment;

(ii) the specific amount of any deficit incurred in the most recently closed fiscal year and how the deficit was or will be remedied;

(iii) the anticipated homestead tax rate and ~~the percentage of household income used to determine income sensitivity in the district as a result of passage of the budget, including those portions of the tax rate attributable to supervisory union assessments~~ nonhomestead tax rate; ~~and~~

(iv) the definition of "~~education spending~~ supplemental district spending," the ~~number of pupils and number of equalized pupils in~~ long-term membership of the school district, and the district's ~~education spending~~ per ~~equalized~~ pupil supplemental district spending in the proposed budget and in each of the prior three years; and

(v) the supplemental district spending yield.

(D) The board shall present the budget to the voters by means of a ballot in the following form:

"Article #1 (School Budget):

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend $ _____, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary in excess of the school district's educational opportunity payment for the ensuing fiscal year?

The _____ District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil ~~education~~ supplemental district spending of $_____, which is _____% higher/lower than per pupil ~~education~~ supplemental district spending for the current year, and a supplemental district spending tax rate of _____ per $100.00 of equalized education property value."

* * *

Sec. 42. REPEALS

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 4031 (unorganized towns and gores) is repealed.

(b) 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, Sec. 8 (suspension of excess spending penalty, hold harmless provision, and ballot language requirement) is repealed.

(c) 16 V.S.A. § 2961 (census grant; special education) is repealed.

Sec. 43. 16 V.S.A. § 4032 is added to read

§ 4032. SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT SPENDING RESERVE

(a) There is hereby created the Supplemental District Spending Reserve within the Education Fund. Any recapture, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, paid to the Education Fund as part of the revenue from the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f) shall be reserved within the Supplemental District Spending Reserve.

(b) In any fiscal year in which the amounts raised through the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f) are insufficient to cover payment to each school district of its supplemental district spending, the Supplemental District Spending Reserve shall be used by the Commissioner of Finance and Management to the extent necessary to offset the deficit as determined by generally accepted accounting principles.

(c) Any funds remaining in the Supplemental District Spending Reserve at the close of the fiscal year after accounting for the process under subsection (b) of this section shall be transferred into the School Construction Aid Special Fund established in section 3444 of this title.

Sec. 44. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

On or before December 15, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Education and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Education on clear and equitable guidelines for minimum transportation to be provided and covered by transportation reimbursement grant under 16 V.S.A. § 4016 as part of Vermont's education transformation.

Sec. 45. REPORTS; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; INFLATIONARY MEASURES; PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION FUNDING

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Education and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Education that analyzes the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and alternative inflationary measures that may be applied to state education funding systems. As part of the report, the Joint Fiscal Office shall analyze options and provide considerations for selecting an inflationary measure appropriate to Vermont's education funding system.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committees on Education on the current funding systems for prekindergarten education, the Child Care Financial Assistance Program, or any other early care and learning systems. The report shall review financial incentives in these existing early care and learning systems. As part of the report, the Joint Fiscal Office shall provide considerations for changing the funding streams associated with these early care and learning systems to align with the education transformation initiatives envisioned in this act.

Sec. 45a. FOUNDATION FORMULA; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; REPORT

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with a contractor with expertise in Vermont's education funding system to develop a cost-factor foundation formula for Vermont's education system that includes tiered weights for CTE, English learners, and special education, and any other weights determined to be empirically necessary for an adequate and equitable education. The contractor shall recommend suitable geographic measures for determining sparsity within the foundation formula and shall specifically address the effects of using zip code as a geographic measure. The report shall include a detailed explanation of the analysis of the work done to arrive at the recommended weights and whether it costs more to educate a secondary student than an elementary student in Vermont. The contractor shall submit the foundation formula and analysis of geographic measures to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committees on Education on or before December 1, 2026.

(b) The sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated to the Joint Fiscal Office from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to hire a consultant for the purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 45b. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PAYMENTS; TRANSITION; FYS 2030–2033

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16), in each of fiscal years 2030, 2031, 2032, and 2033, the educational opportunity payment for a school district shall equal the educational opportunity payment for the school district as calculated pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f) plus a yearly adjustment equal to:

(1) in fiscal year 2030, the transition gap multiplied by 0.80;

(2) in fiscal year 2031, the transition gap multiplied by 0.60;

(3) in fiscal year 2032, the transition gap multiplied by 0.40; and

(4) in fiscal year 2033, the transition gap multiplied by 0.20.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the school district's education spending by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2028 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(2) "Transition gap" means the amount, whether positive or negative, that results from subtracting the school district's educational opportunity payment as calculated pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f) from the school district's education spending in fiscal year 2028, as adjusted for inflation. The school district's education spending shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education.

Sec. 45c. 32 V.S.A. § 5414 is amended to read:

§ 5414. CREATION; EDUCATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(e) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Taxes shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, ~~2025~~ 2027.

* * *

* * * Education Property Tax Rate Formula * * *

Sec. 46. 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(8) ~~"Education spending" means "education spending" as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6).~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(12) ~~"Excess spending" means:~~

~~(A) The per pupil spending amount of the district's education spending, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), plus any amount required to be added from a capital construction reserve fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b).~~

~~(B) In excess of 118 percent of the statewide average district per pupil education spending increased by inflation, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date. As used in this subdivision, "increased by inflation" means increasing the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025 by the most recent New England Economic Project cumulative price index, as of November 15, for state and local government purchases of goods and services, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined.~~ [Repealed.]

(13)~~(A) "Education property tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and the denominator is the property dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (15) of this section.~~

~~(B) "Education income tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and the denominator is the income dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (16) of this section.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(15) ~~"Property dollar equivalent yield" means the amount of per pupil education spending that would result if the homestead tax rate were $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value and the statutory reserves under 16 V.S.A. § 4026 and section 5402b of this title were maintained.~~ [Repealed.]

(16) ~~"Income dollar equivalent yield" means the amount of per pupil education spending that would result if the income percentage in subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title were 2.0 percent and the statutory reserves under 16 V.S.A. § 4026 and section 5402b of this title were maintained.~~ [Repealed.]

(17) ~~"Statewide adjustment" means the ratio of the aggregate education property tax grand list of all municipalities to the aggregate value of the equalized education property tax grand list of all municipalities.~~ [Repealed.]

(18) "Recapture" means the amount of revenue raised through imposition of the supplemental district spending tax pursuant to subsection 5402(f) of this chapter that is in excess of the school district's supplemental district spending.

(19) "Supplemental district spending" means the spending that the voters of a school district approve in excess of the school district's educational opportunity payment, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(17), for the fiscal year, provided that the voters of a school district other than an interstate school

district shall not approve spending in excess of 10 percent of the product of the base amount, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16), and the school district's long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7).

(20) "Supplemental district spending yield" means the amount of property tax revenue per long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7) that would be raised in the school district with the lowest taxing capacity using a supplemental district spending tax rate of $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value.

(21) "Per pupil supplemental district spending" means the per pupil amount of supplemental district spending resulting from dividing a school district's supplemental district spending by its long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7).

(22) "School district with the lowest taxing capacity" means the school district other than an interstate school district anticipated to have the lowest aggregate equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members per long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7) in the following fiscal year.

Sec. 47. 32 V.S.A. § 5402 is amended to read:

§ 5402. EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY

(a) A statewide education tax is imposed on all nonhomestead and homestead property at ~~the following rates:~~

~~(1) The tax rate for nonhomestead property shall be $1.59 per $100.00 divided by the statewide adjustment.~~

~~(2) The tax rate for homestead property shall be $1.00 multiplied by the education property tax spending adjustment for the municipality per $100.00 of equalized education property value as most recently determined under section 5405 of this title. The homestead property tax rate for each municipality that is a member of a union or unified union school district shall be calculated as required under subsection (e) of this section.~~ a uniform tax rate for nonhomestead property and a uniform tax rate for homestead property set sufficient to cover expenditures from the Education Fund other than supplemental district spending, after accounting for the forecasted available revenues. It is the intention of the General Assembly that the nonhomestead property tax rate and the homestead property tax rate under this section shall be adopted for each fiscal year by act of the General Assembly.

(b) The statewide education tax shall be calculated as follows:

(1) The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine for each municipality the education tax rates under subsection (a) of this section divided by the ~~number resulting from dividing the~~ municipality's most recent common level of appraisal ~~by the statewide adjustment~~. The legislative body in each municipality shall then bill each property taxpayer at the homestead or nonhomestead rate determined by the Commissioner under this subdivision, multiplied by the education property tax grand list value of the property, properly classified as homestead or nonhomestead property and without regard to any other tax classification of the property not authorized under this chapter. Statewide education property tax bills shall show the tax due and the calculation of the rate determined under subsection (a) of this section, divided by ~~the number resulting from dividing~~ the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal ~~by the statewide adjustment~~, multiplied by the current grand list value of the property to be taxed. Statewide education property tax bills shall also include language provided by the Commissioner pursuant to subsection 5405(g) of this title.

(2) Taxes assessed under this section shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title with no tax classification other than as homestead or nonhomestead property; provided, however, that the tax levied under this chapter shall be billed to each taxpayer by the municipality in a manner that clearly indicates the tax is separate from any other tax assessed and collected under chapter 133, including an itemization of the separate taxes due. The bill may be on a single sheet of paper with the statewide education tax and other taxes presented separately and side by side.

(3) ~~If a district has not voted a budget by June 30, an interim homestead education tax shall be imposed at the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, divided by the number resulting from dividing the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal by the statewide adjustment, but without regard to any spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title. Within 30 days after a budget is adopted and the deadline for reconsideration has passed, the Commissioner shall determine the municipality's homestead tax rate as required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.~~ [Repealed.]

(c)(1) The treasurer of each municipality shall by December 1 of the year in which the tax is levied and on June 1 of the following year pay to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Education Fund one-half of the municipality's statewide nonhomestead tax and one-half of the municipality's homestead education tax, as determined under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(2) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net nonhomestead education tax payment and its net homestead education tax payment to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total education tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district or districts.

(d) [Repealed.]

(e) ~~The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine a homestead education tax rate for each municipality that is a member of a union or unified union school district as follows:~~

~~(1) For a municipality that is a member of a unified union school district, use the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based upon the per pupil education spending of the unified union.~~

~~(2) For a municipality that is a member of a union school district:~~

~~(A) Determine the municipal district homestead tax rate using the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based on the per pupil education spending in the municipality who attends a school other than the union school.~~

~~(B) Determine the union district homestead tax rate using the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based on the per pupil education spending of the union school district.~~

~~(C) Determine a combined homestead tax rate by calculating the weighted average of the rates determined under subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (2), with weighting based upon the ratio of union school long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7), from the member municipality to total long-term membership of the member municipality; and the ratio of long-term membership attending a school other than the union school to total long-term membership of the member municipality. Total long-term membership of the member municipality is based on the number of pupils who are legal residents of the municipality and attending school at public expense. If necessary, the Commissioner may adopt a rule to clarify and facilitate implementation of this subsection (e).~~ [Repealed.]

(f)(1) A supplemental district spending tax is imposed on all homestead and nonhomestead property in each member municipality of a school district that approves spending pursuant to a budget presented to the voters of a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 563. The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine the supplemental district spending tax rate for each school district by dividing the school district's per pupil supplemental district spending as certified by the Secretary of Education by the supplemental district spending yield. The legislative body in each member municipality shall then bill each property taxpayer at the rate determined by the Commissioner under this subsection, divided by the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal and multiplied by the current grand list value of the property to be taxed. The bill shall show the tax due and the calculation of the rate.

(2) The supplemental district spending tax assessed under this subsection shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title with no tax classification other than as homestead or nonhomestead property; provided, however, that the tax levied under this chapter shall be billed to each taxpayer by the municipality in a manner that clearly indicates the tax is separate from any other tax assessed and collected under chapter 133 and the statewide education property tax under this section, including an itemization of the separate taxes due. The bill may be on a single sheet of paper with the supplemental district spending tax, the statewide education tax, and other taxes presented separately and side by side.

(3) The treasurer of each municipality shall on or before December 1 of the year in which the tax is levied and on or before June 1 of the following year pay to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Education Fund one-half of the municipality's supplemental district spending tax, as determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net supplemental district spending tax payment to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total supplemental district spending tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district.

Sec. 48. 32 V.S.A. § 5402b is amended to read:

§ 5402b. STATEWIDE EDUCATION TAX ~~YIELDS~~ RATES; SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT SPENDING YIELD; RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER

(a) Annually, not later than December 1, the Commissioner of Taxes, after consultation with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Administration, and the Joint Fiscal Office, shall calculate and recommend a ~~property dollar equivalent yield, an income dollar equivalent yield, and a~~ nonhomestead property tax rate, a homestead property tax rate, and the supplemental district spending yield for the following fiscal year. In making these calculations, the Commissioner shall assume~~:~~ the statutory reserves are maintained at five percent pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4026 and the amounts in the Supplemental District Spending Reserve are unavailable for any purpose other than that specified in 16 V.S.A. § 4032(b)

~~(1) the homestead base tax rate in subdivision 5402(a)(2) of this title is $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value;~~

~~(2) the applicable percentage in subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title is 2.0;~~

~~(3) the statutory reserves under 16 V.S.A. § 4026 and this section were maintained at five percent;~~

~~(4) the percentage change in the average education tax bill applied to nonhomestead property and the percentage change in the average education tax bill of homestead property and the percentage change in the average education tax bill for taxpayers who claim a credit under subsection 6066(a) of this title are equal;~~

~~(5) the equalized education grand list is multiplied by the statewide adjustment in calculating the property dollar equivalent yield; and~~

~~(6) the nonhomestead rate is divided by the statewide adjustment~~.

(b) For each fiscal year, the ~~property dollar equivalent~~ supplemental district spending yield ~~and the income dollar equivalent yield~~ shall be the same as in the prior fiscal year, unless set otherwise by the General Assembly.

* * *

(d) Along with the recommendations made under this section, the Commissioner shall include:

(1) the base amount as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16);

(2) for each school district, the estimated long-term membership, weighted long-term membership, and aggregate equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members;

(3) for each school district, the estimated aggregate equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members per long-term membership;

(4) the estimated school district with the lowest taxing capacity; and

(5) the range of per pupil supplemental district spending between all districts in the State for the previous year.

* * *

Sec. 48a. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RATE; TRANSITION; FYS 2030–2033

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5402, in each of fiscal years 2030, 2031, 2032, and 2033, the homestead property tax rate for a school district shall equal the homestead property tax rate imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402 plus a yearly adjustment equal to:

(1) in fiscal year 2030, the transition gap multiplied by 0.80;

(2) in fiscal year 2031, the transition gap multiplied by 0.60;

(3) in fiscal year 2032, the transition gap multiplied by 0.40; and

(4) in fiscal year 2033, the transition gap multiplied by 0.20.

(b) As used in this section, "transition gap" means the amount, whether positive or negative, that results from subtracting the uniform homestead property tax rate for fiscal year 2030 were it calculated assuming no tax rate transition under this section from the homestead property tax rate for the school district in fiscal year 2029.

* * * Conforming Revisions; Statewide Property Tax Rate * * *

Sec. 49. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b)(1) An agreement affecting the education property tax grand list defined under subsection (a) of this section shall reduce the municipality's education property tax liability under this chapter for the duration of the agreement or exemption without extension or renewal, and for a maximum of 10 years. A municipality's property tax liability under this chapter shall be reduced by any difference between the amount of the education property taxes collected on the subject property and the amount of education property taxes that would have been collected on such property if its fair market value were taxed at the equalized ~~nonhomestead~~ rate for the tax year.

Sec. 50. 32 V.S.A. § 5405(g) is amended to read:

(g) The Commissioner shall provide to municipalities for the front of property tax bills the ~~district~~ homestead property tax rate before equalization, the ~~nonresidential~~ nonhomestead property tax rate before equalization, and the calculation process that creates the equalized homestead and nonhomestead tax rates. The Commissioner shall further provide to municipalities for the back of property tax bills an explanation of the common level of appraisal, including its origin and purpose.

* * * Statewide Property Tax Credit Repeal; Homestead Exemption Created * * *

Sec. 51. 32 V.S.A. § 5400 is amended to read:

§ 5400. STATUTORY PURPOSES

* * *

(c) The statutory purpose of the exemption for qualified housing in subdivision 5404a(a)(6) of this title is to ensure that taxes on this rent-restricted housing provided to Vermonters of low and moderate income are more equivalent to property taxed ~~using the State~~ as a homestead ~~rate~~ property and to adjust the costs of investment in rent-restricted housing to reflect more accurately the revenue potential of such property.

* * *

(j) The statutory purpose of the homestead property tax exemption in subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this title is to reduce the property tax liability for Vermont households with low and moderate household income.

Sec. 52. 32 V.S.A. chapter 154 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 154. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, AND RENTER CREDIT

§ 6061. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter ~~unless the context requires otherwise~~:

(1) "~~Property~~ Municipal property tax credit" means a credit of the prior tax year's ~~statewide or~~ municipal property tax liability ~~or a homestead owner credit,~~ as authorized under ~~section~~ subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this ~~title, as the context requires~~ chapter.

* * *

(8) ~~"Annual tax levy" means the property taxes levied on property taxable on April 1 and without regard to the year in which those taxes are due or paid.~~ [Repealed.]

(9) "Taxable year" means the calendar year preceding the year in which the claim is filed.

(10) [Repealed.]

(11) "Housesite" means that portion of a homestead, as defined under subdivision 5401(7) of this title but not under subdivision 5401(7)(G) of this title, that includes as much of the land owned by the claimant surrounding the dwelling as is reasonably necessary for use of the dwelling as a home, but in no event more than two acres per dwelling unit, and, in the case of multiple dwelling units, not more than two acres per dwelling unit up to a maximum of 10 acres per parcel.

(12) "Claim year" means the year in which a claim is filed under this chapter.

(13) "Homestead" means a homestead as defined under subdivision 5401(7) of this title, but not under subdivision 5401(7)(G) of this title, and declared on or before October 15 in accordance with section 5410 of this title.

(14) ~~"Statewide education tax rate" means the homestead education property tax rate multiplied by the municipality's education spending adjustment under subdivision 5402(a)(2) of this title and used to calculate taxes assessed in the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(21) "Homestead property tax exemption" means a reduction in the amount of housesite value subject to the statewide education tax and the supplemental district spending tax in the claim year as authorized under sections 6066 and 6066a of this chapter.

§ 6062. NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF CLAIMANTS; APPORTIONMENT

* * *

(d) Whenever a housesite is an integral part of a larger unit such as a farm or a multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building, property taxes paid shall be that percentage of the total property tax as the value of the housesite is to the total value. Upon a claimant's request, the listers shall certify to the claimant the value of ~~his or her~~ the claimant's homestead and housesite.

* * *

§ 6063. CLAIM AS PERSONAL; CREDIT AND EXEMPTION AMOUNT AT TIME OF TRANSFER

(a) The right to file a claim under this chapter is personal to the claimant and shall not survive ~~his or her~~ the claimant's death, but the right may be exercised on behalf of a claimant by ~~his or her~~ the claimant's legal guardian or attorney-in-fact. When a claimant dies after having filed a timely claim, the municipal property tax credit and the homestead exemption amount shall be ~~credited~~ applied to the ~~homestead~~ property tax liability of the claimant's estate as provided in section 6066a of this title.

(b) In case of sale or transfer of a residence~~,~~ after April 1 of the claim year:

(1) any municipal property tax credit ~~amounts~~ amount related to that residence shall be allocated to the ~~seller~~ transferor at closing unless the parties otherwise agree;

(2) any homestead property tax exemption related to that residence based on the transferor's household income under subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this chapter shall cease to be in effect upon transfer; and

(3) a transferee who is eligible to declare the residence as a homestead but for the requirement to own the residence on April 1 of the claim year shall, notwithstanding subdivision 5401(7) and subsection 5410(b) of this title, be eligible to apply for a homestead property tax exemption in the claim year when the transfer occurs by filing with the Commissioner of Taxes a homestead declaration pursuant to section 5410 of this title and a claim for exemption on or before the due date prescribed under section 6068 of this chapter.

* * *

§ 6065. FORMS; TABLES; NOTICES

(a) In administering this chapter, the Commissioner shall provide suitable claim forms with tables of allowable claims, instructions, and worksheets for claiming a homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit.

(b) Prior to June 1, the Commissioner shall also prepare and supply to each town in the State notices describing the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit for inclusion in property tax bills. The notice shall be in simple, plain language and shall explain how to file for a homestead property tax exemption and a municipal property tax credit, where to find assistance filing for a credit or an exemption, or both, and any other related information as determined by the Commissioner. The notice shall direct taxpayers to a resource where they can find versions of the notice translated

into the five most common non-English languages in the State. A town shall include such notice in each tax bill and notice of delinquent taxes that it mails to taxpayers who own in that town a residential property, without regard for whether the property was declared a homestead pursuant to subdivision 5401(7) of this title.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, towns that use envelopes or mailers not able to accommodate notices describing the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit may distribute such notices in an alternative manner.

§ 6066. COMPUTATION OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, AND RENTER CREDIT

(a) ~~An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the year in which the claim is filed shall be entitled to a credit for the prior year's homestead property tax liability amount determined as follows:~~

~~(1)(A) For a claimant with household income of $90,000.00 or more:~~

~~(i) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year;~~

~~(ii) minus (if less) the sum of:~~

~~(I) the income percentage of household income for the taxable year; plus~~

~~(II) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $225,000.00.~~

~~(B) For a claimant with household income of less than $90,000.00 but more than $47,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus (if less) the sum of:~~

~~(i) the income percentage of household income for the taxable year; plus~~

~~(ii) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $400,000.00.~~

~~(C) For a claimant whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus the lesser of:~~

~~(i) the sum of the income percentage of household income for the taxable year plus the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $400,000.00; or~~

~~(ii) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year reduced by $15,000.00.~~

~~(2) "Income percentage" in this section means two percent, multiplied by the education income tax spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13)(B) of this title for the property tax year that begins in the claim year for the municipality in which the homestead residence is located~~

(1) An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed $100,000.00 shall be entitled to a homestead property tax exemption in the claim year in an amount determined as follows:

If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:	then the claimant is entitled to a homestead property tax exemption against the first $425,000.00 in housesite value of this percent:
$0.00 — 9,999.00	99.00
$10,000.00 — 14,999.00	97.00
$15,000.00 — 24,999.00	95.00
$25,000.00 — 39,999.00	90.00
$40,000.00 — 44,999.00	85.00
$45,000.00 — 49,999.00	80.00
If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:	then the claimant is entitled to a homestead property tax exemption against the first $400,000.00 in housesite value of this percent:
$50,000.00 — 54,999.00	75.00
$55,000.00 — 59,999.00	65.00
$60,000.00 — 64,999.00	55.00
$65,000.00 — 69,999.00	45.00
$70,000.00 — 74,999.00	35.00
$75,000.00 — 79,999.00	25.00
$80,000.00 — 84,999.00	20.00
$85,000.00 —89,999.00	15.00

$90,000.00 —94,999.00	10.00
$95,000.00 — 100,000.00	5.00

~~(3)~~(2) ~~A~~ An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00 shall also be entitled to ~~an additional~~ a credit amount ~~from~~ against the claimant's municipal taxes for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the municipal property taxes for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:

If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:	then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income:
$0.00 — 9,999.00	1.50
$10,000.00 — 47,000.00	3.00

~~(4) A claimant whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00 shall also be entitled to an additional credit amount from the claimant's statewide education tax for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the education property tax for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite, reduced by the credit amount determined under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:~~

~~If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:~~	~~then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income:~~
~~$0.00 — 9,999.00~~	~~0.5~~
~~$10,000.00 — 24,999.00~~	~~1.5~~
~~$25,000.00 — 47,000.00~~	~~2.0~~

~~(5)~~(3) In no event shall the homestead property tax exemption provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection reduce the housesite value below zero. In no event shall the municipal property tax credit provided for in subdivision ~~(3) or (4)~~(2) of this subsection exceed the amount of the reduced municipal property tax. ~~The credits under subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be calculated considering only the tax due on the first $400,000.00 in equalized housesite value.~~

(4) Each dollar amount in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Commissioner of Taxes. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed $2,500.00, to be calculated as follows:

* * *

(c) To be eligible for an ~~adjustment~~ exemption or credit under this chapter, the claimant:

(1) must have been domiciled in this State during the entire taxable year;

(2) may not be a person claimed as a dependent by any taxpayer under the federal Internal Revenue Code during the taxable year; and

(3) in the case of a renter, shall have rented property for at least six calendar months, which need not be consecutive, during the taxable year.

(d) The owner of a mobile home that is sited on a lot not owned by the homeowner may include an amount determined under subdivision 6061(7) of this title as allocable rent paid on the lot with the amount of property taxes paid by the homeowner on the home for the purpose of computation of ~~credits~~ the municipal property tax credit under subdivision (a)~~(3)~~(2) of this section, unless the homeowner has included in the claim an amount of property tax on common land under the provisions of subsection (e) of this section.

(e) Property taxes paid by a cooperative, not including a mobile home park cooperative, allocable to property used as a homestead shall be attributable to the co-op member for the purpose of computing the ~~credit of~~ property tax liability of the co-op member under this section. Property owned by a cooperative declared as a homestead may only include the homestead and a pro rata share of any common land owned or leased by the cooperative, not to exceed the two-acre housesite limitation. The share of the cooperative's assessed value attributable to the housesite shall be determined by the cooperative and specified annually in a notice to the co-op member. Property taxes paid by a mobile home park cooperative, allocable to property used as a housesite, shall be attributed to the owner of the housesite for the purpose of

computing the ~~credit of~~ property tax liability of the housesite owner under this section. Property owned by the mobile home park cooperative and declared as a housesite may only include common property of the cooperative contiguous with at least one mobile home lot in the park, not to exceed the two-acre housesite limitation. The share attributable to any mobile home lot shall be determined by the cooperative and specified in the cooperative agreement. A co-op member who is the housesite owner shall be entitled to a property tax credit in an amount determined by multiplying the property taxes allocated under this subsection by the percentage of the exemption for which the housesite owner's household income qualifies under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(f) [Repealed.]

(g) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, if the land surrounding a homestead is owned by a nonprofit corporation or community land trust with tax exempt status under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), the homeowner may include an allocated amount as property tax paid on the land with the amount of property taxes paid by the homeowner on the home for the purposes of computation of ~~the credit~~ property tax liability under this section. The allocated amount shall be determined by the nonprofit corporation or community land trust on a proportional basis. The nonprofit corporation or community land trust shall provide to that homeowner, by January 31, a certificate specifying the allocated amount. The certificate shall indicate the proportion of total property tax on the parcel that was assessed for municipal property tax and for statewide property tax and the proportion of total value of the parcel. A homeowner under this subsection shall be entitled to a property tax credit in an amount determined by multiplying the property taxes allocated under this subsection by the percentage of the exemption for which the homeowner's household income qualifies under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(h) A homestead owner shall be entitled to an additional property tax credit amount equal to one percent of the amount of income tax refund that the claimant elects to allocate to payment of homestead property tax under section 6068 of this title.

(i) ~~Adjustments~~ The homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit under subsection (a) of this section shall be calculated without regard to any exemption under subdivision 3802(11) of this title.

§ 6066a. DETERMINATION OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

(a) Annually, the Commissioner shall determine the homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit amount under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant, based on the prior taxable year's income and for the municipal property tax credit, crediting property taxes paid in the prior year, and for the homestead property tax exemption, exempting the housesite value in the claim year. The Commissioner shall notify the municipality in which the housesite is located of the amount of the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit for the claimant for homestead property tax liabilities on a monthly basis. The municipal property tax credit of a claimant who was assessed property tax by a town that revised the dates of its fiscal year, however, is the excess of the property tax that was assessed in the last 12 months of the revised fiscal year, over the adjusted property tax of the claimant for the revised fiscal year, as determined under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant.

(b) The Commissioner shall include in the total homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amount determined under subsection (a) of this section, for credit to the taxpayer for homestead property tax and supplemental district spending tax liabilities, any income tax overpayment remaining after allocation under section 3112 of this title and setoff under section 5934 of this title, which the taxpayer has directed to be used for payment of property taxes.

(c) The Commissioner shall notify the municipality of any claim and refund amounts unresolved by November 1 at the time of final resolution, including adjudication, if any; provided, however, that towns will not be notified of any additional credit amounts after November 1 of the claim year, and such amounts shall be paid to the claimant by the Commissioner.

(d) [Repealed.]

(e) At the time of notice to the municipality, the Commissioner shall notify the taxpayer of the homestead property tax ~~credit~~ exemption amount determined under subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this title~~, the amount determined under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title,~~; any ~~additional~~ municipal property credit ~~amounts~~ amount due the homestead owner under ~~section~~ subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title~~,~~; the amount of income tax refund, if any, allocated to payment of homestead property tax liabilities~~,~~; and any late-claim reduction amount.

(f)(1) For taxpayers and amounts stated in the notice to towns on or before July 1, municipalities shall create and send to taxpayers a homestead property tax bill, instead of the bill required under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title, providing the total amount allocated to payment of homestead education property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due. Municipalities shall apply the amount of the homestead property tax exemption allocated under this chapter to current year property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include education taxes and the amount of the municipal property tax credit allocated under this chapter to current year municipal property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include municipal taxes. Notwithstanding section 4772 of this title, if a town issues a corrected bill as a result of the notice sent by the Commissioner under subsection (a) of this section, issuance of the corrected new bill does not extend the time for payment of the original bill nor relieve the taxpayer of any interest or penalties associated with the original bill. If the corrected bill is less than the original bill, and there are also no unpaid current year taxes, interest, or penalties, and no past year delinquent taxes or penalties and interest charges, any overpayment shall be reflected on the corrected tax bill and refunded to the taxpayer.

(2) For homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amounts for which municipalities receive notice after November 1, municipalities shall issue a new homestead property tax bill with notice to the taxpayer of the total amount allocated to payment of homestead property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due.

(3) The homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amount determined for the taxpayer shall be allocated first to current year housesite value and property tax on the homestead parcel, next to current-year homestead parcel penalties and interest, next to any prior year homestead parcel penalties and interest, and last to any prior year housesite value and property tax on the homestead parcel. No homestead property tax exemption or municipal credit shall be allocated to a housesite value or property tax liability for any year after the year for which the claim or refund allocation was filed. No municipal tax-reduction incentive for early payment of taxes shall apply to any amount allocated to the property tax bill under this chapter.

(4) If the homestead property tax exemption or the municipal property tax credit amount as described in subsection (e) of this section exceeds the property tax, penalties, and interest due for the current and all prior years, the municipality shall refund the excess to the taxpayer, without interest, within 20 days of the first date upon which taxes become due and payable or 20 days

after notification of the exemption or credit amount by the Commissioner of Taxes, whichever is later.

(g) The Commissioner of Taxes shall pay monthly to each municipality the amount of municipal property tax credit of which the municipality was last notified related to municipal property tax on homesteads within that municipality, as determined by the Commissioner of Taxes.

§ 6067. ~~CREDIT~~ CLAIM LIMITATIONS

(a) Claimant. Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a homestead exemption claim or property tax credit claim, or both, under this chapter.

(b) Other states. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter.

(c) Dollar amount. No ~~taxpayer~~ claimant shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of $2,500.00. No ~~taxpayer~~ claimant shall receive a municipal property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)~~(3)~~(2) of this title greater than $2,400.00 ~~or cumulative credit under subdivisions 6066(a)(1)-(2) and (4) of this title greater than $5,600.00~~.

§ 6068. APPLICATION AND TIME FOR FILING

(a) A homestead property tax exemption or municipal property tax credit claim or request for allocation of an income tax refund to homestead property tax payment shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension, and shall describe the school district in which the homestead property is located and shall particularly describe the homestead property for which the exemption or credit ~~or allocation~~ is sought, including the school parcel account number prescribed in subsection 5404(b) of this title. A renter credit claim shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension.

(b)(1) If ~~the~~ a claimant files a municipal property tax credit claim after October 15 but on or before March 15 of the following calendar year, the municipal property tax credit under this chapter:

~~(1)~~(A) shall be reduced in amount by $150.00, but not below $0.00;

~~(2)~~(B) shall be issued directly to the claimant; and

~~(3)~~(C) shall not require the municipality where the claimant's property is located to issue an adjusted ~~homestead~~ property tax bill.

(2) If a claimant files a homestead property tax exemption claim under this chapter after October 15 but on or before March 15 of the following calendar year, the claimant shall pay a penalty of $150.00 and the municipality where the claimant's property is located shall not be required to issue an adjusted property tax bill.

(c) No request for allocation of an income tax refund or for a renter credit claim may be made after October 15. No homestead property tax exemption or municipal property tax credit claim may be made after March 15 of the calendar year following the due date under subsection (a) of this section.

* * *

§ 6070. DISALLOWED CLAIMS

A claim shall be disallowed if the claimant received title to ~~his or her~~ the claimant's homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under this chapter.

§ 6071. EXCESSIVE AND FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

(a) In any case in which it is determined under the provisions of this title that a claim is or was excessive and was filed with fraudulent intent, the claim shall be disallowed in full and the Commissioner may impose a penalty equal to the amount claimed. A disallowed claim may be recovered by assessment as income taxes are assessed. The assessment, including assessment of penalty, shall bear interest from the date the claim was credited against property tax or income tax or paid by the State until repaid by the claimant at the rate per annum established from time to time by the Commissioner pursuant to section 3108 of this title. The claimant in that case, and any person who assisted in the preparation of filing of such excessive claim or supplied information upon which the excessive claim was prepared, with fraudulent intent, shall be fined not more than $1,000.00 or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) In any case in which it is determined that a claim is or was excessive, the Commissioner may impose a 10 percent penalty on such excess, and if the claim has been paid or credited against property tax or income tax otherwise payable, the municipal property tax credit or homestead exemption shall be reduced or canceled and the proper portion of any amount paid shall be similarly recovered by assessment as income taxes are assessed, and such assessment shall bear interest at the rate per annum established from time to time by the Commissioner pursuant to section 3108 of this title from the date of payment or, in the case of credit of a municipal property tax bill under section 6066a of this title, from December 1 of the year in which the claim is filed until refunded or paid.

* * *

§ 6073. ~~REGULATIONS~~ RULES OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner may, from time to time, ~~issue~~ adopt, amend, and withdraw ~~regulations~~ rules interpreting and implementing this chapter.

§ 6074. AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS

At any time within three years after the date for filing claims under subsection 6068(a) of this chapter, a claimant who filed a claim by October 15 may file to amend that claim with regard to housesite value, ~~housesite education tax,~~ housesite municipal tax, and ownership percentage or to correct the amount of household income reported on that claim.

Sec. 53. DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; HOMESTEAD DECLARATION; SAMPLE FORM;

On or before December 15, 2025, the Department of Taxes shall provide to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance suggestions for updating the homestead declaration under 32 V.S.A. § 5410 to address the implementation of the homestead exemption under section 19 of this act, which may be provided as a sample form.

Sec. 53a. DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; REPORT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to transition the way income-based property tax relief is provided to homestead property owners from the existing credit system towards an income-based homestead exemption.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Taxes, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall submit a proposal to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance designing a homestead exemption structure that minimizes the:

(1) property tax impacts for homestead property owners under the new education tax structure established in this act;

(2) benefit cliffs compared to those in the existing credit system; and

(3) aggregate fiscal impact relative to the existing credit system.

(c) The Department of Taxes shall additionally include with its proposal recommendations for an inflationary adjustment measure suited to the income sensitivity and housesite value measures of the proposed homestead exemption.

* * * Conforming Revisions; Property Tax Credit Repeal * * *

Sec. 54. 11 V.S.A. § 1608 is amended to read:

§ 1608. ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Members of cooperative housing corporations shall be eligible to apply for and receive a homestead property tax ~~adjustment~~ exemption and municipal property tax credit under 32 V.S.A. § 6066, subject to the conditions of eligibility set forth therein.

Sec. 55. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(j) is amended to read:

(j) Tax bills prepared by a municipality under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title showing only the amount of total tax due shall not be considered confidential return information under this section. For the purposes of calculating ~~credits~~ the homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit under chapter 154 of this title, information provided by the Commissioner to a municipality under subsection 6066a(a) of this title and information provided by the municipality to a taxpayer under subsection 6066a(f) shall be considered confidential return information under this section.

Sec. 56. 32 V.S.A. § 3206(b) is amended to read:

(b) As used in this section, "extraordinary relief" means a remedy that is within the power of the Commissioner to grant under this title, a remedy that compensates for the result of inaccurate classification of property as homestead or nonhomestead pursuant to section 5410 of this title through no fault of the taxpayer, or a remedy that makes changes to a taxpayer's homestead property tax exemption, municipal property tax credit, or renter credit claim necessary to remedy the problem identified by the Taxpayer Advocate.

* * * Future Review of Foundation Formula * * *

Sec. 57. 32 V.S.A. § 5414 is amended to read:

§ 5414. CREATION; EDUCATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Education Fund Advisory Committee to monitor Vermont's education financing system, conduct analyses, assist with the transformation of Vermont's education finance system, and perform the duties under subsection (c) of this section.

* * *

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) Annually, on or before December 15, the Committee shall make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding:

(A) updating the weighting factors using the weighting model and methodology used to arrive at the weights enacted under 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, which may include recalibration, recalculation, adding or eliminating weights, or any combination of these actions, as necessary;

(B) changes to, or the addition of new or elimination of existing, categorical aid, as necessary;

(C) changes to income levels eligible for a property tax credit under section 6066 of this title;

(D) means to adjust the revenue sources for the Education Fund;

(E) means to improve equity, transparency, and efficiency in education funding statewide;

(F) the amount of the Education Fund stabilization reserve;

(G) school district use of reserve fund accounts;

(H) national best practices for addressing intra-school district effects of a foundation formula, including through the use of weighting factors;

(I) whether to transition from a cost-based foundation formula to an evidence-based foundation formula;

(J) methods for ensuring school districts spend their educational opportunity payments on the costs that underlie Vermont's foundation formula; and

(K) any other topic, factor, or issue the Committee deems relevant to its work and recommendations.

* * *

Sec. 58. 16 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(16) "Base amount" means a per pupil ~~cost-factor~~ evidence-based amount of ~~$15,033.00~~ 10,000.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the base dollar

amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

* * *

Sec. 59. 16 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. DETERMINATION OF WEIGHTED LONG-TERM MEMBERSHIP AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PAYMENT

* * *

(d) Determination of weighted long-term membership. For each weighting category, the Secretary shall compute the weighting count by using the long-term membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(7) of this title, in that category.

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) Each pupil included in long-term membership whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL shall receive an additional weighting amount of ~~1.02~~ 1.00.

(3) Each EL pupil included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the EL pupil's English language proficiency level, of:

(A) ~~2.11~~ 1.00, if assessed as Level 1;

(B) ~~1.41~~ 1.00, if assessed as Level 2 or 3;

(C) ~~1.20~~ 1.00, if assessed as Level 4; or

(D) ~~0.12~~ 1.00, if assessed as Level 5 or 6.

(4) Each EL pupil that is a Newcomer or SLIFE included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount of ~~0.42~~ 1.00.

(5) Each child with a disability included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the categorization of the child's disability, of:

(A) ~~0.79~~ 1.00, if the disability is identified as Category A;

(B) ~~1.35~~ 1.00, if the disability is identified as Category B; or

(C) ~~2.49~~ 1.00, if the disability is identified as Category C.

* * *

* * * Grand List Parcel Data * * *

Sec. 60. 32 V.S.A. § 4152 is amended to read:

§ 4152. CONTENTS

(a) When completed, the grand list of a town shall be in such form as the Director prescribes and shall contain such information as the Director prescribes, including:

(1) In alphabetical order, the name of each real property owner and each owner of taxable personal property.

(2) The last known mailing address of all such owners.

(3) A brief description of each parcel of taxable real estate in the town. ~~"Parcel"~~ As used in this subdivision, "parcel" means a separate and sellable lot or piece of real estate. Parcels may be combined to represent all contiguous land in the same ownership, together with all improvements thereon.

Sec. 61. PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATIONS STUDY; IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL

On or before December 15, 2025, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the Commissioner of Taxes shall submit in writing to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance a report regarding the establishment of a system for property tax classifications that would allow for different tax rates on different classes of property. The report shall include:

(1) one or more ways to define, identify, and classify residential properties based on present-day use;

(2) a proposed method for classifying mixed-use parcels wherein different portions of the same parcel are used for different purposes;

(3) proposed methods for collecting the data necessary to administer the proposed tax classification system, including a description of any new or revised forms;

(4) a proposed method for appeals under the proposed tax classification system; and

(5) proposed methods to ensure taxpayer compliance with the new system, including ways to prevent taxpayers from circumventing the legislative intent to tax properties used primarily as second homes and short-term rentals at a higher rate.

* * * Regional Assessment Districts * * *

Sec. 62. 32 V.S.A. chapter 121, subchapter 1A is added to read:

Subchapter 1A. Statewide and Regional Property Assessment

§ 3415. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly in adopting this subchapter to create regional assessment districts so that:

(1) properties on grand lists are regularly reappraised;

(2) property data collection is consistent and standardized across the State; and

(3) property valuation is conducted by trained and certified individuals and firms.

§ 3416. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHMENT

(a) There are hereby established 12 regional assessment districts, whose member municipalities shall fully and jointly reappraise their grand lists every six years pursuant to subsection 3417(b) of this subchapter. Member municipalities shall contract jointly with one or more third parties to conduct reappraisals.

(b) Each county shall constitute one regional assessment district, except that Franklin and Grand Isle Counties shall constitute one district and Essex and Orleans Counties shall constitute one district.

§ 3417. STANDARD GUIDELINES; PROCEDURES; RULEMAKING

(a) The Director of Property Valuation and Review shall establish standard guidelines and procedures, and may adopt rules, for regional assessment districts, including:

(1) guidelines for contracting with third parties to conduct or assist with reappraisals, including standard reappraisal contract terms;

(2) standards for the collection and recordation of parcel data;

(3) requirements relating to information technology, including standards for data software contracts and computer-assisted mass appraisal systems; and

(4) standardized practices for a full reappraisal, including cases in which physical inspections are unnecessary and how technology is to be utilized.

(b) The Director of Property Valuation and Review shall establish a schedule for each regional assessment district to fully reappraise every six years. The Director, at the Director's discretion, may alter the reappraisal schedule for a regional assessment district or for one or more of a regional assessment district's member municipalities.

* * * Transition to Regional Assessment Districts * * *

Sec. 63. TRANSITION; ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 4041a or any other provision of law to the contrary:

(1) the Director of Property Valuation and Review shall not order any new municipal reappraisals of grand list properties that is not part of a regionalized reappraisal system on and after January 1, 2027;

(2) a reappraisal order for which a municipality does not have a contract in place before January 1, 2030 shall no longer have the force and effect of law on and after January 1, 2030, except for those that are part of a regionalized reappraisal system; and

(3) a municipality shall not enter into a new reappraisal contract on or after January 1, 2027, except for those that are part of a regionalized reappraisal system.

(b) On or before every January 15 from January 15, 2027 to January 15, 2030, the Commissioner of Taxes shall submit a report to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance relating to the progress made in preparing for the implementation of regional assessment districts pursuant to this act.

Sec. 64. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Taxes, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall submit recommendations to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance advising on the implementation of regional assessment districts and on the development of guidelines, procedures, and rules needed to effectuate a regionalized reappraisal system. The recommendations will include an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of having the State take full responsibility for regionalized appraisals. In making its recommendation, the Department of Taxes shall provide suggestions for legislative language that address:

(1) the authority or authorities who will contract for and conduct reappraisals;

(2) the authority or authorities who will hear and decide property valuation appeals;

(3) amendments necessary to conform statute to the change from an April 1 to January 1 grand list assessment date; and

(4) any other recommended revisions to achieve a regionalized reappraisal system.

* * * Miscellaneous Tax * * *

Sec. 65. 32 V.S.A. § 6066a(f)(1) is amended to read:

(f)(1) For taxpayers and amounts stated in the notice to towns on or before July 1, municipalities shall create and send to taxpayers a homestead property tax bill, instead of the bill required under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title, providing the total amount allocated to payment of homestead education property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be interpreted as altering the requirement under subdivision 5402(b)(2) of this title that the statewide education homestead tax be billed in a manner that is stated clearly and separately from any other tax. Municipalities shall apply the amount allocated under this chapter to current year property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include education taxes. Notwithstanding section 4772 of this title, if a town issues a corrected bill as a result of the notice sent by the Commissioner under subsection (a) of this section, issuance of the corrected new bill does not extend the time for payment of the original bill nor relieve the taxpayer of any interest or penalties associated with the original bill. If the corrected bill is less than the original bill, and there are also no unpaid current year taxes, interest, or penalties, and no past year delinquent taxes or penalties and interest charges, any overpayment shall be reflected on the corrected tax bill and refunded to the taxpayer.

Sec. 66. 32 V.S.A. § 5252 is amended to read:

§ 5252. LEVY AND NOTICE OF SALE; SECURING PROPERTY

(a) When the collector of taxes of a town or of a municipality within it has for collection a tax assessed against real estate in the town and the taxpayer owes a minimum of $1,500.00 and is delinquent for a period longer than one year, the collector may extend a warrant on such land. However, no warrant shall be extended until a delinquent taxpayer is given an opportunity to enter a written reasonable repayment plan pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. If a collector receives notice from a mobile home park owner pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6248(b), the collector shall, within 15 days after the notice, commence tax sale proceedings to hold a tax sale within 60 days after the notice. If the collector fails to initiate such proceedings, the town may initiate

tax sale proceedings only after complying with 10 V.S.A. § 6249(f). If the tax collector extends the warrant, the collector shall:

* * *

Sec. 67. 32 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY VALUATION HEARING OFFICER; OATH; PAY

When an appeal to the Director is not withdrawn or forwarded by the Director to Superior Court pursuant to subsection 4461(a) of this title, the Director shall refer the appeal in writing to a person not employed by the Director, appointed by the Director as hearing officer. The Director shall have the right to remove a hearing officer for inefficiency, malfeasance in office, or other cause. In like manner, the Director shall appoint a hearing officer to fill any vacancy created by resignation, removal, or other cause. Before entering into their duties, persons appointed as hearing officers shall take and subscribe the oath of the office prescribed in the Constitution, which oath shall be filed with the Director. The ~~Director~~ Commissioner of Taxes shall pay each hearing officer ~~a sum not to exceed $150.00 per diem for each day wherein hearings are held~~ $38.00 per hour plus a cost-of-living adjustment in an amount equal to any adjustment approved for exempt employees by the Secretary of Administration, together with reasonable expenses as the ~~Director~~ Commissioner may determine. A hearing officer may subpoena witnesses, records, and documents in the manner provided by law for serving subpoenas in civil actions and may administer oaths to witnesses.

Sec. 68. 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c)(2) is amended to read:

(2) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net nonhomestead education tax payment and its net homestead education tax payment to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total education tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district or districts. ~~Each municipality may also retain $15.00 for each late property tax credit claim filed after April 15 and before September 2, as notified by the Department of Taxes, for the cost of issuing a new property tax bill.~~

Sec. 69. 32 V.S.A. § 5401(13) is amended to read:

(13)(A) "Education property tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which:

(i) the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and

(ii) the denominator is the property dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (15) of this section~~, multiplied by the statewide adjustment~~.

(B) "Education income tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and the denominator is the income dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (16) of this section.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 70. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and the following sections shall take effect on passage:

(1) Sec. 1 (findings; intent; plan);

(2) Sec. 2 (Commission on the Future of Public Education);

(3) Sec. 3 (School District Redistricting Task Force);

(4) Sec. 32 (Agency of Education transformation support);

(5) Sec. 33. (Agency of Education positions);

(6) Sec. 44 (transportation reimbursement guidelines);

(7) Sec. 45 (inflationary measures; prekindergarten; reports);

(8) Sec. 45a (foundation formula report);

(9) Sec. 45c (Education Fund Advisory Committee; delay);

(10) Sec. 53 (homestead declaration sample form);

(11) Sec. 53a (homestead exemption report);

(12) Sec. 61 (tax classification study);

(13) Sec. 63 (regional assessment district transition);

(14) Sec. 64 (RAD stakeholder working group);

(15) Sec. 65 (inadvertently removed language);

(16) Sec. 66 (minimum debt for tax sales);

(17) Sec. 68 (property tax credit late fee); and

(18) Sec. 69 (education property tax spending adjustment).

(b) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025:

(1) Sec. 4 (scale; intent);

(2) Sec. 7 (SBE rules; report);

(3) Sec. 8 (school closure);

(4) Sec. 11 (16 V.S.A. § 3443);

(5) Sec. 12 (School Construction Advisory Board sunset);

(6) Sec. 18 (16 V.S.A. § 828);

(7) Sec. 19 (tuition transition);

(8) Sec. 20 (statewide cohesion; intent);

(9) Sec. 21 (AOE report; graduation requirements);

(10) Sec. 22 (State-level governance; intent);

(11) Sec. 23 (16 V.S.A. § 161);

(12) Sec. 24 (SBE appointments transition);

(13) Sec. 25 (16 V.S.A. § 162);

(14) Sec. 26 (SBE rule review; appropriation);

(15) Sec. 29 (special education report);

(16) Sec. 30 (AOE special education strategic plan);

(17) Sec. 31 (AOE position);

(18) Sec. 60 (grand list parcel definition); and

(19) Sec. 67 (PVR hearing officer pay).

(c) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026:

(1) Sec. 3a (transitional school boards);

(2) Sec. 5 (class size minimums);

(3) Sec. 6 (failure to comply with class size minimums);

(4) Sec. 9 (school construction policy);

(5) Sec. 10 (16 V.S.A. § 3442);

(6) Sec. 13 (16 V.S.A. § 3444);

(7) Sec. 14 (16 V.S.A. § 3445);

(8) Sec. 15 (16 V.S.A. § 3446);

(9) Sec. 16 (transfer of rulemaking authority); and

(10) Sec. 17 (repeals).

(d) Sec. 48 (December 1 letter) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

(e) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2029, provided that the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed responsibility for the education of all resident students and that the expert tasked with developing a cost-factor foundation formula has provided to the General Assembly the report pursuant to Sec. 45a to provide the General Assembly an opportunity to enact legislation in consideration of the report:

(1) Secs. 27 (16 V.S.A. § 823) and 28 (repeals);

(2) Secs. 34–43 (transition to cost-factor foundation formula);

(3) Sec. 45b (educational opportunity payment transition);

(4) Secs. 46, 47, 49, and 50 (statewide education tax; supplemental district spending tax);

(5) Sec. 48a (homestead property tax rate transition);

(6) Secs. 51, 52, and 54–56 (property tax credit repeal; creation of homestead exemption); and

(7) Sec. 57 (Education Fund Advisory Committee; review of foundation formula).

(f) Sec. 62 (regional assessment districts) shall take effect on January 1, 2030.

(g) Secs. 58 and 59 (transition to evidence-based foundation formula) shall take effect upon:

(1) development and review of an evidence-based foundation formula by professional judgment panels;

(2) compliance by 90 percent of Vermont classes with class-size minimum standards set in the education quality standards;

(3) compliance by 90 percent of Vermont school buildings with school size standards set in the education quality standards; and

(4) implementation of a multitiered system of supports in each classroom in each Vermont school.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Conlon of Cornwall** moved that the House refuse to concur and ask for a Committee of Conference, which was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall
Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Rep. Taylor of Milton

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and sixteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 27th day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 167 **An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**

H. 339 **An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230**

H. 364 **An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton**

H. 396 An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award

H. 481 An act relating to stormwater management

Message from the Senate No. 68

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 59. An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 50. An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Pursuant to the request of the House for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill entitled:

H. 91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Lyons
Senator Gulick
Senator Vyhovsky

Pursuant to the request of the House for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill entitled:

H. 454. An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Bongartz
Senator Cummings
Senator Beck

House Resolution Placed on Calendar

H.R. 9

Offered by Representatives Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, LaMont of Morristown, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Pezzo of Colchester, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury

House resolution urging that all State agencies, departments, and offices protect the civil rights, medical confidentiality, and all aspects of personal privacy of Vermonters who have been diagnosed with autism in light of the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services' recently announced plans to establish an autism research database and other databases related to autism

Whereas, the State of Vermont is fully committed to ensuring the enforcement of the rights of individuals with disabilities and the provision of inclusive services and person-centered systems of care, and

Whereas, individuals with autism contribute their talents, perspectives, and problem-solving abilities to strengthen Vermont's workforce; enrich families and communities; and advance innovation in science, technology, the arts, and beyond, and

Whereas, autism is a neurological difference, not a disease or an epidemic, and

Whereas, the rising autism identification rates, which trained clinicians and health care professionals are documenting, are attributable to improved diagnostic practices, greater awareness of autism, and expanded access to screening tools, and

Whereas, individuals with disabilities, including individuals with autism, are too often stigmatized and underestimated, and public policy should never diminish the diverse strengths and potential of these Vermonters, and

Whereas, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has announced plans to establish a federal research database intended to be used to investigate the root causes of autism, and

Whereas, this new database will be a compilation of information derived from individuals' insurance claims; electronic medical records; and wearable devices, such as smart watches, and

Whereas, although this new database is no longer characterized as an "autism registry," as Secretary Kennedy and National Institutes of Health Director, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, had previously announced, and despite public promises of personal and medical privacy, significant concerns remain regarding the potential use of Vermonters' sensitive, personally identifiable health care information without their specific and informed consent, and

Whereas, the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued Executive Order 2025-02 (the EO) to ensure that Illinois state officials fully comply with all applicable state and federal legal privacy protections in matters affecting the collection and use of information of persons being tested for, or who have been diagnosed with, autism, or in any database that now or may in the future exist that includes personal information related to autism; that the information not be collected, unless dong so is strictly necessary for authorized purposes; and that the information not be disclosed outside state government except if one of the conditions listed in the EO is met, and

Whereas, it is imperative that Vermont officials are similarly vigilant in their protection of personal data being collected for any type of analysis or assessment related to autism, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body urges that all State agencies, departments, and offices do everything in their power to protect the civil rights, medical confidentiality, and all aspects of personal privacy of Vermonters who have been diagnosed with autism, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the Vermont Secretary of Human Services, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and the Governor.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 231

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be construed to mean as follows:

* * *

(6) ~~Pickerel: the great northern pike, chain pickerel, or muskellunge.~~ [Repealed.]

(7) ~~Pike perch: walleyed or yellow pike.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4905 is amended to read:

§ 4905. BIRDS' NESTS AND EGGS; DESTROYING OR ROBBING

A person shall not take or ~~wilfully~~ willfully destroy the nests or eggs of wild birds, other than rock pigeons, ~~the English sparrow, starling, or purple grackle~~ house sparrows, or European starlings, except when necessary to protect buildings and the nests to be removed contain no eggs or chicks and are no longer being used by birds for feeding, or when taken as provided in section 4152 of this title.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

(a) A uniform point system that assigns points to those convicted of a violation of a provision of this part is established. The conviction report from the court shall be prima facie evidence of the points assessed. In addition to other penalties assessed for violation of fish and wildlife statutes, the Commissioner shall suspend licenses issued under this part that are held by a person who has accumulated 10 or more points in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in this title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated):

(1) Except for biological collection violations determined to be nonpoint violations under the rules of the Board, five points shall be assessed for any violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

* * *

(I) ~~§ 4706. Snaring animals~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(Y) Appendix § 2~~; Appendix § 33, section 14.3~~. Reporting of big game

* * *

(II) Appendix § 37, ~~as it applies to annual deer limits~~ section 10. Novice season

(JJ) § 4742a. Youth deer hunting weekend. The points shall be assessed solely against the adult who is accompanying the youth hunter.

(KK) § 4908. Youth turkey hunting weekend. The points assessed against the adult accompanying the youth hunter.

(LL) § 4256. Mentored hunting license. The points shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the individual holding the mentored hunting license.

(MM) § 4827a. Feeding a black bear

(NN) § 4826. Taking deer doing damage

(OO) § 22a. Taking turkey doing damage

(PP) § 35. Taking moose doing damage

(QQ) ~~Appendix § 22, section 6.7; Appendix § 33, section 13.1(g); Appendix § 37, section 7.7. Possession or transport of a cocked crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle~~ [Repealed.]

(RR) ~~Appendix § 7, section 6.3(b). Hunting bear with any dog not listed on the permit~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

(A) ~~§ 4192. General powers and duties; failure to obey warden~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(I) § 4745. Taking ~~deer~~ big game out of season prohibited

* * *

(O) Appendix § 7, sections 4.2, ~~5.1, 5.2,~~ 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(b), 6.3(d), 6.3(e), ~~6.4, 6.5(c), 6.5(d),~~ 7.1, ~~and~~ 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4. Bear, unauthorized taking

(P) Appendix § 22. Turkey season, excluding: requirements for youth turkey hunting season; ~~section 6.2,~~ and size of shot used or possessed~~; and section 6.7, transport of cocked crossbow~~

* * *

(U) Appendix § 37. Deer management rule, excluding requirements for youth deer hunting weekend; requirements for novice season; limitations on feeding of deer; ~~section 7.7, transport of cocked crossbow;~~ reporting big game; and section 11.0, ban of urine and other natural lures

* * *

(W) ~~§ 4711. Crossbow hunting~~ [Repealed.]

(X) ~~Appendix § 4. Hunting with a crossbow without a permit or license~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(Z) Appendix § 44~~, section 4.6~~. Use of tooth jawed traps

(AA) Appendix § 44~~, section 4.11~~. Taking furbearers with poison

(BB) Appendix § 44~~, section 4.12~~. Taking furbearers from a den

(CC) § 4716. Holding or conducting a coyote-hunting competition

(DD) § 4706. Snaring animals

* * *

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4705 is amended to read:

§ 4705. SHOOTING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES OR AIRCRAFT; SHOOTING FROM OR ACROSS HIGHWAY; PERMIT

(a) A person shall not take or attempt to take a wild animal by shooting from a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-

propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection (e) of this section.

(b)(1) A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within the right-of-way of a public highway any of the following:

(A) a rifle, air rifle, arrow rifle, pre-charged pneumatic rifle, or shotgun containing a loaded cartridge ~~or,~~ shell, or other projectile in the chamber, mechanism, or in a magazine, or clip within a rifle or shotgun~~, or;~~

(B) a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun that has been charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or priming powder, except as permitted under subsections (d) and (e) of this section~~.~~; and

(C) unless it is uncocked, a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection (e) of this section.

(2) A person who possesses a rifle, crossbow, or shotgun, including a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun, in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power, or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within a right-of-way of a public highway shall upon demand of an enforcement officer exhibit the firearm for examination to determine compliance with this section.

(3) As used in this subsection:

(A) "Air rifle" means a .22 or larger caliber device that fires a bullet solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant.

(B) "Arrow rifle" means a device that fires an arrow or bolt solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant.

(C) "Pre-charged pneumatic rifle" means an air rifle or arrow rifle for which the propellant is supplied or introduced by means of a source that is physically separate from the air gun or arrow gun.

* * *

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 3317(b) is amended to read:

(b) Penalty or fine; $300.00 or $1,000.00 maximum. A person who violates a requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 1454 shall be subject to enforcement under 10 V.S.A. § 8007 or 8008 or a fine under this chapter, provided that the person shall be assessed a penalty or fine of not more than $1,000.00 for each

violation. A person who violates a rule adopted under 10 V.S.A. § 1424 shall be subject to enforcement under 10 V.S.A. chapter 201 or a fine under this chapter, provided that the person shall be assessed a penalty of not more than $300.00 for each violation. A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be subject to a penalty of not more than $300.00 for each violation:

* * *

Sec. 6. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(19) Violations of rules adopted under 10 V.S.A. § 1424, relating to the use of public waters.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

(a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

* * *

(c) A permanent or free license may be secured on application to the Department by a person qualifying as follows:

* * *

(2) A person who is legally blind who is a Vermont resident may receive a free permanent fishing license upon submittal of proper proof of blindness as the Commissioner shall require. A person who is legally blind who is a resident in a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont residents may receive a free one-year fishing license.

(3) A Vermont resident with paraplegia as defined in subdivision 4001(30) of this title or a permanent, severe, physical mobility disability certified by a physician may receive a free permanent fishing license or, if the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free combination hunting and fishing license. A person with paraplegia or a person certified by a physician to have permanent, severe, physical mobility disability who is a resident of a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont residents may receive a free one-

year fishing license or, if the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free one-year combination fishing and hunting license.

(4) A Vermont resident who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and who is, or ever has been, 60 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability may receive a free fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license that shall include all big game licenses, except for a moose license, upon presentation of a certificate issued by the veterans' administration so certifying. A resident of a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont veterans and who would qualify for a free license under this subdivision if the person were a Vermont resident may receive a free one-year fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license.

(5) A person participating in a fishing tournament for Special Olympics may receive a free fishing license valid for that event.

* * *

(7) A certified citizen of a Native American Indian tribe that has been recognized by the State pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 23 may receive free of charge one or all of the permanent fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses set forth in subdivisions (1)(A)–(D) of this subsection if qualified for the license and upon submission of a current and valid tribal identification card.

(8) A person with developmental disabilities who is a Vermont resident may receive a free permanent fishing license upon submission to the Commissioner of a statement signed by the person's treating health care provider, as that term is defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402, certifying that the person meets the definition of a person with development disabilities. "A person with developmental disabilities" has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9302.

* * *

(n) The Commissioner shall maintain an accounting of lost revenue due to the issuance of free licenses. The Commissioner annually on or before January 15 shall submit to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Finance and the House Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means an accounting of lost revenue from the previous calendar year due to the issuance of free licenses.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 4251 is amended to read:

§ 4251. TAKING WILD ANIMALS AND FISH; LICENSE

(a) Except as provided in sections 4253 and 4254b of this title, a person shall not take wild animals or fish without first having procured a license therefor; provided, however, that a person under 15 years of age may take fish

in accordance with this part and regulations of the Board, without first having procured a license therefor.

(b) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife may designate two days each calendar year as "free fishing days" for which no license shall be required. One day shall occur in the open water fishing season and one day shall occur during the ice fishing season.

(c) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife may designate Labor Day weekend each year as "free mentored fishing weekend," during which up to four unlicensed anglers aged 15 years or older can fish with one licensed angler throughout this three-day period.

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 4613 is amended to read:

§ 4613. FISHING TOURNAMENTS

(a) No person or organization shall hold a fishing tournament on the waters of the State without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Tournaments held on the Connecticut River, excluding Moore and Comerford Reservoirs, that do not utilize an access area in Vermont are not required to obtain a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(b) A fishing tournament means a contest in which anglers pay a fee to enter and in which the entrants compete for a prize based on the quality or size of the fish they catch. A contest may run multiple days, but the days must be consecutive for that contest to be considered a single event. A tournament that limits the entrants to people below 15 years of age or a tournament held as part of a Special Olympics program shall be exempt from paying the fee required under subsection (d) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules that establish the procedure for implementation of this section. The rules shall include a provision that an angler may not enter a fish that was caught and confined to an enclosed area prior to the beginning of the tournament.

(d) The Commissioner shall charge a fee ~~of $50.00~~ based on the number of participants for each permit issued under this section and shall deposit the fee collected into the Fish and Wildlife Fund. Tournaments with up to 25 participants shall pay a fee of $10.00; tournaments with 26 to 50 participants shall pay a fee of $30.00; and tournaments with more than 50 participants shall pay a fee of $100.00.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4518 is amended to read:

§ 4518. BIG GAME VIOLATIONS; THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES; SUSPENSION; VIOLATIONS

(a) Whoever violates a provision of this part or orders or rules of the Board ~~relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game; relating to threatened or endangered species; or relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products~~ that constitutes a big game violation shall be fined not more than ~~$1,000.00~~ $2,000.00 nor less than ~~$400.00~~ $500.00 or imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or both. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions or any conviction while under license suspension related to the requirements of part 4 of this title, the violator shall be fined not more than ~~$4,000.00~~ $5,000.00 nor less than $2,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than ~~60~~ 180 days, or both.

(b) As used in this section, "big game violation" means:

(1) violations relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game;

(2) violations of chapter 123 of this title and the rules related to threatened and endangered species;

(3) violation of section 4280 of this title relating to criminal suspensions;

(4) violations of chapter 124 of this title relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products;

(5) interference with hunting, fishing, or trapping in violation of section 4708 of this title; or

(6) illegal commercial importation or possession of wild animals in violation of section 4709 of this title.

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 4552 is amended to read:

§ 4552. JURISDICTION; VENUE

The Vermont Criminal Division of the Superior Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over fish and wildlife violations with the exception of violations related to section 4572 and chapters 123 and 124 of this title. Venue for adjudicating fish and wildlife violations shall be the unit of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court having jurisdiction over the geographical area where the offense is stated to have occurred.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4572 is amended to read:

§ 4572. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this subchapter, a minor fish and wildlife violation means:

(1) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4145 (violation of access and landing area rules);

(2) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4251 (taking wild animals and fish without a license);

(3) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4266 (failure to carry a license on person or failure to exhibit license);

(4) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4267 (false statements in license application; altering license; transferring license to another person; using another person's license; or guiding an unlicensed person);

(5) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4713 (tree or ground stands or blinds); ~~or~~

(6) [Repealed.]

(7) a violation of a biological collection rule adopted by the Board under part 4 of this title; or

(8) except for big game offenses and under revocation offenses, any fish and wildlife violation as defined by 10 V.S.A § 4551 and not otherwise listed in this section shall be charged as a minor violation, provided that:

(A) the offender has no prior history of fish and wildlife violations;

(B) no evidence was seized in relation to the violation;

(C) a criminal warrant was not used in relation to the violation; and

(D) there is no possibility of forfeiture.

(b) "Bureau" means the Judicial Bureau as created in 4 V.S.A. § 1102.

Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:

§ 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS; TAKING; POSSESSION

(a) A person shall not intentionally take a reptile or amphibian in the State unless authorized by rules adopted under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Commissioner may establish requirements for the following by rule:

(1) the collection or possession for commercial use, export, or sale of reptiles and amphibians specified by the Commissioner;

(2) the taking of reptiles or amphibians that have been classified as common, widespread, and abundant, known as S5 ranked species, with stable or increasing populations indicated by data collected or compiled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(3) the taking of a reptile or amphibian that due to population, risk to other native species, or risk to ecosystems has been identified as requiring a reduction in population; or

(4) under specified criteria, the taking, collection, or possession of a specified reptile or amphibian for scientific, educational, or noncommercial cultural or ceremonial purposes.

(c) Rules adopted by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under this section shall be designed to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of the regulated reptile or amphibian.

Sec. 14. IMPORT, POSSESSION, AND SALE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS; ENDORSEMENTS

(a)(1) A person shall not import, possess, or sell in the State a pond slider turtle (Trachemys scripta), provided that:

(A) a person may continue to possess a turtle that was legally acquired as a pet prior to July 1, 2025 or that was legally acquired from a pet dealer or commercial collection permittee authorized to sell turtles under subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection; or

(B) a person with a valid pet dealer permit or commercial collection permit may possess and sell a turtle that the person can document they had possession of prior to July 1, 2025.

(2) A person is prohibited from releasing to the wild a pond slider retained as a pet under this subsection. A violation of the prohibition under this section shall be subject to enforcement as a fish and wildlife violation under Title 10 part 4.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall be repealed on the effective date of a rule adopted by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under 10 V.S.A. § 4085 regulating the import, possession, or sale of the pond slider turtle (Trachemys scripta).

(c) When the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under 10 V.S.A. § 4085(b) authorizes the taking of a reptile or amphibian by hunting, a hunting license issued under 10 V.S.A. part 4 that authorizes the taking of reptiles and amphibians under the license shall include an endorsement indicating the authorized taking.

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 4709 is amended to read:

§ 4709. TRANSPORT, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND STOCKING OF WILD ANIMALS; POSSESSION OF WILD BOAR OR FERAL SWINE

(a) A person shall not bring into, transport into, transport within, transport through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any kind, including reptiles, amphibians, or any manner of feral swine, without authorization from the Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's designee. The importation permit may be granted under ~~such regulations therefor as~~ rules, requirements, or conditions that the Commissioner shall prescribe and only after the Commissioner has made such investigation and inspection of the birds or animals as ~~she or he~~ the Commissioner may deem necessary. The Department may dispose of unlawfully possessed or imported wildlife as it may judge best, and the State may collect treble damages from the violator of this subsection for all expenses incurred.

(b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or province wildlife illegally taken, transported, or possessed contrary to the laws governing the country, state, or province from which the wildlife originated.

(c) No person shall place a Vermont-issued tag on wildlife taken outside the State. No person shall report big game in Vermont when the wildlife is taken outside the State.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner or duly authorized agents of the Department of Fish and Wildlife from bringing into the State for the purpose of planting, introducing, or stocking or from planting, introducing, or stocking in the State any wild bird or animal.

(e) Any person who violates this section may be subject to the penalties set forth in section 4518 of this title and also may be required to pay additional penalties based on reasonable mitigation and potential economic benefit associated with commercial trade.

(f) The Commissioner may bring an action in the unit of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court having jurisdiction over the geographical area where the offense is stated to have occurred, or the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, to compel reasonable mitigation and recover economic benefits for commercial collection and trade violations under this subsection.

(g) Applicants shall pay a permit fee of $100.00.

~~(f)~~(h)(1) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit under this section for the importation or possession of the following live species, a hybrid or genetic variant of the following species, offspring of the following species, or

offspring or a hybrid of a genetically engineered variant of the following species: feral swine, including wild boar, wild hog, wild swine, feral pig, feral hog, old world swine, razorback, Eurasian wild boar, or Russian wild boar (Sus scrofo Linnaeus). A feral swine is:

* * *

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 5403(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as authorized under this chapter, a person shall not:

(1) take, possess, or transport wildlife or wild plants that are members of a threatened or endangered species; ~~or~~

(2) destroy or adversely impact critical habitat;

(3) sell or offer for sale in intrastate commerce a threatened or endangered species;

(4) deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship a threatened or endangered species in intrastate commerce; or

(5) import a threatened or endangered species into or export a threatened or endangered species from Vermont.

Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 5408 is amended to read:

§ 5408. AUTHORIZED TAKINGS; INCIDENTAL TAKINGS; DESTRUCTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT

(a) Authorized taking. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, after obtaining the advice of the Endangered Species Committee, the Secretary may permit, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the taking of a threatened or endangered species, the destruction of or adverse impact on critical habitat, or any act otherwise prohibited by this chapter if done for any of the following purposes:

(1) scientific purposes;

(2) to enhance the propagation or survival of a threatened or endangered species;

(3) zoological exhibition;

(4) educational purposes;

(5) noncommercial cultural or ceremonial purposes; or

(6) special purposes consistent with the purposes of the federal Endangered Species Act.

(b) Incidental taking. After obtaining the advice of the Endangered Species Committee, the Secretary may permit, under such terms and conditions as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the incidental taking of a threatened or endangered species or the destruction of or adverse impact on critical habitat if:

(1) the taking is necessary to conduct an otherwise lawful activity;

(2) the taking is attendant or secondary to, and not the purpose of, the lawful activity;

(3) the impact of the permitted incidental take is minimized; and

(4) the incidental taking will not impair the conservation or recovery of any endangered species or threatened species.

* * *

(k) Public notice. ~~Prior~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, prior to issuing a permit for an incidental taking and prior to the initial issuance or amendment of a general permit under this section, the Secretary shall provide for public notice of ~~no~~ not fewer than 30 days~~,~~ opportunity for written comment~~,~~ and opportunity to request a public informational hearing. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary shall post permit applications, permit decisions, and the initial or amended general permits on the website of the Agency of Natural Resources. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary also shall provide notice to interested persons who request notice of permit applications, permit decisions, and proposed general permits or proposed amendments to general permits.

(l) General permits.

(1) The Secretary may issue general permits for activities that will not affect the continued survival or recovery of a threatened or endangered species.

* * *

(6) ~~Prior~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, prior to issuing an initial or amended general permit under this subsection, the Secretary shall:

(A) post a draft of the general permit on the Agency website;

(B) provide public notice of at least 30 days; and

(C) provide for written comments or a public hearing, or both.

(7) For applications for coverage under the terms of an issued general permit, the applicant shall provide notice on a form provided by the Secretary. ~~The~~ Except for threatened and endangered species listed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection 5410(b) of this title, the Secretary shall post notice of the application on the Agency website and shall provide an opportunity for written comment, regarding whether the application complies with the terms and conditions of the general permit, for ~~ten~~ 10 days following receipt of the application.

* * *

Sec. 18. 10 V.S.A. § 5410 is amended to read:

§ 5410. LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL

(a) The Secretary shall not disclose information regarding the specific location of threatened or endangered species sites or habitats except ~~that the Secretary shall disclose information regarding the location of the threatened or endangered species to~~:

(1) to the owner of land upon which the species is located;

(2) to a potential buyer of land upon which the species is located who has a bona fide contract to buy the land and applies to the Secretary for disclosure of threatened or endangered species information; ~~or~~

(3) to qualified individuals or organizations, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations for scientific research or for preservation and planning purposes when the Secretary determines that the preservation of the species is not further endangered by the disclosure; or

(4) during regulatory processes with the exception of threatened or endangered species listed under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain a subset list of threatened and endangered species whose specific names shall not be included in regulatory planning. The subset list shall include threatened or endangered species for which the species names and locations shall not be disclosed because of the risk that the species will be significantly harmed by unauthorized take, such as illegal collection, commercial trade, human-caused mortality, or destruction of habitat. The list shall be based on the rarity of the species, known collection and commercial trade activities in Vermont and other states or countries, incidents of human-caused mortality or destruction of habitat, and other factors that present a threat to the continued existence of the species.

(c) When the Secretary issues a permit under this chapter to take a threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely impact critical habitat and when the Secretary designates critical habitat by rule under section 5402a of this title, the Secretary shall disclose only the municipality and general location where the threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat is located. When the Secretary designates critical habitat under section 5402a of this title, the Secretary shall notify the municipality in which the critical habitat is located and shall disclose the general location of the designated critical habitat.

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 4829 is amended to read:

§ 4829. ~~PERSON SUFFERING DAMAGE BY DEER OR BLACK BEAR~~

~~(a) A person engaged in the business of farming who suffers damage by deer to the person's crops, fruit trees, or crop-bearing plants on land not posted against the hunting of deer, or a person engaged in the business of farming who suffers damage by black bear to the person's cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, or bees or bee hives on land not posted against hunting or trapping of black bear is entitled to reimbursement for the damage up to an amount not to exceed $5,000.00 per year, and may apply to the Department of Fish and Wildlife within 72 hours of the occurrence of the damage for reimbursement for the damage. As used in this section, "post" means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land.~~

~~(b) As used in this section, a person is "engaged in the business of farming" if he or she earns at least one-half of the farmer's annual gross income from the business of farming, as that term is defined in the Internal Revenue Code, 26 C.F.R. § 1.175-3.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 599a is amended to read:

§ 599a. REPORTS; RULEMAKING

(a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the feasibility and progress of carrying out the requirements of this chapter, including any recommendations for improving the administration of the Program.

(b) The Agency shall adopt rules necessary to implement the requirements of this chapter, including:

(1) adopting methodologies using available science and publicly available data to identify responsible parties and determine their applicable share of covered greenhouse gas emissions; and

(2) requirements for registering entities that are responsible parties and issuing notices of cost recovery demands under the Program~~; and~~

~~(3) the Resilience Implementation Strategy, which shall include:~~

~~(A) practices utilizing nature-based solutions intended to stabilize floodplains, riparian zones, lake shoreland, wetlands, and similar lands;~~

~~(B) practices to adapt infrastructure to the impacts of climate change;~~

~~(C) practices needed to build out early warning mechanisms and support fast, effective response to climate-related threats;~~

~~(D) practices that support economic and environmental sustainability in the face of changing climate conditions; and~~

~~(E) criteria and procedures for prioritizing climate change adaptation projects eligible to receive monies from the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program~~.

(c) On or before September 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy a report summarizing the Agency of Natural Resources' adoption of the Resilience Implementation Strategy. The Strategy shall include:

(1) practices utilizing nature-based solutions intended to stabilize floodplains, riparian zones, lake shoreland, wetlands, and similar lands;

(2) practices to adapt infrastructure to the impacts of climate change;

(3) practices needed to build out early warning mechanisms and support fast, effective response to climate-related threats;

(4) practices that support economic and environmental sustainability in the face of changing climate conditions; and

(5) criteria and procedures for prioritizing climate change adaptation projects eligible to receive monies from the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.

(d) In adopting the Strategy, the Agency shall:

(1) consult with the Environmental Justice Advisory Council;

(2) in consultation with other State agencies and departments, including the Department of Public Safety's Division of Vermont Emergency Management, assess the adaptation needs and vulnerabilities of various areas vital to the State's economy, normal functioning, and the health and well-being of Vermonters;

(3) identify major potential, proposed, and ongoing climate change adaptation projects throughout the State;

(4) identify opportunities for alignment with existing federal, State, and local funding streams;

(5) consult with stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, environmental advocates, relevant subject area experts, and representatives of environmental justice focus populations;

(6) consider components of the Vermont Climate Action Plan required under section 592 of this title that are related to adaptation or resilience, as defined in section 590 of this title; and

(7) conduct public engagement in areas and communities that have the most significant exposure to the impacts of climate change, including disadvantaged, low-income, and rural communities and areas.

~~(d)~~(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the existing authority of a State agency, department, or entity to regulate greenhouse gas emissions or establish strategies or adopt rules to mitigate climate risk and build resilience to climate change.

Sec. 21. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 122, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) ~~On or before July 1, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 837 shall file with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules the proposed rule for the adoption of the Resilience Implementation Strategy required pursuant to 10 V.S.A § 599a(b)(3). On or before January 1, 2026, the Agency of Natural Resources shall adopt the final rule establishing the Resilience Implementation Strategy required pursuant to 10 V.S.A § 599a(b)(3).~~ [Repealed.]

(b) On or before July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 837 shall file with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules the proposed rules required pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 599a(b)(1) and (b)(2). On or before January 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, the Agency of Natural Resources shall adopt the final rule rules required pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 599a(b)(1) and (b)(2).

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 596 is amended to read:

§ 596. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Covered greenhouse gas emissions" means the total quantity of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere ~~during the covered period~~, expressed in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, resulting from the use of fossil fuels extracted or refined by an entity during the covered period.

* * *

(22) "Responsible party" means any entity or a successor in interest to an entity that during any part of the covered period was engaged in the trade or business of extracting fossil fuel or refining crude oil and is determined by the Agency attributable to for more than one billion metric tons of covered greenhouse gas emissions ~~during the covered period~~. The term responsible party does not include any person who lacks sufficient connection with the State to satisfy the nexus requirements of the U.S. Constitution.

* * *

Sec. 23. 10 V.S.A. § 598(b) is amended to read:

(b) With respect to each responsible party, the cost recovery demand shall be equal to an amount that bears the same ratio to the cost to the State of Vermont and its residents, as calculated by the State Treasurer pursuant to section 599c of this title, from ~~the emission of~~ covered greenhouse ~~gases during the covered period~~ gas emissions as the responsible party's applicable share of covered greenhouse gas emissions bears to the aggregate applicable shares of covered greenhouse gas emissions ~~resulting from the use of fossil fuels extracted or refined during the covered period~~.

Sec. 24. 10 V.S.A. § 599c is amended to read:

§ 599c. STATE TREASURER REPORT ON THE COST TO VERMONT OF COVERED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

On or before January 15, ~~2026~~ 2027, the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Interagency Advisory Board to the Climate Action Office, and with any other person or entity whom the State Treasurer decides to consult for the purpose of obtaining and utilizing credible data or methodologies that the State Treasurer determines may aid the State Treasurer in making the assessments and estimates required by this section, shall submit to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Finance, on Agriculture, and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Appropriations; on Ways and Means; on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry; and on Environment ~~and Energy~~ an assessment of the cost to the State of Vermont and its residents ~~of the emission~~ of covered greenhouse ~~gases for the period that began on January 1, 1995 and ended on December 31, 2024~~ gas emissions. The assessment shall include:

* * *

(3) a categorized calculation of the costs that have been incurred and are projected to be incurred in the future within the State of Vermont to abate the effects of covered greenhouse gas emissions ~~from between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 2024~~ on the State of Vermont and its residents.

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 20–24 (climate superfund act) shall take effect on passage.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that:

(1) Sec. 7 (free fishing license; person with developmental disabilities) shall take effect on January 1, 2026; and

(2) in Sec. 13, 10 V.S.A. § 4085(a) (related to the taking of reptiles and amphibians) shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 238

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * PFAS in Consumer Products * * *

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12A is amended to read:

Subchapter 12A. PFAS in Consumer Products

§ 2494e. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Adult mattress" means a mattress other than a crib or toddler mattress.

(2) "Aftermarket stain and water resistant treatments" means treatments for textile and leather consumer products used in residential settings that have been treated during the manufacturing process for stain, oil, and water resistance, but excludes products marketed or sold exclusively for use at industrial facilities during the manufacture of a carpet, rug, clothing, or shoe.

(3) "Apparel" means any of the following:

(A) Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions, including undergarments, shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, overalls, bodysuits, costumes, vests, dancewear, suits, saris, scarves, tops, leggings, school uniforms, leisurewear, athletic wear, sports uniforms, everyday swimwear, formal wear, onesies, bibs, reusable diapers, footwear, and everyday uniforms for workwear. Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions do not include clothing items for exclusive use by the U.S. Armed Forces, outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions, and personal protective equipment.

(B) Outdoor apparel.

(4) "Artificial turf" means a surface of synthetic fibers that is used in place of natural grass in recreational, residential, or commercial applications.

(5) "Cleaning product" means a compound intended for routine cleaning, including general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, carpet cleaners, floor care products, and hand soaps. "Cleaning product" does not mean an antimicrobial pesticide.

(6) "Cookware" means durable houseware items used to prepare, dispense, or store food, foodstuffs, or beverages and that are intended for direct food contact, including pots, pans, skillets, grills, baking sheets, baking molds, trays, bowls, and cooking utensils.

(7) "Dental floss" means a string-like device made of cotton or other fibers intended to remove plaque and food particles from between the teeth to reduce tooth decay. The fibers of the device may be coated with wax for easier use.

(8) "Fluorine treated container" means a fluorinated treated plastic container.

~~(6)~~(9) "Incontinency protection product" means a disposable, absorbent hygiene product designed to absorb bodily waste for use by individuals 12 years of age and older.

~~(7)~~(10) ~~"Intentionally added" means the addition of a chemical in a product that serves an intended function in the product component~~ "Intentionally added PFAS" means PFAS added to a product regulated under this subchapter or one of its product components to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or quality or to perform a specific function. "Intentionally added PFAS" also includes any degradation byproducts of PFAS or PFAS that are intentional breakdown products of an added chemical. For the purposes of this chapter the use of PFAS as a processing agent, mold

release agent, or intermediate is considered intentional introduction where PFAS are detected in the final covered product.

~~(8)~~(11) "Juvenile product" means a product designed or marketed for use by infants and children under 12 years of age:

(A) including a baby or toddler foam pillow; bassinet; bedside sleeper; booster seat; changing pad; infant bouncer; infant carrier; infant seat; infant sleep positioner; infant swing; infant travel bed; infant walker; nap cot; nursing pad; nursing pillow; pacifier; play mat; playpen; play yard; polyurethane foam mat, pad, or pillow; portable foam nap mat; portable infant sleeper; portable hook-in chair; soft-sided portable crib; stroller; toddler mattress; and disposable, single-use diaper; ~~and~~

(B) excluding a children's electronic product, such as a personal computer, audio and video equipment, calculator, wireless phone, game console, handheld device incorporating a video screen, or any associated peripheral such as a mouse, keyboard, power supply unit, or power cord; a medical device; or an adult mattress; and

(C) excluding children's all-terrain vehicles, as that term is defined under 23 V.S.A. § 3801.

~~(9)~~(12) "Manufacturer" means any person engaged in the business of making or assembling a consumer product directly or indirectly available to consumers. "Manufacturer" excludes a distributor or retailer, except when a consumer product is made or assembled outside the United States, in which case a "manufacturer" includes the importer or first domestic distributor of the consumer product.

~~(10)~~(13) "Medical device" has the same meaning given to "device" in 21 U.S.C. § 321.

~~(11)~~(14) "Outdoor apparel" means clothing items intended primarily for outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, skiing, climbing, bicycling, and fishing.

~~(12)~~(15) "Outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions" means outdoor apparel that are extreme and extended use products designed for outdoor sports experts for applications that provide protection against extended exposure to extreme rain conditions or against extended immersion in water or wet conditions, such as from snow, in order to protect the health and safety of the user and that are not marketed for general consumer use. Examples of extreme and extended use products include outerwear for offshore fishing, offshore sailing, whitewater kayaking, and mountaineering.

~~(13)~~(16) "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" means a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

~~(14)~~(17) "Personal protective equipment" has the same meaning as in section 2494p of this title.

~~(15)~~(18) "Regulated perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "regulated PFAS" means:

(A) PFAS that a manufacturer has intentionally added to a product and that have a functional or technical effect in the product, including PFAS components of intentionally added chemicals and PFAS that are intentional breakdown products of an added chemical that also have a functional or technical effect in the product; or

(B) the presence of PFAS in a product or product component at or above 100 parts per million, as measured in total organic fluorine.

~~(16)~~(19) "Rug or carpet" means a fabric marketed or intended for use as a floor covering.

~~(17)~~(20) "Ski wax" means a lubricant applied to the bottom of snow runners, including skis and snowboards, to improve their grip and glide properties.

~~(18)~~(21) "Textile" means any item made in whole or part from a natural, manmade, or synthetic fiber, yarn, or fabric, and includes leather, cotton, silk, jute, hemp, wool, viscose, nylon, or polyester. "Textile" does not include single-use paper hygiene products, including toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, or single-use absorbent hygiene products.

~~(19)~~(22) "Textile articles" means textile goods of a type customarily and ordinarily used in households and businesses, and includes apparel, accessories, handbags, backpacks, draperies, shower curtains, furnishings, upholstery, bedding, towels, napkins, and table cloths. "Textile articles" does not include:

(A) a vehicle, as defined in 1 U.S.C. § 4, or its component parts;

(B) a vessel, as defined in 1 U.S.C. § 3, or its component parts;

(C) an aircraft, as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 40102(a)(6), or its component parts;

(D) filtration media and filter products used in industrial applications, including chemical or pharmaceutical manufacturing and environmental control technologies;

(E) textile articles used for laboratory analysis and testing; and

(F) rugs or carpets.

§ 2494f. ~~AFTERMARKET STAIN AND WATER-RESISTANT TREATMENTS~~ PROHIBITION ON PFAS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

(a) ~~A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State aftermarket stain and water-resistant treatments for rugs or carpets to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.~~

~~(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.~~ A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in the State the following consumer products to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount:

(1) aftermarket stain and water-resistant treatments;

(2) artificial turf;

(3) cleaning products;

(4) cookware;

(5) dental floss;

(6) incontinency protection products;

(7) juvenile products;

(8) residential rugs and carpets; or

(9) ski wax.

(b) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in the State textiles or textile articles to which regulated PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

(c) The prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to the sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, or distribution for use of any of the products listed under subsections (a) and (b) of this section that have been previously used by a consumer for the intended purpose of the product.

~~§ 2494g. ARTIFICIAL TURF~~

~~A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State artificial turf to which:~~

~~(1) PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount; or~~

(2) PFAS have entered the product from the manufacturing or processing of that product, the addition of which is known or reasonably ascertainable by the manufacturer.

§ 2494h. COOKWARE

(a) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State cookware to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

§ 2494i. INCONTINENCY PROTECTION PRODUCT

A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State an incontinency protection product to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

§ 2494j. JUVENILE PRODUCTS

(a) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State juvenile products to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

§ 2494k. RUGS AND CARPETS

(a) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State a residential rug or carpet to which PFAS have been added in any amount.

(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

§ 2494l. SKI WAX

(a) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State ski wax or related tuning products to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

§ 2494m. TEXTILES

(a) A manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State a textile or textile article to which regulated PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

(b) This section shall not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

§ 2494g. FLUORINE TREATED CONTAINERS

(a) A manufacturer shall not sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in the State a product listed under subdivisions 2494f(a)(1)–(9) of this title that does not contain intentionally added PFAS but that is sold, offered for sale, distributed for sale, or distributed for use in the State in a fluorine treated container.

(b) The prohibition under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, or distribution for use of a product that has been previously used by a consumer for the intended purpose of the product.

(c) Beginning on January 1, 2032, a manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in the State a fluorine treated container or any consumer product in a fluorine treated container.

§ ~~2494n~~ 2494h. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

(a) The Attorney General may request a certificate of compliance from a manufacturer of a consumer product regulated under this subchapter. Within 60 days after receipt of the Attorney General's request for a certificate of compliance, the manufacturer shall:

(1) provide the Attorney General with a certificate attesting that the manufacturer's product or products comply with the requirements of this subchapter; or

(2) notify persons who are selling a product of the manufacturer's in this State that the sale is prohibited because the product does not comply with this subchapter and submit to the Attorney General a list of the names and addresses of those persons notified.

(b) A manufacturer required to submit a certificate of compliance pursuant to this section may rely upon a certificate of compliance provided to the manufacturer by a supplier for the purpose of determining the manufacturer's reporting obligations. A certificate of compliance provided by a supplier in accordance with this subsection shall be used solely for the purpose of determining a manufacturer's compliance with this section.

§ ~~2494o~~ 2494i. VIOLATIONS

(a) A violation of this subchapter is deemed to be a violation of section 2453 of this title.

(b) The Attorney General has the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, and bring civil actions, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under subchapter 1 of this chapter.

Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. § 2494e(19) is amended to read:

(19) "Regulated perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "regulated PFAS" means:

(A) PFAS that a manufacturer has intentionally added to a product and that have a functional or technical effect in the product, including PFAS components of intentionally added chemicals and PFAS that are intentional breakdown products of an added chemical that also have a functional or technical effect in the product; or

(B) the presence of PFAS in a product or product component at or above ~~100~~ 50 parts per million, as measured in total organic fluorine.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 2494e(3) is amended to read:

(3) "Apparel" means any of the following:

(A) Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions, including undergarments, shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, overalls, bodysuits, costumes, vests, dancewear, suits, saris, scarves, tops, leggings, school uniforms, leisurewear, athletic wear, sports uniforms, everyday swimwear, formal wear, onesies, bibs, reusable diapers, footwear, and everyday uniforms for workwear. Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions do not include clothing items for exclusive use by the U.S. Armed Forces~~, outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions,~~ and personal protective equipment.

(B) Outdoor apparel.

(C) Outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions.

Sec. 4. ANR REPORT ON PFAS REGULATION

(a) As used in this section, "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" means a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(b) On or before January 15, 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committees on Environment and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Health and Welfare a report regarding the regulation by other states of PFAS in consumer products. The report shall include:

(1) a summary of programs in other states that regulate PFAS in consumer products, including whether other states have implemented a regulatory program based on the definition of PFAS used in this section;

(2) if other states have implemented regulatory programs for PFAS, a summary of the effectiveness of the programs, including any obstacles or difficulties these states may have faced in implementing a program, the staffing required for a program, and the time frame under which each state implemented the program;

(3) a recommendation, based on review of regulatory programs in other states, on whether Vermont should establish a regulatory program for PFAS in consumer products, including the State agency in which such a program should be located, the staffing required, and a time frame for implementation;

(4) whether other states have prohibited or restricted the use of fluorine treated containers, including a summary of how fluorine treated containers are used or allowed for use in other states;

(5) any other information that the Secretary determines is necessary for the purpose of informing the General Assembly whether to enact a regulatory program for PFAS in consumer products; and

(6) a summary of PFAS data in industrial processes, to the extent available, and whether any other state has restricted the use of PFAS-contaminated water in manufacturing.

Sec. 5. REPORTS; PFAS IN COMPLEX DURABLE GOODS; FOOD

(a)(1) On or before January 15, 2033, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall provide a recommendation to the House Committees on Human Services and on Environment and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Natural Resources and Energy on how to address PFAS in complex durable goods.

(2) As used in this subsection, "complex durable goods" means a consumer product that is a manufactured good composed of 100 or more manufactured components, with an intended useful life of five or more years, where the product is typically not consumed, destroyed, or discarded after a single use. This includes replacement parts for complex durable goods not subject to a phaseout under this chapter.

(b)(1) On or before January 15, 2033, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall provide a recommendation to the House Committees on Human Services and on Environment and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Natural Resources and Energy on how to address PFAS in food.

(2) As used in this subsection, "food" has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 4051.

(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall update the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Environment, and the Secretary of Natural Resources on the status of the regulation of PFAS in complex durable goods and in food in other states. The first status report shall be submitted on or before January 15, 2027, as part of the report required under Sec. 4 of this act or as testimony. The second update shall be provided as testimony to the committees on or before January 15, 2029.

Sec. 6. REPEALS

(a) 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 131, Sec. 4 (prospective definition for outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions) is repealed.

(b) 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 131, Sec. 5 (prospective definition of regulated PFAS) is repealed.

Sec. 7. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 131, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except that:

(1) Sec. 1 (chemicals in cosmetic and menstrual products), ~~Sec. 3 (PFAS in consumer products),~~ Sec. 6 (PFAS in firefighting agents and equipment), and Sec. 7 (chemicals of concern in food packaging) shall take effect on January 1, 2026; and

(2) Sec. 2 (9 V.S.A. § 2494b) ~~and Sec. 5 (9 V.S.A. § 2494e(15))~~ shall take effect on July 1, 2027~~; and~~

~~(3) Sec. 4 (9 V.S.A. § 2494e(3)) shall take effect on July 1, 2028~~.

* * * PFAS in Firefighting Agents and Equipment * * *

Sec. 8. 9 V.S.A. § 2494p(2) is amended to read:

(2) ~~"Intentionally added" means the addition of a chemical in a product that serves an intended function in the product component~~. "Intentionally added PFAS" means PFAS added to a product regulated under this subchapter or one of its product components to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or quality or to perform a specific function. "Intentionally added PFAS" also includes any degradation byproducts of PFAS or PFAS that are intentional breakdown products of an added chemical. For the purposes of this chapter the use of PFAS as a processing agent, mold release agent, or intermediate is considered intentional introduction where PFAS are detected in the final covered product.

Sec. 9. 9 V.S.A. § 2494s is amended to read:

(a) A manufacturer or other person that sells firefighting equipment to any person, municipality, or State agency shall ~~provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale, citing to this subchapter, if the personal protective equipment or station wear contains PFAS. The written notice shall include a statement that the personal protective equipment or station wear contains PFAS and the reason PFAS are added to the equipment~~ not sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State any personal protective equipment to which PFAS have been intentionally added.

(b) ~~The manufacturer or person selling personal protective equipment or station wear and the purchaser of the personal protective equipment or station wear shall retain the notice for at least three years from the date of the transaction.~~ The prohibitions under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to personal protective equipment that is a respirator or respirator protection equipment, provided that a manufacturer of a respirator or respirator protection equipment shall provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale, citing to this subchapter if the respirator or respirator protection equipment contains PFAS. The written notice shall include a statement that the respirator or respirator protection equipment contains PFAS and the reason PFAS are added to the equipment. The manufacturer or person selling respirator or respirator protection equipment and the purchaser of the respirator or respirator protection equipment shall retain the notice for at least three years from the date of the transaction.

Sec. 10. 9 V.S.A. § 2494s is amended to read:

§ 2494s. PROHIBITED SALE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CONTAINING PFAS

(a) A manufacturer or other person that sells firefighting equipment to any person, municipality, or State agency shall not sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State any personal protective equipment to which PFAS have been intentionally added.

(b) ~~The prohibitions under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to personal protective equipment that is a respirator or respirator protection equipment, provided that a manufacturer of a respirator or respirator protection equipment shall provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale, citing to this subchapter if the respirator or respirator protection equipment contains PFAS. The written notice shall include a statement that the respirator or respirator protection equipment contains PFAS and the reason PFAS are added to the equipment. The manufacturer or person selling respirator or respirator protection equipment and the purchaser of the respirator or~~

~~respirator protection equipment shall retain the notice for at least three years from the date of the transaction.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 11. NOTICE OF PRESENCE OF PFAS IN STATION WEAR PRIOR TO PROHIBITION OF PFAS IN APPAREL

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" has the same meaning as in 9 V.S.A. § 2494p.

(2) "Station wear" means uniform shirts and pants worn by firefighting personnel in the performance of their duties, often underneath personal protective equipment.

(b) Prior to the limitation of PFAS in textile articles under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12A beginning on July 1, 2026 under 9 V.S.A. § 2494f, a manufacturer or other person that sells station wear to any person, municipality, or State agency shall provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale, citing to this subchapter, if the station wear contains PFAS. The written notice shall include a statement that station wear contains PFAS and the reason PFAS are added to the station wear. The manufacturer or person selling station wear and the purchaser of station wear shall retain the notice for at least three years from the date of the transaction.

Sec. 12. ANR REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF PFAS-FREE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" means a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(2) "Personal protective equipment" means clothing designed, intended, or marketed to be worn by firefighting personnel in the performance of their duties, designed with the intent for use in fire and rescue activities, and includes jackets, pants, shoes, gloves, helmets, and respiratory equipment.

(b) On or before December 15, 2028, the Agency of Natural Resources, after consultation with the Department of Public Safety, shall report to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Human Service and on Environment regarding the availability of personal protective equipment that does not include PFAS. The report shall include:

(1) a summary of the general availability in the State of personal protective equipment that does not include PFAS, including whether respirators that do not include PFAS are generally available to firefighting personnel in Vermont; and

(2) a summary of the cost of personal protective equipment that does not include PFAS, including whether the personal protective equipment that does not include PFAS is available at comparable costs to personal protective equipment that includes PFAS.

(c) The Agency of Natural Resources shall submit a copy of the report required under this section to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to make available to municipal firefighting departments.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 4 and 5 (reports to the General Assembly), Sec. 11 (notice of PFAS in station wear), and Sec. 12 (availability of PFAS-free personal protective equipment) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b)(1) Sec. 1 (PFAS in consumer products) shall take effect on January 1, 2026, except that:

(A) 9 V.S.A. § 2494e(10) (definition of intentionally added) shall take effect on July 1, 2027;

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 2494f(a)(3) (cleaning products) and (a)(5) (dental floss) and 9 V.S.A. § 2494g (fluorine treated containers) shall take effect on July 1, 2027; and

(C) 9 V.S.A. § 2494f(a)(4) (cookware) shall take effect July 1, 2028.

(2) Sec. 1 and this section shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 131, Sec. 3 that conflict with the provisions of this act.

(c) Sec. 2 (definition of regulated PFAS) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(d) Sec. 3 (definition of outdoor apparel) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

(e) Secs. 6 (repeal of Act 131 provisions) and 7 (amended Act 131 effective dates) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

(f) Sec. 8 (definition of intentionally added; PPE containing PFAS) shall take effect January 1, 2026 and shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 131, Sec. 6 that conflict with the provisions of this act.

(g) Sec. 9 (prohibition on sale of PPE containing PFAS) shall take effect on July 1, 2029.

(h) Sec. 10 (prohibition on sale of respirators containing PFAS) shall take effect on July 1, 2032.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Message from the Senate No. 69

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

S. 123. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Brennan
Senator White
Senator Harrison

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

S. 127. An act relating to housing and housing development.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Clarkson
Senator Ram Hinsdale
Senator Mattos

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended, All Remaining Stages of Passage; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 45

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, recommended that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. chapter 195 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 195. NUISANCE SUITS AGAINST AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

§ 5751. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

The General Assembly finds that agricultural production is a major contributor to the State's economy; that agricultural lands constitute unique and irreplaceable resources of statewide importance; that the continuation of existing and the initiation of new agricultural activities preserve the landscape and environmental resources of the State, contribute to the increase of tourism, and further the economic welfare and self-sufficiency of the people of the State; and that the encouragement, development, improvement, and preservation of agriculture will result in a general benefit to the health and welfare of the people of the State. In order for the agricultural industry to survive in this State, farms will likely change, adopt new technologies, and diversify into new products, which for some farms will mean increasing in size. The General Assembly finds that agricultural activities are potentially subject to lawsuits based on the theory of nuisance~~,~~ and that these suits encourage and could force the premature removal of the farmlands and other farm resources from agricultural use. It is the purpose of this chapter to protect reasonable agricultural activities conducted on the farm from nuisance lawsuits.

§ 5752. DEFINITIONS

~~For the purpose of~~ As used in this chapter~~,~~:

(1) "~~agricultural~~ Agricultural activity" means, but is not limited to:

~~(1)~~(A) the cultivation or other use of land for producing food, fiber, Christmas trees, maple sap, or horticultural and orchard crops; the raising, feeding, or management of domestic animals as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 1151 or bees; the operation of greenhouses; the production of maple syrup; the on-site storage, preparation, and sale of agricultural products principally produced on the farm; and the on-site production of fuel or power from agricultural products or wastes principally produced on the farm;

~~(2)~~(B) the preparation, tilling, fertilization, planting, protection, irrigation, and harvesting of crops; the composting of material principally produced by the farm or to be used at least in part on the farm; the ditching and subsurface drainage of farm fields and the construction of farm ponds; the handling of livestock wastes and by-products; and the on-site storage and application of agricultural inputs, including lime, fertilizer, and pesticides;

~~(3)~~(C) "farming" as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001; and

~~(4)~~(D) "agricultural activities" as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 4802.

(2) "Generally accepted agricultural practices" mean:

(A) the requirements of 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, including permit requirements or requirements of the Required Agricultural Practices, where applicable;

(B) the requirements of an active Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permit issued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, where applicable;

(C) the requirements of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Vermont Rule for Control of Pesticides; and

(D) practices conducted in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards followed by similar operators of agricultural activities in the State.

(3) "Good standing with the State" means a person conducting an agricultural activity that is the basis of a nuisance claim does not have an active, unresolved enforcement violation stemming from the agricultural activity at issue that has reached a final order with the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

§ 5753. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES; PROTECTION FROM NUISANCE LAWSUITS

(a)~~(1) Agricultural activities shall be entitled to a rebuttable presumption that the activity does not constitute a nuisance if the agricultural activity meets all of the following conditions:~~

~~(A) it is conducted in conformity with federal, State, and local laws and regulations (including required agricultural practices);~~

~~(B) it is consistent with good agricultural practices;~~

~~(C) it is established prior to surrounding nonagricultural activities; and~~

~~(D) it has not significantly changed since the commencement of the prior surrounding nonagricultural activity.~~

~~(2) The presumption that the agricultural activity does not constitute a nuisance may be rebutted by a showing that the activity has a substantial adverse effect on health, safety, or welfare, or has a noxious and significant interference with the use and enjoyment of the neighboring property~~ No agricultural activity shall be or become a nuisance when the activity is conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices.

(b)(1) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of State or local boards of health to abate nuisances affecting the public health.~~ In order to assert nuisance protection under this chapter, a person conducting an agricultural activity shall demonstrate that the person is in good standing with the State. A person may demonstrate good standing by providing letters of good standing to a court from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; the Secretary of Natural Resources; or both secretaries, as relevant to the nuisance claim.

(2) A plaintiff alleging that an agricultural activity is a nuisance shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(A) the agricultural activity at issue is not entitled to the nuisance protection provided for under subsection (a) of this section because the agricultural activity is not conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practice; and

(B) if the plaintiff proves the agricultural activity is not entitled to nuisance protection under subsection (a) of this section, the required elements of their nuisance claim.

(c) The nuisance protection for an agricultural activity provided for under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply whenever:

(1) a nuisance violation results from the negligent operation of an agricultural activity;

(2) the agricultural activity has a substantial adverse effect on health, safety, or welfare; or

(3) the agricultural activity has a noxious and significant interference with the use and enjoyment of the neighboring property.

(d) This chapter shall not restrict or impede the authority of the State to protect the public health, safety, environment, or welfare.

§ 5754. LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION; SEVERABILITY

(a) This chapter is remedial in nature and shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

(b) If any provision of this chapter is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and for this purpose, the provisions of this chapter are severable.

§ 5754a. REQUIRED MEDIATION PRIOR TO SUIT

(a) A person shall not bring a court action based on a claim of nuisance arising from an agricultural activity unless the person and the operator of the agricultural activity, at least once, attempt to resolve through mediation the issue or dispute that the person has concerning operation of the agricultural activity. The mediation shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Uniform Mediation Act set forth in chapter 194 of this title.

(b) The parties to the mediation may agree upon the use of a mediator to assist in the resolution of the agreed-upon issue or dispute, and the parties shall share the cost of the mediator equally or according to an agreement between the parties. If the parties to the mediation are unable to resolve the relevant issue or dispute through mediation, the parties may agree to submit the issue or dispute to binding arbitration pursuant to chapter 192 of this title and shall share the cost of the arbitration.

(c) A person bringing a court action based on a claim of nuisance arising from an agricultural activity shall provide the court with a sworn statement of an attempt to resolve the issue or dispute through mediation.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

The bill was read the second time, the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food, Resiliency, and Forestry agreed to, and third reading ordered.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed in all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Rules Suspended, Orders of the Day Interrupted

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended to interrupt the Orders of the Day for the purpose of Announcements.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended, All Remaining Stages of Passage; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 122

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic and workforce development

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Rep. Duke of Burlington, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. EXPANDING SERVICES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(a) The Vermont Professionals of Color Network. Of monies appropriated to the Department of Economic Development in fiscal year 2026, $200,000.00 shall be allocated to support The Vermont Professionals of Color Network's critical workforce and business development services it provides to BIPOC business communities and to support its business technical assistance services, which includes education on basic business practices, resource navigation, and networking support to BIPOC small business owners.

(b) Business advising. Of monies appropriated to the Department of Economic Development in fiscal year 2026, $150,000.00 shall be allocated for a grant to the Vermont Small Business Development Center for the purpose of supporting the continuation of its work in helping Vermonters start, acquire, and grow businesses. The funds shall also be used to continue its business advising and educational workshops to meet increasing demands of entrepreneurs and small business owners post pandemic.

(c) Creation of resource guide. Of monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in fiscal year 2026, in addition to any other monies allocated to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund Program, $25,000.00 shall be allocated to the Program for purpose of creating a definitive business resource guide directed towards small businesses. The funds shall support the creation of a magazine-style annual guide featuring profiles of Vermont business service organizations, an interactive website that serves as the digital home for the guide's content, and an artificial intelligence platform that complements the website by including events, grants, programs, and educational content.

Sec. 2. INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION

Of monies appropriated to the Department of Economic Development in fiscal year 2026, $150,000.00 shall be allocated to the International Business Office for the purpose of continuing to support the Office's initiatives.

Sec. 3. TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENTION CENTER AND PERFORMANCE VENUE

(a) Creation. There is created the Convention Center and Performance Venue Task Force to study the feasibility of constructing a convention center and performance venue in Vermont.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or designee;

(4) the President of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce or designee;

(5) the Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce or designee;

(6) the President of the Vermont Regional Development Corporations or designee; and

(7) the Chair of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force, in reviewing the feasibility of constructing a convention center and performance venue in Vermont, shall:

(1) determine the ability of the State to support the projects through appropriations, bonding, tax instruments, and other financial assistance;

(2) identify infrastructure improvements needed for the projects, including water, sewer, transportation, lodging, and food;

(3) consider management and operational options for ownership, maintenance, staffing, and related items for the projects;

(4) research the attributes of convention centers and performance venues that have been recently and successfully developed in other states; and

(5) evaluate the economic impact and anticipated return on investment of having a convention center and performance venue.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

(e) Reports. On or before November 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit an interim report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with an update on its work pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. On or before November 1, 2026, the Task Force shall submit a final written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 1, 2026.

(5) The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.

(g) Reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings.

(2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

(3) Payments to members of the Task Force authorized under this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated from the General Fund.

Sec. 4. 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B is added to read:

CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

§ 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

(a) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is established within the State Treasurer's office to advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and Ireland. The Commission shall consist of seven members as follows:

(1) two members, appointed by the Governor;

(2) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) two members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees; and

(4) the State Treasurer or designee.

(b) The purposes of the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission are to:

(1) advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and Ireland;

(2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Vermont and Ireland;

(3) promote business and academic exchanges between Vermont and Ireland;

(4) encourage mutual economic support between Vermont and Ireland;

(5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Vermont and Ireland; and

(6) address other issues as determined by the Commission.

(c) The members of the Commission, except for the State Treasurer or designee, shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve staggered terms, the two members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms of two years each and the two members appointed by the Speaker of the House shall serve initial terms of three years each. Members may be reappointed. A member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority. Not more than two members serving on the Commission may be members of the General Assembly.

(d) A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled by the relevant appointing authority within 90 days after the vacancy.

(e) The Commission shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting. The Chair, as appropriate, may appoint from among the Commission members subcommittees or a subcommittee at the Chair's discretion. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting the business of the Commission.

(f) The Commission shall submit a written report with its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within one year of its initial organizational meeting and on or before December 1 of each succeeding year for the activities of the current calendar year. The report shall also include a disclosure listing any in-kind contributions received by specific members of the Commission through their work in the Commission in the current calendar year.

(g) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other groups, and accept donations, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes as set forth in this chapter. The funds, donations, grants, or bequests received pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in a bank account and allocated annually by the State Treasurer's office to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes. Any monies so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other than the payment of expenses under this chapter. Interest earned shall remain in the bank account.

Sec. 5. INITIAL APPOINTMENT DEADLINE FOR VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

Initial appointments to the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission shall be made not later than October 1, 2026.

Sec. 6. REPEAL; VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

9 V.S.A. § 4129 (Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission) as added by this act is repealed on June 30, 2030.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 540 is amended to read:

§ 540. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ~~LEADER~~ LEADERS

(a) The Commissioner of Labor and the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development shall be the ~~leader~~ leaders of workforce education and employment and training in the State~~,~~ and shall have the authority and responsibility for the coordination of ~~workforce education and training within State government, including the following duties:~~ the State's workforce system as provided in this section.

(b) The powers and duties provided in this section shall not limit, restrict, or suspend any similar powers the Commissioner of Labor or the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development may have under other provisions of law.

(c) For purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Department of Labor shall be designated as the State Workforce Agency and the Commissioner of Labor shall serve as the State Workforce Administrator.

(d) As co-leader of workforce education and employment and training in the State, the Commissioner of Labor, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development where appropriate, shall:

(1) ~~Perform the following duties in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board:~~ ensure the coordination and administration of workforce education and employment and training programs operated by the Department of Labor;

~~(A) advise the Governor on the establishment of an integrated system of workforce education and training for Vermont;~~

~~(B) create and maintain an inventory of all existing workforce education and training programs and activities in the State;~~

~~(C) use data to ensure that State workforce education and training activities are aligned with the needs of the available workforce, the current and future job opportunities in the State, and the specific credentials needed to achieve employment in those jobs;~~

~~(D) develop a State plan, as required by federal law, to ensure that workforce education and training programs and activities in the State serve Vermont citizens and businesses to the maximum extent possible;~~

~~(E) ensure coordination and nonduplication of workforce education and training activities;~~

~~(F) identify best practices and gaps in the delivery of workforce education and training programs;~~

~~(G) design and implement criteria and performance measures for workforce education and training activities;~~

~~(H) establish goals for the integrated workforce education and training system; and~~

~~(I) with the assistance of the Secretaries of Commerce and Community Development, of Human Services, of Education, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and of Transportation and of the Commissioner of Public Safety, develop and implement a coordinated system to recruit, relocate, and train workers to ensure the labor force needs of Vermont's businesses are met.~~

(2) ~~Require from each business, training provider, or program that receives State funding to conduct workforce education and training a report that evaluates the results of the training. Each recipient shall submit its report on a schedule determined by the Commissioner and shall include at least the following information:~~ enter into agreements, to the extent necessary, with other State agencies and departments for services to improve the employment and economic outcomes for individuals receiving public assistance, including agreements to provide customized or specialized services that are beyond the basic services required by federal law;

~~(A) name of the person who receives funding;~~

~~(B) amount of funding;~~

~~(C) activities and training provided;~~

~~(D) number of trainees and their general description;~~

~~(E) employment status of trainees; and~~

~~(F) future needs for resources.~~

(3) ~~Review reports submitted by each recipient of workforce education and training funding.~~ develop strategies and provide support to entities responsible for federal investments in the State's workforce system;

(4)(A) ~~Issue an annual report to the Governor, the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on or before December 1 that includes a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments of the State workforce investment system and the performance of participating agencies and institutions. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~ develop strategies designed to reduce employee layoffs and business closures; and

(B) provide reemployment services to employees affected by layoffs and closures;

(5) ~~Coordinate public and private workforce programs to ensure that information is easily accessible to students, employees, and employers, and that all information and necessary counseling is available through one contact.~~ administer a system where employment and training resources are provided to individuals and businesses through both physical and virtual service delivery methods;

(6) ~~Facilitate effective communication between the business community and public and private educational institutions.~~ establish job centers in such parts of the State as the Commissioner deems necessary and evaluate such centers on an as-needed basis;

(7) maintain a free and secure electronic job board that, to the extent practicable, compiles all available job, registered apprenticeship, education and training, and credentialing opportunities that support job seekers and career advancers;

~~(7)~~(8) ~~Notwithstanding any provision of State law to the contrary, and to the fullest extent allowed under federal law, ensure that in each State and State-funded workforce education and training program, the program administrator collects and reports data and results at the individual level by Social Security number or an equivalent.~~ use data to ensure that State workforce education and employment and training activities are aligned with the needs of the:

(A) available workforce;

(B) employers to fill their current and future job openings; and

(C) specific credentials required by employers;

~~(8)~~(9) ~~Coordinate intentional outreach and connections between students graduating from Vermont's colleges and universities and employment opportunities in Vermont.~~ require that each business, training provider, or other entity receiving State funding to conduct workforce training submit a report that evaluates the results of the training; and

(10) notwithstanding any provision of State law to the contrary, and to the fullest extent allowed under federal law, ensure that the program administrator in each State and State-funded workforce education and employment and training program collects and reports data and results at the individual level by Social Security number or equivalent.

(e) As co-leader of workforce education and employment and training in the State, the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and the State Workforce Development Board where appropriate, shall:

(1) advise the Governor and members of the Governor's cabinet on the establishment and management of an integrated system of workforce education and training in Vermont;

(2) coordinate across public and private sectors to identify and address labor force needs and ensure that workforce development program information is easily accessible to students, employees, and businesses;

(3) develop a comprehensive workforce strategy that contains measurable statewide workforce goals along with a biennial operational plan to achieve those goals that shall:

(A) be developed in collaboration with, and representative of, workforce system partners, including public, private, nonprofit, and educational sectors and the State Workforce Development Board;

(B) include a set of metrics, designed in consultation with the Agency of Administration's Chief Performance Office, used to evaluate the effectiveness of, to the extent practicable, all workforce development programs;

(C) align with and build upon other required strategic planning efforts, including the WIOA State Plan;

(D) be informed by the inventory system as set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection (e); and

(E) be reviewed and updated as necessary, but at least once every two years;

(4) create, maintain, and update a publicly accessible inventory of all known workforce education and employment and training programs and activities in the State in order to:

(A) annually assess the investments and effectiveness of the workforce development system;

(B) ensure coordination and nonduplication of workforce education and employment and training activities; and

(C) identify best practices and gaps in the delivery of workforce education and employment and training programs;

(5) identify and manage priority projects specific to regional workforce needs;

(6) facilitate effective communication between the business community, State and local government, and public and private educational institutions, for the purpose of workforce pipeline development and job placement;

(7) coordinate intentional outreach and connections between students and employment opportunities in the State; and

(8) ensure the State Workforce Development Board is carrying out its duties and responsibilities as set forth in section 541a of this chapter.

(f)(1) The Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development shall, once every two years, issue a comprehensive biennial workforce report to the Governor, the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on or before December 1, that includes an evaluation of the accomplishments of the State workforce investment system and the performance of participating agencies and institutions covering the previous two calendar years. The report shall include identification of system priorities, need for future funding requests, identification of proposed legislative and administrative changes, and any other information relevant to the performance and future needs of the workforce investment system. The report shall summarize performance and outcome information submitted by federally and State-funded workforce development and investment programs for all public and nonpublic programs.

(2) To the extent practicable, workforce reports required of the Department of Labor, including the apprenticeship report required by 21 V.S.A. § 1113(e)(2), shall be incorporated into the comprehensive report required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development shall have the support and coordination of the Department of Labor in developing and submitting the biennial report required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 8. BABY BONDS PILOT PROGRAM

(a) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to commence a five-year pilot program to evaluate the impact, effectiveness, and operational necessities of a permanent program under 3 V.S.A. chapter 20. The Treasurer shall design a pilot program modeled on the Vermont Baby Bond Trust created in 3 V.S.A. chapter 20, which may include taking the following actions:

(1) establishing and appointing members to an advisory committee;

(2) identifying research and evaluation partners;

(3) evaluating eligibility criteria for recipients and the final selection of recipients;

(4) establishing performance metrics and reporting requirements;

(5) working with an investment consultant to create an investment plan and guidance for pilot program funds;

(6) creating partnerships with organizations around the State to support the pilot program and provide feedback on wrap-around services; and

(7) conducting outreach to potential recipients.

(b) Annually on or before January 15 of each year through 2030, the Treasurer shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development detailing:

(1) the activities, operations, receipts, disbursements, earnings, and expenditures of the pilot program during the preceding calendar year;

(2) differences between the pilot program and the permanent program under 3 V.S.A. chapter 20 in eligible recipients and amounts invested; and

(3) any other information the Treasurer deems appropriate.

(c) On or before January 15, 2031, the Treasurer shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development summarizing the pilot program, including recipient demographics, income

levels, geographic location of recipients, recipient behavioral changes, and recipient access to wrap-around services.

Sec. 9. BABY BONDS PILOT SPECIAL FUND

(a) There is created the Baby Bonds Pilot Special Fund, to be administered by the Office of the State Treasurer. The Fund shall consist of all gifts, donations, and grants from any source, public or private, dedicated for deposit into the Fund for purposes of the Baby Bond Pilot Program. Monies in the Fund shall be used for the purposes of providing funds to recipients under the Program and to fund administrative costs of the Program.

(b) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, unexpended balances and any earnings shall remain in the Fund from year to year.

(c) The Treasurer may invest monies in the Fund in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 434.

(d) The Fund shall terminate upon completion of the Program.

Sec. 10. 3 V.S.A. § 609 is amended to read:

§ 609. IMPLEMENTATION~~; PILOT PROGRAM~~

The Treasurer's duty to implement this chapter is contingent upon: ~~publication by the Treasurer of an official statement that the Treasurer has received donations designated for purposes of implementation or administration of the Trust in an amount sufficient to operate a pilot program. Upon publication, the Treasurer shall commence a pilot program implementing the Trust pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The pilot program shall be used to evaluate the impact, effectiveness, and operational necessities of a permanent program consistent with this chapter~~

(1) submission by the Treasurer to the General Assembly in 2031 of the report summarizing the Baby Bonds Pilot Program; and

(2) an appropriation of funds by the General Assembly in an amount sufficient to fund the Trust.

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 3, 8, 9, and 10 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 1–2 and Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(c) Secs. 4–6 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Rep. Waszazak of Barre City, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, expanding services for small businesses, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety.

Second: In Sec. 3, task force to explore development of convention center and performance venue, by striking out subsection (g) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Third: In Sec. 4, 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B, in section 4129, by inserting a new subsection to be subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) Members of the Commission shall not receive compensation or be entitled to reimbursement of expenses by the State of Vermont for their service on the Commission.

Fourth: In Sec. 8, Baby Bonds Pilot Program, in subsection (b), following "shall submit a report to", by striking out "the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Appropriations"

Fifth: In Sec. 8, Baby Bonds Pilot Program, in subsection (c), following "shall submit a report to", by striking out "the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Appropriations"

The bill was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, as amended, was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed in all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Committee of Conference Appointed

S. 127

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Mihaly of Calais
Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock
Rep. Marcotte of Coventry

Committee of Conference Appointed

S. 123

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Walker of Swanton
Rep. Pouech of Hinesburg
Rep. White of Waitsfield

Recess

At eleven o'clock and thirty-seven minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 70

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 397. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Called to Order

At two o'clock and eight minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Bill Committed

H. 50

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, on motion of **Rep. Emmons of Springfield**, the bill was committed to the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 105

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 656 is amended to read:

§ 656. PERSON ~~16~~ 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE MISREPRESENTING AGE, PROCURING, POSSESSING, OR CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; IMPAIRED DRIVING; POSSESSION OF CANNABIS; CIVIL VIOLATION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Alcohol" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 1200(4).

(2) "Alcohol concentration" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 1200(1).

(3) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as in subdivision 831(2) of this title.

(4) "Highway" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 1200(7).

(5) "Ignition interlock device" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 1200(8).

(6) "Ignition interlock restricted driver's license," "ignition interlock RDL" or "RDL," and "ignition interlock certificate" have the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 1200(9).

(7) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as "enforcement officer" as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(11)(A).

(8) "License to operate a motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(48).

(9) "Motor vehicle" or "vehicle" has the same meaning as "motor vehicle" as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(21).

(10) "Operate or attempts to operate" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(24).

(11) "Operator" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(25) and shall include "junior operator" as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(16).

(12) "Person" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(27).

(13) "Privilege to operate" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(58).

(14) "Suspension" or "suspension of the person's operator's license" has the same meaning as "suspension of license" as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(50).

(b) Prohibited conduct; ~~offense~~ offenses.

(1) Prohibited conduct. A person ~~16~~ 12 years of age or older and under 21 years of age shall not:

(A) Falsely represent the person's age for the purpose of procuring or attempting to procure malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines from any licensee, State liquor agency, or other person or persons.

(B) Possess malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines for the purpose of consumption by the person or other minors, except in the regular performance of duties as an employee of a licensee licensed to sell alcoholic liquor.

(C) Knowingly and unlawfully possess one ounce or less of cannabis or five grams or less of hashish or two mature cannabis plants or fewer or four immature cannabis plants or fewer.

(D) Consume malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines. A violation of this subdivision may be prosecuted in a jurisdiction where the ~~minor~~ person has consumed malt or vinous beverages, ready-to-drink spirits beverages, spirits, or fortified wines or in a jurisdiction where the indicators of consumption are observed.

(E) Operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control on a highway of a vehicle when the person's blood alcohol concentration is 0.02 or more.

(2) ~~Offense~~ Procurement, possession, or consumption penalties. A person who knowingly violates ~~subdivision~~ any of subdivisions (1)(A)–(D) of this subsection commits a civil violation and shall be referred to the Court Diversion Program for the purpose of enrollment in the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. A person who fails to complete the program

successfully commits a civil violation under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Bureau and shall be subject to the following:

(A) a civil penalty of $300.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 30 days, for a first offense; and

(B) a civil penalty of not more than $600.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 90 days, for a second or subsequent offense.

(3) Impaired driver penalties.

(A) A person who violates subdivision (1)(E) of this subsection (b) commits a civil violation, shall be referred to the Court Diversion Program for the purpose of enrollment in the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program, and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle in accordance with subdivision (B) of this subdivision (b)(3). A person who fails to complete the Program successfully commits a civil violation under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Bureau and shall be subject to the following:

(i) For a first offense, a civil penalty of $300.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 180 days and compliance with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a)(1).

(ii) For a second or subsequent offense, a civil penalty of $600.00 and suspension of the person's operator's license for a period of one year or until the person reaches 21 years of age, whichever is longer, and compliance with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a)(2).

(iii) A person who violates subdivision (1)(E) of this subsection (b) may also be subject to recall of the person's provisional license under 23 V.S.A. § 607a.

(iv) If a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is violating subdivision (1)(E) of this subsection (b), the officer may request the person to submit to a breath test using a preliminary screening device approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. A refusal to submit to the breath test shall be considered a violation of subdivision (1)(E) of this subsection (b). Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in 23 V.S.A. §§ 1202 and 1203:

(I) the results of the test shall be admissible evidence in a proceeding under this section; and

(II) there shall be no statutory right to counsel prior to the administration of the test.

(v) In a proceeding under this section, if there was at any time within two hours after operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle on a highway a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's blood alcohol concentration was 0.02 or more at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

(vi) No points shall be assessed for a violation of subdivision (1)(E) of this subsection (b).

(vii) The Alcohol and Driving Program required under this section shall be administered by the Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs and shall take into consideration any particular treatment needs of operators under 21 years of age.

(viii) An alleged violation of this section shall not bar prosecution for any crime, including a prosecution under 23 V.S.A. § 1201.

(ix) Suspensions imposed under this subdivision (3)(A) or any comparable statute of any other jurisdiction shall run concurrently with suspensions imposed under 23 V.S.A. §§ 1205, 1206, and 1208 or any comparable statutes of any other jurisdiction or with any suspension resulting from a conviction for a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1091 from the same incident.

(B)(i) For a first offense, a person shall serve suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 90 days and shall be automatically reinstated after the 90-day period.

(ii) For a second or subsequent offense, a person shall serve a suspension of the person's operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period 145 days and shall be automatically reinstated after the 145-day period.

(iii) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue a notice of reinstatement to the person serving a suspension under this subdivision (b)(3)(B) upon successful completion of the suspension.

(iv) If a person fails to complete the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program, the person shall receive credit for any elapsed period of a suspension served pursuant to this subdivision (b)(3)(B) against any suspension imposed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(3).

(C) During a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (A) or (B) of this subdivision (3), a person may operate a motor vehicle if issued an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or certificate in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

(i) A person subject to penalties under subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (b)(3) and who elects to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate shall be reinstated only if the person operates with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate for a period of 180 days, in addition to any extension of this period arising from a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

(ii) A person subject to penalties under subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (b)(3) and who elects to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate shall be reinstated only if the person operates with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate for a period of one year or until the person reaches 21 years of age, whichever is longer, in addition to any extension of this period arising from a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

~~(b)~~(c) Issuance of notice of violation. A law enforcement officer shall issue a person who violates this section a notice of violation, in a form approved by the Court Administrator. A person shall not be cited for more than one violation of subsection (b) of this section arising out of the same incident. The notice of violation shall require the person to provide the person's name and address, shall indicate the presence of any substances that constitute a violation of subsection (b) of this section, and shall explain procedures under this section, including that:

(1) the person shall contact the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred within 15 days;

(2) failure to contact the Diversion Program within 15 days will result in the case being referred to the Judicial Bureau, where the person, if found liable for the violation, will be subject to a civil penalty and a suspension of the person's operator's license and may face substantially increased insurance rates;

(3) no money should be submitted to pay any penalty until after adjudication; and

(4) the person shall notify the Diversion Program if the person's address changes.

(d) Issuance of Notice of Suspension.

(1) On behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a law enforcement officer issuing a notice of violation in accordance with subsection (c) of this section shall also serve a notice of suspension of the person's

operator's license and privilege to operate a motor vehicle in a form prescribed by the Court Administrator. The form shall include the following:

(A) the effective date of the suspension;

(B) the suspension's duration;

(C) an explanation of the consequences of the suspension;

(D) the option to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or certificate in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1213;

(E) the projected date of reinstatement upon successful completion of the suspension; and

(F) the ability to review the imposition of the suspension pursuant to Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) A suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (b)(3)(B) of this section shall become effective on the 11th day after the person receives notice in accordance with this subsection.

(3) A copy of the notice of suspension shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

~~(c)~~(e) Summons and complaint. When a person is issued a notice of violation under this section, the law enforcement officer shall complete a summons and complaint for the offense and send it to the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred. The summons and complaint shall not be filed with the Judicial Bureau at that time.

~~(d)~~(f) Registration in Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. Within 15 days after receiving a notice of violation, the person shall contact the Diversion Program in the county where the offense occurred and register for the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. If the person fails to do so, the Diversion Program shall file the summons and complaint with the Judicial Bureau for adjudication under 4 V.S.A. chapter 29. The Diversion Program shall provide a copy of the summons and complaint to the law enforcement officer who issued the notice of violation and shall provide two copies to the person ~~charged with~~ subject to the violation.

~~(e)~~(g) Notice to report to Diversion. Upon receipt from a law enforcement officer of a summons and complaint completed under this section, the Diversion Program shall send the person a notice to report to the Diversion Program. The notice to report shall provide that:

(1) The person is required to complete all conditions related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, including substance abuse screening and, if deemed appropriate following the screening, substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, or both.

(2) If the person does not satisfactorily complete the substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, or any other condition related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, the case will be referred to the Judicial Bureau, where the person, if found liable for the violation, shall be assessed a civil penalty, the person's driver's license will be suspended, and the person's automobile insurance rates may increase substantially.

(3) If the person satisfactorily completes the substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse assessment or substance abuse counseling, and any other condition related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, no penalty shall be imposed and the person's operator's license shall not be suspended.

~~(f)~~(h) Diversion Program requirements.

(1) Upon being contacted by a person who has been issued a notice of violation, the Diversion Program shall register the person in the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. Pursuant to the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program, the Diversion Program shall impose conditions on the person. The conditions imposed shall include only conditions related to the offense and in every case shall include a condition requiring satisfactory completion of substance abuse screening using an evidence-based tool and, if deemed appropriate following the screening, substance abuse assessment and substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, or both. If the screener recommends substance abuse counseling, the person shall choose a State-certified or State-licensed substance abuse counselor or substance abuse treatment provider to provide the services.

(2) Substance abuse screening required under this subsection shall be completed within 60 days after the Diversion Program receives a summons and complaint. The person shall complete all conditions at the person's own expense.

(3) When a person has satisfactorily completed substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, and any other condition related to the offense that the Diversion Program has imposed, the Diversion Program shall:

(A) Void the summons and complaint with no penalty due.

(B) Send copies of the voided summons and complaint to the Judicial Bureau and to the law enforcement officer who completed them. Before sending copies of the voided summons and complaint to the Judicial Bureau under this subdivision, the Diversion Program shall redact all language containing the person's name, address, Social Security number, and any other information that identifies the person.

(4) If a person does not satisfactorily complete substance abuse screening, any required substance abuse education or substance abuse counseling, or any other condition related to the offense imposed by the Diversion Program, the Diversion Program shall file the summons and complaint with the Judicial Bureau for adjudication under 4 V.S.A. chapter 29. The Diversion Program shall provide a copy of the summons and complaint to the law enforcement officer who issued the notice of violation and shall provide two copies to the person charged with the violation.

(5)(A) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Diversion Program or alcohol counselor may seek review of that decision pursuant to Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(B) Prior to the filing of the complaint with the Judicial Bureau in accordance with this section, a person aggrieved by a suspension imposed under subdivision (b)(3)(B) of this section may seek review of that imposition pursuant to Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(6) Notwithstanding ~~3 V.S.A. §§ 163(a)(2)(C) and 164 (a)(2)(C)~~ any law to the contrary, the adult or juvenile diversion programs shall accept cases from the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program pursuant to this section. The confidentiality provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 163 or 164 shall become effective when a notice of violation is issued pursuant to subsection ~~(b)~~(c) of this section and shall remain in effect unless the person fails to register with or complete the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

~~(g) [Repealed.]~~

~~(h)~~(i) Record of adjudications; confidentiality; public records exemption.

(1) Upon adjudicating a person in violation of this section, the Judicial Bureau shall notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who shall maintain a record of all such adjudications that shall be separate from the registry maintained by the Department for motor vehicle driving records. The identity of a person in the registry shall be revealed only to the following:

(A) a law enforcement officer determining whether the person has previously violated this section; or

(B) an insurance company or its third-party contractor only for the purposes of recording a license suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section.

(2) Except as provided in this subsection:

(A) All information related to a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section shall be held strictly confidential and not released without the participant's prior consent.

(B) Any records or information produced or acquired pursuant to a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section shall be exempt from public inspection or copying under Vermont's Public Records Act.

(j) Reporting. Annually, beginning on October 1, 2026, the Office of the Attorney General, and other entities as needed, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary related to impaired driver violations under this section, containing the following, if available:

(1) the number of persons referred to the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program;

(2) the ages of the persons referred to the Program;

(3) the number of persons who successfully complete the Program;

(4) the number of persons who fail the Program; and

(5) the number of persons who serve suspensions imposed by the Judicial Bureau after failing the Program.

Sec. 2. IMPAIRED DRIVING; OUTCOME MEASURES; REPORT

For the first report submitted pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 656(j), the Office of the Attorney General, in collaboration with the Vermont Statistical Analysis Center and others as needed, shall propose outcome measures to assess the effectiveness of any suspensions imposed for impaired driver violations and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program as a whole.

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(a) is amended to read:

(a) Conditions of reinstatement. No license or privilege to operate suspended or revoked under this subchapter~~, except a license or privilege to operate suspended under section 1216 of this title,~~ shall be reinstated except as follows:

* * *

Sec. 4. REPEALS

(a) 7 V.S.A. § 657a (person under 16 years of age misrepresenting age or procuring or possessing alcoholic beverages; delinquency) is repealed.

(b) 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (cannabis possession by a person 16 years of age or older and under 21 years of age; civil violation) is repealed.

(c) 18 V.S.A. § 4230j (cannabis possession by a person under 16 years of age; delinquency) is repealed.

(d) 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (persons under 21 years of age; alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more) is repealed.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 106

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a buyer of real property is on notice regarding the flood risks associated with the purchase of the real property.

Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 380 is amended to read:

§ 380. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION; CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE

(a) Prior to or as part of a contract for the conveyance of real property, the seller shall provide the buyer with the following information:

(1) ~~whether the real property is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped special flood hazard area;~~ [Repealed.]

(2) ~~whether the real property is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped moderate flood hazard area;~~ [Repealed.]

(3) a physical or electronic copy or a digital link of the official flood insurance rate map, as published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or notice that a flood insurance rate map is unavailable effective for the community in which the real property is located;

(4) whether the real property was subject to flooding or flood damage while the seller possessed the property, including flood damage from inundation or from flood-related erosion or landslide damage; and

~~(4)~~(5) whether the seller maintains or is required by federal or State law to maintain flood insurance on the real property.

(b) The failure of the seller to provide the buyer with the information required under subsection (a) of this section is grounds for the buyer to terminate the contract prior to transfer of title or occupancy, whichever occurs earlier.

(c) ~~A buyer~~ If a seller of real estate ~~who~~ fails to ~~receive~~ provide the information required to be disclosed by a seller under subsection (a) of this section, a buyer may bring an action to recover from the seller the amount of the buyer's damages and reasonable attorney's fees. The buyer may also seek punitive damages when the seller knowingly failed to provide the required information.

(d) A seller shall not be liable for damages under this section for any error, inaccuracy, or omission of any information required to be disclosed to the buyer under subsection (a) of this section when the error, inaccuracy, or omission was based on information provided by a public body or by another person with a professional license or special knowledge who provided a written report that the seller reasonably believed to be correct and that was provided by the seller to the buyer.

(e) Noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall not affect the marketability of title of a real property.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Recess

At two o'clock and twenty-four minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 71

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 321. An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.

H. 484. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 458. An act relating to the Agency of Digital Services.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 209. An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools.

And has concurred therein.

Called to Order

At five o'clock and two minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 12

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.12. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 230 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 230. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

§ 7601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Court" means the Criminal Division of the Superior Court.

(2) "Criminal history record" means all information documenting an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(3) ~~"Predicate offense" means a criminal offense that can be used to enhance a sentence levied for a later conviction and includes operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, domestic assault in violation of section 1042 of this title, and stalking in violation of section 1062 of this title. "Predicate offense" shall not include misdemeanor possession of cannabis, a disorderly conduct offense under section 1026 of this title, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a), 4231(a), 4232(a), 4233(a), 4234(a), 4234a(a), 4234b(a), 4235(b), or 4235a(a)~~ "Criminal justice purposes" means the investigation, apprehension, detention, adjudication, or correction of persons suspected, charged, or convicted of criminal offenses. "Criminal justice purposes" also includes criminal identification activities; the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history records; and screening for criminal justice employment.

(4) "Qualifying crime" means:

~~(A) a misdemeanor offense that is not:~~

(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(ii) an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of this title;

(iii) an offense involving violation of a protection order in violation of section 1030 of this title;

(iv) prostitution as defined in section 2632 of this title, or prohibited conduct under section 2601a of this title; or

(v) a predicate offense;

(B) a violation of subsection 3701(a) of this title related to criminal mischief;

(C) a violation of section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;

(D) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title;

(E) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit;

(F) a violation of section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;

(G) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) related to possession and cultivation of cannabis;

(H) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a) related to possession of cocaine;

(I) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a) related to possession of LSD;

(J) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a) related to possession of heroin;

(K) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a) related to possession of depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs;

(L) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a) related to possession of methamphetamine;

(M) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234b(a) related to possession of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;

(N) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b) related to possession of hallucinogenic drugs;

(O) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a) related to possession of ecstasy; or

~~(P) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.~~

(A) all misdemeanor offenses except:

(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

(ii) a violation of chapter 64 of this title relating to sexual exploitation of children;

(iii) a violation of section 1030 of this title relating to a violation of an abuse prevention order, an order against stalking or sexual assault, or a protective order concerning contact with a child;

(iv) a violation of chapter 28 of this title related to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of a vulnerable adult;

(v) a violation of subsection 2605(b) or (c) of this title related to voyeurism;

(vi) a violation of subdivisions 352(1)–(10) of this title related to cruelty to animals;

(vii) a violation of section 5409 of this title related to failure to comply with sex offender registry requirements;

(viii) a violation of section 1455 of this title related to hate motivated crimes;

(ix) a violation of subsection 1304(a) of this title related to cruelty to a child;

(x) a violation of section 1305 of this title related to cruelty by person having custody of another;

(xi) a violation of section 1306 of this title related to mistreatment of persons with impaired cognitive function;

(xii) a violation of section 3151 of this title related to female genital mutilation;

(xiii) a violation of subsection 3258(b) of this title related to sexual exploitation of a minor;

(xiv) a violation of subdivision 4058(b)(1) of this title related to violation of an extreme risk protection order;

(xv) an offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4 by a person who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39; and

(xvi) any offense that would require registration as a sex offender pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title; and

(B) the following felonies:

(i) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, unless the person was 25 years of age or younger at the time of the offense and did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during the commission of the offense;

(ii) designated felony property offenses as defined in subdivision (5) of this section;

(iii) offenses relating to possessing, cultivating, selling, dispensing, or transporting regulated drugs, including violations of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) and (b), 4231(a) and (b), 4232(a) and (b), 4233(a) and (b), 4233a(a), 4234(a) and (b), 4234a(a) and (b), 4234b(a) and (b), 4235(b) and (c), or 4235a(a) and (b); and

(iv) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.

(5) "Designated felony property offense" means:

(A) section 1801 of this title related to forgery and counterfeiting;

(B) section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged or counterfeited instrument;

(C) section 1804 of this title related to counterfeiting paper money;

(D) section 1816 of this title related to possession or use of credit card skimming devices;

(E) section 2001 of this title related to false personation;

(F) section 2002 of this title related to false pretenses or tokens;

(G) section 2029 of this title related to home improvement fraud;

(H) section 2030 of this title related to identity theft;

(I) section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;

(J) section 2531 of this title related to embezzlement;

(K) section 2532 of this title related to embezzlement by officers or servants of an incorporated bank;

(L) section 2533 of this title related to embezzlement by a receiver or trustee;

(M) section 2561 of this title related to receiving stolen property;

(N) section 2575 of this title related to retail theft;

(O) section 2582 of this title related to theft of services;

(P) section 2591 of this title related to theft of rented property;

(Q) section 2592 of this title related to failure to return a rented or leased motor vehicle;

(R) section 3016 of this title related to false claims;

(S) section 3701 of this title related to unlawful mischief;

(T) section 3705 of this title related to unlawful trespass;

(U) section 3733 of this title related to mills, dams, or bridges;

(V) section 3761 of this title related to unauthorized removal of human remains;

(W) section 3766 of this title related to grave markers and ornaments;

(X) chapter 87 of this title related to computer crimes; and

(Y) 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit in obtaining a regulated drug.

§ 7602. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD,

POSTCONVICTION; PROCEDURE

~~(a)(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement or sealing of the criminal history record related to the conviction if:~~

~~(A) the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence;~~

~~(B) the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense;~~

~~(C) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (g) of this section, the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) or § 1091 related to operating under the influence of alcohol or other substance, excluding a violation of those sections resulting in serious bodily injury or death to any person other than the operator, or related to operating a school bus with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more or operating a commercial vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more; or~~

~~(D) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of this section, the person was convicted under 1201(c)(3)(A) of a violation of subdivision 1201(a) of this title related to burglary when the person was~~

~~25 years of age or younger, and the person did not carry a dangerous or deadly weapon during commission of the offense.~~

~~(2) The State's Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in the matter.~~

~~(3) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of expungement and provide notice of the order in accordance with this section.~~

~~(4) This section shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal or expunge a record of a conviction for a felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.~~

~~(b)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least five years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least five years previously.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted for the qualifying crime.~~

~~(C) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(D) The court finds that expungement of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), and (C) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(c)(1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(A) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction.~~

~~(B) The person has not been convicted of a felony arising out of a new incident or occurrence in the last seven years.~~

~~(C) The person has not been convicted of a misdemeanor during the past five years.~~

~~(D) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(E) After considering the particular nature of any subsequent offense, the court finds that expungement of the criminal history record for the qualifying crime serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subsection are met and the court finds that:~~

~~(A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of justice than expungement; and~~

~~(B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years of age.~~

~~(d) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged in accordance with section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.~~

~~(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

~~(e) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section for a conviction for possession of a regulated drug under 18 V.S.A. chapter 84, subchapter 1 in an amount that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed:~~

~~(1) The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing that his or her conviction was based on possessing an amount of regulated drug that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed.~~

~~(2) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the amount of the regulated drug specified in the affidavit of probable cause associated with the petitioner's conviction was the amount possessed by the petitioner.~~

~~(f) Prior to granting an expungement or sealing under this section for petitions filed pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(D) of this title, the court shall make a finding that the conduct underlying the conviction under section 1201 of this title did not constitute a burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title. The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing this fact.~~

~~(g) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section, only petitions to seal may be considered or granted by the court. This subsection shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39. Unless the court finds that sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed in accordance with section 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 10 years previously.~~

~~(2) At the time of the filing of the petition:~~

~~(A) the person has only one conviction of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, which shall be construed in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1211; and~~

~~(B) the person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a).~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

~~(h) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section, unless the court finds that expungement or sealing would not be in the interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged or sealed in accordance with section 7606 or 7607 of this title if the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) At least 15 years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least 15 years previously.~~

~~(2) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of a violation of subdivision 1201(c)(3)(A) of this title.~~

~~(3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.~~

~~(4) The court finds that expungement or sealing of the criminal history record serves the interests of justice.~~

(a) Petition.

(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense.

(2) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of a criminal history record related to a conviction if the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence.

(3) Whichever office prosecuted the offense resulting in the conviction, the State's Attorney or Attorney General, shall be the respondent in the matter unless the prosecuting office authorizes the other to act as the respondent.

(4) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner an order of sealing and provide notice of the order to all Vermont State entities provided by the petitioner and all entities required to receive notice pursuant to subsection 7607(a) of this title.

(5) This section shall not apply to an individual who is the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal a record of a conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

(b) Offenses that are no longer prohibited by law. For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged if the following conditions are met:

(1) The petitioner has completed any sentence or supervision for the offense.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(c) Qualifying misdemeanors. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least three years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(d) Qualifying felony offenses. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying felony pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least seven years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(e) Qualifying DUI misdemeanor. For petitions filed to seal a qualifying DUI misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person completed the terms and conditions of the sentence.

(2) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(3) The person is not the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's permit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39.

(4) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(f) Fish and wildlife offenses. Sealing a criminal history record related to a fish and wildlife offense shall not void any fish and wildlife license suspension or revocation imposed pursuant to the accumulation of points related to the sealed offense. Points accumulated by a person shall remain on the person's license and, if applicable, completion of the remedial course shall be required as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 4502.

§ 7603. ~~EXPUNGEMENT AND~~ SEALING OF RECORD, NO CONVICTION; PROCEDURE

(a) Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order sealing the criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:

(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:

(A) the court does not make a determination of probable cause at the time of arraignment; ~~or~~

(B) the charge is dismissed before trial with or without prejudice; or

(C) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or

(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to seal the record.

(b) If a party objects to sealing ~~or expunging~~ a record pursuant to this section, the court shall schedule a hearing to determine if sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record serves the interests of justice. The defendant and the prosecuting attorney shall be the only parties in the matter.

(c), (d) [Repealed.]

(e) ~~Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order expunging a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of a person:~~

~~(1) within 60 days after the final disposition of the case if:~~

~~(A) the defendant is acquitted of the charges; or~~

~~(B) the charge is dismissed with prejudice;~~

~~(2) at any time if the prosecuting attorney and the defendant stipulate that the court may grant the petition to expunge the record.~~ [Repealed.]

(f) ~~Unless either party objects in the interests of justice, the court shall issue an order to expunge a record sealed pursuant to subsection (a) or (g) of this section eight years after the date on which the record was sealed.~~ [Repealed.]

(g) A person may file a petition with the court requesting sealing ~~or expungement~~ of a criminal history record related to the citation or arrest of the person at any time. The court shall grant the petition and issue an order sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record if it finds that sealing ~~or expunging~~ the record serves the interests of justice~~,~~ or if the parties stipulate to sealing ~~or expungement~~ of the record.

(h) ~~The court may expunge any records that were sealed pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 2018 unless the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case objects. Thirty days prior to expunging a record pursuant to this subsection, the court shall provide to the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case written notice of its intent to expunge the record.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 7604. NEW CHARGE

If a person ~~is charged with a criminal offense after he or she has filed a petition for expungement pursuant to this chapter~~ has a criminal charge pending at the time the petition for sealing or expungement is before the court, the court shall not act on the petition until disposition of the new charge.

§ 7605. DENIAL OF PETITION

If a petition for expungement or sealing is denied by the court pursuant to this chapter, no further petition shall be brought for at least two years, unless a shorter duration is authorized by the court.

§ 7606. EFFECT OF EXPUNGEMENT

(a) Order and notice. Upon finding that the requirements for expungement have been met, the court shall issue an order that shall include provisions that its effect is to annul the record of the arrest, conviction, and sentence and that such person shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense. The court shall provide notice of the expungement to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to expunge. The VCIC shall provide notice of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been expunged. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose expunged records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been expunged to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceedings for the same offense.

(c) Process.

(1) The court shall remove the expunged offense from any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket are expunged, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been expunged, the case file shall be destroyed pursuant to policies established by the Court Administrator.

(d) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged together with the expungement order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Inspection of the expungement order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

(4) ~~[Repealed].~~ [Repealed.]

(5) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.

§ 7607. EFFECT OF SEALING

(a) Order and notice. Upon entry of an order to seal, the ~~order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense and that its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence. The~~ court shall ~~provide notice of the sealing to the respondent, Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, the Restitution Unit of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to seal. The VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center~~ send a copy of any order sealing a criminal history record to all of the parties and attorneys representing the parties, including to the prosecuting agency that prosecuted the offense, the Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, and any other Vermont State entity identified by the petitioner that may have a record subject to the sealing order. VCIC shall provide notice of the sealing order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

(b) Effect.

(1) Except as provided in ~~subdivision~~ subsection (c) of this section, upon entry of a sealing order, the order shall be legally effective immediately

and the person whose record is sealed shall be treated in all respects as if ~~he or she~~ the person had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense.

(2) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with respect to arrests or convictions that have not been sealed. A State entity that inquires about a person's criminal history record shall advise the person of the person's right not to disclose sealed records pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) The response to an inquiry from any member of the public regarding a sealed record shall be that "NO CRIMINAL RECORD EXISTS."

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record has been sealed to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceeding for the same offense.

(c) Exceptions. A party seeking to use a sealed criminal history record, pursuant to the exceptions established in this subsection, in a court proceeding shall, prior to any use of or reference to the record in open court or in a public filing, notify the court of the party's intent to do so. The court shall thereafter determine whether the record may be used prior to its disclosure in the proceeding. If a party submits a filing that contains a sealed record or a reference to a sealed record, that filing shall be filed under seal and remain under seal unless the court permits the use of the sealed record. This shall not apply to the use of a sealed record pursuant to subdivision (8) of this subsection. Use of a sealed record pursuant to an exception shall not change the effect of sealing under subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or a sealing order:

(1) An entity or person that possesses a sealed record, or an attorney for such entity or person, may continue to use ~~it~~ the record for any litigation or claim arising out of the same incident or occurrence ~~or involving the same defendant~~, including use of the record in reasonable anticipation of litigation. The entity or person shall, before disclosing the record to another person, provide the following notice to the recipient of the record: "SEALED - KNOWINGLY ACCESSING OR DISCLOSING THIS RECORD WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION IS A CIVIL VIOLATION SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN $1,000.00."

(2)(A) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2), a criminal justice agency as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a and the Attorney General may use the criminal history record sealed in accordance with section 7602 or 7603 of this title ~~without limitation~~ for criminal justice purposes as defined in ~~20 V.S.A. § 2056a~~ section 7601 of this title.

(B)(i) A criminal justice agency or the Attorney General may disclose a sealed criminal history record to another person only pursuant to a court order issued after the agency or the Attorney General files a petition and a supporting affidavit. The court shall permit disclosure of the record if it finds that disclosure is for criminal justice purposes as defined in section 7601 of this title. The court may grant the petition ex parte or upon hearing at the court's discretion. The agency or the Attorney General shall provide the following notice to the recipient of the record: "SEALED - KNOWINGLY ACCESSING OR DISCLOSING THIS RECORD WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION IS A CIVIL VIOLATION SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN $1,000.00."

(ii) This subdivision (B) shall not require a criminal justice agency or the Attorney General to petition or obtain a court order for disclosure of records:

(I) to another criminal justice agency; or

(II) to meet discovery obligations pursuant to subdivision (7) of this subsection (c).

(3) A defendant may use the sealed criminal history record of another person in the defendant's criminal proceeding. The defendant shall, before disclosing the record to another person, provide the following notice to the recipient of the record: "SEALED - KNOWINGLY ACCESSING OR DISCLOSING THIS RECORD WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION IS A CIVIL VIOLATION SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN $1,000.00."

(4) A sealed record of a prior violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be admissible as a predicate offense for the purpose of imposing an enhanced penalty for a subsequent violation of that section, in accordance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 1210.

(5) A person or a court in possession of an order issued by a court regarding a matter that was subsequently sealed may file or cite to that decision in any subsequent proceeding. The party or court filing or citing to that decision shall ensure that information regarding the identity of the defendant in the sealed record is redacted.

(6) The Vermont Crime Information Center and Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall have access to sealed criminal history records without limitation for the purpose of responding to queries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System regarding firearms transfers and attempted transfers.

(7) The State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the person who is the subject of a sealed record, and the attorney for the person who is the subject of the record shall disclose information contained in a sealed criminal history record when required to meet discovery obligations.

(8) The person whose criminal history records have been sealed pursuant to this chapter and the person's attorney may access and use the sealed records.

(9) A law enforcement agency may inspect and receive copies of the sealed criminal history records of any applicant who applies to the agency to be a law enforcement officer or a current employee for the purpose of internal investigation.

(10) Persons or entities conducting research shall have access to a sealed criminal history record to carry out research pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2056b.

(11) Information and materials gathered by the Department for Children and Families during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and related references to such information and materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered Department records that shall be maintained and may be utilized as statutorily prescribed by 33 V.S.A. chapter 49 and produced in response to a court order.

(12) Information and materials gathered by Adult Protective Services during a joint investigation with law enforcement, including law enforcement affidavits and other investigative materials, are not criminal history records as defined in subdivision 7601(2) of this title and are considered records of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, which shall be maintained and may be utilized as authorized by 33 V.S.A. chapter 69 and produced in response to a court order.

(d) Process.

(1) The court shall bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains.

(2) Until all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall remain publicly accessible.

(3) When all charges on a docket have been sealed, the case file shall become exempt from public access.

(4) When a sealing order is issued by the court, any person or entity, except the court, that possesses criminal history records and has been provided notice of the order shall:

(A) bar viewing of the sealed offense in any accessible database that it maintains or remove information pertaining to the sealed records from any publicly accessible database that the person or entity maintains; and

(B) clearly label the criminal history record as "SEALED" to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) Special index.

(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been sealed together with the sealing order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, ~~his or her~~ the person's date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the sealing.

(2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, inspection of the sealing order may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

~~(4) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection.~~

(f) Victims Compensation Program. Upon request, the ~~Victim's~~ Victims Compensation Program shall be provided with a copy, redacted of all information identifying the offender, of the affidavit for the sole purpose of verifying the expenses in a victim's compensation application submitted pursuant to section 5353 of this title.

(g) Restitution. The sealing of a criminal record shall not affect the authority of the Restitution Unit to enforce a restitution order in the same manner as a civil judgment pursuant to subdivision 5362(c)(2) of this title.

§ 7608. VICTIMS

(a) At the time a petition is filed pursuant to this chapter, the respondent shall give notice of the petition to any victim of the offense who is known to the respondent. The victim shall have the right to offer the respondent a statement prior to any stipulation or to offer the court a statement. The disposition of the petition shall not be unnecessarily delayed pending receipt of a victim's statement. The respondent's inability to locate a victim after a reasonable effort has been made shall not be a bar to granting a petition.

(b) As used in this section, "reasonable effort" means attempting to contact the victim by first-class mail at the victim's last known address ~~and,~~ by telephone at the victim's last known phone number, and by email at the victim's last known email address.

§ 7609. ~~EXPUNGEMENT OF~~ SEALING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS OF ~~AN INDIVIDUAL~~ A PERSON 18–21 YEARS OF AGE

(a) ~~Procedure~~ Petition. ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings for an individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime shall be expunged within 30 days after the date on which the individual successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction of the qualifying crime, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. A copy of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named in the order. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such individual. Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be expunged until restitution and surcharges have been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.~~

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who was 18–21 years of age at the time the person committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting sealing of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the person completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be sealed if the following conditions are met:

(A) Any restitution and surcharges ordered by the court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full, provided that payment of surcharges shall not be required if the surcharges have been waived by the court pursuant to section 7282 of this title.

(B) The respondent has failed to show that sealing would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(2) Order, notice, and effect of sealing shall comply with the provisions of subsections 7607(a) and (b) of this title.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) A criminal history record that includes both qualifying and nonqualifying offenses shall not be eligible for ~~expungement~~ sealing pursuant to this section.

(2) ~~The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the expunged files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the expungement. The special index shall be confidential and shall be accessed only by the Director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and an individual designated for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a.~~ [Repealed.]

(c) ~~Petitions. An individual who was 18–21 years of age at the time the individual committed a qualifying crime may file a petition with the court requesting expungement of the criminal history record related to the qualifying crime after 30 days have elapsed since the individual completed the terms and conditions for the sentence for the qualifying crime. The court shall grant the petition and issue an order sealing or expunging the record if it finds that sealing or expunging the record serves the interests of justice.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 7610. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD SEALING SPECIAL FUND

There is established the Criminal History Record Sealing Special Fund, which shall be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Fees collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1431(e) for the filing of a petition to seal a criminal history record of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) shall be deposited into and credited to this Fund. This Fund shall be available to the

Office of the Court Administrator, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Vermont Crime Information Center to offset the administrative costs of sealing such records. Balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain in the Fund.

§ 7611. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

A ~~State or municipal employee or contractor or any agent of the court, including an attorney and an employee or contractor of the attorney,~~ person who knowingly accesses or discloses sealed criminal history record information without authorization shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.00. Each unauthorized disclosure shall constitute a separate civil violation.

Sec. 2. RIGHT TO NOT DISCLOSE EXPUNGED OR SEALED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall notify all State administrative entities of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

(b) The Court Administrator shall notify the Judicial Branch of the obligation to notify persons of the right not to disclose an expunged record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606(b)(2) or a sealed record pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7607(b)(2).

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 2296b is added to read:

§ 2296b. EXPUNGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL VIOLATION RECORDS

(a) Expungement. Two years following the satisfaction of a judgment resulting from an adjudication of a municipal violation, the Judicial Bureau shall make an entry of "expunged" and notify the municipality of such action, provided the person has not been adjudicated for any subsequent municipal violations during that time. The data transfer to the municipality shall include the name, date of birth, ticket number, and offense. Violations of offenses adopted pursuant to chapter 117 of this title shall not be eligible for expungement under this section.

(b) Effect of expungement.

(1) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective immediately and the individual whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if the individual had never been adjudicated of the violation.

(2) Upon an entry of expunged, the case will be accessible only by the Clerk of the Court for the Judicial Bureau or the Clerk's designee. Adjudications that have been expunged shall not appear in the results of any Judicial Bureau database search by name, date of birth, or any other data identifying the defendant. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any documents or other records related to an expunged adjudication that are maintained outside the Judicial Bureau's case management system shall be destroyed.

(3) Upon receiving an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged record, the Judicial Bureau and the municipality shall respond that "NO RECORD EXISTS."

(c) Exception for research entities. Research entities that maintain adjudication records for purposes of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating criminal justice data shall not be subject to the expungement requirements established in this section. Research entities shall abide by the policies established by the Court Administrator and shall not disclose any identifying information from the records they maintain.

(d) Policies for implementation. The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this section.

(e) Application. This section shall apply to municipal violations that occur on and after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 2303 is amended to read:

§ 2303. EXPUNGEMENT OF VIOLATION RECORDS

* * *

(e) Application. This section shall apply to motor vehicle violations that occur on and after July 1, 2021.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2372 is added to read:

§ 2372. STATEWIDE MODEL POLICY; USE OF SEALED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Criminal history records" has the same meaning as in section 2056a of this title.

(2) "Criminal justice purposes" has the same meaning as in section 2056a of this title.

(3) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in section 2351a of this title.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council shall establish a statewide model policy governing the access and use of sealed criminal history records by Vermont law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the policy is to ensure consistent statewide application of law and practice regarding the access and use of sealed criminal history information for criminal justice purposes under 13 V.S.A. chapter 230, balancing the confidentiality of this information with legitimate criminal justice purposes. If a law enforcement agency or officer was required to adopt a policy pursuant to this subsection but failed to do so on or before March 15, 2026, that agency or officer shall be deemed to have adopted, and shall follow and enforce, the model policy established by the Criminal Justice Council. The policy shall

govern the access and use of sealed criminal history records by all law enforcement officers in the State and shall include the following provisions consistent with 13 V.S.A. chapter 230:

(1) define the types of sealed criminal history records that may be accessed and used, including sealed criminal history records contained in records of arrests and prosecutions, and sealed criminal history records contained in computer-aided dispatch and record management systems;

(2) define a record-keeping system through which the law enforcement agency maintains records of each instance in which an officer has accessed or used a sealed criminal history record; and

(3) comply with applicable State and federal law.

(c) The Criminal Justice Council shall:

(1) adopt rules to ensure that the policies and standards of this section are met; and

(2) develop, publish, and periodically review the statewide model policy established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

REP. MARTIN J. LALONDE
REP. THOMAS B. BURDITT
REP. KAREN N. DOLAN

Committee on the part of the House

SEN. NADER A. HASHIM
SEN. ROBERT W. NORRIS
SEN. CHRISTOPHER P. MATTOS

Committee on the part of the Senate

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Adjournment

At five o'clock and thirteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Thursday, May 29, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 99

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars boys' Division I championship Nordic ski team

Whereas, throughout the two days of the 2025 Nordic championships, in the Division I boys' competition, the Cougars were in command on the trails, both in the opening freestyle during the first day at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and on the second day at the Prospect Mountain Nordic Ski Center in Woodford for the classic skiing, and

Whereas, in Craftsbury, an MMU boy placed second in the 5k race, and the team recorded the best overall score for the day, easily surpassing Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) 34–85, and

Whereas, when the teams reassembled at Prospect Mountain, the Cougars placed third and fifth in the individual results and scored first in the relay, skiing past Mount Anthony (38:36.1–42:00.4), and MMU captured the team title, outscoring CVU (67–190), and

Whereas, the Cougars who won the Division I honors were Andres Miguez, Ben Witters, Brady Morigeau, Colin Hart, Crosby Waite, Derek Hefel, Devin Axelrod, Farmer Lindemuth, Finn Monahan, Hayden Gilbert, Henry Hoff, Isaiah Bowen, Jack Connell, Jacob Sayre, Levi McEntee, Liam Buswell, Liam Repp, Logan Axelrod, Luke Amidon, Matteo Dezon-Gaillard, Macs Wyatt, Roy Powers, Will Hess, and Zell Donovan, and

Whereas, coaches Wylie Picotte, Al Sartwell, and Eden Shullenberger were all proud of the Cougar boys, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars boys' Division I championship Nordic ski team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to MMU.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 18, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 100

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' Nordic ski team

Whereas, the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) Cougars girls' Nordic skiers' agility and athleticism represented both teamwork and individual talent that was showcased at both the Division I championship freestyle racing at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and the classic events at Woodford's Prospect Mountain Nordic Ski Center, and

Whereas, in Craftsbury, the Cougars finished first, second, and fourth in the 5k race and departed for home with a commanding 23–62 lead over the second-place St. Johnsbury Hilltoppers, and

Whereas, at Prospect Mountain, the fastest three individual racers were Cougars, and at the competition's conclusion, MMU claimed a grand victory, outskiing the Hilltoppers 44–120 for Division I honors, and

Whereas, the talented Cougars Nordic skiers were Acadia Enman, Astrid Longstreth, Ava Smith, Aven Kelly, Avery Wood, Ella Compo, Ella McEntee, Kate Compo, Ginny Haggerty, Lena Haggerty, Mia Gorman, Mya Peters, Nia Tsvetanska, Rose Thompson, Ryley Morigeau, and Seven Bowen, and

Whereas, Cougars coaches Wylie Picotte, Al Sartwell, and Eden Shullenberger deserve credit for their leadership and inspiration, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' Nordic ski team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to MMU.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 18, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 106

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars dance program on winning a 10th consecutive hip-hop State championship

Whereas, under Vermont Principals' Association guidelines, high school dance teams compete in three categories: jazz, hip-hop, and pom, and

Whereas, at the State championship held this year at Vergennes Union High School on February 15, 2025, each team was required to compete in two of the three categories, and each category was limited to a single round in which a team performed a routine consisting of three to 20 dancers, for a duration of two to two and a half minutes, with a recorded musical accompaniment, and a champion was designated for each of the three categories, and

Whereas, for the 10th consecutive year, the Cougars ranked supreme in the hip-hop category, and they celebrated the additional bonus of achieving first place overall in scoring, narrowly outdistancing second-place South Burlington 259–253, and

Whereas, the hip-hopping Cougars were Sophia Bellizia, Maddie Brown, Savannah Cohen, Gabby Cowan, Hazel Fashing, Haley Kaleita, Sarah Ketover, Annie Marek, Zoey Marek, Anya Muller, Liza Mundell, Munashe Pfende, Audrey Rogers, Arianna Stewart, and Zoey Van-Duyn, and

Whereas, coaches Rose Bedard, Lisa Russin, Addie Price, Ella Davis, and Edie Watson were superb guides for the dancing Cougars, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars dance program on winning a 10th consecutive hip-hop State championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 18, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 108

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Brown of Richmond, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale

House concurrent resolution congratulating the remarkable four-time State high school individual girls' golf champion Namo Seibert

Whereas, each autumn, high school boys and girls who are golfing enthusiasts compete for individual and team State championship laurels, and

Whereas, occasionally, a student golfer may be the sole member of their gender on the varsity golf team, requiring them to compete on a solo basis, and, undoubtedly, the most notable of these individual golfers of late is Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) senior Namo Seibert, and

Whereas, beginning as a ninth grader, Namo Seibert has exhibited enormous confidence and skill, whether carefully putting to complete a hole or maximizing her drive for more distance on the course, and

Whereas, with the encouraging support of MMU Golf Coach Colin O'Brien, Namo Seibert has developed her own training routine to ensure she is physically and mentally prepared for the annual statewide competition, and

Whereas, her presence at the State championship has been truly remarkable, as Namo Seibert first shocked her competitors with a ninth-grade victory as the girls' individual State champion and has now reconfirmed her well-earned status as the premier high school girls' golfer in Vermont by winning this title for four consecutive years, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the remarkable four-time State high school individual girls' golf champion Namo Seibert, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Namo Seibert.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 18, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Second Reading; Consideration Interrupted; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended, All Remaining Stages of Passage; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 124

Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets Regulation of Agricultural Water Quality * * *

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 4810(d) is amended to read:

(d) Cooperation and coordination. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for reducing and eliminating agricultural nonpoint source pollutants and discharges from ~~concentrated animal feeding operations. On or before July 1, 2016, the~~ farms. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~and the Secretary of Natural Resources~~ shall ~~revise the memorandum of understanding for~~ cooperate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in the implementation of the federal Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall implement the State's comprehensive, complimentary nonpoint source program ~~describing~~. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall coordinate regarding program administration~~,~~; grant negotiation~~,~~; grant sharing~~, and how they will coordinate~~; implementation of the antidegradation policy including to new sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants, and watershed planning activities to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. ~~The memorandum of understanding shall describe how the agencies will implement the antidegradation implementation policy, including how the agencies will apply the antidegradation implementation policy to new sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall also develop a memorandum of understanding according to the public notice and comment process of 10 V.S.A. § 1259(i) regarding the implementation of the federal Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Program and the~~

~~relationship between the requirements of the federal Program and the State agricultural water quality requirements for large, medium, and small farms under this chapter. The memorandum of understanding shall describe Program administration, permit issuance, an appellate process, and enforcement authority and implementation.~~ In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 1259(i), the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall issue a document that sets forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Natural Resources in implementing the federal Clean Water Act on farms and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' roles and responsibilities in implementing the State's complementary nonpoint source program on farms. The ~~memorandum of understanding~~ document shall be consistent with and equivalent with the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations for discharges from ~~concentrated animal feeding operations~~ CAFOs. The document will replace the memorandum of understanding between the agencies. The allocation of duties under this chapter between the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be consistent with the Secretary's duties, established under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1258(b), to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the State lead person in applying for federal funds under Pub. L. No. 92-500 but shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets during the process. The agricultural nonpoint source program may compete with other programs for competitive watershed projects funded from federal funds. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall be represented in reviewing these projects for funding. Actions by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this chapter concerning agricultural nonpoint source pollution shall be consistent with the water quality standards and water pollution control requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 47 and the federal Clean Water Act as amended. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for the proper management of composting facilities when those facilities are located on a farm. ~~On or before January 15, 2016, the~~ The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall each develop three separate measures of the performance of the agencies under the ~~memorandum of understanding required by this subsection. Beginning on January 15, 2017~~ federal Clean Water Act and State nonpoint source regulatory authority, and annually ~~thereafter~~ on or before January 15, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit separate reports to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, the Senate Committee on Natural

Resources and Energy, and the House Committee on Environment ~~and Energy~~ regarding the success of each agency in meeting ~~the~~ its selected performance measures ~~for the memorandum of understanding~~.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 4810a(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6)(A) Require a farm to comply with standards established by the Secretary for maintaining a vegetative buffer zone of perennial vegetation between annual croplands and the top of the bank of an adjoining water of the State. At a minimum the vegetative buffer standards established by the Secretary shall prohibit the application of manure on the farm within 25 feet of the top of the bank of an adjoining water of the State or within 10 feet of a ditch that is not a surface water under State law and that is not a water of the United States under federal law. The minimum vegetated buffer requirement required under this subdivision (A) shall not apply to a farm that is determined by the Secretary of Natural Resources to be a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation and is required to obtain a CAFO permit as required under 10 V.S.A. § 1353. A farm determined to be a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation that requires a CAFO permit shall instead comply with the setback and buffer requirements established in the federal CAFO regulations.

(B) Establish standards for site-specific vegetative buffers that adequately address water quality needs based on consideration of soil type, slope, crop type, proximity to water, and other relevant factors.

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 4851 is amended to read:

§ 4851. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE FARM OPERATIONS

(a) No person shall, without a permit from the Secretary, construct a new barn, or expand an existing barn, designed to house more than 700 mature dairy animals, 1,000 cattle or cow/calf pairs, 1,000 veal calves, 2,500 swine weighing over 55 pounds, 10,000 swine weighing less than 55 pounds, 500 horses, 10,000 sheep or lambs, 55,000 turkeys, 30,000 laying hens or broilers with a liquid manure handling system, 82,000 laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 125,000 chickens other than laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 5,000 ducks with a liquid manure handling system, or 30,000 ducks without a liquid manure handling system. No permit shall be required to replace an existing barn in use for livestock or domestic fowl production at its existing capacity. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, shall review any application for a permit under this section with regard to water quality impacts ~~and,~~ prior to approval of a permit under this subsection~~, shall issue a written determination regarding whether the applicant has established that there will be no unpermitted discharge to waters of the State pursuant to~~

~~the federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations~~. If, upon review of ~~an~~ a large farm application for a permit under this subsection, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that the ~~permit applicant~~ farm may be discharging to waters of the State, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~and the Secretary of Natural Resources~~ shall ~~respond to~~ promptly refer the potential discharge to the Secretary of Natural Resources for response in accordance with ~~the memorandum of understanding~~ the federal Clean Water Act regarding concentrated animal feeding operations ~~under section 4810 of this title~~. The Secretary of Natural Resources ~~may require~~ shall direct a large farm to obtain a permit under 10 V.S.A. § 1263 ~~pursuant to~~ if required by federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations. If the farm is not required to obtain a CAFO permit and is not in violation of federal regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall promptly notify the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(b) A person shall apply for a permit in order to operate a farm that exceeds 700 mature dairy animals, 1,000 cattle or cow/calf pairs, 1,000 veal calves, 2,500 swine weighing over 55 pounds, 10,000 swine weighing less than 55 pounds, 500 horses, 10,000 sheep or lambs, 55,000 turkeys, 30,000 laying hens or broilers with a liquid manure handling system, 82,000 laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 125,000 chickens other than laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 5,000 ducks with a liquid manure handling system, or 30,000 ducks ~~if the livestock or domestic fowl are in a barn or adjacent barns owned by the same person or if the barns share a common border or have a common waste disposal system~~ without a liquid manure handling system. Two or more individual farms that are under common ownership and that adjoin each other or use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes shall be considered a single animal feeding operation or "farm" when determining whether the combined number of livestock or domestic fowl qualifies the farm as a Large Farm Operation under this section. In order to receive this permit, the person shall demonstrate to the Secretary that the farm has an adequately sized manure management system to accommodate the wastes generated and a nutrient management plan to dispose of wastes in accordance with Required Agricultural Practices adopted under this chapter and current U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrient management standards.

(c) The Secretary shall approve, condition, or disapprove the application within 45 business days ~~of~~ following the date of receipt of a complete application for a permit under this section. Failure to act within the 45 business days shall be deemed approval.

(d) A person seeking a permit under this section shall apply in writing to the Secretary. The application shall include a description of the proposed barn or expansion of livestock or domestic fowl; a proposed nutrient management plan to accommodate the number of livestock or domestic fowl the barn is designed to house or the farm is intending to expand to; and a description of the manure management system to be used to accommodate agricultural wastes.

(e) The Secretary may condition or deny a permit on the basis of odor, noise, traffic, insects, flies, or other pests.

(f) Before granting a permit under this section, the Secretary shall make an affirmative finding that the animal wastes generated by the construction or expansion will be stored so as not to generate runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event and shall be disposed of in accordance with the Required Agricultural Practices adopted under this chapter and current U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrient management standards.

(g) A farm that is permitted under this section and that withdraws more than 57,600 gallons of groundwater per day averaged over any 30 consecutive-day period shall annually report estimated water use to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall share information reported under this subsection with the Agency of Natural Resources.

(h) The Secretary may inspect a farm permitted under this section at any time, but ~~no~~ not less frequently than once per year.

(i) A person required to obtain a permit under this section shall submit an annual operating fee of $2,500.00 to the Secretary. During any calendar year in which a person has an active Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permit issued by the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act and pays the required associated fee, that person shall not be required to pay the $2,500.00 annual operating fee described in this section. The fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund under section 4803 of this title.

Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 4858 is amended to read:

§ 4858. MEDIUM FARM OPERATION PERMITS

(a) Authorization to operation. No person shall operate a medium farm without authorization from the Secretary pursuant to this section. Under exceptional conditions, specified in subsection (d) of this section, authorization from the Secretary may be required to operate a small farm.

(b) Rules; general and individual permits. The Secretary shall establish by rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, requirements for a general permit and individual permit to assure that medium and small farms generating animal waste comply with the water quality standards of the State.

(1) General and individual permits issued under this section shall be consistent with rules adopted under this section, shall include terms and conditions appropriate to each farm size category and each farm animal type as defined by section 4857 of this title, and shall meet standards at least as stringent as those established by federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations. Such standards shall address waste management, waste storage, development of nutrient management plans, carcass disposal, and surface water and groundwater contamination, plus recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring provisions regarding such matters to ensure that the terms and conditions of the permit are being met. The groundwater contamination rules adopted by the Secretary under this section shall include a process under which the Agency shall receive, investigate, and respond to a complaint that a farm has contaminated the drinking water or groundwater of a property owner.

(2) The rules adopted under this section shall also address permit administration, public notice and hearing, permit enforcement, permit transition, revocation, and appeals consistent with provisions of sections 4859 and 4861 of this title and subchapter 10 of this chapter.

(3) Each general permit issued pursuant to this section shall have a term of ~~no~~ not more than five years. Prior to the expiration of each general permit, the Secretary shall review the terms and conditions of the general permit and may issue subsequent general permits with the same or different conditions as necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. Each general permit shall include provisions that require public notice of the fact that a medium farm has sought coverage under a general permit adopted pursuant to this section. Each general permit shall provide a process by which interested persons can obtain detailed information about the nature and extent of the activity proposed to receive coverage under the general permit. The Secretary may inspect each farm seeking coverage under the general permit at any time but ~~no~~ not less frequently than once every three years.

(c)~~(1)~~ Medium farm general permit.

(1) The owner or operator of a medium farm seeking coverage under a general permit adopted pursuant to this section shall certify to the Secretary within a period specified in the permit, and in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the medium farm does comply with permit requirements regarding an adequately sized and designed manure management system to accommodate the wastes generated and a nutrient management plan to dispose

of wastes in accordance with Required Agricultural Practices adopted under this chapter and current U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrient management standards. Any certification or notice of intent to comply submitted under this subdivision shall be kept on file at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, shall review any certification or notice of intent to comply submitted under this subdivision with regard to the water quality impacts of the medium farm for which the owner or operator is seeking coverage, and, for farms that have never been permitted under the prior permit term, within 18 months ~~of~~ after receiving the certification or notice of intent to comply, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall verify whether the owner or operator of the medium farm has established that there will be no unpermitted discharge to waters of the State pursuant to the federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations. If upon review ~~of a medium farm granted coverage under the general permit adopted pursuant to this subsection~~ the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that the ~~permit applicant~~ medium farm may be discharging to waters of the State, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~and~~ shall promptly notify the Secretary of Natural Resources ~~shall respond to the discharge~~ in accordance with ~~the memorandum of understanding~~ the federal Clean Water Act regarding concentrated animal feeding operations ~~under section 4810 of this title~~. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall direct a medium farm to obtain a permit under 10 V.S.A. § 1263 if required by federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations. If the farm is not required to obtain a CAFO permit and is not in violation of federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources shall promptly notify the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(2) The owner or operator of a small farm may seek coverage under the medium farm general permit adopted pursuant to this section by certifying to the Secretary, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the small farm complies with the requirements and conditions of the medium farm general permit.

(d) Medium and small farms; individual permit. The Secretary may require the owner or operator of a small or medium farm to obtain an individual permit to operate after review of the farm's history of compliance, application of Required Agricultural Practices, the use of an experimental or alternative technology or method to meet a State performance standard, or other factors set forth by rule. The owner or operator of a small farm may apply to the Secretary for an individual permit to operate under this section. To receive an individual permit, an applicant shall in a manner prescribed by rule demonstrate that the farm has an adequately sized and designed manure

management system to accommodate the wastes generated and a nutrient management plan to dispose of wastes in accordance with Required Agricultural Practices adopted under this chapter and current U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrient management standards, including setback requirements for waste application. An individual permit shall be valid for ~~no~~ not more than five years. Any application for an individual permit filed under this subsection shall be kept on file at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in consultation with the Agency of Natural Resources, shall review any application for a permit under this subsection ~~and, prior to issuance of an individual permit under this subsection, shall issue a written determination regarding whether the permit applicant has established that there will be no unpermitted discharge to waters of the State pursuant to federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations~~. If, upon review of ~~an application for a permit under this subsection~~ a permit application, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that the permit applicant may be discharging to waters of the State, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~and~~ shall promptly refer the farm to the Secretary of Natural Resources ~~shall respond to the discharge~~ for response in accordance with ~~the memorandum of understanding regarding concentrated animal feeding operations under subsection 4810(b) of this title~~ the federal Clean Water Act. The Secretary of Natural Resources ~~may require~~ shall direct a medium or small farm to obtain a permit under 10 V.S.A. § 1263 ~~pursuant to~~ if required by federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations. Coverage of a medium farm under a general permit adopted pursuant to this section or an individual permit issued to a medium or small farm under this section is rendered void by the issuance of a permit to a farm under 10 V.S.A. § 1263. If the farm is not required to obtain a CAFO permit and is not in violation of federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources shall promptly refer the matter to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(e) Operating fee. A person required to obtain a permit or coverage under this section shall submit an annual operating fee of $1,500.00 to the Secretary. The fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund under section 4803 of this title.

Sec. 5. 6 V.S.A. § 4816 is amended to read:

§ 4816. SEASONAL APPLICATION OF MANURE

(a) Prohibition on application. A person shall not apply manure to land in the State between December 15 and April 1 of any calendar year unless authorized by this section or as authorized under an emergency exemption

granted by the Secretary according to criteria set forth under the Required Agricultural Practices.

(b) Extension of prohibition. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall amend the Required Agricultural Practices by rule in order to establish a process under which the Secretary may prohibit the application of manure to land in the State between December 1 and December 15 and between April 1 and April 30 of any calendar year when the Secretary determines that due to weather conditions, soil conditions, or other limitations, application of manure to land would pose a significant potential of discharge or runoff to State waters.

(c) Seasonal exemption. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall amend the Required Agricultural Practices by rule in order to establish a process under which the Secretary may authorize an exemption to the prohibition on the application of manure to land in the State between December 15 and April 1 of any calendar year or during any period established under subsection (b) of this section when manure is prohibited from application. Any process established for the issuance of an exemption under the Required Agricultural Practices may authorize land application of manure on a weekly, monthly, or seasonal basis or in authorized regions, areas, or fields in the State, provided that any exemption shall:

(1) prohibit application of manure:

(A) in areas with established channels of concentrated stormwater runoff to surface waters, including ditches and ravines;

(B) in nonharvested permanent vegetative buffers;

(C) in a nonfarmed wetland, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 902(5);

(D) within 50 feet of a potable water supply, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972(6);

(E) to fields exceeding tolerable soil loss; and

(F) to saturated soils;

(2) establish requirements for the application of manure when frozen or snow-covered soils prevent effective incorporation at the time of application;

(3) require manure to be applied according to a nutrient management plan; and

(4) establish the maximum tons of manure that may be applied per acre during any one application.

Sec. 6. 6 V.S.A. § 4871(b) is amended to read:

(b) Required small farm certification. Beginning on July 1, 2017, a person who owns or operates a small farm, as designated by the Secretary consistent with subdivision 4810a(a)(1) of this title, shall, on a form provided by the Secretary, certify compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish the requirements and manner of certification of compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices, provided that the Secretary shall require an owner or operator of ~~a~~ any newly eligible or identified small farm to submit ~~an annual~~ a certification of compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices and may require any small farm to regularly certify ongoing compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices.

* * * Agency of Natural Resources Regulation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations * * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 1251 is amended to read:

§ 1251. DEFINITIONS

Whenever used or referred to in this chapter, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

* * *

(3) "Discharge" means the placing, depositing, or emission of any wastes or pollutants, directly or indirectly, into an injection well or into the waters of the State.

* * *

(11) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources or ~~his or her~~ authorized representative.

(12) "Waste" means effluent, sewage, or any substance or material, liquid, gaseous, solid, or radioactive, including heated liquids, whether or not harmful or deleterious to waters; provided, however, the term "sewage" as used in this chapter shall not include the rinse or process water from a cheese manufacturing process.

(13) "Waters" or "waters of the State" includes all rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes, springs, ~~and~~ all artificial or natural bodies of surface waters~~, artificial or natural,~~ and waters of the United States, as that term is defined under the federal Clean Water Act, that are contained within, flow through, or border upon the State or any portion of it.

* * *

(20) "Direct discharge" means the placing, depositing, or emission of any waste or pollutant directly into waters.

(21) "Pollutant" means dredged spoil; solid waste; incinerator residue; sewage; garbage; sewage sludge; munitions; chemical wastes; biological materials; radioactive materials; heat; wrecked or discarded equipment; rock; sand; cellar dirt; and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A is added to read:

Subchapter 3A. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

§ 1351. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Agricultural waste" means material originating or emanating from a farm or imported onto a farm that contains sediments; minerals, including heavy metals; plant nutrients; pesticides; organic wastes, including livestock waste; animal mortalities; compost; feed, litter, and crop debris; waste oils; pathogenic bacteria and viruses; thermal pollution; silage runoff; process wastewater, untreated milk house waste; and any other farm waste as the term "waste" is defined in subdivision 1251(12) of this chapter.

(2)(A) "Animal feeding operation" or "AFO" means a lot or facility, other than an aquatic animal production facility, where the following conditions are met:

(i) animals, other than aquatic animals, have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period; and

(ii) crops, vegetation, or forage growth are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

(B) Two or more individual farms qualifying as an AFO that are under common ownership and that adjoin each other or use a common area or system for the disposal of waste shall be considered to be a single AFO if the combined number of livestock or domestic fowl on the combined farm qualifies the combined farm as a large CAFO as defined in subdivision (5) of this section or as a medium CAFO as defined in subdivision (8) of this section.

(3) "Concentrated animal feeding operation" or "CAFO" means an AFO that is defined as a large CAFO, a medium CAFO, or a small CAFO.

(4) "Land application area" means the area under the control of an AFO or CAFO owner or operator, whether it is owned, rented, or leased, to which manure, litter, or process wastewater may be applied.

(5) "Large concentrated animal feeding operation" or "Large CAFO" means an AFO that houses 700 or more mature dairy animals, 1,000 or more cattle or cow or calf pairs, 1,000 or more veal calves, 2,500 or more swine weighing over 55 pounds, 10,000 or more swine weighing 55 pounds or less, 500 or more horses, 10,000 or more sheep or lambs, 55,000 or more turkeys, 30,000 or more laying hens or broilers with a liquid manure handling system, 82,000 or more laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 125,000 or more chickens other than laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 5,000 or more ducks with a liquid manure handling system, or 30,000 or more ducks without a liquid manure handling system.

(6) "Large farm operation" or "LFO" has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. chapter 215.

(7) "Manure" means livestock waste in solid or liquid form that may also contain bedding, compost, and raw materials or other materials commingled with manure or set aside for disposal.

(8) "Medium concentrated animal feeding operation" or "Medium CAFO" means an AFO that:

(A) houses 200 to 699 mature dairy animals, 300 to 999 cattle or cow or calf pairs, 300 to 999 veal calves, 750 to 2,499 swine weighing over 55 pounds, 3,000 to 9,999 swine weighing 55 pounds or less, 150 to 499 horses, 3,000 to 9,999 sheep or lambs, 16,500 to 54,999 turkeys, 9,000 to 29,999 laying hens or broilers with a liquid manure handling system, 25,000 to 81,999 laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 37,500 to 124,999 chickens other than laying hens without a liquid manure handling system, 1,500 to 4,999 ducks with a liquid manure handling system, or 10,000 to 29,999 ducks without a liquid manure handling system; and

(B) either of the following conditions are met:

(i) wastes are discharged into waters through a man-made ditch, flushing system, or other similar man-made device; or

(ii) wastes are discharged directly into waters that originate outside of or pass over, across, or through the facility or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals confined in the operation.

(9) "Medium farm operation" or "MFO" has the same meaning as medium farm operation in 6 V.S.A chapter 215 and rules adopted under the chapter.

(10) "Point source" means any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or

vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture.

(11) "Process wastewater" means water directly or indirectly used in the operation of an AFO or CAFO for any or all of the following: spillage or overflow from animal or poultry watering systems; washing, cleaning, or flushing pens, barns, manure pits, or other AFO or CAFO facilities; direct contact swimming, washing, or spray cooling of animals; or dust control. Process wastewater also includes any water that comes into contact with any raw materials, products, or byproducts, including manure, litter, feed, milk, eggs, or bedding.

(12) "Production area" means that part of an AFO or CAFO that includes the animal confinement area, the manure storage area, the raw materials storage area, and the waste containment areas. The animal confinement area includes open lots, housed lots, feedlots, confinement houses, stall barns, free stall barns, milkrooms, milking centers, cowyards, barnyards, medication pens, walkers, animal walkways, and stables. The manure storage area includes lagoons, runoff ponds, storage sheds, stockpiles, under house or pit storages, liquid impoundments, static piles, and composting piles. The raw materials storage area includes feed silos, silage bunkers, and bedding materials. The waste containment area includes settling basins, and areas within berms and diversions that separate uncontaminated storm water. Also included in the definition of production area is any egg washing or egg processing facility and any area used in the storage, handling, treatment, or disposal of mortalities.

(13) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

(14) "Small animal feeding operation" or "SFO" means an AFO that is not a large CAFO or a medium CAFO.

(15) "Small concentrated animal feeding operation" or "small CAFO" means a small AFO designated as a small CAFO by the Secretary upon determining that the AFO is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State and is defined as a CAFO by the regulations adopted under the federal Clean Water Act.

(16) "Waters of the United States" shall have the same meaning as defined by the federal Clean Water Act.

§ 1352. POWERS OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary has the authority to exercise all of the following:

(1) Implement the federal Clean Water Act to administer a Vermont pollutant discharge elimination system (VPDES) CAFO program that is consistent with and equivalent to the federal Clean Water Act and enabling rules.

(2) Make, adopt, revise, and amend rules as necessary to administer a VPDES CAFO program that is consistent with and equivalent to the federal Clean Water Act and enabling rules.

(3) Make, adopt, revise, and amend procedures, guidelines, inspection checklists, and other documents as necessary for the administration of the CAFO VPDES program.

(4) Designate any AFO that meets the definition of a CAFO under the federal Clean Water Act regulations as a CAFO, in the Secretary's sole discretion.

(5) Require any AFO to obtain a CAFO permit under this chapter upon a determination that the AFO is discharging to waters of the State.

(6) Designate any small AFO as a CAFO if after an on-site inspection, the Secretary determines that the small AFO is discharging into water and is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State. The Secretary shall consider the following factors:

(A) the size of the AFO and the amount of wastes reaching waters;

(B) the location of the AFO relative to waters;

(C) the means of conveyance of animal wastes and process waste waters into waters;

(D) the slope, vegetation, rainfall, and other factors affecting the likelihood or frequency of discharge of animal wastes manure and process waste waters into waters; and

(E) other relevant factors.

(7) Access private or public property to inspect AFOs and CAFOs, take photos and samples, and review and copy AFO and CAFO land management records, including nutrient management plans, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

(8) Solicit and receive federal funds to implement the CAFO program.

(9) Cooperate fully with the federal government or other agencies in the operation of any joint federal-state programs concerning the regulation of agricultural pollution.

(10) Appoint assistants or contract with persons with applicable expertise, subject to applicable laws and State policies, to perform or assist in the performance of the duties and functions of the Secretary under this chapter.

§ 1353. CAFO PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

(a) The discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater to waters of the State from a permitted CAFO as a result of the application of that manure, litter, or process wastewater by the CAFO to land areas under its control is a discharge from that CAFO subject to VPDES permit requirements, except where it is an agricultural stormwater discharge as provided under the federal Clean Water Act. For purposes of this subsection, where the manure, litter, or process wastewater has been applied in accordance with the federal regulations under the Clean Water Act, a precipitation-related discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater from land areas under the control of a CAFO is an agricultural stormwater discharge. For unpermitted Large CAFOs, a precipitation-related discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater from land areas under the control of the CAFO shall be considered an exempt agricultural stormwater discharge only where the manure, litter, or process wastewater has been land applied in accordance with site-specific nutrient management practices that ensure appropriate agricultural utilization of the nutrients in the manure, litter, or process wastewater, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) All MFOs and LFOs shall maintain documentation of a nutrient management plan and practices on site or at a nearby office and make the documentation readily available to the Secretary upon request.

(c) The presumption in 6 V.S.A. § 4810(b) that farms in compliance with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Required Agricultural Practices Rule are not discharging is not applicable to any AFO determined by the Secretary's decision to be a CAFO.

Sec. 9. COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY

(a) On or before December 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall engage key stakeholder regarding the implementation and transition to a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) program that conforms with the Clean Water Act. The process also shall include public notice and informational hearings to provide updates on the CAFO program and gather

broad public input. The stakeholder engagement process shall include opportunities for the following stakeholders to provide input: the agricultural community, including livestock farmers; farm groups; agricultural consultants; and the environmental community, including watershed groups and water quality experts. The Secretary shall solicit input from stakeholders on:

(1) the establishment of a CAFO permitting program administered by the Secretary of Natural Resources that ensures compliance with the Clean Water Act's requirement that no farm discharges in violation of the Clean Water Act's CAFO permit requirements;

(2) how to align the CAFO program most effectively with water quality programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets;

(3) how to best create regulatory clarity for agricultural producers for the long term that is consistent with the Clean Water Act, whether within a two-agency regulatory system or through a full transfer of regulatory authority to the Agency of Natural Resources;

(4) the resources, technical assistance, and regulatory structure necessary to create a path to compliance for agricultural producers that maintain CAFOs, AFOs, and other farms; and

(5) feedback on implementing regulatory structures similar to other states, including the New York State Department of Environmental Protection CAFO Program.

(b) On or before February 15, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall file a report with the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Environment and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy. The report shall:

(1) summarize the stakeholder process, including public comments received;

(2) summarize public input received during rulemaking;

(3) assess whether the regulatory structure for administering agricultural water quality requirements in the State is sufficient to ensure that water pollution is controlled consistent with the Clean Water Act or whether sole regulation by the Agency of Natural Resources over water quality on farms, should be implemented; and

(4) recommend any statutory amendment or other changes related to implementation of the CAFO program and agricultural water quality regulation more generally.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 1259 is amended to read:

§ 1259. PROHIBITIONS

(a) No person shall discharge any waste, substance, or material into waters of the State, nor shall any person discharge any waste, substance, or material into an injection well or discharge into a publicly owned treatment works any waste that interferes with, passes through without treatment, or is otherwise incompatible with those works or would have a substantial adverse effect on those works or on water quality, without first obtaining a permit for that discharge from the Secretary. This subsection shall not prohibit the proper application of fertilizer to fields and crops, nor reduce or affect the authority or policy declared in Joint House Resolution 7 of the 1971 Session of the General Assembly.

* * *

(f) ~~The provisions of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section shall not regulate~~ Provided that the introduction of wastes are from sources that do not discharge pollutants from a point source into waters of the State, and comply with the federal Clean Water Act and federal CAFO regulation, the following activities shall not require a VPDES permit under section 1263 of this title:

(1) required agricultural practices, as adopted by rule by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets~~,~~; or

(2) accepted silvicultural practices, as defined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, including practices ~~which~~ that are in compliance with the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~; nor shall these provisions regulate discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations that require a permit under section 1263 of this title; nor shall those provisions prohibit stormwater runoff or the discharge of nonpolluting wastes, as defined by the Secretary~~.

* * *

(i) The Secretary ~~of Natural Resources, to the extent compatible~~ shall regulate AFOs in accordance with federal requirements, ~~shall delegate to~~ and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall implement the State ~~agricultural non-point~~ nonpoint source pollution control program planning, implementation, and regulation. ~~A memorandum of understanding shall be adopted for this purpose, which shall address implementation grants, the distribution of federal program assistance, and the development of land use performance standards. Prior to executing the memorandum, the Secretary of State shall arrange for two formal publications of information relating to the proposed memorandum. The information shall consist of a summary of the~~

~~proposal; the name, telephone number, and address of a person able to answer questions and receive comments on the proposal; and the deadline for receiving comments. Publication shall be subject to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 839(d), (e), and (g), relating to the publication of administrative rules~~ This concurrent authority ensures comprehensive water quality protection and implements equivalent State nonpoint source pollution controls on farms not covered by the Clean Water Act. The Agencies shall cooperate and share information to enable effective and consistent regulation and enforcement. Not later than September 1, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall issue a document that sets forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Natural Resources in implementing the Clean Water Act on farms and responsibilities of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in implementing the State's complementary nonpoint source program on farms. The document shall replace the existing memorandum of understanding between the agencies. The Secretary shall post the draft document and information regarding the document on the Agency's website, shall issue public notice by press release and social media, shall submit the draft documents to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Environment, and shall allow for public comment. The proposed ~~memorandum of understanding~~ document shall be available for 30 days after the final date of publication for public review and comment ~~prior to being executed by the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets~~. The Secretary of Natural Resources ~~and~~ in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~annually~~ shall review ~~the memorandum of understanding~~ the document every five years to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act ~~and the provisions of section 1258 of this title~~. If the ~~memorandum~~ document is substantially revised, it first shall be noticed in the same manner that applies to the initial memorandum. Actions by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this section shall be consistent with the water quality standards and water pollution control requirements of chapter 47 of this title and the federal Clean Water Act as amended.

* * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 1263 is amended to read:

§ 1263. DISCHARGE PERMITS

(a) Any person who intends to discharge waste into the waters of the State or who intends to discharge into an injection well or who intends to discharge into any publicly owned treatment works any waste that interferes with, passes

through without treatment, or is otherwise incompatible with that works or would have a substantial adverse effect on that works or on water quality, or is required to apply for a CAFO permit, shall make application to the Secretary for a discharge permit. Application shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary. An applicant shall pay an application fee in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 2822.

(b) When an application is filed under this section, the Secretary shall proceed in accordance with chapter 170 of this title. The Secretary may require any applicant to submit any additional information that the Secretary considers necessary ~~and~~, before issuing a permit application completeness determination. The Secretary may take appropriate steps to secure compliance, refuse to grant a permit, or permission to discharge under the terms of a general permit, until the information is furnished and evaluated.

* * *

(g) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any~~ Any person who owns or operates a concentrated animal feeding operation that requires a permit under the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations shall submit an application to the Secretary for a discharge permit and pay the required fees specified in 3 V.S.A. § 2822. ~~On or before July 1, 2007, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall adopt rules implementing the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations for discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations. Until such regulations are adopted, the substantive permitting standards and criteria used by the Secretary to evaluate applications and issue or deny discharge permits for concentrated animal feeding operations shall be those specified by federal regulations. The Secretary may issue an individual or general permit for these types of discharges in accordance with the procedural requirements of subsection (b) of this section and other State law. For the purposes of this subsection, "concentrated animal feeding operation" means a farm that meets the definition contained in the federal regulations~~ Not later than December 15, 2025, the Secretary shall amend and issue the CAFO General Permit and Notice of Intent. Not later than July 1, 2026, the Secretary shall issue a CAFO application and an individual CAFO permit. The Secretary may request any additional information from a farm as necessary to process a permit and administer the CAFO program. The Secretary may direct a farm to apply for an individual or general permit in accordance with the procedural requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

(h) A large CAFO shall not be required to have a CAFO permit unless one of the following conditions are met:

(1) wastes are discharged into waters via a point source;

(2) wastes are discharged directly into waters that originate outside or pass over, across, or through the facility or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals confined in the operation; or

(3) a precipitation-related discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater from land areas under the control of a LFO has occurred that was not in accordance with site-specific nutrient management practices that ensure appropriate agricultural utilization of the nutrients in the manure, litter, or process wastewater, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) The Secretary shall require nutrient management plans for all CAFOs and shall include the plans in the permits for public comment in accordance with the process set forth in chapter 170 of this title. The Secretary may amend a permit in accordance with chapter 170 of this title or revoke a permit in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 814.

(j) Once a CAFO is covered under a CAFO permit, the farm shall be covered for the five year duration of the permit. A farm covered by a CAFO permit shall renew the permit in accordance with its terms, unless the farm wants to opt out and can demonstrate it is not discharging and shall accordingly comply with the federal CWA and the Vermont CAFO rules.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 1264(d) is amended to read:

(d) Exemptions.

(1) No permit is required under this section for:

(A) Stormwater runoff from farms in compliance with agricultural practices adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets~~, provided that this~~ and not subject to the federal Clean Water Act and its enabling regulations as determined by the Secretary of Natural Resources. This exemption shall not apply to construction stormwater permits required by subdivision (c)(4) of this section.

(B) Stormwater runoff from concentrated animal feeding operations permitted under subsection 1263(g) of this chapter.

(C) Stormwater runoff from accepted silvicultural practices, as defined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, including practices that are in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act as determined by the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

(D) Stormwater runoff permitted under section 1263 of this title.

(2) No permit is required under subdivision (c)(1), (5), or (7) of this section and for which a municipality has assumed full legal responsibility as part of a permit issued to the municipality by the Secretary. As used in this subdivision, "full legal responsibility" means legal control of the stormwater system, including a legal right to access the stormwater system, a legal duty to properly maintain the stormwater system, and a legal duty to repair and replace the stormwater system when it no longer adequately protects waters of the State.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

At ten o'clock and forty-four minutes in the forenoon, the House's consideration of the bill was interrupted to evacuate the building for a fire alarm.

At eleven o'clock and sixteen minutes in the forenoon, the House resumed consideration of the bill.

Rep. Logan of Burlington, for the Committee on Environment, recommended that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, 6 V.S.A. § 4851, in subsection (a), in the second to last sentence, after "federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations" and before the period, by inserting "or by the VPDES CAFO Rules"

Second: In Sec. 4, 6 V.S.A. § 4858, in subdivision (c)(1), in the second to last sentence, after "federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations" and before the period, by inserting "or by the VPDES CAFO Rules"

and in subsection (d), in the third to last sentence, after "if required by federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations" and before the period, by inserting "or by the VPDES CAFO Rules"

Third: In Sec. 8, 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A, in section 1351, by striking out the lead in to subdivision (8) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new lead in to subdivision (8) to read as follows:

(8) "Medium concentrated animal feeding operation" or "medium CAFO" means an AFO that is defined as an AFO by the VPDES CAFO Rules adopted by the Secretary, including an AFO that:

and in section 1352, by striking out subdivisions (1)–(4) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (1)–(4) to read as follows:

(1) Implement the federal Clean Water Act to administer a Vermont pollutant discharge elimination system (VPDES) CAFO program that is at least as stringent as the federal Clean Water Act and enabling rules.

(2) Make, adopt, revise, and amend rules as necessary to administer a VPDES CAFO program that is at least as stringent as the federal Clean Water Act and enabling rules.

(3) Make, adopt, revise, and amend procedures, guidelines, inspection checklists, and other documents as necessary for the administration of the VPDES CAFO program.

(4) Designate any AFO that meets the definition of a CAFO under the federal Clean Water Act regulations or under the VPDES CAFO Rule as a CAFO, in the Secretary's sole discretion.

Fourth: In Sec. 9, community stakeholder group on agricultural water quality, by adding a subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall, as part of the report required under this section, propose a plan for inspection of animal feeding operations (AFOs) potentially subject to the requirements for a CAFO permit under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A. The plan shall include:

(1) a proposal of which AFOs should be subject to inspection, including whether all large farm operations and medium farm operations must be inspected to determine if a CAFO permit is required;

(2) a proposed schedule of inspection of those AFOs subject to inspection, including the frequency of inspection or events or thresholds that would require inspection; and

(3) an estimate of the staffing or other resources that would be required to implement the proposed inspection plan.

Fifth: In Sec. 10, 10 V.S.A. § 1259, in subsection (i), in the first sentence, after "~~shall delegate to~~ and" and before "the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets", by inserting "the VPDES CAFO Rules, and"

Sixth: In Sec. 11, 10 V.S.A. § 1263, in subsection (g), in the first sentence, after "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations" and before "shall submit an application", by inserting "or the VPDES CAFO Rules"

Seventh: In Sec. 12, 10 V.S.A. § 1264(d), in subdivision (1)(A), by striking out the first sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new first sentence to read as follows:

Stormwater runoff from farms in compliance with agricultural practices adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets~~, provided that this~~ and not subject to the federal Clean Water Act, its enabling regulations, or the VPDES CAFO Rules as determined by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 13, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 13 and 14 and their and their related reader assistance headings to read:

* * * Reference to Federal Clean Water Act * * *

Sec. 13. REFERENCE TO FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT

(a) Notwithstanding statements to the contrary in 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 or 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, when the following are referenced in 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 or in 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, the text of each shall be applied and interpreted as each public law, statute, or regulation existed on January 1, 2025, regardless of any subsequent amendment, repeal, or other substantive change:

(1) Pub. L. No. 92-500;

(2) the federal Clean Water Act;

(3) federal laws or regulations related to the federal Clean Water Act;

(4) the enabling regulations of the federal Clean Water Act, including citations to the Code of Federal Regulations for regulations adopted under the federal Clean Water Act;

(5) the federal regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) or the federal CAFO regulations; and

(6) the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) regulations or federal NPDES regulations.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall be repealed on April 1, 2029.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, when further amended as recommended by the Committee on Environment.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry was amended as recommended by the Committee on Environment. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, as amended, was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed in all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 9

House resolution urging that all State agencies, departments, and offices protect the civil rights, medical confidentiality, and all aspects of personal privacy of Vermonters who have been diagnosed with autism in light of the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services' recently announced plans to establish an autism research database and other databases related to autism

Was taken up and adopted.

Recess

At eleven o'clock and twenty-eight minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 72

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposals of amendment to Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 69. An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.

S. 109. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

And has concurred therein with amendments in the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House bill of the following title:

H. 91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 28th day of May, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 50. An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration.

S. 87. An act relating to extradition procedures.

S. 117. An act relating to wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation.

Called to Order

At one o'clock and fifteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto; Rules Suspended, Messaged to the Senate Forthwith

H. 472

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * OPR Fees and Fund Management * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 118 is amended to read:

§ 118. COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF REVENUE

(a) There is hereby created a Secretary of State Services Fund. The Fund shall be used to provide appropriations for the operations of the Office of the Secretary of State, with the exception of those operations provided for in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title. The Fund shall be administered as a

special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. At the end of each fiscal year, the unobligated balance in this Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

(a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board or advisor profession may charge the following fees:

(1) Verification of license, ~~$20.00~~ $30.00.

* * *

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees under Title 26:

* * *

(4) Biennial renewal, $275.00, except biennial renewal for:

* * *

(W) Electrology shop, $200.00.

* * *

(9) Apprenticeship application, $50.00.

(10) Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, $100.00.

(11) Disciplinary action surcharge, $250.00.

(c) ~~Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, a board shall not require payment of renewal fees for years during which a license was lapsed.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

* * * 2027 Fee Increase; Peer Support Providers * * *

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

* * *

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees under Title 26:

* * *

(4) Biennial renewal, $275.00, except biennial renewal for:

* * *

(V) Peer support providers or peer recovery support specialists, ~~$50.00~~ $75.00.

* * *

* * * OPR Duties and Disciplinary Authority * * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

* * *

(k) For any profession attached to it, the Office shall provide a pre-application determination of an individual's criminal background. This determination shall not be binding on the Office in a future application if the individual violates probation or parole or is convicted of another crime following the determination.

* * *

(2) The individual shall submit this request online, accompanied by the fee for preapplication determinations set forth in section 125 of this subchapter. ~~If the individual thereafter applies for licensure, this preapplication fee shall be deducted from that license application fee.~~

* * *

(m) The provisions of subsection 116a(b) of this title shall not apply to the Office. The Office shall utilize the procedures within 26 V.S.A. chapter 57 to review whether regulation of a profession is still necessary.

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 127 is amended to read:

§ 127. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

* * *

(b)(1) A person practicing a regulated profession without authority or an employer permitting such practice may, upon the complaint of the Attorney General or a State's Attorney or an attorney assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation, be enjoined therefrom by the Superior Court where the violation occurred or the Washington County Superior Court and may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than $5,000.00.

(2)(A) The Attorney General or an attorney assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation may elect to bring an action seeking only a civil penalty of not more than ~~$2,500.00~~ $5,000.00 for practicing or permitting the practice of a regulated profession without authority before the board having regulatory authority over the profession or before an administrative law officer.

* * *

Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS OR OF DIRECTOR IN ADVISOR PROFESSIONS; DISCIPLINE PROCESS

(a) In addition to any other provisions of law, a board or the Director, in the case of professions that have advisor appointees, may exercise the following powers:

* * *

(3) Issue warnings or reprimands, suspend, revoke, limit, condition, deny, or prevent renewal of licenses, after disciplinary hearings or, in cases requiring emergency action, immediately suspend, as provided by section 814 of this title. In a case involving noncompliance with a statute or rule relating to administrative duties not related to patient, client, or customer care, a board or hearing officer may determine that ordering a monetary civil penalty does not constitute a finding of unprofessional conduct. After a finding of unprofessional conduct, a respondent shall pay a disciplinary action surcharge pursuant to subdivision 125(b)(12) of this title. The proceeds from the disciplinary action surcharge shall be deposited into the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund.

* * *

* * * Cosmetology Certificate of Approval * * *

Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 281 is amended to read:

§ 281. POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY; CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

(a) A school of barbering or cosmetology shall not be granted a certificate of approval unless the school:

* * *

(4) Requires a school term of training consistent with formal training requirements established by rule, which shall include practical demonstrations and theoretical studies in sanitation, sterilization, the use of antiseptics, and the use of appliances, devices, treatments, ~~and~~ preparations relevant to the field of licensure, and training on the care, styling, and treatment of textured hair. For purposes of this subdivision, "textured hair" means hair that is coiled, curly, or wavy. The training on the care, styling, and treatment of textured hair shall include:

(A) techniques for cutting, styling, and chemical treatments for textured hair;

(B) knowledge of products and tools specifically designed for textured hair;

(C) best practices for hair health and scalp care for clients with textured hair; and

(D) cultural competency and historical education on the significance of textured hair in diverse communities.

* * *

* * * Nursing Assistants; License Renewal * * *

Sec. 8. 26 V.S.A. 1645 is amended to read:

§ 1645. RENEWAL

(a) To renew a license, a nursing assistant shall meet ongoing practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

(b) The Board shall credit as ongoing practice those activities, regardless of title or obligation to hold a license, that reasonably tend to reinforce the training and skills of a licensee.

(c)(1) A licensee seeking to renew an expired or lapsed license after fewer than five years of absence from practice shall repeat and pass the competency examinations approved by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living before licensure renewal.

(2) A licensee who does not pass the competency examinations shall repeat a nursing assistant education program and competency examination.

* * * Repeals; Funeral Service Escrow Agents; Motor Vehicle Racing * * *

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position. The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

* * *

(21) ~~Motor Vehicle Racing~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 10. 26 V.S.A. § 1272 is amended to read:

§ 1272. RULES; PREPAID FUNERAL FUNDS

The Director shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this subchapter to ensure the proper handling of all funds paid pursuant to a prepaid funeral agreement and to protect consumers in the event of default. The rules shall include provisions relating to the following:

* * *

(2) ~~The appointment of an escrow agent who may be a bank or other category of individual such as an attorney, a local elected official, next of kin, or the executor of a buyer's estate. All prepaid arrangement funds shall be paid directly to the escrow agent and not to the funeral director or establishment.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 11. REPEALS

(a) 26 V.S.A. § 1275 (prepaid funeral expenses; duties of escrow agents) is repealed.

(b) 26 V.S.A. chapter 93 (motor vehicle racing) is repealed.

* * * Position; Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions * * *

Sec. 12. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; POSITION; APPROPRIATION

(a) The position of one new, permanent, full-time, exempt Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions is created in the Office of Professional Regulation.

(b) The sum of $170,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of Professional Regulation from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for the creation of the position of Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions in the Office of Professional Regulation.

* * * Report; Massage Therapy Establishments * * *

Sec. 13. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; REPORT; MASSAGE THERAPY ESTABLISHMENTS

On or before November 15, 2025, the Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with interested stakeholders, including representatives from the Vermont Chapter of the American Association of Massage Therapists, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and other Vermont law enforcement agencies, shall submit to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations proposed legislation for the regulation, which may include licensure, of massage therapy establishments, as defined in 26 V.S.A. § 5401(2)(A).

* * * Licensure of Early Childhood Educators Serving in Programs Regulated by the Child Development Division * * *

Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position. The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

(1) Board of Architects

* * *

(53) Peer Recovery Support Specialists

(54) Early Childhood Educators

Sec. 15. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is added to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS EMPLOYED IN PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

(a) The Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators is created.

(b) The Board shall consist of nine members appointed for five-year terms by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004 as follows: two public members; two each of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, an Early Childhood Educator II, and an Early Childhood Educator III; and one Family Child Care Provider. All members shall be Vermont residents. The members who are early childhood educators shall have been in active practice in Vermont for not less than the preceding three years and shall be in active practice during their incumbency. The public member shall be a person who has no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, or sibling in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as a consumer or a possible consumer of its services. Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.

(d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

§ 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES

(a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a secretary.

(b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(d) All business may be transacted by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.

§ 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

(a) The Board shall:

(1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;

(2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early childhood educators;

(3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint procedures to the public; and

(4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(b) The Board may conduct hearings as provided in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS EMPLOYED IN PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 6201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.

(2) "Early childhood educator" means an individual licensed under this chapter to provide early childhood education pursuant to section 6202 of this chapter in a program regulated by the Child Development Division.

(3) "Family child care provider" means an individual approved to operate a family child care home regulated by the Child Development Division at the time of application and who is responsible for providing developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision for children from birth through eight years of age at the family child care home.

(4) "Guidance" means direct or indirect consultative support in which an Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood Educator II.

(5) "Supervision" means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early Childhood Educator I.

§ 6202. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

(a)(1) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall provide care and educational instruction to children from birth through eight years of age in a variety of programs regulated by the Child Development Division, including:

(A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote the social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development and health of each child served;

(B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy learning environment;

(C) observing, documenting, and assessing children's learning and development;

(D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with families and communities; and

(E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.

(2) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter does not include exempt teachers licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with an early childhood endorsement, early childhood special education endorsement, or elementary education endorsement as provided in section 6204 of this chapter.

(b) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall have the following responsibilities as determined by license type:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall be authorized to be on an early childhood education team in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the Department for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through eight years of age. Early Childhood Educator I shall serve under the supervision of an Early Childhood Educator II or III or a teacher who is exempt from this chapter and licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with an early childhood education endorsement or early childhood special education endorsement.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II, in addition to the responsibilities and authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I, shall be authorized to be in a lead educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the Department for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through eight years of age, providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I and receiving guidance from individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator III.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III, in addition to the responsibilities and authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I and II, shall be authorized to be a lead educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the

Department for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through eight years of age, providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I and guidance to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator II.

(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall be authorized to be a lead educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 for children from birth through eight years of age.

(c) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter may serve in a supporting role only, and not as a lead educator, in the provision of prekindergarten services provided in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 829.

§ 6203. PROHIBITIONS

(a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.

(b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual's name any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.

§ 6204. EXEMPTIONS

(a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:

(1) a teacher actively licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with an early childhood education endorsement, an early childhood special education endorsement, or an elementary education endorsement;

(2) an individual who provides care in an afterschool child care program that is regulated by the Child Development Division or any other child care program that is exempt from regulation by the Child Development Division; and

(3) an individual who provides consultation services in this State, performs research, or participates in or instructs regular or continuing education courses, provided the individual does not otherwise practice in this State.

(b) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the right of a practitioner of another profession or occupation from carrying on in the usual manner any of the functions incidental to that profession or occupation.

Subchapter 2. Board of Early Childhood Educators

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

* * *

Subchapter 3. Licensure Requirements

§ 6221. QUALIFICATIONS

(a) To qualify for licensure as an early childhood educator in a program regulated by the Child Development Division, an applicant shall have attained the age of majority and shall have a high school diploma or successful completion of a General Education Development (GED) test or an equivalent credential. An applicant shall have additional education and experience in accordance with this subsection for each of the following license types:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall have completed an approved certificate or credential program in early childhood education requiring a minimum of 120 hours and field experience.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II shall have completed an approved associate's degree program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field:

(i) requiring a minimum of 60 college credits and field experience; and

(ii) offering college credit based upon an assessment of the individual's competencies acquired through experience working in the profession; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule in addition to field experience.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have completed an approved bachelor's degree program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 120 college credits and field experience; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule in addition to field experience.

(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall currently operate a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 that is regulated and in good standing with the Child Development Division as of January 1, 2028. The Board shall not accept Family Child Care Provider applications after January 1, 2028.

(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.

§ 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127, except a Family Child Care Provider license shall not be renewed after a lapse of two or more years.

(b) The Board may adopt rules necessary for the protection of the public to assure the Board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than five years is professionally qualified before reinstatement may occur. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal.

§ 6223. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I:

(A) Application for initial license, $125.00.

(B) Biennial renewal, $225.00.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II:

(A) Application for initial license, $175.00.

(B) Biennial renewal, $250.00.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III:

(A) Application for initial license, $225.00.

(B) Biennial renewal, $275.00.

(4) Family Child Care Provider:

(A) Application for initial license, $175.00.

(B) Biennial renewal, $250.00.

§ 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As used in this chapter, "unprofessional conduct" means:

(1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other statutes relating to early childhood education, whether that conduct is by a licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant;

(2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49; or

(3) conduct that is not in accordance with the professional standards and competencies for Early Childhood Educators published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

§ 6225. VARIANCES; TRANSITIONAL LICENSURE

(a) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II and III license to a teacher or director operating a registered or licensed family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or licensed center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the Department for Children and Families in rule and who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure requirements in this chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.

(b) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.

§ 6226. DISCLOSURE BY LICENSEES

An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall post and provide to current and prospective families the following:

(1) all available license types regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation pursuant to this chapter;

(2) a description of the Office of Professional Regulation's regulatory authority over licensees in programs regulated by the Child Development Division and how to make complaints;

(3) a description of the Agency of Education's regulatory authority over teachers providing prekindergarten services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and how to make complaints; and

(4) a description of the Child Development Division's regulatory authority over regulated child care programs and how to make complaints.

Sec. 17. REPEAL; TRANSITIONAL LICENSE

26 V.S.A. § 6225 (variances; transitional licensure) is repealed on July 1, 2035.

Sec. 18. [Deleted.]

* * * Accessibility and Confidentiality of Disciplinary Matters * * *

Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 131 is amended to read:

§ 131. ACCESSIBILITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

* * *

(c) The Secretary of State, through the Office of Professional Regulation, shall prepare and maintain a register of all complaints, which shall be a public record and which shall show:

(1) with respect to all complaints, the following information:

(A) the date and the nature of the complaint, but not including the identity of the licensee or the complainant; and

(B) a summary of the completed investigation; and

(2) only with respect to complaints resulting in filing of disciplinary charges or stipulations or the taking of disciplinary action, the following additional information:

(A) the name and ~~business addresses~~ public address of the licensee ~~and complainant~~;

(B) formal charges, provided that they have been served or a reasonable effort to serve them has been made, and all subsequent pleadings filed by the parties;

(C) the findings, conclusions, rulings, and orders of the board or administrative law officer;

(D) the transcript of the hearing, if one has been made, and exhibits admitted at the hearing;

(E) stipulations filed with the board or administrative law officer; and

(F) final disposition of the matter by the appellate officer or the courts.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that:

(1) Sec. 3 (fees; peer support providers) shall take effect on July 1, 2027; and

(2) Sec. 16 (early childhood educators) and Sec. 17 (repeal; transitional license) shall take effect on July 1, 2027 contingent on a fiscal year 2027 appropriation to implement 26 V.S.A. chapter 111.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Reps. Birong of Vergennes, Coffin of Cavendish, Hango of Berkshire, Hooper of Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nugent of South Burlington, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Stone of Burlington** moved that the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 12, Office of Professional Regulation; position; appropriation, subsection (a), by striking out the word "exempt" and inserting in lieu thereof "classified"

Second: By striking out Secs. 14–18 and their reader assistance heading in their entireties and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Third: By striking out the newly renumbered Sec. 15, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 3 (fees; peer support providers) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes and others?, **Reps. James of Manchester and Sibilia of Dover** moved to amend the proposal of amendment offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes and others by adding a fourth instance of amendment to read as follows:

Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 1a to read as follows:

Sec. 1a. SECRETARY OF STATE; REPORT; REVENUES FROM SALES OF DATA

On or before December 1, 2025, the Secretary of State shall submit to the House Committees on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and to the Senate Committees on Finance, on Government Operations, and on Institutions a written report detailing the revenues generated from optional services through sales of data, as authorized pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 118(c), including the categories of data sold.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the House concurred in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes and others, as amended.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 397

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Division of Emergency Management; Plans and Reports * * *

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3a is amended to read:

§ 3a. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION; DUTIES; BUDGET

(a) In addition to other duties required by law, the Division of Emergency Management shall:

* * *

(3) Annually on or before the last legislative day in January, provide an update and presentation to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations concerning all action items in the all-hazards mitigation plan required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 41 is amended to read:

§ 41. STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The ~~Department of Public Safety's Vermont~~ Division of Emergency Management ~~Division~~, in consultation with stakeholders, shall create, and republish as needed, but not less than every five years, a comprehensive State Emergency Management Plan. The Plan shall:

(1) detail response systems during all-hazards events, including communications, coordination among State, local, private, and volunteer entities, and the deployment of State and federal resources~~. The Plan shall also~~;

(2) detail the State's emergency preparedness measures and goals, including those for the prevention of, protection against, mitigation of, and recovery from all-hazards events~~. The Plan shall~~; and

(3) include templates and guidance for regional emergency management and for local emergency plans that support municipalities in their respective emergency management planning.

* * * Voluntary Buyouts * * *

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 48 is amended to read:

§ 48. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

* * *

(c) Administration; implementation.

(1) Grant awards. The Department of Public Safety, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Conservation, shall administer the Program, which shall award grants for the following:

* * *

(C) projects that implement disaster mitigation measures, adaptation, or repair, including watershed restoration, voluntary buyouts for flood-impacted or -prone properties, and similar activities that directly reduce risks to communities, lives, public collections of historic value, and property; and

* * *

* * * Division of Emergency Management; Assistance to Municipalities * * *

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 51 is added to read:

§ 51. DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; ALL-HAZARD AND WEATHER ALERT SYSTEMS FOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

Upon request of a municipal corporation, the Division of Emergency Management shall assist the municipal corporation with access to the following:

(1) a statewide river observation and modeling system that details current river level observations and models river flood outlooks; and

(2) a statewide enhanced weather forecasting and alert system that:

(A) predicts local and regional conditions using advanced modeling; and

(B) issues real-time warnings for potentially dangerous weather through multiple communication channels.

* * * Needs Assessment Report * * *

Sec. 5. DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; STATE STAKEHOLDERS; NEEDS ASSESSMENT; REPORT

The Division of Emergency Management shall conduct a needs assessment to identify any additional staffing, resources, technical needs, or authority needed to carry out the provisions of this act. On or before November 15, 2025, the Division shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations containing the needs assessments conducted by the State agencies and departments identified in this section.

* * * Municipal Finances and Indebtedness * * *

Sec. 6. 24 V.S.A. § 1585 is added to read:

§ 1585. UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

Monies from a budget approved by the voters at an annual or special meeting that are not expended by the end of a municipality's fiscal year shall be under the control and direction of the legislative body of the municipality and may be carried forward from year to year as an unassigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balances may be invested and reinvested as are other monies received by a town treasurer and may be expended for any public purpose as established by the legislative body of the municipality.

Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 1790 is added to read:

§ 1790. EMERGENCY BORROWING; ALL-HAZARD EVENT OR STATE OF EMERGENCY

The legislative body of a municipality may borrow money, in the name of the municipal corporation, by issuance of its notes or orders for the purpose of paying expenses of the municipal corporation or for public improvements associated with an all-hazards event or a declared state of emergency pursuant to 20 V.S.A. chapter 1. The notes or orders shall be for a period of not more than five years or a term not to exceed the reasonably anticipated useful life of the improvements or assets financed by the notes or orders.

Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 1759 is amended to read:

§ 1759. DENOMINATIONS; PAYMENTS; INTEREST

(a)(1) Any bond issued under this subchapter shall draw interest at a rate not to exceed the rate approved by the voters of the municipal corporation in accordance with section 1758 of this title, or if no rate is specified in the vote under that section, at a rate approved by the legislative ~~branch~~ body of the municipal corporation, ~~such~~ the interest to be payable ~~semiannually~~ as determined by the legislative body of the municipal corporation. ~~Such~~ The bonds or bond shall be payable serially, the first payment to be deferred not later than from one to five years after the issuance of the bonds and subsequent principal payments or debt service payments, which include both principal and interest payments, to be continued annually in ~~equal~~ substantially level or ~~diminishing~~ declining amounts, as determined by the legislative body of the municipality, so that the entire debt will be paid in not more than 20 years from the date of issue.

(2) In the case of bonds issued for the purchase or development of a municipal forest, the first payment may be deferred not more than 30 years from the date of issuance ~~thereof~~ of the bond. ~~Thereafter such~~ After any

deferral period, the bonds or bond shall be payable annually in ~~equal~~ substantially level or ~~diminishing amounts~~ declining annual debt service as the legislative body of the municipal corporation may determine, so that the entire debt will be paid in not more than 60 years from the date of issue.

* * *

(b) General obligation bonds authorized under this subchapter for the purpose of financing the improvement, construction, acquisition, repair, renovation, and replacement of a municipal plant as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 2901 shall be paid serially, the first payment to be deferred not later than from one to five years after the issuance of the bonds, and subsequent principal payments or debt service payments, which include both principal and interest payments, to be continued annually in substantially level or declining amounts, as determined by the legislative body of the municipal corporation, so that the entire debt will be paid ~~over a term equal to the useful life of the financed improvements, but~~ not more than 40 years from the date of issue, ~~and may be so arranged that beginning with the first year in which principal is payable, the amount of principal and interest in any year shall be as nearly equal as is practicable according to the denomination in which such bonds are issued,~~ notwithstanding other permissible payment schedules authorized by this section.

* * * Dam Drawdown During Emergency Flood Events * * *

Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 9 is amended to read:

§ 9. EMERGENCY POWERS OF GOVERNOR

(a) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, in the event of an all-hazards event in or directed upon the United States or Canada that causes or may cause substantial damage or injury to persons or property within the State in any manner, the Governor may declare a state of emergency within the entire State or any portion or portions of the State. Thereafter, the Governor shall have and may exercise for as long as the Governor determines the emergency to exist the following additional powers within ~~such~~ the area or areas:

* * *

(b)(1) In consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee, the Governor may authorize the Agency of Natural Resources to waive applicable permits and restrictions under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47 or the Vermont Water Quality Standards to allow dams within the State to draw down water levels in anticipation of a flood event that is likely to cause substantial damage or injury to persons or property. Waivers may only be issued if the Director of the Division of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee, has significant reason to believe that

authorizing an advance drawdown will decrease the risk of substantial damage to persons or property within the State. The Secretary or designee shall, to the extent feasible, consult with applicable dam owners for federally licensed sites. Dam operators operating under a waiver shall be required to make every effort to minimize the environmental impact of a water level drawdown under the authorized waiver.

(2) Dam owners authorized to use a waiver under this subsection shall be required to develop a drawdown plan that is approved by the Secretary prior to implementation of a drawdown. This subdivision shall not apply to dam owners that have other plans approved by the Secretary in effect that address emergency drawdowns. The drawdown plan shall at minimum include the following:

(A) hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the dam, reservoir, and downstream channel performed by an engineer experienced in dam safety engineering that proves the public safety benefit of pre-event drawdown;

(B) dam owner communications with downstream communities and applicable regulators prior to and during drawdown operations;

(C) maximum safe reservoir drawdown rates and outflows, as well as ramping rates for drawdown operations;

(D) target drawdown elevation in the reservoir;

(E) refill plan if unable to achieve during storm event;

(F) monitoring and reporting requirements of drawdown operations; and

(G) documentation of plan updates and revisions over time.

Sec. 10. [Deleted.]

* * * Local Option Tax; Amount Paid to Municipality * * *

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 138 is amended to read:

§ 138. LOCAL OPTION TAXES

* * *

(c)(1) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with State law governing such State tax or taxes and subdivision (2) of this subsection; provided, however, that a sales tax imposed under this section shall be collected on each sale that is subject to the Vermont sales tax using a destination basis for taxation. Except with respect to taxes collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, a per-return fee of $5.96 shall be assessed, ~~70~~ 75

percent of which shall be borne by the municipality, and ~~30~~ 25 percent of which shall be borne by the State to be paid from the PILOT Special Fund. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603 or any other provision of law or municipal charter to the contrary, revenue from the fee shall be used to compensate the Department for the costs of administering and collecting the local option tax and of administering the State appraisal and litigation program established in 32 V.S.A. § 5413. The fee shall be subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 605.

* * *

(d)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section and subdivision (2) of this subsection with respect to taxes collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, of the taxes collected under this section, ~~70~~ 75 percent of the taxes shall be paid on a quarterly basis to the municipality in which they were collected, after reduction for the costs of administration and collection under subsection (c) of this section. Revenues received by a municipality may be expended for municipal services only, and not for education expenditures. Any remaining revenue shall be deposited into the PILOT Special Fund established by 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

* * *

* * * Municipal Charters; Local Option Tax Revenue Share * * *

Sec. 12. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3, § 102d is amended to read:

§ 102d. LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX AUTHORITY

The Burlington City Council is authorized to impose a one percent sales tax upon sales within the City that are subject to the State of Vermont sales tax with the same exemptions as the State sales tax. The City sales tax shall be effective beginning on the next tax quarter following 30 days' notice in 2006 to the Department of Taxes, or shall be effective on the next tax quarter following 90 days' notice to the Department of Taxes if notice is given in 2007 or after. Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with State law governing the State sales tax. ~~Seventy percent of the~~ The taxes collected shall be paid to the City~~, and the remaining amount of the taxes collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the PILOT Special Fund first established in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 89. The cost of administration and collection of this tax shall be paid 70 percent by the City and 30 percent by the State from the PILOT Special Fund~~ pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. The tax to be paid to the City~~, less its obligation for 70 percent of the costs of administration and collection,~~ pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 shall

be paid ~~to the City~~ on a quarterly basis and may be expended by the City for municipal services only and not for education expenditures.

Sec. 13. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 5, § 1214 is amended to read:

§ 1214. LOCAL OPTION TAXES

Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues. Accordingly:

* * *

(3) ~~Of the taxes reported under this section, 70 percent shall be paid to the City for calendar years thereafter. Such revenues~~ The City's local option tax revenue may be expended by the City for municipal services only and not for educational expenditures. The remaining amount of the taxes reported shall be remitted monthly to the State Treasurer for deposit in the PILOT Special Fund set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 3709. Taxes due to the City under this section shall be paid by the State on a quarterly basis.

Sec. 14. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 127, § 1308a is amended to read:

§ 1308a. SALES, ROOMS, MEALS, AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TAX

* * *

(d) ~~Of the taxes collected under this section, 70 percent~~ The share of taxes due to the Town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 shall be paid to the Town on a quarterly basis ~~to the Town~~ after reduction for the costs of administration and collection under subsection (c) of this section. Revenues received by the Town may be expended for municipal services only and not for education expenditures. Any remaining revenues shall be deposited in the PILOT Special Fund established by 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. 15. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 171, § 18 is amended to read:

§ 18. LOCAL OPTIONS TAX

The Selectboard is authorized to impose a one percent sales tax, a one percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax, and a one percent rooms tax upon sales within the Town that are subject to the State of Vermont tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. The Town tax shall be implemented in the event the State local options tax as provided for in 24 V.S.A. § 138 is repealed or the 70-percent allocation to the town is reduced. A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with State law governing the State tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. The ~~amount of 70~~

~~percent of the~~ taxes collected shall be paid to the Town~~, and the remaining amount of the taxes collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Pilot Special Fund first established in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, § 89~~ pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. The cost of administration and collection of this tax shall be paid ~~70 percent by the Town and 30 percent by the State from the Pilot Special Fund~~ pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. The tax to be paid to the Town~~, less its obligation for the 70 percent of the costs of administration and collection,~~ pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 shall be paid to the Town on a quarterly basis and may be expended by the Town for municipal services only and not for education expenditures. The Town may repeal the local option taxes by Australian ballot vote.

* * * Division of Emergency Management; Technical Corrections * * *

Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

* * *

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) "Director" means the Director of ~~Vermont~~ the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety.

* * *

§ 3. VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ~~DIVISION~~

(a) There is hereby created within the Department of Public Safety ~~a division to~~ the Division of Emergency Management, which may also be known as ~~the~~ Vermont Emergency Management ~~Division~~.

* * *

§ 4. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

(a) If an all-hazards event occurs, the ~~Vermont Emergency Management~~ Division shall ensure that language assistance services are available for all State communications regarding the all-hazards event, including relevant press conferences and emergency alerts, as soon as practicable. Language assistance services shall be provided for:

* * *

(c) Annually, the ~~Vermont Emergency Management~~ Division shall hold a public meeting with members of the Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Advisory Council; the Office of Racial Equity; the Vermont Association of Broadcasters; and other relevant stakeholders to review the adequacy and efficacy of the provision and distribution of language assistance services of emergency communications over mass communication platforms to individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind as well as individuals with limited English language proficiency.

* * *

Sec. 17. 20 V.S.A. § 112 is amended to read:

§ 112. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS — ARTICLE X

* * *

(b) The ~~director~~ Director of ~~the~~ Vermont ~~emergency management service~~ Emergency Management shall be the authorized representative in regard to a request from a party state or by Vermont for aid that does not involve personnel or elements of the Vermont National Guard.

* * *

(d) The ~~director~~ Director of Vermont ~~emergency management~~ Emergency Management shall be responsible for handling any and all documents necessary to obtain reimbursement hereunder for services rendered to a requesting state, or within Vermont by another assisting state.

* * *

Sec. 18. 10 V.S.A. § 599a is amended to read:

§ 599a. REPORTS; RULEMAKING

* * *

(c) In adopting the Strategy, the Agency shall:

* * *

(2) in consultation with other State agencies and departments, including the Department of Public Safety's Division of ~~Vermont~~ Emergency Management, assess the adaptation needs and vulnerabilities of various areas vital to the State's economy, normal functioning, and the health and well-being of Vermonters;

* * *

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 3102 is amended to read:

§ 3102. CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX RECORDS

* * *

(e) The Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's discretion and subject to such conditions and requirements as the Commissioner may provide, including any confidentiality requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, disclose a return or return information:

* * *

(24) To the Division of ~~Vermont~~ Emergency Management at the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of emergency management and communication, and to the Department of Housing and Community Development and any organization then under contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development to carry out a statewide housing needs assessment for the purpose of the statewide housing needs assessment, provided that the disclosure relates to the information collected on the landlord certificate pursuant to subsection 6069(c) of this title.

* * *

* * * Rulemaking; Federal Regulations Incorporated by Reference * * *

Sec. 20. 3 V.S.A. § 850 is added to read:

§ 850. RULES; INCORPORATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Any federal regulation incorporated by reference into a Vermont Rule as of January 1, 2025 shall continue in effect as a State rule until January 31, 2029 or when the State rule is next amended, whichever is sooner, regardless of whether the federal rule was later repealed or amended. The secretary of an agency or commissioner of a department, as applicable, shall provide notice of these incorporated regulations by posting them on the agency or department website. Nothing in this section shall prevent the secretary or commissioner from adopting or amending a rule pursuant to this chapter, including emergency rulemaking.

* * * Property Tax Overpayment Refunds; City of Barre and Town of Milton * * *

Sec. 21. GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO THE EDUCATION FUND; APPROPRIATION FOR COMPENSATION FOR OVERPAYMENT

(a) In fiscal year 2026, in addition to any other fund transfers made, $621,479.00 shall be transferred from the General Fund to the Education Fund

to compensate the City of Barre and the Town of Milton for overpayment of education property tax increment from Tax Increment Financing District funds, pursuant to the findings of State Auditor Reports Nos. 21-03 and 24-06.

(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, in fiscal year 2026, $621,479.00 Education Fund shall be appropriated to the Department of Taxes for the following:

(1) $437,028.00 to make a payment to the City of Barre to compensate the City for overpayments of education property taxes in fiscal years 2016 through 2020 due to insufficient retention of tax increment by the City's Tax Increment Financing District fund; and

(2) $184,451.00 to make a payment to the Town of Milton to compensate the Town for overpayments of education property taxes in fiscal years 2017 through 2023 due to insufficient retention of tax increment by the Town's Tax Increment Financing District fund.

Sec. 22. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. 37 is amended to read:

Sec. 37. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT; CITY OF BARRE; EXTENSION; INCREMENT

(a) Notwithstanding 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 26a, amending 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 175, Sec. 29, or any other provision of law, the authority of the City of Barre to incur indebtedness is hereby extended to March 31, ~~2026~~ 2028.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority of the City of Barre to retain municipal and education tax increment is hereby extended until June 30, 2039.

Sec. 23. REPEAL

3 V.S.A. § 850 (rules; incorporation of federal regulations) is repealed on January 31, 2029.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 24. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 20 (rules; incorporation of federal regulations) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 11 (local option taxes) shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 69

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to an age-appropriate design code

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate concurred in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto by striking out Sec. 2, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027, except that this section (effective dates) and, in Sec. 1, 9 V.S.A. § 2449f(b) and 9 V.S.A. § 2449g(b) (rulemaking authority) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Recess

At one o'clock and fifty minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At four o'clock and ten minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted

H. 91

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H.91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Findings and Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, Vermont had the fourth highest rate of homelessness in 2024 in that 53 of every 10,000 Vermonters are experiencing homelessness, with only Hawaii, New York, and Oregon experiencing higher rates;

(2) according to the Vermont Homeless Management Information System, as of March 2025 there were 4,971 individuals who were homeless in the State, 1,105 of whom were children;

(3) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, there were approximately 3,458 unhoused individuals in Vermont, which represents a 300 percent increase over the 1,110 unhoused individuals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020;

(4) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, over 35 percent of those Vermonters experiencing homelessness were unhoused for more than one year and over 72 percent were unhoused for more than 90 days;

(5) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, Black Vermonters are 5.6 times more likely to be unhoused as compared to white Vermonters;

(6) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that 36,000 primary homes are needed in Vermont between 2025–2029, 3,295 of which are needed to address homelessness;

(7) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that "[h]alf of all Vermont renters are cost-burdened, and one-in-four pay more than 50 [percent] of their income on housing costs, putting them at high risk of eviction," which "is heightened by Vermont's rental vacancy rate of 3 [percent], which is well below the 5 [percent] rate of a healthy market";

(8) since 2020, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has facilitated construction of 170 new single-family homeownership units and 269 new shelter beds; and

(9) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that "[h]alf of all Vermont renters are cost-burdened, and one-in-four pay more than 50 [percent] of their income on housing costs, putting them at high risk of eviction," which "is heightened by Vermont's rental vacancy rate of 3 [percent], which is well below the 5 [percent] rate of a healthy market".

Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that unsheltered homelessness be eliminated and that homelessness in Vermont be rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is a step toward ensuring that:

(1) homelessness be reduced in Vermont and interim shelter opportunities be available to provide a stable pathway to permanent housing for all Vermonters experiencing homelessness, including safe shelter options for individuals living in unsheltered homelessness;

(2) Vermont increase the supply of emergency shelter as well as permanent supportive housing that meets the specific needs of individuals;

(3) community components of all shelter types are integrated in a systemic manner;

(4) night-by-night shelter, relocation between interim shelter sites, and other disruptions in housing stability be eliminated to the extent possible;

(5) Vermont's emergency housing statutes, rules, policies, procedures, and practices be modeled on Housing First principles where appropriate;

(6) noncongregate shelter be used to the extent possible; and

(7) Vermont reduce reliance on the inefficient use of hotel and motel rooms to shelter participating households and expand the use of emergency shelters throughout the State for this purpose.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 replaces the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 21 and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program beginning in fiscal year 2027 and on an ongoing basis; and

(2) in fiscal years 2027 and 2028, emergency shelter services funded through the Housing Opportunity Grant Program in fiscal year 2025 be funded at a level equivalent to or greater than fiscal year 2025 expenditures.

* * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program; Effective July 1, 2025 * * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is added to read:

CHAPTER 22. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

§ 2201. SHORT TITLE

The Program established in this chapter may be cited as "VHEARTH" or the "VHEARTH Program."

§ 2202. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the General Assembly to:

(1) replace the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in chapter 21 of this title and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program and use funds and resources previously attributed to these programs, and any other identified State and federal monies, to fund the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in this chapter;

(2) reduce reliance on the inefficient use of hotel and motel rooms to shelter participating households and expand the use of emergency shelters throughout the State for this purpose; and

(3) assist in maintaining housing for households at risk of homelessness and transition households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

§ 2203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "At risk of homelessness" means precariously housed without sufficient income, resources, or support to prevent homelessness.

(2) "Community action agency" means an agency designated pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59.

(3) "Community-based shelter" means a shelter that meets the Department's standards for the operation of shelters.

(4) "Department" means the Department for Children and Families.

(5) "Extreme weather event" means extreme hot or cold temperatures or weather events, such as hurricanes, flooding, or blizzards, that create hazardous conditions for outdoor habitation by humans.

(6) "Homeless" means:

(A) lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;

(B) facing imminent loss of primary nighttime residence;

(C) fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; or

(D) otherwise defined as homeless under federal law.

(7) "Household" means an individual and any dependents for whom the individual is legally responsible who are domiciled and intend to stay in Vermont as evidenced by an intent to dwell in Vermont and to return to Vermont if temporarily absent, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent. "Household" includes individuals who reside together as one economic unit, including those who are married, parties to a civil union, or unmarried.

(8) "Unsheltered homelessness" means sleeping in a location not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation.

§ 2204. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

(a) Each community action agency shall convene a regional advisory council composed of individuals and organizations in the community action agency's region. The membership of each regional advisory council shall reflect, to the extent possible, the growing diversity among Vermonters, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, as well as with regards to socioeconomic status, geographic location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status.

(1) Members of an advisory council shall include individuals with lived experience of homelessness, local housing coalitions or a local continuum of care serving as a local housing coalition, other organizations providing services in the region, municipalities, statewide homelessness organizations, the Agency of Human Services' Field Services Director, and any other representatives of the Agency as needed.

(2) Members of a regional advisory council may include community and State partners, housing providers, providers of coordinated entry, continuums of care, faith-based organizations, and other individuals or organizations as needed.

(b) Each regional advisory council shall provide advice and recommendations to the community action agency in its region regarding the design and implementation of the Program.

(c) Each regional advisory council shall meet on at least a quarterly basis.

(d) Members of a regional advisory council who are not participating in their professional capacity shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings annually. These payments shall be made from monies distributed to the relevant community action agency by the Department.

* * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program; Effective July 1, 2026 * * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 22. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

* * *

§ 2203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Community action agency" means an agency designated pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 or the entity or entities otherwise authorized by the Department pursuant to section 2205 of this chapter to fulfill the duties of a community action agency under this chapter.

* * *

§ 2204. ESTABLISHMENT; VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program is established in the Department to provide services to households that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, to the extent funds exist.

(1) The Department shall select and enter into an agreement with a statewide organization that has population-specific service experience to provide or cause to be provided supportive services and shelter to those households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

(2) All other participating households shall be served by or through a community action agency responsible for a geographically distinct region of the State. Community action agencies participating in the Program shall provide or cause to be provided supportive services, extreme weather event shelter, and emergency shelter.

§ 2205. AUTHORIZATION PROCESS; REAUTHORIZATION REVIEW

(a) The Department shall select and enter into an agreement with a statewide organization to provide or cause to be provided supportive services and shelter to those households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The Department shall conduct regular reviews of the statewide organization to ensure compliance with this chapter. The statewide organization may be subject to corrective actions by the Department if, within the constraint of appropriated resources, it no longer meets the requirements of this chapter or has failed to adequately meet the needs of households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. If the statewide organization cannot fulfill its responsibilities under this chapter, the Department shall work with another entity to ensure that there is not a gap in services.

(b)(1) The Department shall authorize a community action agency to serve or cause to be served households that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in a geographically distinct region of the State if it meets the criteria in this section. If a community action agency cannot fulfill its responsibilities under this chapter, the Department shall work with other community action agencies or other appropriate community entities to ensure that there is not a gap in services in a community action agency's region.

(2) A community action agency providing or causing to provide services in accordance with this chapter shall have:

(A) existing or planned infrastructure to support households in the region, including an established leadership team, a human resources staff, and the ability to receive grant funding and issue subgrants;

(B) the ability to meet the Department's reporting requirements, including having a past history of reporting compliance;

(C) the capacity to perform or cause to be performed the core services required pursuant to section 2206 of this chapter;

(D) the capacity to seek and accept charitable contributions, grants, and services of volunteers, including money, clothing, and furniture;

(E) any outcome measures established in this chapter;

(F) community connections with other providers in the region, including local housing coalitions, housing providers, providers of coordinated entry, continuums of care, faith-based organizations, and providers of services to individuals who are older Vermonters; individuals who have disabilities, a substance use disorder, or a mental health condition; individuals reentering the community after incarceration; individuals transitioning from the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families; and families with children; and

(G) the ability to provide plain language communications to households receiving services.

(3) Not less than every three years, the Department shall conduct a reauthorization review of each community action agency providing or causing to provide services pursuant to this chapter. An organization may be subject to corrective actions by the Department if, within the constraint of appropriated resources, it no longer meets the requirements in subdivision (2) of this subsection or has failed to adequately meet the needs of households in its region that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Lack of compliance may result in the Department deciding not to reauthorize the community action agency. The Department may review progress of any previously required corrective actions and may review community action agency performance between reauthorization reviews.

§ 2206. VHEARTH CORE SERVICES

(a) The Department shall enter into an agreement with a statewide organization with population-specific experience serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The organization shall provide or cause to be provided various shelter and case management services that support households.

(b) Each community action agency shall offer or cause to be offered, in collaboration with community partners, each of the following services within its region:

(1) supportive services, including:

(A) intake assessments and services for diversion from homelessness, which shall include regional intake shelters unless the Department and community action agencies agree otherwise;

(B) household needs assessments;

(C) individualized household plans to address identified needs;

(D) housing navigation services;

(E) assistance obtaining and retaining housing, including financial assistance;

(F) landlord-tenant outreach, education, and conflict resolution;

(G) navigation to other services and supports as identified in the household's housing plan, including economic benefits, peer-supported services, job training and employment services, services related to disability and independent living advocacy, and referral to health care assistance such as treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorder as provided by the designated and specialized services agencies and preferred providers, respectively, or other providers; and

(H) progress monitoring and interventions;

(2) the operation of extreme weather event shelters, which may include time-limited congregate accommodations and may be provided through agreements with municipalities or other entities, utilizing available data and considering geographic access to prioritize funding for this purpose; and

(3) the operation of emergency shelters in a manner that builds upon the federally required community planning process and prioritizes households in need of the services of an emergency shelter, which may include community-based shelters, temporary use of hotels or motels, lease agreements for full or partial use of an existing building, need-specific shelter arrangements, master grant leases, the development of shelter capacity, or other arrangements or combinations of arrangements that comply with the intent of this chapter.

§ 2207. USE OF HOTEL AND MOTEL ROOMS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to decrease reliance on hotel and motel rooms for emergency housing. Annually, as shelter capacity increases and the number of households experiencing homelessness decreases in each region of the State, the use of hotel and motel rooms for emergency housing in that region shall decrease. Annually, as part of the Department's budget presentation, the Department shall set goals for increased housing capacity, including permanent supportive housing, permanent affordable housing, and shelter beds, some of which may be population-specific, in addition to proposed corresponding decreases in the use of hotel and motel rooms. The Department shall provide data pertaining to the percentage of increased shelter capacity from the previous fiscal year in each region and how that increase impacts the corresponding hotel and motel room usage for

emergency housing in each region pursuant to this subsection for the purpose of informing regional planning and expectations.

(b) If hotels and motels are used to provide emergency shelter pursuant to this chapter, the hotel and motel operators shall comply with Program rules and the following rules:

(1) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(2) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(c) Annually, the Department shall propose hotel and motel rates as part of its budget presentation for approval by the General Assembly. A community action agency shall not pay or cause to be paid with State monies a per-room, per-night basis that exceeds the rate approved by the General Assembly.

(d) If a hotel or motel is being utilized, a community action agency or entity under contract with a community action agency:

(1) shall ensure relevant support services established pursuant to subdivision 2206(b)(1) of this chapter;

(2) shall enter into agreements for the use of blocks of hotel and motel rooms and negotiate the conditions of use for those blocks, including access for providers of case management or other supportive services;

(3) shall prioritize the use of hotel and motel room agreements over individual per-room, per-night hotel or motel room use, unless it is not appropriate to a household's needs;

(4) may use population-specific placements to the extent certain populations are not isolated from the wider community served through the Program; and

(5) shall not utilize hotels and motels outside the community action agency or entity's region, unless approved by the Department or in a written memorandum of understanding between community action agencies.

§ 2208. VHEARTH; DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

(a) The Department and the Agency of Human Services shall have statewide responsibility for meeting the intent of this chapter, including statewide planning, system development, and the involvement of all the Agency's departments.

(b) For the purpose of providing administrative oversight and monitoring of the Program established in this chapter, the Department shall:

(1)(A) maintain guidance regarding when extreme weather event shelters shall be operated, including flexibility for regional weather conditions; and

(B) maintain a website with the locations of all extreme weather event shelters;

(2) include as part of any review of a community action agency required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 the community action agency's ability to perform the requirements of this chapter;

(3)(A) consult with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence to develop appropriate resource allocations and methods for adjustment that take into account available data, the presence of community-based providers, and customary resource allocation methods, economic indicators, rate of homelessness, rental vacancy rates, and other variables, as appropriate; and

(B) annually, distribute funding to each community action agency and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence using the allocation formula developed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(3), or if the Department and community action agencies agree, disperse a joint allocation for all community action agencies, which the community action agencies shall determine how to distribute amongst themselves;

(4) consult with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence to develop appropriate measures and methods for accountability of the community action agencies' and the statewide organization's execution of duties under this chapter, including the provision of any previously agreed upon information to enable the Department to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect on households receiving services, and an accounting of expended grant funds;

(5) provide support and technical assistance to the community action agencies, other community partners, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence;

(6) identify specific administrative resources that could be transitioned to community operations;

(7) develop and maintain standards for the core services listed in section 2206 of this chapter, including the operation of community-based shelters; and

(8) adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, in consultation with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, as appropriate, for the implementation of this chapter, including rules that address reauthorization standards under subsection 2205(a) and subdivision 2205(b)(3) of this chapter and accommodations for individuals with a disability.

§ 2209. REGIONAL PLANNING; NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

(a) As part of the plan required every three years pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3904 and the federally required planning and needs assessments for the continuums of care, the community action agencies shall develop a regional needs assessment and planning process, in collaboration with community and State partners, for use in each community action agency's region to inform future plans addressing housing and homelessness in each region of the State. The regional needs assessment and planning process plans shall include:

(1) addressing progress in reducing the number of households experiencing homelessness in a region;

(2) assessing the rate households placed in permanent housing return to homelessness and the underlying reasons;

(3) identifying resources developed and utilized in the region to address homelessness and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of these resources in the region;

(4) reporting the rate of household participation with coordinated entry processes and case management services;

(5) identifying system gaps and the funding needed to address those gaps, including periodic inflationary adjustments; and

(6) utilizing data, including Vermont's Point-in-Time Count, coordinated entry assessment results, and community conversations.

(b) Every three years, each community action agency shall submit plans developed pursuant to this section to the Department in a format prescribed by the Department and to the regional planning committees in the region. Upon receipt of the plans, the Department shall consolidate the results of these reports and submit the consolidated report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

§ 2210. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

On or before the last day of every third month, the Department shall post a report on its website, in consultation with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households experiencing domestic or sexual violence, addressing:

(1) the number of households served through the Program, by household size and, if applicable, by eligibility category, region, service provider, and core service category;

(2) cash income and noncash benefits by source;

(3) changes in capacity for shelter beds, nursing homes, and residential care homes since the previous reporting period;

(4) the number of diversions from homelessness made during the previous reporting period;

(5) the number of households whose intake assessment indicated a potential need for services from each department within the Agency;

(6) the number of households that have been successfully transitioned to permanent housing since the previous reporting period, the types of housing settings in which they have been placed, and any supportive services they are receiving in conjunction with their housing;

(7) the number of households returning to homelessness after placement in permanent housing; and

(8) an inventory, by amount and purpose, of all subgrants issued by the statewide organization serving households experiencing or who have experienced domestic or sexual violence and by each community action agency.

§ ~~2204~~ 2211. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

* * *

* * * Implementation Planning and Initial Regional Assessments * * *

Sec. 5. VHEARTH IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

(a) On or before October 1, 2025, the Department for Children and Families, in collaboration with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, shall submit the first of two written implementation plans to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Joint Fiscal Committee outlining its initial plans for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency

Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established by 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 on or before July 1, 2026. Specifically, the first implementation plan shall include:

(1) a process that community action agencies, in coordination with the Department, shall use to conduct regularly occurring regional needs assessments and develop future regional plans, including consideration of municipal needs;

(2) recommended performance measures to evaluate the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence in carrying out their duties under 33 V.S.A. chapter 22, including:

(A) the provision of any previously agreed upon information to enable the Department to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect on households receiving services, and an accounting of expended grant funds; and

(B) performance measures that may be specific to an individual region of the State or provider;

(3) recommended eligibility for each of the core services listed in 33 V.S.A. § 2206;

(4) guidance regarding when extreme weather event shelters shall be operated, including flexibility for regional weather conditions;

(5) a timeline for the implementation of core services listed in 33 V.S.A. § 2206 for the first six months of fiscal year 2027;

(6) recommended intake and assessment processes to determine appropriate shelter and services for households based on Program eligibility; and

(7) a recommended process to enable an unwilling community action agency to opt-out of participation in the Program in a manner that gives the State adequate notice.

(b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department for Children and Families, in collaboration with the community action agencies, regional advisory councils established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2204, any other relevant department of the Agency, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, shall submit the second of two written implementation plans to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare outlining its initial plans for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing

Program established by 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 on or before July 1, 2026. Specifically, the second implementation plan shall include recommendations and information on the following:

(1)(A) funding allocations among the community action agencies and other providers, including for services specific to households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence; and

(B) the distribution of fiscal year 2026 appropriations pursuant to Sec. 8 of this act;

(2) additional State and federal funding and other resources identified for the Program;

(3) establishing an appeals process that includes a hearing before the Human Services Board and an option for an expedited appeals process;

(4) the role of 211 within the intake system;

(5) whether access to all or some services should include an expectation regarding household participation in case management services or other expectations such as night limits on the use of hotels and motels, and, if so, what elements and in what circumstances participation in case management services or other expectations should be applied;

(6) whether the use of emergency shelter should include financial participation, and, if so, what that participation should include;

(7) appropriate intake and assessment processes for verification of residency, homelessness, and household income;

(8) how to best ensure that there is equitable access to shelter and supportive services for households experiencing homelessness;

(9) the number of housing vouchers that Vermont lost in the past year, if the data is available; and

(10) any anticipated challenges requiring a legislative solution.

Sec. 6. INTERIM AND FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLANS

Prior to the enactment of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program on July 1, 2026, the statewide organization serving households experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence and community action agencies shall conduct initial needs assessments in accordance with the process developed in Sec. 5(a)(1) of this act. On or before January 15, 2026, the community action agencies shall submit one comprehensive progress report and the statewide organization shall submit a separate report to the House Committees on

Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare, including estimated fiscal year 2027 budget proposals, estimated costs of administering the Program, and an analysis of any barriers to generating additional shelter and permanent housing in the region. On or before April 1, 2026, the statewide organization shall submit a report and the community action agencies shall submit a separate comprehensive report detailing the results of each region's needs assessment and implementation plans, which shall not exceed the budgetary proposals provided in the January 15, 2026 progress report, to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare and to the regional planning committees in the region. The initial needs assessment conducted pursuant to this section shall include:

(1) addressing progress in reducing the number of households experiencing homelessness in a region;

(2) assessing the rate households placed in permanent housing return to homelessness and the underlying reasons;

(3) identifying resources developed and utilized in the region to address homelessness and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of these resources in the region;

(4) reporting the rate of household participation with coordinated entry processes and case management services;

(5) identifying system gaps and the funding needed to address those gaps, including periodic inflationary adjustments; and

(6) utilizing data, including Vermont's Point-in-Time Count, coordinated entry assessment results, and community conversations.

* * * Community Action Agencies * * *

Sec. 7. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES

§ 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains evident that ~~poverty continues to be the lot of~~ a substantial number of Vermont's population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of ~~this~~ the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the State as a whole.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts that further this policy through:

(1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning, coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance related to the problem of poverty;

(2) the better organization and utilization of a range of services related to the needs of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income; and

(3) the broadening of the resource base of programs to secure a more active role in assisting ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income from business, labor, and other groups from the private sector.

§ 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community ~~services~~ action agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and regulation.

(b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community ~~services~~ action agencies for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of community ~~service~~ action programs to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or in areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. Components of those services and activities may involve, without limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed to assist ~~low income~~ participants with low income:

(1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

(2) to obtain adequate education;

(3) to make better use of available income;

(4) to ~~provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment~~ have access to safe, secure, and permanent housing;

(5) to obtain prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for ~~the prevention of narcotics addiction, alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation of narcotic addicts and alcoholics~~ individuals with substance use disorder;

(6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;

(7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems ~~which~~ that block achievement of self-sufficiency;

(8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;

(9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to the purposes of this chapter; and

(10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and other social service programs to ~~assure~~ ensure the effective delivery of such services to ~~low-income~~ persons~~;~~ with low income and to encourage the use of entities in the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community.

(c) The Director is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of this title appropriate to the carrying out of this chapter and the purposes thereof.

§ 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

The Director shall designate private nonprofit ~~community based~~ community-based organizations ~~who~~ that have demonstrated or ~~who~~ that can demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in subsection 3902(b) of this title as community ~~services~~ action agencies.

§ 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY PLAN

Each designated community ~~services~~ action agency shall determine the need for activities and services within the area served by the agency and shall thereafter prepare a community services plan ~~which~~ that describes the method by which the agency will provide those services. The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or additional services and shall specify the resources ~~which~~ that are needed by and available to the agency to implement the plan. The community services plan shall be completed every three years and updated annually. The plan shall include the regional needs assessment required under 33 V.S.A. § 2209.

§ 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES; ADMINISTRATION

(a) Each community ~~services~~ action agency shall administer its programs as set out in the community services plan and as approved by its board of directors.

(b) Each board of a nonprofit ~~community based~~ community-based organization that is designated a community ~~services~~ action agency under section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the board and the board shall be so constituted that:

* * *

(2) one-third of the members of the board are persons chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to ~~assure~~ ensure that they are representative of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income in the area served; and

(3) the remainder of the members of the board are officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community.

(c) Each member of ~~the~~ a board selected to represent a specific geographic area within a community shall reside in the area ~~he or she~~ the member represents. ~~No person selected under subdivisions (2) or (3) of subsection (b) as a member of a board shall serve on such board for more than five consecutive years, or more than a total of 10 years~~ Each board shall adopt term limits to govern its members.

* * * Appropriations * * *

Sec. 8. APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION PLANNING

(a) In fiscal year 2026, $7,000,000.00 of one-time funding is appropriated from the General Fund as follows:

(1) $5,085,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families to plan for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program, which shall be distributed to the community action agencies on a mutually agreed upon schedule, as needed,;

(2) $400,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for distribution to the statewide organization serving households experiencing or who have experienced domestic or sexual violence; and

(3) $515,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Bridges to Health for services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless;

(4) $1,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for the distribution of grants to municipalities planning and implementing services for households that are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the community action agency serving a municipality's region.

(b) The Department shall report on the distribution of appropriations made in this section pursuant to Sec. 5(b)(1)(B).

* * * VHEARTH Transition * * *

Sec. 9. VHEARTH TRANSITION

Between July 1, 2025 and July 1, 2026, pursuant to a mutual agreement between the Department and a community action agency or the statewide organization serving households experiencing domestic or sexual violence, specific elements of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program may take effect prior to July 1, 2026 subject to:

(1) 30-day notice to affected households;

(2) 30-day notice to the Joint Fiscal Committee, House Committee on Human Services, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; and

(3) posted notice on the Department's website.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec.10. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that:

(1) Sec. 4 (Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program) shall take effect on July 1, 2026; however, specific elements of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program may be implemented prior to that date pursuant to Sec. 9;

(2) Sec. 7 (community action agencies) shall take effect on July 1, 2026; and

(3) the Department for Children and Families shall commence the rulemaking process prior to July 1, 2026 in order to have rules in place on that date.

VIRGINIA V. LYONS

MARTINE LAROCQUE GULICK

TANYA C. VYHOVSKY

Committee on the part of the Senate

THERESA A. WOOD

ERIC MAGUIRE

JUBILEE MCGILL

Committee on the part of the House

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, **Rep. McGill of Bridport** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 92. Nays, 42.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington *
Bos-Lun of Westminster *
Boutin of Barre City
Brady of Williston
Branagan of Georgia
Brown of Richmond
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor *
Burtt of Cabot
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham *
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Charlton of Chester
Christie of Hartford
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Garofano of Essex *
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Harple of Glover
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown *
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Maguire of Rutland City
Masland of Thetford
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nigro of Bennington
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
Ode of Burlington
Olson of Starksboro
Pezzo of Colchester
Pouech of Hinesburg
Priestley of Bradford
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Squirrell of Underhill
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Sweeney of Shelburne
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City *
Waters Evans of Charlotte
White of Waitsfield
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Bosch of Clarendon
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Casey of Hubbardton
Coffin of Cavendish
Demar of Enosburgh
Harrison of Chittenden
Harvey of Castleton
Howland of Rutland Town
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Nielsen of Brandon
North of Ferrisburgh
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Pinsonault of Dorset
Powers of Waterford
Pritchard of Pawlet

Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Luneau of St. Albans City	Southworth of Walden
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Marcotte of Coventry	Steady of Milton *
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCoy of Poultney	Tagliavia of Corinth
Galfetti of Barre Town	Micklus of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town
Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton	Walker of Swanton
Gregoire of Fairfield	Morgan, M. of Milton	Winter of Ludlow
Hango of Berkshire *	Morrissey of Bennington	
	Nelson of Derby *	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland	Donahue of Northfield	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bartley of Fairfax	Feltus of Lyndon	Parsons of Newbury
Boyden of Cambridge	Higley of Lowell	Surprenant of Barnard
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Malay of Pittsford	Wells of Brownington
Cina of Burlington	McCann of Montpelier	White of Bethel

Rep. Bluemle of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I cast my vote with gratitude for the leadership and persistence of the Human Services Committee, for the willingness of Community Action Agencies and shelter providers, to step up to this responsibility and for Brenda Siegel's tireless advocacy, which has done much to inspire this change."

Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I am glad to support H.91, transitioning Vermont from reliance on an inadequate hotel/motel program to a model that will more effectively help Vermonters and Vermont communities. I have worked closely with individuals looking for stable housing. I am hopeful this legislation will move Vermont toward addressing root issues and housing for all."

Rep. Burrows of West Windsor provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

The idea of preventing people from falling below the impossible to overcome line of home – no home comes as a great relief. And the thought and care that has gone into this bill is deeply appreciated."

Rep. Carris-Duncan of Whitingham provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted for this bill because our economy right now is precarious. Falling into homelessness can happen to any of us. If your loved one happens to get sick that could be the end of stable housing. When I first moved back it took ten months to find stable housing, in spite of generous hands lending help. I know the toll and the stress that can come from not having a stable home base. We were tasked with the opportunity to transform our housing system to build something with the wraparound supports needed to break this crisis. Our winters are cold. No one deserves to be left in the snow."

Rep. Garofano of Essex provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I am proud to vote yes for H.91. H.91 is a transformative piece of legislation that integrates Vermont's homeless assistance system. It creates a person-centered program that will provide essential supportive services to vulnerable Vermonters who are experiencing homelessness and will reduce our reliance on the ineffective hotel/motel voucher program."

Rep. Hango of Berkshire provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I was hopeful that this Committee of Conference report would present us with a viable and sustainable path forward to shelter our most vulnerable populations, but I'm not convinced that the underlying causes of homelessness will be addressed and alleviated."

Rep. LaMont of Morristown provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

The 5,000 Vermonters, 1100 of which named to be children, are only the people we have documented and accounted for through use of services. Given the current state of events, our housing crisis will get worse before it gets better. I am grateful for the work of the committee and the advocates for this step in the right direction. Housing is a human right. Let's get to work."

Rep. Nelson of Derby provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

If we further remove the barriers to creating affordable housing and use public dollars to create shelter for a long-lasting housing, we could better take care of these families."

Rep. Steady of Milton provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I worked housing the homeless when it began in 2014. I do not believe VHEARTH is the answer. I have a few concerns on H.91. However, I will only mention two. First, there is no longer an 80-day cap for the hotel/motel program. I believe a cap should remain with a provision to extend if an eligible recipient is deemed to be disabled or has a medical need. If there is no cap and there is an emergency need for a room, will a room be available? Second, the start funds will be used for additional staffing to implement VHEARTH. Who will be paying these salaries and rentals in the future when the start-up monies run out? I do not feel this costly bill is the fix to help our homeless Vermonters."

Rep. Waszazak of Barre City provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Housing is a human right, and until we realize that through a whole government approach, people will continue to needlessly suffer. I support this bill for all of those whom this bill will help and remind us all that the work is far from over. These 1100 kids are counting on us."

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 126

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.126. An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Purpose of the Act; Goals * * *

Sec. 1. PURPOSE; GOALS

The purpose of this act is to achieve transformation of and structural changes to Vermont's health care system. In enacting this legislation, the General Assembly intends to advance the following goals:

(1) improvements in health outcomes, population health, quality of care, regional access to services, and reducing disparities in access resulting from demographic factors or health status;

(2) an integrated system of care, with robust care coordination and increased investments in primary care, home health care, and long-term care;

(3) stabilizing health care providers, controlling the costs of commercial health insurance, and managing hospital costs based on the total cost of care, beginning with reference-based pricing and continuing on to global hospital budgets;

(4) evaluating progress in achieving system transformation and structural changes by creating and applying standardized accountability metrics; and

(5) establishing a health care system that will attract and retain high-quality health care professionals to practice in Vermont and that supports, develops, and preserves the dignity of Vermont's health care workforce.

* * * Hospital Budgets and Payment Reform * * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9375 is amended to read:

§ 9375. DUTIES

(a) The Board shall execute its duties consistent with the principles expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(b) The Board shall have the following duties:

(1) Oversee the development and implementation, and evaluate the effectiveness, of health care payment and delivery system reforms designed to control the rate of growth in health care costs; promote seamless care, administration, and service delivery; and maintain health care quality in Vermont, including ensuring that the payment reform pilot projects set forth in this chapter are consistent with such reforms.

(A) Implement by rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, methodologies for achieving payment reform and containing costs that may include the participation of Medicare and Medicaid, which may include the creation of health care professional cost-containment targets, reference-based

pricing, global payments, bundled payments, global budgets, risk-adjusted capitated payments, or other uniform payment methods and amounts for integrated delivery systems, health care professionals, or other provider arrangements.

* * *

(5) Set rates for health care professionals pursuant to section 9376 of this title, to be implemented over time beginning with reference-based pricing as soon as practicable, but not later than hospital fiscal year 2027, and make adjustments to the rules on reimbursement methodologies as needed.

(6) Approve, modify, or disapprove requests for health insurance rates pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 4062, taking into consideration the requirements in the underlying statutes~~,~~; changes in health care delivery~~,~~; changes in payment methods and amounts, including implementation of reference-based pricing; protecting insurer solvency~~,~~; and other issues at the discretion of the Board.

(7) Review and establish hospital budgets pursuant to chapter 221, subchapter 7 of this title, including establishing standards for global hospital budgets that reflect the implementation of reference-based pricing and the total cost of care targets determined in collaboration with federal partners and other stakeholders or as set by the Statewide Health Care Delivery Plan developed pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established. Beginning not later than hospital fiscal year 2028, to the extent that resources are available, the Board shall establish global hospital budgets for one or more Vermont hospitals that are not critical access hospitals. By hospital fiscal year 2030, to the extent that resources are available, the Board shall establish global hospital budgets for all Vermont hospitals.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9376 is amended to read:

§ 9376. PAYMENT AMOUNTS; METHODS

(a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure payments to health care professionals that are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and will permit them to provide, on a solvent basis, effective and efficient health services that are in the public interest. It is also the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the shift of costs between the payers of health services to ensure that the amount paid to health care professionals is sufficient to enlist enough providers to ensure that health services are available to all Vermonters and are distributed equitably.

(b) Rate-setting.

(1) The Board shall set reasonable rates for health care professionals, health care provider bargaining groups created pursuant to section 9409 of this title, manufacturers of prescribed products, medical supply companies, and other companies providing health services or health supplies based on methodologies pursuant to section 9375 of this title, in order to have a consistent reimbursement amount accepted by these persons. In its discretion, the Board may implement rate-setting for different groups of health care professionals over time and need not set rates for all types of health care professionals. In establishing rates, the Board may consider legitimate differences in costs among health care professionals, such as the cost of providing a specific necessary service or services that may not be available elsewhere in the State, and the need for health care professionals in particular areas of the State, particularly in underserved geographic or practice shortage areas.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to:

(A) limit the ability of a health care professional to accept less than the rate established in subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) from a patient without health insurance or other coverage for the service or services received; or

(B) reduce or limit the covered services offered by Medicare or Medicaid.

(c) Methodologies. The Board shall approve payment methodologies that encourage cost-containment; provision of high-quality, evidence-based health services in an integrated setting; patient self-management; access to primary care health services ~~for underserved individuals, populations, and areas~~; and healthy lifestyles. Such methodologies shall be consistent with payment reform and with evidence-based practices, and may include fee-for-service payments if the Board determines such payments to be appropriate.

(d) Supervision. To the extent required to avoid federal antitrust violations and in furtherance of the policy identified in subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall facilitate and supervise the participation of health care professionals and health care provider bargaining groups in the process described in subsection (b) of this section.

(e) Reference-based pricing.

(1)(A) The Board shall establish reference-based prices that represent the maximum amounts that hospitals shall accept as payment in full for items provided and services delivered in Vermont. The Board may also implement reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital by setting the

minimum amounts that shall be paid for items provided and services delivered by nonhospital-based health care professionals. The Board shall consult with health insurers, hospitals, other health care professionals as applicable, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and the Agency of Human Services in developing reference-based prices pursuant to this subsection (e), including on ways to achieve all-payer alignment on the design and implementation of reference-based pricing.

(B) The Board shall implement reference-based pricing in a manner that does not allow health care professionals to charge or collect from patients or health insurers any amount in excess of the reference-based amount established by the Board.

(2)(A) Reference-based prices established pursuant to this subsection (e) shall be based on a percentage of the Medicare reimbursement for the same or a similar item or service or on another benchmark, as appropriate, provided that if the Board establishes prices that are referenced to Medicare, the Board may opt to update the prices in the future based on a reasonable rate of growth that is separate from Medicare rates, such as the Medicare Economic Index measure of inflation, in order to provide predictability and consistency for health care professionals and payers and to protect against federal funding pressures that may impact Medicare rates in an unpredictable manner. The Board may also reference to, and update based on, other payment or pricing systems where appropriate.

(B) In establishing reference-based prices for a hospital pursuant to this subsection (e), the Board shall consider the composition of the communities served by the hospital, including the health of the population, demographic characteristics, acuity, payer mix, labor costs, social risk factors, and other factors that may affect the costs of providing care in the hospital service area, as well as the hospital's role in Vermont's health care system.

(3)(A) The Board shall begin implementing reference-based pricing as soon as practicable but not later than hospital fiscal year 2027 by establishing the maximum amounts that Vermont hospitals shall accept as payment in full for items provided and services delivered. After initial implementation, the Board shall review the reference-based prices for each hospital annually as part of the hospital budget review process set forth in chapter 221, subchapter 7 of this title.

(B) The Board, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall monitor the implementation of reference-based pricing to ensure that any decreases in amounts paid to hospitals also result in decreases in health insurance premiums. The Board shall post its findings regarding the

alignment between price decreases and premium decreases annually on its website.

(4) The Board shall identify factors that would necessitate terminating or modifying the use of reference-based pricing in one or more hospitals, such as a measurable reduction in access to or quality of care.

(5) The Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services and the Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care established pursuant to section 9403b of this title, may implement reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital, such as primary care services, and may increase or decrease the percentage of Medicare or another benchmark as appropriate, first to enhance access to primary care and later for alignment with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan established pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established. The Board may consider establishing reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital by setting minimum amounts that shall be paid for the purpose of prioritizing access to high-quality health care services in settings that are appropriate to patients' needs in order to contain costs and improve patient outcomes.

(6) The Board's authority to establish reference-based prices pursuant to this subsection shall not include the authority to set amounts applicable to items provided or services delivered to patients who are enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid.

Sec. 3a. 18 V.S.A. § 9451 is amended to read:

§ 9451. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under chapter 43 of this title, except a hospital that is conducted, maintained, or operated by the State of Vermont.

(2) "Hospital network" means a system comprising two or more affiliated hospitals, and may include other health care professionals and facilities, that derives 50 percent or more of its operating revenue, at the consolidated network level, from Vermont hospitals and in which the affiliated hospitals deliver health care services in a coordinated manner using an integrated financial and governance structure.

(3) "Volume" means the number of inpatient days of care or admissions and the number of all inpatient and outpatient ancillary services rendered to patients by a hospital.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9454 is amended to read:

§ 9454. HOSPITALS; DUTIES

* * *

(b) Hospitals shall submit information as directed by the Board in order to maximize hospital budget data standardization and allow the Board to make direct comparisons of hospital expenses across the health care system.

(c) Hospitals shall adopt a fiscal year that shall begin on October 1.

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

§ 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) The Board shall conduct reviews of each hospital's proposed budget based on the information provided pursuant to this subchapter and in accordance with a schedule established by the Board.

(b) In conjunction with budget reviews, the Board shall:

(1) review utilization information;

(2) consider the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established, including the total cost of care targets, and consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure compliance with federal requirements regarding Medicare and Medicaid;

(3) consider the Health Resource Allocation Plan identifying Vermont's critical health needs, goods, services, and resources developed pursuant to section 9405 of this title;

~~(3)~~(4) consider the expenditure analysis for the previous year and the proposed expenditure analysis for the year under review;

~~(4)~~(5) consider any reports from professional review organizations;

(6) for a hospital that operates within a hospital network, review the hospital network's financial operations as they relate to the budget of the individual hospital;

~~(5)~~(7) solicit public comment on all aspects of hospital costs and use and on the budgets proposed by individual hospitals;

~~(6)~~(8) meet with hospitals to review and discuss hospital budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year;

~~(7)~~(9) give public notice of the meetings with hospitals~~,~~ and invite the public to attend and to comment on the proposed budgets;

~~(8)~~(10) consider the extent to which costs incurred by the hospital in connection with services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries are being charged to non-Medicaid health benefit plans and other non-Medicaid payers;

~~(9)~~(11) require each hospital to file an analysis that reflects a reduction in net revenue needs from non-Medicaid payers equal to any anticipated increase in Medicaid, Medicare, or another public health care program reimbursements, and to any reduction in bad debt or charity care due to an increase in the number of insured individuals;

~~(10)~~(12) require each hospital to provide information on administrative costs, as defined by the Board, including specific information on the amounts spent on marketing and advertising costs;

~~(11)~~(13) require each hospital to create or maintain connectivity to the State's Health Information Exchange Network in accordance with the criteria established by the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc., pursuant to subsection 9352(i) of this title, provided that the Board shall not require a hospital to create a level of connectivity that the State's Exchange is unable to support;

~~(12)~~(14) review the hospital's investments in workforce development initiatives, including nursing workforce pipeline collaborations with nursing schools and compensation and other support for nurse preceptors; ~~and~~

~~(13)~~(15) consider the salaries for the hospital's executive and clinical leadership, including variable payments and incentive plans, and the hospital's salary spread, including a comparison of median salaries to the medians of northern New England states and a comparison of the base salaries and total compensation for the hospital's executive and clinical leadership with those of the hospital's lowest-paid employees who deliver health care services directly to hospital patients; and

(16) consider the number of employees of the hospital whose duties are primarily administrative in nature, as defined by the Board, compared with the number of employees whose duties primarily involve delivering health care services directly to hospital patients.

(c) Individual hospital budgets established under this section shall:

(1) be consistent, to the extent practicable, with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established, including the total cost of care targets, and with the Health Resource Allocation Plan;

(2) reflect the reference-based prices established by the Board pursuant to section 9376 of this title;

(3) take into consideration national, regional, or in-state peer group norms, according to indicators, ratios, and statistics established by the Board;

~~(3)~~(4) promote efficient and economic operation of the hospital and, if a hospital is affiliated with a hospital network, ensure that hospital spending on the hospital network's operations is consistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title and with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established;

~~(4)~~(5) reflect budget performances for prior years;

~~(5)~~(6) include a finding that the analysis provided in subdivision ~~(b)~~(9)(b)(11) of this section is a reasonable methodology for reflecting a reduction in net revenues for non-Medicaid payers; ~~and~~

~~(6)~~(7) demonstrate that they support equal access to appropriate mental health care that meets standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care; and

(8) include meaningful variable payments and incentive plans for hospitals that are consistent with this section and with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(d)(1)(A) Annually, the Board shall establish a budget for each hospital on or before September 15, followed by a written decision by October 1. Each hospital shall operate within the budget established under this section.

(B)(i) Beginning not later than hospital fiscal year 2028, to the extent that resources are available, the Board shall establish global hospital budgets for one or more Vermont hospitals that are not critical access hospitals. Not later than hospital fiscal year 2030, to the extent that resources are available, the Board shall establish global hospital budgets for all Vermont hospitals.

(ii) Global hospital budgets established pursuant to this section shall include Medicare to the extent permitted under federal law but shall not include Medicaid.

* * *

(e)(1) The Board, in consultation with the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, shall utilize mechanisms to measure hospital costs, quality, and access and alignment with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (D) of this subdivision (e)(2), a hospital that proposes to reduce or eliminate any service in order to comply with a budget established under this section shall provide a notice of intent to

the Board, the Agency of Human Services, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and the members of the General Assembly who represent the hospital service area not less than 45 days prior to the proposed reduction or elimination.

(B) The notice shall explain the rationale for the proposed reduction or elimination and describe how it is consistent with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established, and the hospital's most recent community health needs assessment conducted pursuant to section 9405a of this title and 26 U.S.C. § 501(r)(3).

(C) The Board may evaluate the proposed reduction or elimination for consistency with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established and the community health needs assessment, and may modify the hospital's budget or take such additional actions as the Board deems appropriate to preserve access to necessary services.

(D) A service that has been identified for reduction or elimination in connection with the transformation efforts undertaken by the Board and the Agency of Human Services pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167 does not need to comply with subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (e)(2).

(3) The Board, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall monitor the implementation of any authorized decrease in hospital services to determine its benefits to Vermonters or to Vermont's health care system, or both.

(4) The Board may establish a process to define, on an annual basis, criteria for hospitals to meet, such as utilization and inflation benchmarks.

(5) The Board may waive one or more of the review processes listed in subsection (b) of this section.

* * *

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 9458 is added to read:

§ 9458. HOSPITAL NETWORKS; STRUCTURE; FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

(a) The Board may review and evaluate the structure of a hospital network to determine:

(1) whether any network operations should be organized and operated out of a hospital instead of at the network; and

(2) whether the existence and operation of a network provides value to Vermonters, is in the public interest, and is consistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title and with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

(b) In order to protect the public interest, the Board may, on its own initiative, investigate the financial operations of a hospital network, including compensation of the network's employees and executive leadership.

(c) The Board may recommend any action it deems necessary to correct any aspect of the structure of a hospital network or its financial operations that are inconsistent with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title or with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established.

* * * Health Care Contracts * * *

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 9418c is amended to read:

§ 9418c. FAIR CONTRACT STANDARDS

* * *

(e)(1) The requirements of subdivision (b)(5) of this section do not prohibit a contracting entity from requiring a reasonable confidentiality agreement between the provider and the contracting entity regarding the terms of the proposed health care contract.

(2) Upon request, a contracting entity or provider shall provide an unredacted copy of an executed or proposed health care contract to the Department of Financial Regulation or the Green Mountain Care Board, or both.

* * * Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan; Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee; Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care * * *

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 9403 is added to read:

§ 9403. STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with the Green Mountain Care Board, the Department of Financial Regulation, the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee established in section 9403a of this title, the Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care established pursuant to section 9403b of this title, and other interested stakeholders, shall lead development of an integrated Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan as set forth in this section.

(b) The Plan shall:

(1) Align with the principles for health care reform expressed in section 9371 of this title.

(2) Identify existing services and promote universal access across Vermont to high-quality, cost-effective acute care; primary care, including primary mental health services; chronic care; long-term care; substance use disorder treatment services; emergency medical services; nonemergency medical services; nonmedical services and supports; and hospital-based, independent, and community-based services.

(3) Define a shared vision and shared goals and objectives for improving access to and the quality, efficiency, and affordability of health care services in Vermont and for reducing disparities in access resulting from demographic factors or health status, including benchmarks for evaluating progress.

(4) Identify the resources, infrastructure, and support needed to achieve established targets, which will ensure the feasibility and sustainability of implementation.

(5) Provide a phased implementation timeline with milestones and regular reporting to ensure adaptability as needs evolve.

(6) Promote accountability and continuous quality improvement across Vermont's health care system through the use of data, scientifically grounded methods, and high-quality performance metrics to evaluate effectiveness and inform decision making.

(7) Provide annual targets for the total cost of care across Vermont's health care system. Using these total cost of care targets, the Plan shall identify appropriate allocations of health care resources and services across the State that balance quality, access, and cost containment. The Plan shall also establish targets for the percentages of overall health care spending that should reflect spending on primary care services, including mental health services, and on preventive care services, which targets shall be aligned with the total cost of care targets.

(8) Build on data and information from:

(A) the transformation planning resulting from 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167, Secs. 1 and 2;

(B) the expenditure analysis and health care spending estimate developed pursuant to section 9383 of this title;

(C) the State Health Improvement Plan adopted pursuant to subsection 9405(a) of this title;

(D) the Health Resource Allocation Plan published by the Green Mountain Care Board in accordance with subsection 9405(b) of this title;

(E) hospitals' community health needs assessments and strategic planning conducted in accordance with section 9405a of this title;

(F) hospital and ambulatory surgical center quality information published by the Department of Health pursuant to section 9405b of this title;

(G) the statewide quality assurance program maintained by the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care pursuant to section 9416 of this title;

(H) the 2020 report determining the proportion of health care spending in Vermont that is allocated to primary care, submitted to the General Assembly by the Green Mountain Care Board and the Department of Vermont Health Access in accordance with 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 17, Sec. 2;

(I) the 2024 report on Blueprint for Health payments to patient-centered medical homes, submitted to the General Assembly by the Agency of Human Services in accordance with 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 5; and

(J) such additional sources of data and information as the Agency and other stakeholders deem appropriate.

(9) Identify:

(A) opportunities to improve the quality of care across the health care delivery system, including exemplars of high-quality care to stimulate best practice dissemination;

(B) gaps in access to care, as well as unnecessary duplication of services, including circumstances in which service closures or consolidations may result in improvements in quality, access, and affordability;

(C) opportunities to reduce administrative burdens;

(D) federal, State, and other barriers to achieving the Plan's goals and, to the extent feasible, how those barriers can be removed or mitigated;

(E) priorities in steps for achieving the goals of the Plan;

(F) barriers to access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services that meet standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care;

(G) opportunities to integrate health care services for individuals in the custody of the Department of Corrections as part of Vermont's health care delivery system;

(H) enhancements in quality reporting and data collection to provide a more current and accurate picture of the quality of health care delivery across Vermont; and

(I) systems to ensure that reported data is shared with and is accessible to the health care professionals who are providing care, enabling them to track performance and inform improvement.

(c) State agencies shall cooperate with all reasonable requests from the Agency of Human Services for data and other information and assistance needed for the Agency to prepare and update the Plan pursuant to this section.

(d)(1) In 2025 and 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall engage with stakeholders; collect and analyze data; gather information obtained through the processes established in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167, Secs. 1 and 2; and solicit input from the public.

(2) In 2027, the Agency shall prepare the Plan.

(3) On or before January 15, 2028, the Agency shall provide the Plan to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(4) The Agency shall prepare an updated Plan every three years and shall provide it to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of every third year, beginning on December 1, 2030.

Sec. 9. 18 V.S.A. § 9403a is added to read:

§ 9403a. HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) There is created the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee to:

(1) establish health care affordability benchmarks;

(2) evaluate and monitor the performance of Vermont's health care system and its impacts on population health outcomes;

(3) collaborate with the Agency of Human Services and other interested stakeholders in the development and maintenance of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to section 9403 of this title;

(4) consider the recommendations of the Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care established pursuant to section 9403b of this title;

(5) advise the Green Mountain Care Board on the design and implementation of an ongoing evaluation process to continuously monitor current performance in the health care delivery system; and

(6) provide coordinated and consensus recommendations to the General Assembly on issues related to health care delivery, including primary care, and population health.

(b)(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following 18 members:

(A) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(B) the Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;

(C) the Chief Health Care Advocate from the Office of the Health Care Advocate or designee;

(D) two members of the Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care, selected by the Steering Committee;

(E) one representative of commercial health insurers offering major medical health insurance plans in Vermont, selected by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation;

(F) two representatives of Vermont hospitals, selected by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, who shall represent hospitals that are located in different regions of the State and that face different levels of financial stability;

(G) one representative of Vermont's federally qualified health centers, selected by Bi-State Primary Care Association;

(H) one representative of physicians, selected by the Vermont Medical Society;

(I) one representative of independent physician practices, selected by HealthFirst;

(J) one representative of advanced practice registered nurses, selected by the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association;

(K) one representative of Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies, selected by Vermont Care Partners;

(L) one preferred provider from outside the designated and specialized service agency system, selected by the Commissioner of Health;

(M) one Vermont-licensed mental health professional from an independent practice, selected by the Commissioner of Mental Health;

(N) one representative of Vermont's home health agencies, selected jointly by the VNAs of Vermont and Bayada Home Health Care; and

(O) one representative of long-term care facilities, selected by the Vermont Health Care Association; and

(P) one representative of small businesses, selected by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall consult with and solicit input from the Health Equity Advisory Commission; physician assistants, physical therapists, and other health care professionals who are not members of the Advisory Committee; Vermont's free clinic programs; the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care; and other relevant stakeholders.

(3) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall be the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

(4) The Agency of Human Services shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the Advisory Committee.

(c) Members of the Advisory Committee shall not receive per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their participation on the Advisory Committee.

Sec. 9a. 18 V.S.A. § 9403b is added to read:

§ 9403b. VERMONT STEERING COMMITTEE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

(a) There is created the Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care to inform the work of State government, including the Blueprint for Health and the Office of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services, as it relates to access to, delivery of, and payment for primary care services in Vermont.

(b) The Steering Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(2) the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(3) the Associate Dean for Primary Care at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine or designee;

(5) the President of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians or designee;

(6) the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Vermont Chapter, or designee;

(7) a member of the Green Mountain Care Board's Primary Care Advisory Committee, selected by the Green Mountain Care Board;

(8) the Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health;

(9) a primary care clinician who practices at an independent practice, selected by HealthFirst;

(10) a primary care clinician who practices at a federally qualified health center, selected by Bi-State Primary Care Association;

(11) a primary care physician, selected by the Vermont Medical Society;

(12) a primary care physician assistant, selected by the Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont;

(13) a primary care nurse practitioner, selected by the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association;

(14) a mental health provider who practices at a community mental health center designated pursuant to section 8907 of this title, selected by Vermont Care Partners;

(15) a licensed independent clinical social worker, selected by the National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter; and

(16) a psychologist, selected by the Vermont Psychological Association.

(c) The Steering Committee shall:

(1) engage in an ongoing assessment of comprehensive primary care needs in Vermont;

(2) provide recommendations for recruiting and retaining high-quality primary care providers, including on ways to encourage new talent to join Vermont's primary care workforce;

(3) develop proposals for sustainable payment models for primary care;

(4) identify methods for enhancing Vermonters' access to primary care;

(5) recommend opportunities to reduce administrative burdens on primary care providers;

(6) recommend mechanisms for measuring the quality of primary care services delivered in Vermont;

(7) provide input regarding comprehensive primary health care for the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan as it is developed, updated, and implemented pursuant to section 9403 of this title;

(8) consult with the Green Mountain Care Board in the event that the Board develops reference-based pricing for primary care providers as permitted under subdivision 9376(e)(5) of this title; and

(9) offer additional recommendations and guidance to the Blueprint for Health, the Office of Health Care Reform, the General Assembly, and others in State government on ways to increase access to primary care services and to improve patient and provider satisfaction with primary care delivery in Vermont.

(d) The Steering Committee shall receive administrative and technical assistance from the Agency of Human Services.

(e)(1) The Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health shall call the first meeting of the Steering Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2025.

(2) The Steering Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(f) Members of the Steering Committee shall not receive per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their participation on the Steering Committee.

* * * Data Integration; Data Sharing * * *

Sec. 10. 18 V.S.A. § 9353 is added to read:

§ 9353. INTEGRATION OF HEALTH CARE DATA; REPORTS

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee in the development of the Unified Health Data Space in order to improve patient and provider access to relevant information, increase efficiencies and decrease administrative burdens on providers, and reduce health care system costs.

(b) The Agency's development of the Unified Health Data Space shall:

(1) align with the statewide Health Information Technology Plan established pursuant to section 9351 of this title;

(2) utilize the expertise of the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee;

(3) incorporate appropriate privacy and security standards that are aligned with the best privacy and security interests of patients;

(4) determine whether to integrate clinical data, claims data, data regarding social drivers of health and health-related social needs, and other data types and, if so, how to do so in a manner that protects proprietary information relating to payers and providers; provided, however, that integration of these data types or a subset of them shall not begin prior to January 1, 2027 and shall occur only upon the favorable vote of a majority of all voting members of the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee and only for the specific uses approved by a majority of all voting members of the Steering Committee;

(5) if data is integrated in accordance with subdivision (4) of this subsection, limit the use of the integrated data to the specific uses approved by the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee;

(6) ensure interoperability among contributing data sources and applications to enable use of the Unified Health Data Space;

(7) identify the resources necessary to complete data linkages for policy, health surveillance, population health management, and research usage and for the data integration uses approved by the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee pursuant to subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection;

(8) establish a timeline for setup and access to the integrated system;

(9) develop and implement a system that ensures rapid access for patients and providers; and

(10) identify additional opportunities for future development, including incorporating new data types and larger populations.

(c) The Agency shall provide access to data to State agencies and health care providers as needed to support the goals of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan established pursuant to section 9403 of this title, once established, to the extent permitted by the data use agreements in place for each data set and the uses approved pursuant to subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

(d)(1) On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the advantages and disadvantages of integrating clinical data, claims data, data regarding social drivers of health and health-related social needs, and other data types in the Unified Health Data Space; how an integrated system can improve patient and provider access to relevant information, increase efficiencies and decrease

administrative burdens on providers, increase access to and quality of health care for Vermonters, and reduce health care system costs; and how an integrated system can be implemented in a manner that protects proprietary information relating to payers and providers.

(2) On or before January 15 annually beginning in 2027, the Agency of Human Services shall provide an update to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the development and implementation of the Unified Health Data Space in accordance with this section.

Sec. 11. 18 V.S.A. § 9374 is amended to read:

§ 9374. BOARD MEMBERSHIP; AUTHORITY

* * *

(i)(1) In addition to any other penalties and in order to enforce the provisions of this chapter and empower the Board to perform its duties, the Chair of the Board may issue subpoenas, examine persons, administer oaths, and require production of papers and records. Any subpoena or notice to produce may be served by registered or certified mail or in person by an agent of the Chair. Service by registered or certified mail shall be effective three business days after mailing. Any subpoena or notice to produce shall provide at least six business days' time from service within which to comply, except that the Chair may shorten the time for compliance for good cause shown. Any subpoena or notice to produce sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, shall constitute service on the person to whom it is addressed.

(2) Each witness who appears before the Chair under subpoena shall receive a fee and mileage as provided for witnesses in civil cases in Superior Courts; provided, however, any person subject to the Board's authority shall not be eligible to receive fees or mileage under this section.

(3) The Board may share any information, papers, or records it receives pursuant to a subpoena or notice to produce issued under this section with the Agency of Human Services or the Department of Financial Regulation, or both, as appropriate to the work of the Agency or Department, provided that the Agency or Department agrees to maintain the confidentiality of any information, papers, or records that are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

* * *

* * * Health Care Reforms Addressing Exigent Needs * * *

Sec. 11a. HEALTH CARE SPENDING REDUCTIONS; AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; REPORTS

(a)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall facilitate collaboration and coordination among health care providers in order to encourage cooperation in developing rapid responses to the urgent financial pressures facing the health care system and to identify opportunities to increase efficiency, improve the quality of health care services, reduce spending on prescription drugs, and increase access to essential services, including primary care, emergency departments, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, prenatal care, and emergency medical services and transportation, while reducing hospital spending for hospital fiscal year 2026 by not less than 2.5 percent.

(2) The Agency of Human Services shall facilitate and supervise the participation of hospitals and other health care providers in the process set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection as necessary for this collaborative process to be afforded state-action immunity under applicable federal and State antitrust laws.

(b) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the proposed reductions that it has approved pursuant to this section, including applicable timing and appropriate accountability measures, to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before July 1, 2025. On or before the first day of each month of hospital fiscal year 2026, beginning on October 1, 2025, the Agency shall provide updates to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, and to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare when the General Assembly is in session, regarding progress in implementing and achieving the hospital spending reductions identified pursuant to this section.

Sec. 11b. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; REPORTS

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall identify specific outcome measures for determining whether, when, and to what extent each of the following goals of its health care system transformation efforts pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167 (Act 167) has been met:

(1) reduce inefficiencies;

(2) lower costs;

(3) improve health outcomes;

(4) reduce health inequities; and

(5) increase access to essential services.

(b)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee:

(A) the specific outcome measures developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, along with a timeline for accomplishing them;

(B) how the Agency will determine its progress in accomplishing the outcome measures and achieving the transformation goals, including how it will determine the amount of savings attributable to each inefficiency reduced and how it will evaluate increases in access to essential services;

(C) the impact that each transformation decision made by an individual hospital as part of the Act 167 transformation process has or will have on the State's health care system, including on health care costs and on health insurance premiums;

(D) how the Agency is tracking and coordinating the transformation efforts of individual hospitals to ensure that they complement the transformation efforts of other hospitals and other health care providers and that they will contribute in a positive way to a transformed health care system that meets the Act 167 goals; and

(E) the amount of State funds, and federal funds, if applicable, that the Agency has spent on Act 167 transformation efforts to date or has obligated for those purposes and the amount of unspent State funds appropriated for Act 167-related purposes that remain for the Agency's Act 167 transformation efforts.

(2) On or before the first day of each month beginning on August 1, 2025 through January 1, 2027, the Agency shall provide the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, and to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare when the General Assembly is in session, with updates on each of the items set forth in subdivisions (1)(A)–(E) of this subsection.

Sec. 11c. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; INCENTIVES; TELEHEALTH

(a) To encourage hospitals to engage proactively, think expansively, and propose transformation initiatives that will reduce costs to Vermont's health care system without negatively affecting health care quality or jeopardizing

access to necessary services, the Agency of Human Services shall award grants to the hospitals in State fiscal year 2026 that actively participate in health care transformation efforts to assist them in building partnerships, reducing hospital costs for hospital fiscal year 2026, and expanding Vermonters' access to health care services, including those delivered using telehealth. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds appropriated in Sec. 18(b) of this act should be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the funds have been distributed.

(b) On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee regarding how much of the $2,000,000.00 appropriated to the Agency pursuant to Sec. 18(b) of this act was obligated as of November 15, 2025 and how much had already been disbursed to hospitals as of that date.

Sec. 11d. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION;
DOMESTIC HEALTH INSURER SUSTAINABILITY;
REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Department of Financial Regulation shall provide to the Health Reform Oversight Committee a plan for preserving the sustainability of domestic health insurers in Vermont, which may include utilizing reinsurance.

* * * Retaining Accountable Care Organization Capabilities * * *

Sec. 12. RETAINING ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION
CAPABILITIES; REPORT

The Agency of Human Services shall explore opportunities to retain capabilities developed by or on behalf of a certified accountable care organization that were funded in whole or in part using State or federal monies, or both, and that have the potential to make beneficial contributions to Vermont's health care system, such as capabilities related to comprehensive payment reform and quality data measurement and reporting. On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall report its findings and recommendations to the Health Reform Oversight Committee.

* * * Implementation Updates * * *

Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

Sec. 14. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

On or before February 15, 2026, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide an update to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the Board's implementation of this act, including the status of its efforts to establish methodologies for and begin implementation of reference-based pricing and development of global hospital budgets, and the effects of these efforts and activities on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont.

Sec. 15. 3 V.S.A. § 3027 is amended to read:

§ 3027. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM; IMPROVING QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY; REPORT

(a) The Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services shall be responsible for the coordination of health care system reform efforts among Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices, and for coordinating with the Green Mountain Care Board established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 220.

(b) On or before February 15 annually, the Agency of Human Services shall provide an update to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding all of the following:

(1) The status of the Agency's efforts to develop, update, and implement the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9403. The Agency shall adopt an evaluation framework using an evidence-based approach to assess both the effectiveness of Plan development and implementation and the Plan's overall impact. The evaluation shall include identifying what was accomplished, how well it was executed, and the benefits to specific cohorts within Vermont's health care system, and the Agency shall include updated evaluation results annually as part of its report.

(2) The activities of the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9403a during the previous calendar year.

(3) The effects of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, the efforts and activities of the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee, and other efforts and activities engaged in or directed by the Agency on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont.

Sec. 16. 18 V.S.A. § 9375(d) is amended to read:

(d) Annually on or before January 15, the Board shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(1) The report shall include:

* * *

(G) the status of its efforts to establish methodologies for and begin implementation of reference-based pricing and development of global hospital budgets, and the effects of these efforts and activities on increasing access to care, improving the quality of care, and reducing the cost of care in Vermont;

(H) any recommendations for modifications to Vermont statutes; and

~~(H)~~(I) any actual or anticipated impacts on the work of the Board as a result of modifications to federal laws, regulations, or programs.

* * *

* * * Positions; Appropriations * * *

Sec. 17. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of the following three new permanent classified positions is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026:

(1) one Director, Reference-Based Pricing;

(2) one Project Manager, Reference-Based Pricing; and

(3) one Operations, Procurement, and Contractual Oversight Manager.

(b) These positions shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch.

Sec. 18. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The sum of $2,200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:

(1) $2,000,000.00 for feasibility analysis and transformation plan development with hospitals, designated agencies, primary care organizations, and other community-based providers;

(2) $100,000.00 for development of quality and access measures, targets, and monitoring strategies for the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan; and

(3) $100,000.00 to support the development of alternative payment models.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary, the sum of $2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for grants to hospitals for the collaborative efforts to reduce hospital costs in accordance with Secs. 11a and 11c of this act and to expand access to health care services, such as by enhancing telehealth infrastructure development.

(c)(1) The sum of $1,062,500.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:

(A) $512,500.00 for the positions authorized in Sec. 17 of this act, as set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection (c);

(B) $500,000.00 from the General Fund for contracts, including contracts for assistance with implementing reference-based pricing in accordance with this act; and

(C) $50,000.00 from the General Fund for a contract with the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care to engage in quality initiatives in accordance with this act.

(2) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

(A) $205,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund; and

(B) $307,500.00 is appropriated from the Green Mountain Care Board Regulatory and Administrative Fund.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary, the sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for expenses associated with increased standardization of electronic hospital budget data submissions in accordance with Sec. 4 of this act.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide sufficient resources in future fiscal years to enable the Green Mountain Care Board to fully implement global hospital budgets in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9456(d)(1)(B).

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 16 (18 V.S.A. § 9375(d); Green Mountain Care Board annual report) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Secs. 17 (Green Mountain Care Board; positions) and 18 (appropriations) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(c) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

SEN. VIRGINIA V. LYONS
SEN. MARTINE LAROCQUE GULICK
SEN. SAMUEL A. DOUGLASS

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. ALYSSA BLACK
REP. FRANCIS M. "TOPPER" MCFAUN
REP. DAISY BERBECO

Committee on the part of the House

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 109

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate concurred in the House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. ADULT COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

(a) Purpose.

(1) The Attorney General shall develop and administer an adult court diversion program, for both pre-charge and post-charge referrals, available in all counties.

(2) The program shall be designed to provide a restorative option for persons alleged to have caused harm in violation of a criminal statute or who have been charged with violating a criminal statute as well as for victims or those acting on a victim's behalf who have been allegedly harmed by the

~~responsible party~~ person referred to the program. The diversion program can accept referrals to the program as follows:

* * *

(c) Adult diversion program policy and referral requirements.

* * *

(3) Adult post-charge diversion requirements. Each State's Attorney, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and the adult post-charge diversion program, shall develop clear criteria for deciding what types of offenses and offenders will be eligible for diversion; however, the State's Attorney shall retain final discretion over the referral of each case for diversion. All adult post-charge diversion programs receiving financial assistance from the Attorney General shall adhere to the following:

(A) The post-charge diversion program for adults shall only accept persons against whom charges have been filed and the court has found probable cause, but are not adjudicated.

(B) A prosecutor may refer a person to diversion either before or after arraignment and shall notify in writing the diversion program and the court of the prosecutor's ~~of the~~ referral to diversion.

* * *

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 71 is amended to read:

§ 71. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SUPERIOR JUDGES

(a) ~~There shall be 34 Superior judges, whose term of office shall,~~ The number of Superior judges shall be as determined by the General Assembly. The term of office of a Superior judge shall, except in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy or unexpired term, begin on April 1 in the year of their appointment or retention and continue for six years.

* * *

Sec. 3. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(4) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 1005, relating to possession and procurement of tobacco products by a person under 21 years of age.

* * *

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 1106 is amended to read:

§ 1106. HEARING

* * *

(d) ~~A~~ Unless otherwise provided by law, a law enforcement officer may void or amend a complaint issued by that officer by so marking the complaint and returning it to the Bureau, regardless of whether the amended complaint is a lesser included violation. At the hearing, a law enforcement officer may, unless otherwise provided by law, void or amend a complaint issued by that officer in the discretion of that officer.

* * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 1005(c) is amended to read:

(c) A person under 21 years of age who misrepresents ~~his or her~~ the person's age by presenting false identification to purchase tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia shall be ~~fined~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than $50.00 or provide up to 10 hours of community service, or both.

Sec. 6. 12 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC CASE RECORDS

(a) The Court shall not permit public access via the ~~Internet~~ internet to criminal, family, or probate case records. The Court may permit criminal justice agencies, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a, ~~Internet~~ internet access to criminal case records for criminal justice purposes, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Court shall provide licensed Vermont attorneys in good standing with access via the internet, through the Judiciary's public portal website or otherwise, to nonconfidential criminal, family, and probate case records.

(c) This section shall not be construed to prohibit the Court from providing electronic access to:

(1) court schedules of the Superior Court or opinions of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court;

(2) State agencies in accordance with data dissemination contracts entered into under Rule 12 of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records; or

(3) decisions, recordings of oral arguments, briefs, and printed cases of the Supreme Court.

Sec. 7. 12 V.S.A. § 4937 is amended to read:

§ 4937. ATTORNEY'S FEES

When a mortgage contains an agreement on the part of the mortgagor to pay the mortgagee, in the event of foreclosure, the attorney's fees incident thereto, and claim is made therefor in the complaint, ~~upon hearing,~~ the court in which the complaint is brought shall allow such fee as in its judgment is just.

Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 4013 is amended to read:

§ 4013. ZIP GUNS~~; SWITCHBLADE KNIVES~~

A person who possesses, sells, or offers for sale a weapon commonly known as a "zip" gun~~, or a weapon commonly known as a switchblade knife, the blade of which is three inches or more in length,~~ shall be imprisoned not more than 90 days or fined not more than $100.00, or both.

Sec. 9. EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

The court shall order the expungement of criminal history records of convictions of 13 V.S.A. § 4013 for possessing, selling, or offering for sale a switchblade knife that occurred prior to July 1, 2025. The process and effect for expungement of these records shall be as provided for in 13 V.S.A. § 7606 and shall be completed by the court and all entities subject to the order not later than July 1, 2026.

Sec. 10. 13 V.S.A. § 5351(7) is amended to read:

(7) "Victim" means:

(A) a person who sustains injury or death as a direct result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime;

(B) an intervenor who is physically injured or killed in an attempt to assist the person described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7) or ~~the police~~ a protected professional as defined in subdivision 1028(d)(1) of this title;

(C) a surviving immediate family member of a homicide victim, including a spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, grandparent, or other survivor who may suffer severe emotional harm as a result of the victim's death as determined on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the Board; or

(D) a resident of this State who is injured or killed as the result of a crime committed outside the United States.

Sec. 11. 13 V.S.A. § 7282 is amended to read:

§ 7282. SURCHARGE

* * *

(c) ~~SIU surcharge.~~ In addition to any penalty or fine imposed by the court for a criminal offense committed after July 1, 2009, the clerk of the court shall levy an additional surcharge of $100.00 to be deposited in the General Fund, in support of the Specialized Investigative Unit Grants Board created in 24 V.S.A. § 1940(c), and used to pay for the costs of Specialized Investigative Units.

Sec. 12. 14 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEPOSIT OF WILL FOR SAFEKEEPING; DELIVERY; FINAL DISPOSITION

(a) A will may be deposited for safekeeping in the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the district in which the testator resides on payment to the court of the applicable fee required by ~~32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(17)~~ 32 V.S.A. § 1434(a)(18). The register shall give to the testator a receipt, shall safely keep each will so deposited, and shall keep an index of the wills so deposited.

* * *

Sec. 13. 14 V.S.A. § 3068 is amended to read:

§ 3068. HEARING

* * *

(e)(1) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the respondent is not a person in need of guardianship, it shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(2) If a motion to withdraw the petition is made before the final hearing, the court shall dismiss the petition and seal the records of the proceeding.

(f) If upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record the court finds that the petitioner has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is a person in need of guardianship or will be a person in need of guardianship on attaining 18 years of age, it shall enter judgment specifying the powers of the guardian pursuant to sections 3069 and 3070 of this title and the duties of the guardian pursuant to section 3071 of this title.

(g) Any party to the proceeding before the court may appeal the court's decision in the manner provided in section 3080 of this title.

Sec. 14. 14 V.S.A. § 4051 is amended to read:

§ 4051. STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY

A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this chapter.

VERMONT STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* * *

GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)

My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED the specific authority listed below:

(CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your death. INITIAL ONLY the specific authority you WANT to give your agent.)

( ) An agent who is not an ancestor, spouse, or descendant may exercise authority under this power of attorney to create in the agent or in an individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of support an interest in my property whether by gift, rights of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer, or otherwise

( ) Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos, family, living, irrevocable, or revocable trust

( ) Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411

( ) Make a gift, subject to the limitations of 14 V.S.A. § 4047 (gifts) and any special instructions in this power of attorney

~~( ) Consent to the modification or termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust under 14A V.S.A. § 411~~

( ) Create, amend, or change rights of survivorship

( ) Create, amend, or change a beneficiary designation

( ) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan

( ) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate

( ) Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney

( ) Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a power of appointment

( ) Exercise authority with respect to elective share under 14 V.S.A. § 319

( ) Exercise waiver rights under 14 V.S.A. § 323

( ) Exercise authority over the content and catalogue of electronic communications and digital assets under 14 V.S.A. chapter 125 (Vermont Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act)

( ) Exercise authority with respect to intellectual property, including, without limitation, copyrights, contracts for payment of royalties, and trademarks

( ) Convey, or revoke or revise a grantee designation, by enhanced life estate deed pursuant to 27 V.S.A. chapter 6 or under common law.

* * *

Sec. 15. 14A V.S.A. § 1316 is amended to read:

§ 1316. OFFICE OF TRUST DIRECTOR

Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, the rules applicable to a trustee apply to a trust director regarding the following matters:

(1) acceptance under section 701 of this title;

(2) giving of bond to secure performance under section 702 of this title;

(3) reasonable compensation under section 708 of this title;

(4) resignation under section 705 of this title;

(5) removal under section 706 of this title; and

(6) vacancy and appointment of successor under section 704 of this title.

Sec. 16. 33 V.S.A. § 5204(b)(2)(A) is amended to read:

(2)(A)(i) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall hold a hearing under subsection (c) of this section to determine whether jurisdiction should be transferred to the Criminal Division under subsection (a) of this section if the delinquent act set forth in the petition is:

(I) [Repealed.]

(II) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;

(III) defacing a firearm's serial number in violation of ~~13 V.S.A. § 4024~~ 13 V.S.A. § 4026; or

(IV) straw purchasing of firearm in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 4025; and

(ii) the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred.

Sec. 17. 33 V.S.A. § 5225 is amended to read:

§ 5225. PRELIMINARY HEARING; RISK ASSESSMENT

(a) Preliminary hearing. A preliminary hearing shall be held at the time and date specified on the citation or as otherwise ordered by the court. If a child is taken into custody prior to the preliminary hearing, the preliminary hearing shall be at the time of the temporary care hearing. Counsel for the child shall be assigned prior to the preliminary hearing.

(b) Risk and needs screening.

(1) Prior to the preliminary hearing, the child shall be afforded an opportunity to undergo a risk and needs screening, which shall be conducted by the Department or by a community provider that has contracted with the Department to provide risk and need screenings for children alleged to have committed delinquent acts.

(2) If the child participates in such a screening, the Department or the community provider shall report the risk level result of the screening, the number and source of the collateral contacts made, and the recommendation for charging or other alternatives to the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney shall consider the results of the risk and needs screening in determining whether to file a charge. In lieu of filing a charge, the State's Attorney may refer a child directly to a youth-appropriate community-based provider that has been approved by the Department, which may include pre-charge diversion pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 163, a community justice center, or a balanced and restorative justice program. Referral to a community-based provider pursuant to this subsection shall not require the State's Attorney to file a charge. If the community-based provider does not accept the case or if the child fails to complete the program in a manner deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the child's case shall return to the State's Attorney for charging consideration.

* * *

Sec. 18. 27 V.S.A. § 348 is amended to read:

§ 348. INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY VALIDATED

(a) When an instrument of writing shall have been on record in the office of the clerk in the proper town for a period of 15 years, and there is a defect in the instrument because it omitted to state any consideration or was not sealed, witnessed, acknowledged, validly acknowledged, or because a license to sell was not issued or is defective, the instrument shall, from and after the

expiration of 15 years from the filing thereof for record, be valid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any rights acquired by grantees, assignees, or encumbrancers under the instruments described in the preceding sentence, nor shall this section apply to conveyances or other instruments of writing, the validity of which is brought in question in any suit now pending in any courts of the State.

* * *

(d) A release, discharge, or assignment of mortgage interest executed by a commercial lender with respect to a one- to four-family residential real property, including a residential unit in a condominium or in a common interest community as defined in Title 27A, that recites authority to act on behalf of the record holder of the mortgage under a power of attorney but where the power of attorney is not of record shall have the same effect as if executed by the record holder of the mortgage unless, within three years after the instrument is recorded, an action challenging the release, discharge, or assignment is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the release, discharge, or assignment is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to releases, discharges, or assignments obtained by fraud or forgery.

(e) A power of attorney made for the purpose of conveying, leasing, mortgaging, or affecting any interest in real property that has been acknowledged and signed in the presence of at least one witness shall be valid, notwithstanding its failure to comply with 14 V.S.A. § 3503 or the requirements of the Emergency Administrative Rules for Remote Notarial Acts adopted by the Vermont Secretary of State, unless within three years after recording, an action challenging its validity is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the power of attorney is recorded. This subsection shall not apply to a power of attorney obtained by fraud or forgery.

(f) Notwithstanding section 305 of this title, a deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument executed for the purpose of conveying or encumbering real property executed by a person purporting to act as the agent or attorney-in-fact for the party named in the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument that has been recorded for at least 15 years in the land records where the real property is located shall be valid even if no power of attorney authorizing and empowering an agent or attorney-in-fact appears of record, unless, within 15 years after recording, an action challenging the validity of the deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument is commenced and a copy of the complaint is recorded in the land records of the town where the property is located. This subsection shall not apply to an instrument obtained by fraud or forgery.

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS

* * *

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

	Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024	Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025
(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court	$214,024	$225,581
(2) Each Associate Justice	$204,264	$215,294
(3) ~~Administrative~~ Chief Superior Judge	$204,264	$215,294
(4) Each Superior Judge	$194,185	$204,671
(5) [Repealed.]		
(6) Each Magistrate	$146,413	$154,319
(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer	$146,413	$154,319

* * *

Sec. 20. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. 5 (forensic facility report) is amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 21. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. REPEALS

* * *

(c) 28 V.S.A. § 126 (Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council) is repealed on ~~July 1, 2028~~ July 1, 2025.

Sec. 22. [Deleted.]

Sec. 23. [Deleted.]

Sec. 24. FIREARM SURRENDER ORDER COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. The Office of the Attorney General shall convene a Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court orders to surrender firearms. The Working Group shall examine the statutory or policy changes necessary to create a uniform process to monitor compliance, support entities charged with storing and returning surrendered firearms pursuant to court orders, and identify a stable and reliable funding source for any additional resources needed to monitor compliance.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Attorney General or designee, who shall be the chair;

(2) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

(3) the Defender General or designee;

(4) one State's Attorney or designee, appointed by the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

(5) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(6) a member of the Vermont State Police, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

(7) a police chief, appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police;

(8) a federal firearms licensee, appointed by the Attorney General;

(9) the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services; and

(10) the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence.

(c) Consultation. The Working Group shall consult with stakeholders including:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections;

(2) family law practitioners;

(3) victim advocates;

(4) advocates from culturally specific advocacy organizations that work with domestic violence victims;

(5) the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs;

(6) the Vermont Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms;

(7) the Vermont Medical Society;

(8) the Commissioner of Mental Health; and

(9) the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.

(d) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. The report shall include:

(1) a workable statewide compliance model that is adaptable to both the Family and Criminal Divisions of the Superior Courts and that ensures:

(A) accountability of respondents and defendants while addressing safety needs of the plaintiffs and victims; and

(B) proper storage and return of firearms surrendered pursuant to court orders; and

(2) recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to support the model.

(e) Meetings. The Working Group shall meet not more than six times.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group who are not employees of the State of Vermont or who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

Sec. 25. 15A V.S.A. § 3-504 is amended to read:

§ 3-504. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATING RELATIONSHIP OF PARENT AND CHILD

(a) If a respondent answers or appears at the hearing and asserts parental rights, the court shall proceed with the hearing expeditiously. If the court finds, upon clear and convincing evidence, that any one of the following grounds exists and that termination is in the best interests of the minor, the court shall order the termination of any parental relationship of the respondent to the minor:

* * *

(2) In the case of a minor over six months of age at the time the petition is filed, the respondent did not exercise parental responsibility for a period of at least six months immediately preceding the filing of the petition. In making

a determination under this subdivision, the court shall consider all relevant factors, which may include the respondent's failure to:

(A) make reasonable and consistent payments, in accordance with the respondent's financial means, for the support of the minor, although legally obligated to do so;

(B) regularly communicate or visit with the minor; or

(C) during any time the minor was not in the physical custody of the other parent, manifest an ability and willingness to assume legal and physical custody of the minor.

* * *

Sec. 25a. 33 V.S.A. § 5231(d) is amended to read:

(d) Termination of parental rights. If the Commissioner or the attorney for the child seeks an order terminating parental rights of one or both parents and transfer of custody to the Commissioner without limitation as to adoption, the court shall consider the best interests of the child in accordance with section 5114 of this title. The Department's Family Services Division shall not consider payment of child support to the Family Services Division to offset the cost of foster care as a factor in a petition to terminate parental rights.

Sec. 25b. 33 V.S.A. § 5317(d) is amended to read:

(d) Termination of parental rights. If the Commissioner or the attorney for the child seeks an order at disposition terminating the parental rights of one or both parents and transfer of legal custody to the Commissioner without limitation as to adoption, the court shall consider the best interests of the child in accordance with section 5114 of this title. The Department's Family Services Division shall not consider payment of child support to the Family Services Division to offset the cost of foster care as a factor in a petition to terminate parental rights.

Sec. 26. Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

§ 202. PENALTY FOR DESERTION OR NONSUPPORT

A married person who, without just cause, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the person's spouse and children, leaving them in destitute or necessitous circumstances or a parent who, without lawful excuse, shall desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of ~~his or her~~ the child ~~or an adult child possessed of sufficient pecuniary or physical ability to support his or her parents, who unreasonably neglects or refuses to provide such support when the parent is destitute, unable to support himself or herself, and resident in this~~

~~State,~~ shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than $300.00, or both. Should a fine be imposed, the court may order the same to be paid in whole or in part to the needy spouse~~, parent,~~ or to the guardian, custodian, or trustee of the child. The Office of Child Support attorneys, in addition to any other duly authorized person, may prosecute cases under this section in Vermont Superior Court.

Sec. 27. 28 V.S.A. § 818 is amended to read:

§ 818. EARNED TIME; REDUCTION OF TERM

* * *

(b) The earned time program implemented pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards:

* * *

(4) The Department shall:

(A) ensure that all victims of record are notified of the earned time program at its outset and made aware of the option to receive notifications from the Department pursuant to this subdivision;

(B) provide timely notice not less frequently than every 90 days to the offender, and to any victim who opts to receive the notice, any time the offender receives a reduction in ~~his or her~~ the offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section;

(C) maintain a system that documents and records all such reductions in each offender's permanent record; and

(D) record any reduction in an offender's term of supervision pursuant to this section on a monthly basis and ensure that victims who want information regarding changes in ~~scheduled~~ an offender's minimum release ~~dates~~ date have access to such information.

* * *

Sec. 28. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Victim Notification System Task Force to review and improve the responsiveness of Vermont's victim notification system.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(4) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(5) the Victims Service Director of the Vermont State Police;

(6) two persons who are either victims or survivors of crimes, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services; and

(7) a member, appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections, who is familiar with the capability and technical operations of the VINE system.

(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study the current state of Vermont's victim notification system, including:

(1) improving victims' accessibility to information;

(2) ensuring that the entire notification process is trauma-informed, including all notifications, communications, and informational materials;

(3) expanding the use of automated notification systems in order to increase options and maximize communication choices for victims and survivors; and

(4) recommendations for necessary training and resources.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Corrections.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit its findings and recommendations as a written report in the form of proposed legislation to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary, and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Corrections or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 15, 2026.

Sec. 29. 4 V.S.A. § 39 is amended to read:

§ 39. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS; COUNTY COURTHOUSES

(a) On or before October 1 each year, any county requesting capital funds for its courthouse, or court operations, shall submit a request to the Court Administrator. As used in this subsection, "court operations" does not include operating expenses.

(b) The Court Administrator shall evaluate requests based on the following criteria:

(1) whether the funding request is consistent with a capital program developed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3);

(2) whether the project that is the subject of the request has been included in the list of capital projects in the county's budget pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(1), and, if so, the description of the project included in the budget;

(3) whether the county has established a capital reserve fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)(3), and, if so, the amount of annual contributions the county has made to the fund;

(4) whether the funding request relates to an emergency that will affect the court operations and the administration of justice;

~~(2)~~(5) whether there is a State-owned courthouse in the county that could absorb court activities in lieu of this capital investment;

~~(3)~~(6) whether the county consistently has invested in major maintenance in the courthouse;

~~(4)~~(7) whether the request relates to a State-mandated function;

~~(5)~~(8) whether the request diverts resources of other current Judiciary capital priorities;

~~(6)~~(9) whether the request is consistent with the long-term capital needs of the Judiciary, including providing court services adapted to modern needs and requirements; and

~~(7)~~(10) any other criteria as deemed appropriate by the Court Administrator.

(c) Based on the criteria described in subsection (b) of this section, the Court Administrator shall make a recommendation to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services regarding whether the county's request should be included as part of the Judiciary's request for capital funding in the Governor's annual proposed capital budget request.

(d) On or before January 15 of each year, the Court Administrator shall advise the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of all county requests received and the Court Administrator's recommendations for the proposed capital budget request.

Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 1210(c) is amended to read:

(c) Second offense. A person convicted of violating section 1201 of this title who has been convicted of another violation of that section within the last 20 years shall be fined not more than $1,500.00 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. At least ~~200~~ 80 hours of community service shall be performed, or 60 consecutive hours of the sentence of imprisonment shall be served and may not be suspended or deferred or served as a supervised sentence, except that credit for a sentence of imprisonment may be received for time served in a residential alcohol facility pursuant to sentence if the program is successfully completed.

Sec. 31. INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Corrections ensures gender parity in the access to services and programs that strengthen family connections.

(b) It is the further intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Corrections develop a phased plan to expand the application of 28 V.S.A. § 128 to all Vermont correctional facilities by 2028.

Sec. 32. 28 V.S.A. § 102(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Commissioner is charged with the following responsibilities:

* * *

(24) To provide and sustain trauma-informed family support services and programming pursuant to section 128 of this title.

Sec. 33. 28 V.S.A. § 128 is added to read:

§ 128. INCARCERATED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS; FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

(a) Family Support Program. The Department of Corrections shall establish the Family Support Program to provide free parenting and family support at each correctional facility to all incarcerated individuals who are parents and guardians regardless of gender. The Program shall include individualized services and programming intended to provide:

(1) increased knowledge and skill for incarcerated parents and guardians to address the specific needs of their children;

(2) resources to incarcerated parents and guardians to engage in needs-specific planning and communication strategies with their children and their children's caregivers;

(3) child-friendly visitation spaces, in consultation with the Department, for in-person and virtual visits between parents or guardians and their children, including establishing safety protocol;

(4) outreach and coordination with appropriate services for the children of incarcerated parents and guardians and the children's caregivers;

(5) improved cross-system coordination and collaboration to deliver necessary services to the families of incarcerated parents and guardians; and

(6) reentry support and preparation for incarcerated parents and guardians.

(b) Program support. The Department may support the operation of the Family Support Program established pursuant to this section through grants of financial assistance to, or contracts for services with, any nonprofit entity that meets the Department's requirements.

(c) Annual report. Annually, on or before July 1, the Department shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary concerning:

(1) the funding, participation, and outcomes of the services and programming established pursuant to this section; and

(2) considerations and any progress towards sustained statewide programming and gender parity.

Sec. 34. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Corrections shall first implement the Family Support Program established under 28 V.S.A. § 128 at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility and Northern State Correctional Facility.

Sec. 35. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 2, 2025 and Sec. 29 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 480

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Brady of Williston**, action on the bill was postponed until May 30, 2025.

Message from the Senate No. 73

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

S. 45. An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Norris
Senator Plunkett
Senator Ingalls

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 266. An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program.

And has concurred therein with an amendment in the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At five o'clock and thirty-four minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Friday, May 30, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Committee of Conference Appointed

S. 45

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury
Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington
Rep. Morgan, L. of Milton

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 151

Offered by Representatives Harvey of Castleton, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bartley of Fairfax, Bishop of Colchester, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Hubbardton, Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Duke of Burlington, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh,

Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury

House concurrent resolution congratulating Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary

Whereas, on a chilly day in April 1975, Doug Casella took a pickup truck, which he had purchased with money from jobs he held as a teenager, and began collecting garbage from a few customers in Rutland and the Killington region, and in 1976, his younger brother, John Casella, joined the company (Casella), and

Whereas, in 1977, Casella inaugurated Vermont's first recycling facility, and this bold decision triggered the development of a waste and resource management infrastructure throughout the northeastern states, and

Whereas, in 1997, on an inauspicious morning immediately following a major stock market downturn, Casella launched an extremely successful public stock offering, and today, the corporation is listed on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol "CWST," and

Whereas, since 2000, resource management and sustainability have become increasingly important corporate objectives, and

Whereas, in 2025, Casella, now officially known as Casella Waste Systems, Inc., has over 5,000 employees, maintains operations in 10 states, and serves more than 1 million customers in 46 states, and

Whereas, Casella was a charter member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2005 Climate Leaders program, and today, it includes EV collection trucks in its fleet, and

Whereas, in partnership with the University of Vermont, Casella established the Casella Center for Circular Economy and Sustainability, an internationally recognized research program for the study of sustainable waste and materials management, and

Whereas, Casella was delighted to be listed as one of *Forbes Magazine's* 2025 America's Best Midsized Employers; the only honoree in the waste management-recycling industry and the only Vermont headquartered company, so recognized, and

Whereas, in 2020, the company established the Kenneth A. Heir Sr. CDL Training Center, named after Casella's first employee, which has trained over 300 employees as commercially licensed drivers, and

Whereas, the Casella Foundation supervises the company's giving initiatives and annually contributes over $2 million to local communities, and the company's employees volunteer more than 14,000 hours each year towards worthy causes, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 23, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Remarks Journalized

On motion by **Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier**, the following remarks by **Rep. Yacovone of Morristown** were ordered printed in the Journal:

"Madam Speaker:

Thirty-five years ago, I was so fortunate to work at a wonderful nursing home in northern Vermont with a wonderful assistant director of nursing. A bright eyed, young, enthusiastic, smart-smart-smart, hardworking person. Our careers would separate—we would go in different directions, but I was so pleased to reunite with my good friend, Rep. Mari Cordes, years later working here.

Mari has announced that she will be leaving the House going to Nova Scotia to resume a career there and I wanted to take this moment to recognize her. She has contributed to Vermont richly. Her integrity, and her ethics, are something I know I look forward to someday when I grow up to maybe replicating. I truly honor her and respect her and I wanted to ask through you Madam Speaker if the members would join me in showing our appreciation to her."

Remarks Journalized

On motion by **Rep. Nelson of Derby**, the following remarks by **Rep. Harvey of Castleton** were ordered printed in the Journal:

"Madam Speaker:

We just heard the reading of the resolution honoring Casella Waste Management on the company's 50th anniversary. As I prepared these remarks, I was reminded of a quote from the famed poet Maya Angelou. Angelou famously said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I could not think of a more fitting quote for celebrating Casella today.

At the core of everything the company does is people. From the thousands that they employ to their more than 1 million customers. Casella remains as committed today as when it was founded — not just to doing well, but more importantly, to doing good. While the journey began with that one pickup truck, two brothers, and their shared dream — it has grown into a extraordinary story of perseverance, grit, and success. One would be hard pressed to find a company here in Vermont, or across our nation, that remains as steadfast and committed to the communities where they do business as Casella. And you don't have to take my word for it, I hear it everywhere I go.

Their employees are our neighbors, friends, and in many cases our family. They are the familiar faces we see driving through town behind the wheel of their signature blue trucks. While we may have first noticed their logo on the blue bins in our neighborhood or on the city block on our daily commute, today we see it proudly displayed as the sponsor of a local trades show, on the jersey of our kid's little league team, and across our state's university campuses.

As we heard in the resolution, the accomplishments and milestones the company has achieved are numerous, but I know if you ask John or Doug what they are most proud of, without a moment's hesitation, they would say Casella's people. They continue to hire and develop exceptional talent, many of whom are Vermonters. As one of our States largest employers, Casella serves as a vital economic engine powering many of our communities.

Casella has emerged as an industry leader in sustainability, protecting our environment — and our planet — for generations to come. 100 years from now the world will be saying Thank God for companies like Casella. But Madam Speaker, we don't have to wait 100 years because there are countless people who are deeply grateful for Casella… today.

Madam Speaker, we are honored to be joined today by Casella Waste management's founders Doug and John Casella. They are seated in the gallery (with their family members and colleagues). Please join me in welcoming them and congratulating Casella on 50 incredible years."

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 484

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Beneficial Substances * * *

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 28 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 28. FERTILIZER ~~AND~~, LIME, AND BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCES

§ 361. TITLE

This chapter shall be known as the "Fertilizer, Lime, ~~Plant Amendment, Plant Biostimulant, and Soil Amendment~~ and Beneficial Substances Law."

§ 362. ENFORCING OFFICIAL

This chapter shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee, hereafter referred to as the Secretary.

§ 363. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Agricultural lime" or "agricultural liming material" or "lime" means one or more of the following:

(A) All products with calcium and magnesium compounds that are capable of neutralizing soil acidity and that are intended, sold, or offered for sale for agricultural or plant propagation purposes.

(B) Limestone consisting essentially of calcium carbonate or a combination of calcium carbonate with magnesium carbonate capable of neutralizing soil acidity.

(C) Industrial waste or industrial ~~by-products~~ byproducts that contain calcium; calcium and magnesium; or calcium, magnesium, and potassium in forms that are capable of neutralizing soil acidity and that are intended, sold, or offered for sale for agricultural purposes. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms "agricultural lime," "lime," and "agricultural liming material" ~~shall~~ have the same meaning.

(2) "Beneficial substance" means any substance or compound, other than primary, secondary, and micro plant nutrients (fertilizers), and excluding pesticides, that can be demonstrated by scientific research to be beneficial to one or more species of plants, soil, or media. Beneficial substances include plant amendments, plant biostimulants, plant inoculants, soil amendments, soil inoculants, and other chemical or biological substances beneficial to plants or their growing environment.

(3) "Brand" means a term, design, or trademark used in connection with one or more grades or formulas of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime.

~~(3)~~(4) "Distribute" means to import, consign, manufacture, produce, compound, mix, blend, offer for sale, sell, barter, or supply a fertilizer, ~~a plant amendment, a plant biostimulant, a soil amendment~~ a beneficial substance, or lime in this State through any means, including sales outlets, catalogues, the telephone, the internet, or any electronic means.

~~(4)~~(5) "Distributor" means any person who distributes fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendments~~ beneficial substance, or lime.

~~(5)~~(6) "Exceptional quality biosolid" means a product derived in whole or in part from domestic wastes that have been subjected to and meet the requirements of the following:

(A) a pathogen reduction process established in 40 C.F.R. § 503.32(a)(3), (4), (7), or (8);

(B) one of the vector attraction reduction standards established in 40 C.F.R. § 503.33;

(C) the contaminant concentration limits in Vermont Solid Waste Rules § 6-1303(a)(1); and

(D) if derived from a composting process, Vermont Solid Waste Rules § 6-1303(a)(5).

~~(6)~~(7) "Fertilizer" means any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients that is used for its plant nutrient content and that is designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth or health,

except unprocessed animal or vegetable manures and other products exempted by the Secretary.

(A) A fertilizer material is a substance that either:

(i) contains important quantities of at least one of the primary plant nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium;

(ii) has 85 percent or more of its plant nutrient content present in the form of a single chemical compound; or

(iii) is derived from a plant or chemical residue or ~~by-product~~ byproduct or natural material deposit that has been processed in such a way that its content of plant nutrients has not been materially changed except by purification and concentration.

(B) A mixed fertilizer is a fertilizer containing any combination or mixture of fertilizer materials.

(C) A specialty fertilizer is a fertilizer distributed for nonfarm use.

(D) A bulk fertilizer is a fertilizer distributed in a nonpackaged form.

~~(7)~~(8) "Formulation" means a material or mixture of materials prepared according to a particular formula.

~~(8)~~(9) "Grade" means the percentage of total nitrogen, available phosphorus or phosphoric acid, and soluble potassium or potash stated in whole numbers in the same terms, order, or percentages as in the guaranteed analysis. Specialty fertilizers and fertilizer materials may be guaranteed in fractional terms. Any grade expressed in fractional terms that is not preceded by a whole number shall be preceded by zero.

~~(9)~~(10) "Guaranteed analysis" means:

(A) in reference to fertilizer, the minimum percentages of plant nutrients claimed by the manufacturer or producer of the product in the following order and form: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash; and

(B) in reference to agricultural lime or agricultural liming material, the minimum percentages of calcium oxide and magnesium oxide or calcium carbonate and the calcium carbonate equivalent, or both, as claimed by the manufacturer or producer of the product.

~~(10)~~(11) "Label" means the display of all written, printed, or graphic matter upon the immediate container or a statement accompanying a fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime.

~~(11)~~(12) "Labeling" means all written, printed, or graphic material upon or accompanying any fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime, including advertisements, brochures, posters, and television and radio announcements used in promoting the sale of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime.

~~(12)~~(13) "Official sample" means any sample of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime taken by the Secretary.

~~(13)~~(14) "Plant amendment" means any substance applied to plants or seeds that is intended to improve growth, yield, product quality, reproduction, flavor, or other favorable characteristics of plants, except for fertilizer, soil amendments, agricultural liming materials, animal and vegetable manures, pesticides, plant regulators, and other materials exempted by rule adopted under this chapter.

~~(14)~~(15) "Plant biostimulant" means a substance ~~or,~~ microorganism, or mixtures thereof that, when applied to seeds, plants, ~~or~~ the rhizosphere, ~~stimulates~~ soil, or other growth media act to support a plant's natural nutrition processes ~~to enhance or benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, or crop quality and yield, except for fertilizers, soil amendments, plant amendments, or pesticides~~ independently of the biostimulant's nutrient content. The plant biostimulant thereby improves nutrient availability, uptake, or use efficiency; tolerance to abiotic stress; and consequent growth development, quality, or yield. ~~The Secretary may modify the definition of "plant biostimulant" by rule or procedure in order to maintain consistency with U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements.~~

(16) "Plant inoculant" means a product consisting of microorganisms to be applied to the plant or soil for the purpose of enhancing the availability or uptake of plant nutrients through the root system.

~~(15)~~(17) "Percent" or "percentage" means the percentage by weight.

~~(16)~~(18) "Primary nutrient" includes nitrogen, available phosphoric acid or phosphorus, and soluble potash or potassium.

~~(17)~~(19) "Product" means the name of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime that identifies it as to kind, class, or specific use.

~~(18)~~(20) "Registrant" means the person who registers a fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime under the provisions of this chapter.

~~(19)~~(21) "Soil amendment" means a substance or mixture of substance that is intended to improve the physical, chemical, biochemical, biological, or other characteristics of the soil or a distinct form of horticultural growing media used in lieu of soil. "Soil amendment" does not mean fertilizers, agricultural liming materials, unprocessed animal manures, unprocessed vegetable manures, pesticides, ~~plant biostimulants,~~ and other materials exempted by rule. A compost product from a facility under the jurisdiction of the Agency of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Management Rules or exceptional quality biosolids shall not be regulated as a soil amendment under this chapter, unless marketed and distributed for the use in the production of an agricultural commodity.

(22) "Soil inoculant" means a microbial product that is applied to colonize the soil to benefit the soil chemistry, biology, or structure.

~~(20)~~(23) "Ton" means a net weight of 2,000 pounds avoirdupois.

~~(21)~~(24) "Use" includes all purposes for which a fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime is applied.

~~(22)~~(25) "Weight" means the weight of undried material as offered for sale.

§ 364. REGISTRATION

(a) Each brand or grade or formula of fertilizer~~, plant amendment, plant biostimulant,~~ or ~~soil amendment~~ beneficial substance shall be registered in the name of the person whose name appears upon the label before being distributed in this State. The application for registration shall be submitted to the Secretary on a form furnished by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and shall be accompanied by a fee of $85.00 per grade or formulation registered. Upon approval by the Secretary, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. All registrations expire on December 31 of each year. The application shall include the following information:

(1) the brand and grade or formulation;

(2) the guaranteed analysis if applicable; and

(3) the name and address of the registrant.

(b) A distributor shall not be required to register any fertilizer~~, plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ or beneficial substance that is already registered under this chapter by another person, provided there is no change in the label for the fertilizer~~, plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ or beneficial substance.

(c) Each beneficial substance brand shall refer to a specific formulation. Different brands may refer to the same specific formulation. Products for which formulations change, such as changes in the "Contains Beneficial Substances" analysis, statement of composition, or anything that implies a different product, must obtain a new registration with a brand that distinguishes it from the previous formulation.

(d) A distributor shall not be required to register each grade of fertilizer formulated or each formulation of soil amendment according to specifications that are furnished by a consumer prior to mixing but shall be required to label the fertilizer or soil amendment as provided in subsection 365(b) of this title.

~~(d)~~(e) The Secretary may request additional proof of testing of products prior to registration for guaranteed analyses or adulterants.

~~(e)~~(f) Each separately identified agricultural lime product shall be registered before being distributed in this State. Registration shall be performed in the same manner as fertilizer registration except that each application shall be accompanied by a fee of $50.00 per product.

~~(f)~~(g) The registration and tonnage fees, along with any deficiency penalties collected pursuant to sections 331 and 372 of this title, shall be deposited in a special fund. Funds deposited in this fund shall be restricted to implementing and administering the provisions of this title and any other provisions of law relating to feeds and seeds.

§ 365. LABELS

(a)(1) Any fertilizer or agricultural lime distributed in this State in containers shall have placed on or affixed to the container a label setting forth in clearly legible and conspicuous form the following information:

(A) net weight;

(B) brand and grade, provided that grade shall not be required when no primary nutrients are claimed;

(C) guaranteed analysis; and

(D) name and address of the registrant.

(2) For bulk shipments, this information in written or printed form shall accompany delivery and be supplied to the purchaser at the time of delivery.

(b) A fertilizer or lime formulated according to specifications furnished by a consumer prior to mixing shall be labeled to show the net weight, the guaranteed analysis or name, analysis and weight of each ingredient used in the mixture, and the name and address of the distributor and purchaser.

(c) If the Secretary finds that a requirement for expressing calcium and magnesium in elemental form would not impose an economic hardship on distributors and users of agricultural liming materials by reason of conflicting label requirements among states, the Secretary may require by rule that the minimum percent of calcium oxide and magnesium oxide or calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate, or both, shall be expressed in the following terms:

Total Calcium (Ca) ..... percent

Total Magnesium (Mg) ..... percent

(d)(1) Any ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ beneficial substance distributed in this State in containers shall have placed on or affixed to the container a label setting forth in clearly legible and conspicuous form the following information:

(A) net weight or volume;

(B) brand name;

(C) purpose statement identifying the purpose of the product;

(D) directions for application or use;

(E) ~~guaranteed analysis; and~~

~~(F)~~ name and address of the registrant; and

(F) a statement of composition showing the amount of each ingredient, which is the agent in a product primarily responsible for the intended effects using the following format:

CONTAINS BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCE(S)

Name of beneficial substance % (or acceptable units)

Genus and species of microorganism % viable CFU/cm3, /ml, /g, or other acceptable units

(Identify and list all beneficial substances. Substances shall include ingredient source, if applicable. Ex. "humic acid from leonardite or saponin from Yucca schidigera").

(2) For products that claim microorganisms, labels shall also include:

(A) the expiration date for use; and

(B) storage conditions.

(3) For bulk shipments of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substances, or lime, the information required under this subsection shall accompany delivery in written or printed form and shall be supplied to the purchaser at the time of delivery.

(4) Efficacy data may be required to support beneficial substance ingredient claims if the ingredient is not presently defined by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials' Official Publication for the particular claim.

~~(3)~~(5) Under a rule adopted under this subsection, an affected person shall be given a reasonable time to come into compliance.

§ 366. TONNAGE FEES

(a) A person distributing fertilizer to a nonregistrant consumer in the State annually shall pay the following fees to the Secretary:

(1) a $150.00 minimum tonnage fee;

(2) $0.50 per ton of agricultural fertilizer distributed; and

(3) $30.00 per ton of nonagricultural fertilizer distributed.

(b) Persons distributing fertilizer shall report annually on or before January 15 for the previous year ending December 31 to the Secretary revealing the amounts of each grade of fertilizer and the form in which the fertilizer was distributed within this State. Each report shall be accompanied with payment and written permission allowing the Secretary to examine the person's books for the purpose of verifying tonnage reports.

(c) No information concerning tonnage sales furnished to the Secretary under this section shall be disclosed in such a way as to divulge the details of the business operation to any person unless it is necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

(d) Persons distributing a ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ beneficial substance in the State shall report annually on or before January 15 for the previous year ending December 31 to the Secretary revealing the amounts of each formulation of ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ beneficial substance and the form in which the ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ beneficial substance was distributed within this State. Each report shall include a written authorization allowing the Secretary to examine the person's books for the purpose of verifying tonnage reports. ~~Plant amendments, plant biostimulants, and soil amendments are~~ A beneficial substance is exempt from tonnage fees.

(e) Agricultural limes, including agricultural lime mixed with wood ash, are exempt from the tonnage fees required in this section.

(f) Lime and wood ash mixtures may be registered as agricultural liming materials and guaranteed for potassium or potash, provided that the wood ash totals less than 50 percent of the mixture.

(g)(1) All fees collected under subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section shall be deposited in the special fund created by subsection 364(f) of this title and used in accordance with its provisions.

(2) All fees collected under subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund created under section 4803 of this title.

(h) [Repealed.]

§ 367. INSPECTION; SAMPLING; ANALYSIS

For the purpose of enforcing this chapter and determining whether ~~or not~~ fertilizers, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendments~~ beneficial substances, and lime distributed in this State endanger the health and safety of Vermont citizens, the Secretary upon presenting appropriate credentials is authorized:

(1) To enter any public or private premises except domiciles during regular business hours and stop and enter any vehicle being used to transport or hold fertilizer, ~~a plant amendment, a plant biostimulant, a soil amendment~~ beneficial substances, or lime.

(2) To inspect blending plants, warehouses, establishments, vehicles, equipment, finished or unfinished materials, containers, labeling, and records relating to distribution, storage, or use.

(3) To sample and analyze any fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime. The methods of sampling and analysis shall be those adopted by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists. In cases not covered by this method or in cases where methods are available in which improved applicability has been demonstrated, the Secretary may authorize and adopt methods that reflect sound analytical procedures.

(4) To develop any reasonable means necessary to monitor and adopt rules for the use of fertilizers, ~~plant amendments, plant biostimulants, soil amendments~~ beneficial substances, and lime on Vermont soils where monitoring indicates environmental or health problems. In addition, the Secretary may develop and adopt rules for the proper storage of fertilizers,

~~plant amendments, plant biostimulants, soil amendments~~ beneficial substances, and lime held for distribution or sale.

§ 368. MISBRANDING

(a) No person shall distribute a misbranded fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or agricultural lime. A fertilizer~~, plant amendment, plant biostimulant,~~ or ~~soil amendment~~ beneficial substance shall be deemed to be misbranded if the Secretary determines one or more of the following:

(1) The labeling is false or misleading in any particular.

(2) It is distributed under the name of another fertilizer product~~, plant amendment, plant biostimulant,~~ or ~~soil amendment~~ beneficial substance.

(3) It contains unsubstantiated claims.

(4) It is not labeled as required in section 365 of this title and in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

(5) It is labeled, or represented, to contain a plant nutrient that does not conform to the standard of identity established by rule. In adopting rules under this chapter, the Secretary shall ~~give consideration to~~ consider definitions recommended by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.

(b) An agricultural lime shall be deemed to be misbranded if:

(1) its labeling is false or misleading in any particular; or

(2) it is not labeled as required by section 365 of this title and in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

§ 369. ADULTERATION

No person shall distribute an adulterated lime, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or fertilizer product. A fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime shall be deemed to be adulterated if:

(1) it contains any deleterious or harmful ingredient in an amount sufficient to render it injurious to beneficial plant life, animals, humans, aquatic life, soil, or water when applied in accordance with directions for use on the label, or if uses of the product may result in contamination or condemnation of a raw agricultural commodity by use, or if adequate warning statements or directions for use that may be necessary to protect plant life, animals, humans, aquatic life, soil, or water are not shown on the label;

(2) its composition falls below or differs from that which it is purported to possess by its labeling;

(3) it contains crop seed or weed seed; or

(4) it contains heavy metals, radioactive substances, or synthetic organics in amounts sufficient to render it injurious to livestock or human health when applied in accordance with directions for use on the label, or if adequate warning statements or directions for use that may be necessary to protect livestock or human health are not shown on the label.

§ 370. PUBLICATION; CONSUMER INFORMATION REGARDING USE ON NONAGRICULTURAL TURF OF FERTILIZER~~, PLANT AMENDMENTS, PLANT BIOSTIMULANTS,~~ AND ~~SOIL AMENDMENTS~~ BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCES

(a) The Secretary shall publish on an annual basis:

(1) information concerning the distribution of fertilizers, ~~plant amendments, plant biostimulants, soil amendments~~ beneficial substances, and limes; and

(2) results of analyses based on official samples of fertilizers, ~~plant amendments, plant biostimulants, soil amendments~~ beneficial substances, and lime distributed within the State as compared with guaranteed analyses required pursuant to the terms of this chapter.

(b)(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the University of Vermont Extension, fertilizer industry representatives, lake groups, and other interested or affected parties, shall produce information for distribution to the general public with respect to the following:

(A) problems faced by the waters of the State because of discharges of phosphorus;

(B) an explanation of the extent to which phosphorus exists naturally in the soil;

(C) voluntary best management practices for the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus on nonagricultural turf; and

(D) best management practices for residential sources of phosphorus.

(2) The Secretary shall develop the information required under this subsection and make it available to the general public in the manner deemed most effective, which may include:

(A) conspicuous posting at the point of retail sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus, according to recommendations for how that conspicuous posting may best take place;

(B) public service announcements by means of electronic media; or

(C) other methods deemed by the Secretary to be likely to be effective.

* * *

§ 371. RULES

The Secretary is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as may be necessary to implement the intent of this chapter and to enforce those rules.

* * *

§ 374. SHORT WEIGHT

(a) If any fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or agricultural liming material is found to be short in net weight, the registrant of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime shall pay a penalty of three times the value of the actual shortage to the affected party.

(b) Each registrant shall be offered an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary. Penalty payments shall be made within 30 days after notice of the Secretary's decision to assess a penalty. Proof of payment to the consumer shall be promptly forwarded to the Secretary by the registrant.

(c) If the consumer cannot be found, the amount of the penalty payments shall be paid to the Secretary who shall deposit the payment into the revolving account established by subsection 364(f) of this title.

(d) This section is not an exclusive cause of action, and persons affected may utilize any other right of action available under law.

§ 375. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

The Secretary is authorized to cancel or suspend the registration of any fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime or refuse a registration application if the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter have been violated, provided

that no registration shall be revoked or refused without a hearing before the Secretary.

§ 376. DETAINED FERTILIZER, BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCE, AND LIME

(a) Withdrawal from distribution orders. When the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe any lot of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime is being distributed in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or any of the rules under this chapter, the Secretary may issue and enforce a written or printed "withdrawal from distribution" order, warning the distributor not to dispose of the lot of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime in any manner until written permission is given by the Secretary or the court. The Secretary shall release the lot of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime withdrawn when this chapter and rules have been complied with. If compliance is not obtained within 30 days, the Secretary may begin, or upon request of the distributor or registrant shall begin, proceedings for condemnation.

(b) Condemnation and confiscation. Any lot of fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime not in compliance with this chapter and rules shall be subject to seizure on complaint of the Secretary to a court of competent jurisdiction in the area in which the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime is located. In the event the court finds the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime to be in violation of this chapter and orders the condemnation of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime, it shall be disposed of in any manner consistent with the quality of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime and the laws of the State, provided that in no instance shall disposition of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime be ordered by the court without first giving the claimant an opportunity to apply to the court for release of the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime or for permission to process or relabel the fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime to bring it into compliance with this chapter.

* * *

§ 379. EXCHANGES BETWEEN MANUFACTURERS

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict or impair sales or exchanges of fertilizers~~, plant amendments, plant biostimulants, or soil amendments~~ or beneficial substances to each other by importers, manufacturers, or manipulators who mix fertilizer materials~~, plant amendments, plant biostimulants, or soil amendments~~ or beneficial substances for sale or to prevent the free and unrestricted shipments of fertilizer~~, plant amendments, plant biostimulant, or soil amendments~~ or beneficial substances to manufacturers or manipulators who have registered their brands as required by provisions of this chapter.

§ 380. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

Consistent with chapter 1 of this title, the Secretary may assess an administrative penalty upon determining that a person has violated a rule issued under this chapter or has violated this chapter in the following manner:

(1) distributed a specialty fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime without first obtaining the appropriate product registration;

(2) distributed a fertilizer, ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, soil amendment~~ beneficial substance, or lime without appropriate and accurate labeling, including when a beneficial substance label does not reflect its composition;

(3) distributed any adulterated fertilizer, beneficial substance, or lime;

(4) failed to disclose on the label sources of potentially deleterious components;

(5) failed to report or to accurately report the amount and form of each grade of fertilizer distributed in Vermont on an annual basis;

~~(4)~~(6) failed to report or to accurately report the amount and form of each formulation of ~~plant amendment, plant biostimulant, or soil amendment~~ beneficial substance;

~~(5)~~(7) failed to pay the appropriate tonnage fee; or

~~(6)~~(8) violated a cease and desist order.

* * *

* * * Pesticides; Disposal * * *

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 918 is amended to read:

§ 918. REGISTRATION

* * *

(b)(1) The registrant shall pay an annual fee of $200.00 for each product registered, and $185.00 of that amount shall be deposited in the special fund created in section 929 of this title. Of the registration fees collected under this subsection, $15.00 of the amount collected shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund under section 4803 of this title. Of the registration fees collected under this subsection, $25.00 of the amount collected shall be used to offset the additional costs of inspection of economic poison products and to provide educational services, training, and technical assistance to pesticide applicators, beekeepers, and the general public regarding the effects of pesticides on pollinators and the methods or best management practices to reduce the impacts of pesticides on pollinators. The annual registration year shall be from December 1 to November 30 of the following year.

(2) In addition to the fee required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, a registrant shall pay a fee of $50.00 per product registration that shall be deposited in the special fund created in section 929 of this title and used to meet the requirements of subdivision 929(a)(6) of this title. This additional fee shall be collected from registrants until such time as an extended producer responsibility program is implemented in the State that fully funds the collection of obsolete and unwanted pesticides.

* * *

Sec. 3. PESTICIDE DISPOSAL FUNDING STUDY

(a)(1) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, shall study options for sustainable funding sources to reimburse solid waste management entities for all costs associated with the collection and disposal of unwanted or obsolete pesticides at municipal hazardous waste collection programs and events.

(2) The costs to be reimbursed shall include the prorated costs related to facilities, equipment, labor, supplies, maintenance, and collection events. Prorated costs associated with collection events shall include collection event setup fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials related to the collection and disposal of unwanted or obsolete pesticides.

(3) The study shall include consideration of the viability of an extended producer responsibility program for pesticides among other options.

(4) The Secretary shall consult with stakeholders.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall submit a written report on its findings to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Environment and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy. The report shall include a recommended funding mechanism that will cover all costs associated with collecting unwanted pesticides through municipal collection programs.

* * * Stormwater Permits * * *

Sec. 4. STORMWATER PERMITTING; RUTLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, INC.

No stormwater impact fee or completion of an offset shall be required for the Rutland County Agricultural Society, Inc. under the three-acre stormwater permit required by 10 V.S.A. § 1264, provided that the Society is registered with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

* * * Use Value Appraisal * * *

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 3752(1) is amended to read:

(1) "Agricultural land" means any land, exclusive of any housesite, in active use to grow hay or cultivated crops, pasture livestock, cultivate trees bearing edible fruit, or produce an annual maple product, and that is 25 acres or more in size, except as provided in this subdivision ~~(1)~~. Agricultural land shall include buffer zones as defined and required in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Required Agricultural Practices rule adopted under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215. There shall be a presumption that the land is used for agricultural purposes if:

(A) it is owned by a farmer and is part of the overall farm unit;

(B) it is used by a farmer as part of the farmer's operation under written lease for at least three years; or

(C) it has produced an annual gross income from the sale of farm crops or the equivalent value of donated farm crops in one of two, or three of the five, calendar years preceding of at least:

(i) $2,000.00 for parcels of up to 25 acres~~; and~~.

(ii) $75.00 per acre for each acre over 25, with the total income required not to exceed $5,000.00.

(iii) Exceptions to these income requirements may be made in cases of orchard lands planted to fruit-producing trees, bushes, or vines that are not yet of bearing age. As used in this section, the term "farm crops" also includes animal fiber, cider, wine, and cheese, produced on the enrolled land or on a housesite adjoining the enrolled land, from agricultural products grown on the enrolled land.

* * * Heavy Cut Rule * * *

Sec. 6. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION; HEAVY CUT RULE; VALIDITY

(a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214 to the contrary:

(1) the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 848(c) (repeal of rules not published in the Vermont Code of Rules as of July 1, 2018) shall be deemed not to have repealed the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation rule entitled "Intent to Cut Notification Emergency Rules, Standards and Procedures"; and

(2) the provisions of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation rule entitled "Intent to Cut Notification Emergency Rules, Standards and Procedures" shall be deemed to have continued in full force and effect and remained valid on and after July 1, 2018.

(b)(1) All actions taken by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from July 1, 2018 through July 1, 2025 to grant or deny an authorization to proceed with a heavy cut pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 2625 and the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation rule entitled "Intent to Cut Notification Emergency Rules, Standards and Procedures" are valid and enforceable.

(2) As used in this subsection, the term "heavy cut" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 2625.

(c) On or before July 1, 2026, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall publish the rule entitled "Intent to Cut Notification Emergency Rules, Standards and Procedures" in the Vermont Code of Rules.

* * * Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility * * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 7181 is amended to read:

§ 7181. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4)(A) "Covered household hazardous product" means a consumer product offered for retail sale that is contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale, if the product has any of the following characteristics:

(i) the product or a component of the product is a hazardous waste under subchapter 2 of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, regardless of the status of the generator of the hazardous waste; or

(ii) the product is a gas cylinder.

(B) "Covered household hazardous product" does not mean any of the following:

* * *

(iv) ~~architectural paint~~ paint products as that term is defined in section 6672 of this title;

* * *

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 7182 is amended to read:

§ 7182. SALE OF COVERED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS; STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION; MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION

(a) Sale prohibited.

(1) A manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a covered household hazardous product without registering with the stewardship organization pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(2) Beginning six months after a final decision on the adequacy of a collection plan by the Secretary, a manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a covered household hazardous product unless all the following have been met:

~~(1)~~(A) The manufacturer is participating in a stewardship organization implementing an approved collection plan.

~~(2)~~(B) The name of the manufacturer, the manufacturer's brand, and the name of the covered household hazardous product are submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources by a stewardship organization and listed on the stewardship organization's website as covered by an approved collection plan.

~~(3)~~(C) The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has submitted an annual report consistent with the requirements of section 7185 of this title.

~~(4)~~(D) The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has conducted a plan audit consistent with the requirements of subsection 7185(b) of this title.

(b) Stewardship organization registration requirements.

(1) On or before July 1, 2025 ~~and annually thereafter~~, a stewardship organization shall file a registration form with the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide the registration form to the stewardship organization. The registration form shall include:

(A) ~~a list of the manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(B) a list of the brands of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(C) a list of the covered household hazardous products of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(D) the name, address, and contact information of a person responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter;~~

~~(E)~~ a description of how the stewardship organization meets the requirements of subsection 7184(b) of this title, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the stewardship organization; and

~~(F)~~(B) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a nonmember manufacturer to contact regarding how to participate in the stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

(2) ~~A renewal of a registration without changes may be accomplished through notifying the Agency of Natural Resources on a form provided by the Agency~~ Beginning on July 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, a stewardship organization shall renew its registration with the Secretary. A renewal registration shall include the following:

(A) a list of the manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;

(B) a list of the brands of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;

(C) a list of the covered household hazardous products of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;

(D) the name, address, and contact information of a person responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter;

(E) a description of how the stewardship organization meets the requirements of subsection 7184(b) of this title, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the stewardship organization; and

(F) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a nonmember manufacturer to contact regarding how to participate in the stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

(c) Manufacturer registration. On or before November 1, 2025, a manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall register with the stewardship organization in a manner proscribed by the stewardship organization.

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 7183 is amended to read:

§ 7183. COLLECTION PLANS

(a) Collection plan required. ~~Prior to July 1, 2025~~ On or before July 1, 2026, any stewardship organization registered with the Secretary as representing manufacturers of covered household hazardous products shall coordinate and submit to the Secretary for review one collection plan for all manufacturers.

(b) Collection plan; minimum requirements. ~~Each collection plan shall include, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:~~

(1) Initial plan. The initial plan shall last for a period not to exceed three years and contain, at a minimum, the following requirements:

(A) List of participants. A list of the manufacturers, brands, and products participating in the collection plan and a methodology for adding and removing manufacturers and notifying the Agency of new participants.

~~(2)~~(B) Free statewide collection of covered household hazardous products. The collection program shall ~~provide~~ reimburse municipalities when a municipality provides for free, convenient, and accessible ~~statewide~~ opportunities for the collection from covered entities of covered household hazardous products, including orphan covered products. ~~A stewardship organization shall accept all covered household hazardous products collected from a covered entity and shall not refuse the collection of a covered household hazardous product, including orphan covered household products, based on the brand or manufacturer of the covered household hazardous product unless specifically exempt from this requirement.~~ The collection program shall also provide for the payment of collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous products. Collection

costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

~~(3) Convenient collection location. The stewardship organization shall develop a collection program that allows all municipal household hazardous waste collection programs to opt to be a part of the collection plan, including collection events and facilities offered by solid waste planning entities. The plan shall make efforts to site points of collection equitably across all regions of the State to allow for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to collection facilities or collection events.~~

~~(4) Public education and outreach. The collection plan shall include an education and outreach program that shall include a website and may include media advertising, retail displays, articles and publications, and other public educational efforts. Outreach and education shall be suitable for the State's diverse ethnic populations, through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach. Public education and outreach should include content to increase meaningful participation by environmental justice focus populations as required by 3 V.S.A. chapter 72. During the first year of program implementation and two years after adoption of the collection plan, each stewardship organization shall carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of the program established under this chapter that can identify communities that have disparities in awareness and need more outreach. Each stewardship organization shall share the results of the public awareness surveys with the Secretary. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing plans approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall coordinate in carrying out their education and outreach responsibilities under this subdivision and shall include in their annual reports to the Secretary a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts. The education and outreach program and website shall notify the public of the following:~~

~~(A) that there is a free collection program for covered household hazardous products;~~

~~(B) the location and hours of operation of collection points and how a covered entity can access this collection program;~~

~~(C) the special handling considerations associated with covered household hazardous products; and~~

~~(D) source reduction information for consumers to reduce leftover covered household products.~~

~~(5) Compliance with appropriate environmental standards. In implementing a collection plan, a stewardship organization shall comply with all applicable laws related to the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. A stewardship organization shall comply with any special handling or disposal standards established by the Secretary for covered household hazardous products or for the collection plan of the manufacturer.~~

~~(6) Method of disposition. The collection plan shall describe how covered household hazardous products will be managed in the most environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the waste-management hierarchy. The management of covered household hazardous products under the collection plan shall use management activities in the following priority order: source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. Collected covered household hazardous products shall be recycled when technically and economically feasible.~~

~~(7) Performance goals. A collection plan shall include:~~

~~(A) A performance goal for covered household hazardous products determined by the number of total participants at collection events and facilities listed in the collection plan during a program year divided by the total number of households. The number of households shall include seasonal households. The calculation methodology for the number of households shall be included in the plan.~~

~~(B) At a minimum, the collection performance goal for the first approved plan shall be an annual participation rate of five percent of the households for every collection program based on the number of households the collection program serves. After the initial approved program plan, the stewardship organization shall propose performance goals for subsequent program plans. The Secretary shall approve the performance goals for the plan at least every five years. The stewardship organization shall use the results of the most recent waste composition study required under 6604 of this title and other relevant factors to propose the performance goals of the collection plan. If a stewardship organization does not meet its performance goals, the Secretary may require the stewardship organization to revise the collection plan to provide for one or more of the following: additional public education and outreach, additional collection events, or additional hours of operation for collection sites. A stewardship organization is not authorized to reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other activities implemented under an approved plan on the basis of achievement of program performance goals.~~

~~(8)~~(C) Collection plan funding. The collection plan shall describe how the stewardship organization will fund the implementation of ~~the collection plan and collection activities under the plan, including the costs for education and outreach, collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous product~~ all municipal collection offered to the public in a base program year. A base program year shall be based on the services provided in calendar year 2024 and any other collection facilities or events approved by the Secretary. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials. The collection plan shall include how municipalities will be compensated for all costs attributed to collection of covered household hazardous products. The Secretary shall resolve disputes relating to compensation.

(2) Subsequent plans. After the expiration of the initial plan approved by the Secretary, the collection plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) List of participants. A list of the manufacturers, brands, and products participating in the collection plan and a methodology for adding and removing manufacturers and notifying the Agency of new participants.

(B) Free statewide collection of covered household hazardous products. The collection program shall provide for free, convenient, and accessible statewide opportunities for the collection from covered entities of covered household hazardous products, including orphan covered products. A stewardship organization shall accept all covered household hazardous products collected from a covered entity and shall not refuse the collection of a covered household hazardous product, including orphan covered household products, based on the brand or manufacturer of the covered household hazardous product unless specifically exempt from this requirement. The collection program shall also provide for the payment of collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous products. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

(C) Convenient collection location. The stewardship organization shall develop a collection program that allows all municipal household hazardous waste collection programs to opt to be a part of the collection plan, including collection events and facilities offered by solid waste planning entities. The plan shall make efforts to site points of collection equitably

across all regions of the State to allow for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to collection facilities or collection events.

(D) Public education and outreach. The collection plan shall include an education and outreach program that shall include a website and may include media advertising, retail displays, articles and publications, and other public educational efforts. Outreach and education shall be suitable for the State's diverse ethnic populations, through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach. Public education and outreach should include content to increase meaningful participation by environmental justice focus populations as required by 3 V.S.A. chapter 72. During the second approved plan, each stewardship organization shall carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of the program established under this chapter that can identify communities that have disparities in awareness and need more outreach. Each stewardship organization shall share the results of the public awareness surveys with the Secretary. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing plans approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall coordinate in carrying out their education and outreach responsibilities under this subdivision (D) and shall include in their annual reports to the Secretary a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts. The education and outreach program and website shall notify the public of the following:

(i) that there is a free collection program for covered household hazardous products;

(ii) the location and hours of operation of collection points and how a covered entity can access this collection program;

(iii) the special handling considerations associated with covered household hazardous products; and

(iv) source reduction information for consumers to reduce leftover covered household products.

(E) Compliance with appropriate environmental standards. In implementing a collection plan, a stewardship organization shall comply with all applicable laws related to the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. A stewardship organization shall comply with any special handling or disposal standards established by the Secretary for covered household hazardous products or for the collection plan of the manufacturer.

(F) Method of management. The collection plan shall describe how covered household hazardous products will be managed in the most environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the

waste-management hierarchy. The management of covered household hazardous products under the collection plan shall use management activities in the following priority order: source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. Collected covered household hazardous products shall be recycled when technically and economically feasible.

(G) Performance goals. A collection plan shall include:

(i) A performance goal for covered household hazardous products determined by the number of total participants at collection events and facilities listed in the collection plan during a program year divided by the total number of households. The number of households shall include seasonal households. The calculation methodology for the number of households shall be included in the plan.

(ii) At a minimum, the collection performance goal for the initial plan approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) shall be an annual participation rate of seven percent of the households for every collection program based on the number of households the collection program serves. After the initial approved program plan, the stewardship organization shall propose performance goals for subsequent program plans. The Secretary shall approve the performance goals for the plan at least every five years. The stewardship organization shall use the results of the most recent waste composition study required under 6604 of this title and other relevant factors to propose the performance goals of the collection plan. If a stewardship organization does not meet its performance goals, the Secretary may require the stewardship organization to revise the collection plan to provide for one or more of the following: additional public education and outreach, additional collection events, or additional hours of operation for collection sites. A stewardship organization is not authorized to reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other activities implemented under an approved plan on the basis of achievement of program performance goals.

(H) Collection plan funding. The collection plan shall describe how the stewardship organization will fund the implementation of the collection plan and collection activities under the plan, including the costs for education and outreach, collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous product. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials. The collection plan shall include how municipalities will be compensated for all costs attributed to collection of covered household hazardous products. The Secretary shall resolve disputes relating to compensation.

(c) Term of collection plan. A collection plan approved by the Secretary under section 7187 of this title shall have a term not to exceed five years, provided that the stewardship organization remains in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the terms of the approved collection plan.

(d) Collection plan implementation. Stewardship organizations shall implement the collection plan on or before six months after the date of a final decision by the Secretary on the adequacy of the collection plan.

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 7184 is amended to read:

§ 7184. STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Participation in a stewardship organization. A manufacturer shall meet the requirements of this chapter by participating in a stewardship organization that undertakes the responsibilities under sections 7182, 7183, and 7185 of this title.

(b) Qualifications for a stewardship organization. To qualify as a stewardship organization under this chapter, an organization shall:

(1) commit to assume the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities of all manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;

(2) not create unreasonable barriers for participation in the stewardship organization; and

(3) maintain a public website that lists all manufacturers and manufacturers' brands and products covered by the stewardship organization's approved collection plan.

(c) A stewardship organization is authorized to charge its members reasonable fees for the organization, administration, and implementation of the programs required by this chapter.

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 7187 is amended to read:

§ 7187. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Review and approve collection plans. The Secretary shall review and approve or deny collection plans submitted under section 7183 of this title according to the public notice and comment requirements of section 7714 of this title.

* * *

(g) Agency collection plan. If no stewardship organization is formed on or before July 1, 2025 or the stewardship organization fails to submit a plan or submits a plan that does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the Secretary shall adopt and administer a plan that meets the requirements of

section 7183 of this title. If the Secretary administers the plan adopted under section 7183, the Secretary shall charge each manufacturer the prorated costs of plan administration, the Agency's oversight costs, and an additional hazardous waste reduction assessment of 10 percent of the plan's total cost to be deposited in the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the Waste Management Assistance Fund, for the purpose of providing grants to municipalities and small businesses to prevent pollution and reduce the generation of hazardous waste in the State. When determining a manufacturer's assessment under this section, the Agency may allocate costs to a manufacturer of covered household hazardous products based on the sales of covered household hazardous products nationally prorated to the population of Vermont.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 6621a is amended to read:

§ 6621a. LANDFILL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) In accordance with the following schedule, no person shall knowingly dispose of the following materials in solid waste or in landfills:

* * *

(12) Covered household hazardous products after July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

* * *

Sec. 13. SOLID WASTE PLAN; FLEXIBILITY

(a) Notwithstanding the municipal household hazardous waste (HHW) collection requirements under the State Solid Waste Plan adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6604, the Secretary of Natural Resources may grant a variance from the requirement to conduct at least two household hazardous waste collection events in that municipality. The variance shall allow a municipality to meet its obligations, as follows:

(1) the municipality has partnered with another municipality to allow its residents the ability to access a permanent HHW facility in the same manner as the municipality that operates the permanent HHW facility;

(2) the municipality has partnered with a nearby municipality to offer collection events to members in both municipalities; or

(3) the municipality has demonstrated that it has made reasonable efforts to provide alternate collection opportunities identified under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection and was unable and that the cost of a collection event is unreasonable. In such circumstances the Secretary of Natural Resources may reduce the required collection events to one per year.

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

* * * Paint Product Stewardship Program * * *

Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 4 is amended to read:

Subchapter 4. Paint Product Stewardship Program

§ 6671. PURPOSE

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish an environmentally sound, cost-effective Paint Product Stewardship Program in the State that will undertake responsibility for the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the generation of postconsumer paint; promote the reuse of postconsumer paint; and collect, transport, and process postconsumer paint, including reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. The Paint Product Stewardship Program will follow the waste management hierarchy for managing and reducing postconsumer paint in the order as follows: reduce consumer generation of postconsumer paint, reuse, recycle, provide for energy recovery, and dispose. The Paint Product Stewardship Program will provide more opportunities for consumers to manage properly their postconsumer paint, provide fiscal relief for local government in managing postconsumer paint, keep paint out of the waste stream, and conserve natural resources.

§ 6672. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Aerosol coating product" means a pressurized coating product containing pigments or resins dispensed by means of a propellant and packaged and sold in a disposable aerosol container for handheld application, or for use in specialized equipment for ground traffic or marking applications.

(2) "Architectural paint" means interior and exterior architectural coatings, including interior or exterior water- and oil-based coatings, primers, sealers, or wood coatings, that are sold in containers of five gallons or less. "Architectural paint" does not mean industrial coatings, original equipment coatings, or specialty coatings.

(3) "Coating-related product" means a product used as a paint additive, paint thinner, paint colorant, paint remover, surface sealant, surface preparation, or surface adhesive, and sold for home improvement. "Coating-related product" does not mean original equipment manufacturer products or industrial products.

~~(2)~~(4) "Distributor" means a company that has a contractual relationship with one or more producers to market and sell ~~architectural~~ paint to retailers in Vermont.

~~(3)~~(5) "Energy recovery" means recovery in which all or a part of the solid waste materials are processed in order to use the heat content or other forms of energy of or from the material.

~~(4)~~(6) "Environmentally sound management practices" means policies to be implemented by a producer or a stewardship organization to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and also addressing such issues as adequate record keeping, tracking and documenting the fate of materials within the State and beyond, and adequate environmental liability coverage for professional services and for the operations of the contractors working on behalf of the producer organization.

~~(5)~~(7) "Municipality" means a city, town, or a village.

~~(6) "Paint stewardship assessment" means a one-time charge that is:~~

~~(A) added to the purchase price of architectural paint sold in Vermont;~~

~~(B) passed from the producer to the wholesale purchaser to the retailer and then to a retail consumer; and~~

~~(C) necessary to cover the cost of collecting, transporting, and processing the postconsumer paint managed through the statewide Program.~~

(8) "Nonindustrial coating" means arts and crafts paint, automotive refinish paint, driveway sealer, faux finish or glaze, furniture oil, furniture paint, lime wash, lime paint, marine paint, antifouling paint, road and traffic marking paint, two-component paint, wood preservative, fire retardant paint, dry fog paint, chalkboard paint, and conductive paint, sold in containers of five gallons or less for commercial and homeowner use, but does not include coatings purchased for industrial or original equipment manufacturer use.

(9)(A) "Paint product" includes:

(i) architectural paint;

(ii) aerosol coating products;

(iii) coating-related products; and

(iv) nonindustrial coatings.

(B) "Paint product" does not include a health and beauty product.

~~(7)~~(10) "Postconsumer paint" means ~~architectural~~ a paint product and its containers not used and no longer wanted by a purchaser.

~~(8)~~(11) "Producer" means a manufacturer of ~~architectural~~ paint products who sells, offers for sale, or distributes that paint in Vermont under the producer's own name or brand.

~~(9)~~(12) "Recycling" means any process by which discarded products, components, and by-products are transformed into new usable or marketable materials in a manner in which the original products may lose their identity but does not include energy recovery or energy generation by means of combusting discarded products, components, and by-products with or without other waste products.

~~(10)~~(13) "Retailer" means any person that offers ~~architectural~~ a paint product for sale at retail in Vermont.

~~(11)~~(14) "Reuse" means the return of a product into the economic stream for use in the same kind of application as originally intended, without a change in the product's identity.

~~(12)~~(15) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

~~(13)~~(16) "Sell" or "sale" means any transfer of title for consideration, including remote sales conducted through sales outlets, catalogues, or the ~~Internet~~ internet or any other similar electronic means.

~~(14)~~(17) "Stewardship organization" means a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit organization created by a producer or group of producers to implement the Paint Product Stewardship Program required under this subchapter.

§ 6673. PAINT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

(a) A producer or a stewardship organization representing producers shall submit ~~a~~ an amended plan for the establishment of a Paint Product Stewardship Program to the Secretary for approval ~~by December 1, 2013~~. The plan shall address the following:

(1) Provide a list of participating producers and brands covered by the Program.

(2) Provide specific information on the ~~architectural~~ paint products covered under the Program, such as interior or exterior water- and oil-based coatings, primers, sealers, or wood coatings.

(3) Describe how the Program proposed under the plan will collect, transport, recycle, and process postconsumer paint products for end-of-life management, including recycling, energy recovery, and disposal, using environmentally sound management practices.

(4) Describe the Program and how it will provide for convenient and available statewide collection of postconsumer ~~architectural~~ paint products in urban and rural areas of the State. The producer or stewardship organization shall use the existing household hazardous waste collection infrastructure when

selecting collection points for postconsumer ~~architectural~~ paint products. A paint retailer shall be authorized as a paint collection point of postconsumer architectural paint for a Paint Product Stewardship Program if the paint retailer volunteers to act as a ~~paint~~ collection point and complies with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

(5) Provide geographic information modeling to determine the number and distribution of sites for collection of postconsumer architectural paint based on the following criteria:

(A) at least 90 percent of Vermont residents shall have a permanent collection site within a 15-mile radius; and

(B) one additional permanent site will be established for every 10,000 residents of a municipality and additional sites shall be distributed to provide convenient and reasonably equitable access for residents within each municipality, unless otherwise approved by the Secretary.

(6) Establish goals to reduce the generation of postconsumer paint products, to promote the reuse of postconsumer paint products, and for the proper management of postconsumer paint products as practical based on current household hazardous waste program information. The goals may be revised by the producer or stewardship organization based on the information collected for the annual report.

(7) Describe how postconsumer paint products will be managed in the most environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the waste-management hierarchy. The management of paint under the Program shall use management activities that promote source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal.

(8) Describe education and outreach efforts to inform consumers of collection opportunities for postconsumer paint products and to promote the source reduction and recycling of ~~architectural~~ paint products for each of the following: consumers, contractors, and retailers.

(b) The producer or stewardship organization shall submit a budget for the Program proposed under subsection (a) of this section, and for any amendment to the plan that would affect the Program's costs. The budget shall include a funding mechanism under which each ~~architectural~~ paint product producer remits to a stewardship organization payment of a paint product stewardship assessment for each ~~container of architectural paint~~ product it sells in this State. Prior to submitting the proposed budget and assessment to the Secretary, the producer or stewardship organization shall provide the budget and assessment to a third-party auditor agreed upon by the Secretary. The third-party auditor shall provide a recommendation as to whether the proposed

budget and assessment is cost-effective, reasonable, and limited to covering the cost of the Program. The paint product stewardship assessment shall be added to the cost of all ~~architectural~~ paint products sold in Vermont. To ensure that the funding mechanism is equitable and sustainable, a uniform paint product stewardship assessment shall be established for all ~~architectural~~ paint products sold. The paint stewardship assessment shall be ~~approved by the Secretary and shall be sufficient to recover, but not exceed, the costs of the Paint Stewardship Program~~ the amount established in section 6681 of this title.

(c) ~~Beginning no later than July 1, 2014, or three~~ Six months after approval of the plan for a Paint Product Stewardship Program required under subsection (a) of this section, ~~whichever occurs later,~~ a producer of ~~architectural~~ paint products sold at retail or a stewardship organization of which a producer is a member shall implement the approved plan for a Paint Product Stewardship Program.

(d) A producer or a stewardship organization of which a producer is a member shall promote a Paint Product Stewardship Program and provide consumers with educational and informational materials describing collection opportunities for postconsumer paint products Statewide and promotion of waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. The educational and informational program shall make consumers aware that the funding for the operation of the Paint Product Stewardship Program has been added to the purchase price of all ~~architectural~~ paint products sold in the State.

(e) A plan approved under this section shall provide for collection of postconsumer ~~architectural~~ paint at no cost to the person from whom the ~~architectural~~ paint product is collected. The program plan also shall provide for the payment of municipalities for collection, processing, and end-of-life management of aerosol coating products, coating-related products, and nonindustrial coatings contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

(f) When a plan or amendment to an approved plan is submitted under this section, the Secretary shall make the proposed plan or amendment available for public review and comment for at least 30 days.

(g) A producer or paint stewardship organization shall submit to the Secretary for review, in the same manner as required under subsection 6675(a) of this title, an amendment to an approved plan when there is:

(1) ~~a change to a paint stewardship assessment under the plan;~~

~~(2)~~ an addition to or removal of a category of products covered under the Program; or

~~(3)~~(2) a revision of the product stewardship organization's goals.

(h) A plan approved by the Secretary under section 6675 of this title shall have a term not to exceed five years, provided that the producer remains in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the terms of the approved plan.

(i) In addition to the requirements specified in subsection (a) of this section, a stewardship organization shall notify the Secretary in writing within 30 days ~~of~~ after any change to:

(1) the number of collection sites for postconsumer ~~architectural~~ paint products identified under this section as part of the plan;

(2) the producers identified under this section as part of the plan;

(3) the brands of ~~architectural~~ paint products identified under this section as part of the plan; and

(4) the processors that manage postconsumer ~~architectural~~ paint products identified under this section as part of the plan.

(j) Upon submission of a plan to the Secretary under this section, a producer or a stewardship organization shall pay the fee required by 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j)(31). Thereafter, the producer or stewardship organization shall pay the fee required by 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j)(31) annually ~~by~~ on or before July 1 of each year.

§ 6674. RETAILER RESPONSIBILITY

(a) A producer or retailer may not sell or offer for sale ~~architectural~~ a paint product to any person in Vermont unless the producer ~~of that architectural paint brand~~ or a stewardship program ~~of which the producer of that architectural paint brand is a member~~ that the producer is a member of is implementing an approved plan for a Paint Product Stewardship Program as required by section 6673 of this title. A retailer complies with the requirements of this section if, on the date the ~~architectural~~ paint product was ordered from the producer or its agent, the producer or paint brand is listed on the Agency of Natural Resources' website as a producer or brand participating in an approved plan for a Paint Product Stewardship Program.

(b) At the time of sale to a consumer, a producer, a stewardship organization, or a retailer selling or offering ~~architectural~~ paint products for sale shall provide the consumer with information regarding available management options for postconsumer paint products collected through the

Paint Product Stewardship Program or a brand of paint being sold under the Program.

§ 6675. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY

(a)(1) Within 90 days ~~of~~ after receipt of a plan submitted under section 6673 of this title, the Secretary shall review the plan and make a determination whether or not to approve the plan. The Secretary shall issue a letter of approval for a submitted plan if:

(A) the submitted plan provides for the establishment of a Paint Product Stewardship Program that meets the requirements of subsection 6673(a) of this subchapter; and

(B) the Secretary determines that the plan:

(i) achieves convenient collection for consumers;

(ii) educates the public on proper paint product management; and

(iii) manages waste paint products in a manner that is environmentally safe and promotes reuse and recycling~~; and~~

~~(iv) is cost-effective~~.

(2) If the Secretary does not approve a submitted plan, the Secretary shall issue to the paint product stewardship organization a letter listing the reasons for the disapproval of the plan. If the Secretary disapproves a plan, a paint product stewardship organization intending to sell or continue to sell ~~architectural~~ paint products in the State shall submit a new plan within 60 days ~~of~~ after receipt of the letter of disapproval.

(b)~~(1) The Secretary shall review and approve the stewardship assessment proposed by a producer pursuant to subsection 6673(b) of this title. The Secretary shall only approve the Program budget and any assessment if the applicant has demonstrated that the costs of the Program and any proposed assessment are reasonable and the assessment does not exceed the costs of implementing an approved plan.~~

~~(2) If an amended plan is submitted under subsection 6673(g) of this title that proposes to change the cost of the Program or proposes to change the paint stewardship assessment under the plan, the disapproval of any proposed new assessment or the failure of an approved new assessment to cover the total costs of the Program shall not relieve a producer or stewardship organization of its obligation to continue to implement the approved plan under the originally approved assessment.~~

~~(c)~~ Facilities solely collecting paint products for the Paint Product Stewardship Program that would not otherwise be subject to solid waste certification requirements shall not be required to obtain a solid waste certification. Persons solely transporting paint for the Paint Product Stewardship Program that would not otherwise be subject to solid waste hauler permitting requirements shall not be required to obtain a solid waste hauler's permit.

§ 6676. ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT

(a) A producer or an organization of producers that manages postconsumer paint products, including collection, transport, recycling, and processing of postconsumer paint products, as required by this subchapter may engage in anticompetitive conduct to the extent necessary to implement the plan approved by the Secretary and is immune from liability for the conduct relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices, and other regulation of trade or commerce.

(b) The activity authorized and the immunity afforded under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any agreement among producers or paint product stewardship organizations:

(1) establishing or affecting the price of paint products, ~~except for the paint stewardship assessment approved under subsection 6675(b) of this title~~;

(2) setting or limiting the output or production of paint products;

(3) setting or limiting the volume of paint products sold in a geographic area;

(4) restricting the geographic area where paint products will be sold; or

(5) restricting the customers to whom paint products will be sold or the volume of paint products that will be sold.

§ 6677. PRODUCER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

~~No later than October 15, 2015, and annually thereafter,~~ Annually, a producer or a stewardship program of which the producer is a member shall submit to the Secretary a report describing the Paint Product Stewardship Program that the producer or Stewardship Program is implementing as required by section 6673 of this title. At a minimum, the report shall include:

(1) a description of the methods the producer or Stewardship Program used to reduce, reuse, collect, transport, recycle, and process postconsumer paint products statewide in Vermont;

(2) the volume and type of postconsumer paint products collected by the producer or Stewardship Program at each collection center in all regions of Vermont;

(3) the volume of postconsumer paint products collected by the producer or Stewardship Program in Vermont by method of disposition, including reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal;

(4) an independent financial audit of the Paint Product Stewardship Program implemented by the producer or the Stewardship Program;

(5) the prior year's actual direct and indirect costs for each Program element and the administrative and overhead costs of administering the approved Program; and

(6) samples of the educational materials that the producer or stewardship program provided to consumers of architectural paint.

* * *

§ 6680. UNIVERSAL WASTE DESIGNATION FOR POSTCONSUMER PAINT

(a) The requirements of Subchapter 9 of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Rules, which allow certain categories of hazardous waste to be managed as universal waste, shall apply to postconsumer paint products until the postconsumer paint is discarded, provided that:

(1) the postconsumer paint product is collected as a part of a stewardship plan approved under this subchapter; and

(2) the collected postconsumer paint product is or includes a paint product that is a hazardous waste as defined and regulated by the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Rules.

(b) When postconsumer paint product is regulated as universal waste under subsection (a) of this section, small and large quantity handlers of the postconsumer paint shall manage the postconsumer paint products in a manner that prevents releases of any universal waste or component of the universal waste to the environment. Postconsumer paint products regulated as universal waste shall, at a minimum, be contained in one or more of the following:

(1) a container that remains closed, structurally sound, and compatible with the postconsumer paint products and that lacks evidence of leakage, spillage, or damage that could cause leakage under reasonably foreseeable conditions; or

(2) a container that does not meet the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided that the unacceptable container is overpacked in a container that meets the requirements of subdivision (1).

(c) Containers holding postconsumer paint products that ~~is~~ are regulated as universal waste shall be clearly labeled to clearly identify the contents of the container, such as "Paint-Related Waste," "Universal Waste Paint," "Used Paint," or "Waste Paint."

(d) Unless otherwise provided by statute, the definitions of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Rules shall apply to this section.

§ 6681. PAINT CONSUMER FEES

(a) The paint product stewardship assessment shall be sufficient to implement and sustain the Paint Product Stewardship Program. If at any time the stewardship assessments established in this section are not sufficient to implement and sustain the Paint Product Stewardship Program, the Paint Product Stewardship Program shall propose new stewardship assessments that are sufficient to implement and sustain the Program.

(b) A retailer shall charge an assessment on paint products, based on current material management costs of the Paint Product Stewardship Program, in the following amounts for architectural paint:

(1) Half pint or smaller:	No fee.
(2) Greater than a half pint to one gallon:	$0.65.
(3) Greater than one gallon to two gallons:	$1.35.
(4) Greater than two gallons to five gallons:	$2.45.

Sec. 15. IMPLEMENTATION; FEE REPORT

(a) The requirements for the sale of paint products under 10 V.S.A. § 6673 shall apply to architectural paint beginning on July 1, 2013 and all paint products beginning on July 1, 2026.

(b) The requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 6673 for an architectural paint producer to submit a stewardship plan to the Secretary of Natural Resources currently applies to producers of architectural paint as required beginning on July 1, 2013 and shall also apply to producers of paint related products beginning on July 1, 2026.

(c) The requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 6677 that an architectural paint producer annually report to the Secretary of Natural Resources currently applies to producers of architectural paint as required beginning on July 1, 2013 and shall also apply to producers of paint related products beginning on March 1, 2027.

(d) On or before December 15, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance and the House Committees on Environment and on Ways and Means a report recommending a paint consumer fee or fees to be charged for paint products that are not architectural paint.

* * * Renewable Power Portfolio * * *

Sec. 16. 30 V.S.A. § 8009 is amended to read:

§ 8009. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

* * *

(d) On or before November 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, the Commission shall determine, for the period beginning on November 1, ~~2026~~ 2028 and ending on November 1, 2032, the price to be paid to a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement. The Commission shall not be required to make this determination as a contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The price shall be the avoided cost of the Vermont composite electric utility system. As used in this subsection, the term "avoided cost" means the incremental cost to retail electricity providers of electric energy or capacity, or both, that, but for the purchase from the plant proposed to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, such providers would obtain from a source using the same generation technology as the proposed plant. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "avoided cost" also includes the Commission's consideration of each of the following:

* * *

(k) Collocation and efficiency requirements.

(1) The owner of the plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement shall cause the plant's overall efficiency to be increased by at least 50 percent relative to the 12-month period preceding July 1, 2022. In achieving this efficiency, the owner shall comply with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) On or before ~~July~~ October 1, ~~2023~~ 2025, the owner of the plant shall submit to the Commission and the Department:

(A) A signed contract providing for the construction of a facility at the plant that utilizes the excess thermal heat generated at the plant for a beneficial purpose. As used in this subdivision (A), beneficial purpose may include the displacement of fossil fuel use for the sustainable production of a product or service or more efficient or less costly generation of electricity.

(B) A certification by a qualified professional engineer that the construction of the facility shall meet the requirement of subdivision (1) of this subsection (k).

(3) On or before October 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, the owner of the plant shall submit to the Commission and the Department a certification that the main components of the facility used to meet the requirement of subdivision (1) of this subsection have been manufactured and that the construction plans for the facility have been completed.

(4) If the contract and certification required under subdivision (2) of this subsection are not submitted to the Commission and Department on or before ~~July~~ October 1, ~~2023~~ 2025 or if the certification required under subdivision (3) is not submitted to the Commission and Department on or before October 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, then the obligation under this section for each Vermont retail electricity provider to purchase a pro rata share of the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement shall cease on November 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, and the Commission is not required to conduct the rate determination provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

(5) On or before September 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, the Department shall investigate and submit a recommendation to the Commission on whether the plant has achieved the requirement of subdivision (1) of this subsection. If the Department recommends that the plant has not achieved the requirement of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the obligation under this section shall cease on November 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, and the Commission is not required to conduct the rate determination provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

(6) After November 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, the owner of the plant shall report annually to the Department and the Department shall verify the overall efficiency of the plant for the prior 12-month period. If the overall efficiency of the plant falls below the requirement of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the report shall include a plan to return the plant to the required efficiency within one year.

(7) If, after implementing the plan in subdivision (6) of this subsection, the owner of the plant does not achieve the efficiency required in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Department shall request that the Commission commence a proceeding to terminate the obligation under this section.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 7–13 (covered household hazardous products), 14–15 (paint products), and 16 (renewable power portfolio) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remainder of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 5 (use value appraisal) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Reps. Nelson of Derby, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burtt of Cabot, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Lipsky of Stowe, and Morgan, L. of Milton** moved that the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 5, 32 V.S.A. § 3752(1), and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 17, effective dates, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) The remainder of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which was agreed to.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto

H. 321

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 832 is amended to read:

§ 832. CANNABIS POSSESSED UNLAWFULLY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE

Cannabis possessed unlawfully in violation of this title or administrative rules adopted pursuant to this title may be seized by law enforcement and is subject to forfeiture.

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 844 is amended to read:

§ 844. AUTHORITY FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(a) The Board shall establish a user agreement with the Vermont Crime Information Center in accordance with 20 V.S.A. chapter 117 for the purpose of obtaining Vermont criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation as required by chapters 33 (cannabis establishments) and 37 (medical cannabis dispensaries) of this title.

(b) A fingerprint-based state and national criminal history record check shall be conducted for each natural person prior to being issued a cannabis establishment identification card pursuant to chapter 33 (cannabis establishments) of this title or a medical cannabis dispensary identification card pursuant to chapter 37 (medical cannabis dispensaries) of this title. The Board may require that such record checks be completed as a condition precedent to license renewal.

Sec. 2a. [Deleted.]

Sec. 2b. 10 V.S.A. § 325u is amended to read:

§ 325u. VERMONT LAND ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD

* * *

(b) Organization of Board. The Board shall be composed of:

* * *

(10) one member, appointed by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council; ~~and~~

(11) one member, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors; and

(12) one member, appointed by Migrant Justice.

* * *

Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 861(23) is amended to read:

(23)(A) "Hemp products" or "hemp-infused products" means all products with the federally defined tetrahydrocannabinol concentration level for hemp derived from, or made by, processing hemp plants or plant parts that are prepared in a form available for commercial sale, including cosmetics, personal care products, food intended for animal or human consumption, cloth, cordage, fiber, fuel, paint, paper, construction materials, plastics, and any product containing one or more hemp-derived cannabinoids, such as cannabidiol.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (23), "hemp products" and "hemp-infused products" do not include any substance, manufacturing intermediary, or product that:

(i) is prohibited or deemed a regulated cannabis product by administrative rule of the Cannabis Control Board; or

(ii) contains more than 0.3 percent total tetrahydrocannabinol on a dry-weight basis.

(C) A hemp-derived product or substance that is excluded from the definition of "hemp products" or "hemp-infused products" pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (23) shall be considered a cannabis product as defined by subdivision 831(3) of this title; provided, however, that a person duly licensed or registered by the Cannabis Control Board lawfully may possess such products in conformity with the person's license or hemp processor registration.

Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 881 is amended to read:

§ 881. RULEMAKING; CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

(a) The Board shall adopt rules to implement and administer this chapter in accordance with subdivisions (1)–~~(8)~~(9) of this subsection.

(1) Rules concerning any cannabis establishment shall include:

(A) the form and content of license and renewal applications;

(B) qualifications for licensure that are directly and demonstrably related to the operation of a cannabis establishment, including:

(i) a requirement to submit an operating plan, which shall include information concerning:

(I) the type of business organization, the identity of its controlling owners and principals, and the identity of the controlling owners and principals of its affiliates; and

(II) the sources, amount, and nature of its capital, assets, and financing; the identity of its financiers; and the identity of the controlling owners and principals of its financiers;

(ii) a requirement to file an amendment to its operating plan in the event of a significant change in organization, operation, or financing; and

(iii) the requirement for a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and regulatory record check pursuant to section 883 of this title;

(C) oversight requirements, including provisions to ensure that a licensed establishment complies with State and federal regulatory requirements governing insurance, securities, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and occupational health and safety;

(D) inspection requirements;

(E) records to be kept by licensees and the required availability of the records;

(F) employment and training requirements;

(G) security requirements, including any appropriate lighting, physical security, video, and alarm requirements;

(H) health and safety requirements;

(I) regulation of additives to cannabis and cannabis products, including cannabidiol derived from hemp and substances that are toxic or designed to make the product more addictive, more appealing to persons under 21 years of age, or to mislead consumers;

(J) procedures for seed-to-sale traceability of cannabis, including any requirements for tracking software;

(K) regulation of the storage and transportation of cannabis;

(L) sanitary requirements;

(M) procedures for the renewal of a license, which shall allow renewal applications to be submitted up to 90 days prior to the expiration of the cannabis establishment's license;

(N) procedures for suspension and revocation of a license;

(O) requirements for banking and financial transactions, including provisions to ensure that the Board, the Department of Financial Regulation, and financial institutions have access to relevant information concerning licensed establishments to comply with State and federal regulatory requirements;

(P) disclosure or eligibility requirements for a financier, its owners and principals, and its affiliates, which may include:

(i) requirements to disclose information to a licensed establishment, the Board, or the Department of Financial Regulation;

(ii) a minimum age requirement and a requirement to conduct a background check for natural persons;

(iii) requirements to ensure that a financier complies with applicable State and federal laws governing financial institutions, licensed lenders, and other financial service providers; and

(iv) any other requirements, conditions, or limitations on the type or amount of loans or capital investments made by a financier or its affiliates, which the Board, in consultation with the Department of Financial Regulation, determines are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare;

(Q) policies and procedures for conducting outreach and promoting participation in the regulated cannabis market by diverse groups of individuals, including those who have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition;

(R) advertising and marketing; ~~and~~

(S) requirements for cannabis control testing of hemp, hemp-infused products, cannabis, and cannabis products; and

(T) requirements and criteria governing licensee applications to change ownership, control, or location.

* * *

(5) Rules concerning retailers shall include:

* * *

(F) location or siting requirements that increase the geographic distribution of ~~new~~ cannabis retail establishments based on regional population ~~and~~, market needs, and community input; and

* * *

(9) Rules concerning trim and harvest services shall include:

(A) requirements for verification of the licenses of clients;

(B) essential content and permissible terms of written service contracts, including provisions for security and diversion prevention;

(C) provisions to ensure safe and lawful transportation and lodging of travelling personnel;

(D) essential content of employee health, safety, and skills training, including first aid and recognition of common pests and pathogens;

(E) requirements appropriate to minimize the risk of pest and pathogen transmission; and

(F) procedures for documenting lawful compensation.

* * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 883 is amended to read:

§ 883. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND RECORD CHECKS; APPLICANTS

(a) The Board shall obtain from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of a fingerprint-based Vermont criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each license applicant, principal of an applicant, and person who controls an applicant who is a natural person. Checks may be repeated for good cause or with prudent frequency as determined by the Board.

(b) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining whether an applicant should be denied a cannabis establishment license because of ~~his or her~~ the applicant's criminal history record based on factors that demonstrate whether the applicant presently poses a threat to public safety or the proper functioning of the regulated market. Nonviolent drug offenses shall not automatically disqualify an applicant.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section or subsection 844(b) of this title, if required records are not reasonably available to the Board due to circumstances beyond its control, with the consent of the applicant, the Board may accept third-party criminal background checks ~~submitted by an applicant for a cannabis establishment license or renewal in lieu of obtaining the records from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of the person's Vermont fingerprint-based criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation~~ from a reputable commercial provider. Any such third-party background check shall~~:~~

~~(1) be conducted by a third-party consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act; and~~

~~(2)~~ include a multistate and ~~multi-jurisdiction~~ multijurisdiction criminal record locator. Consumer credit scores shall not be a basis for license denial.

Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 884 is amended to read:

§ 884. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT IDENTIFICATION CARD

(a) Every owner, principal, and employee of a cannabis establishment shall obtain an identification card issued by the Board. A person may apply for an identification card prior to obtaining employment with a licensee. An employee identification card shall authorize the person to work for any licensee.

(b)(1)(A) Prior to issuing the identification card to an owner or principal of a cannabis establishment, the Board shall obtain from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of the person's Vermont fingerprint-based criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(B) Prior to issuing the identification card to an employee of a cannabis establishment, the Board shall obtain a copy of a fingerprint-based identity history summary record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining whether a person should be denied a cannabis establishment identification card because of ~~his or her~~ the person's criminal history record based on factors that demonstrate whether the applicant presently poses a threat to public safety or the proper functioning of the regulated market. Nonviolent drug offenses shall not automatically disqualify an applicant.

(c) Once an identification card application has been submitted, ~~a person~~ the Board, for good cause, may ~~serve~~ issue a temporary permit authorizing the applicant to serve as an employee of a cannabis establishment pending the background check, provided the person is supervised ~~in his or her duties~~ by someone who is a cardholder. ~~The Board shall issue a temporary permit to the person for this purpose, which shall expire upon the issuance of the identification card or disqualification of the person in accordance with this section~~ Good cause exists if, among other reasons, the application is reasonably expected to take more than 12 days to process.

(d) An identification card shall expire one year after its issuance or, in the case of owners and principals, upon the expiration of the cannabis establishment's license, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 7. 7 V.S.A. § 886 is added to read:

§ 886. INCAPACITY OR DISTRESS; SPECIAL PERMITTING; IMMUNITY

(a) It is the purpose of this section to authorize the Board to effectively oversee cannabis establishments and the persons authorized to operate such

establishments in case of incapacity of a principal, dysfunction, operating distress, interruption in licensure, abrupt closure, or judicial intervention including receivership.

(b) The Board may issue a special permit temporarily authorizing a licensed or unlicensed designee of suitable ability and judgment to temporarily operate a cannabis establishment, or to possess, transport, or dispose of cannabis and cannabis products, as specified by the terms of the permit. The permit shall be printed on official Board letterhead, bear the signature of the Chair of the Board, state clearly a means of prompt authentication by law enforcement and licensees, and specify start and end dates and times. A person's eligibility for a permit under this subsection shall not be limited by subdivision 901(d)(3) of this title.

(c) A person acting in conformity with the terms and scope of a special permit issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be immune from civil and criminal liability in relation to possession, transportation, or transfer of cannabis within the borders of this State. The Board shall not be liable for economic losses resulting from forfeiture, seizure, sequestration, sale stoppage, transportation, storage, or destruction of cannabis or cannabis products.

(d) If appropriate to facilitate judicial proceedings involving a cannabis establishment or its principals, including an action for receivership, a State court of competent jurisdiction may request that the Board determine whether a person is suited by background and qualifications to hold a special permit issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for a purpose specified by the court. In the alternative, the court may ask that the Board recommend such person.

Sec. 8. 7 V.S.A. § 901 is amended to read:

§ 901. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person shall not engage in the cultivation, preparation, processing, packaging, transportation, testing, or sale of cannabis or cannabis products without obtaining a license from the Board.

(b) All licenses shall be valid for one year and expire at midnight on the eve of the anniversary of the date the license was issued. A licensee may apply to renew the license annually.

(c) Applications for licenses and renewals shall be submitted on forms provided by the Board and shall be accompanied by the fees provided for in section 910 of this title.

(d)(1) There shall be ~~seven~~ eight types of licenses available:

(A) a cultivator license;

(B) a propagator license;

(C) a wholesaler license;

(D) a product manufacturer license;

(E) a retailer license;

(F) a testing laboratory license; ~~and~~

(G) a trim and harvest service license; and

(H) an integrated license.

(2)(A) The Board shall develop tiers for:

(i) cultivator licenses based on the plant canopy size of the cultivation operation or plant count for breeding stock; and

(ii) retailer licenses.

(B) The Board may develop tiers for other types of licenses.

(3)(A) Except as provided in subdivisions (B) and (C) of this subdivision (3), an applicant and its affiliates may obtain a maximum of one type of each type of license as provided in subdivisions (1)(A)–~~(F)~~(G) of this subsection (d). Each license shall permit only one location of the establishment, however a trim and harvest service licensee may provide services at multiple other licensed cannabis establishments.

(B) An applicant and its affiliates that control a dispensary registered on April 1, 2022 may obtain one integrated license provided in subdivision (1)~~(G)~~(H) of this subsection (d) or a maximum of one of each type of license provided in subdivisions (1)(A)–(F) of this subsection (d). An integrated licensee may not hold a separate cultivator, propagator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, or testing laboratory license, and no applicant or its affiliates that control a dispensary shall hold more than one integrated license. An integrated license shall permit only one location for each of the types of activities permitted by the license: cultivation, propagator, wholesale operations, product manufacturing, retail sales, and testing.

(C) An applicant and its affiliates may obtain multiple testing laboratory licenses.

(e) A dispensary that obtains a retailer license or an integrated license pursuant to this chapter shall maintain the dispensary and retail operations in a manner that protects patient and caregiver privacy in accordance with rules adopted by the Board.

(f) Each licensee shall obtain and maintain commercial general liability insurance in accordance with rules adopted by the Board. Failure to provide proof of insurance to the Board, as required, may result in revocation of the license.

(g) All licenses may be renewed according to procedures adopted through rulemaking by the Board.

(h) [Repealed.]

Sec. 9. 7 V.S.A. § 904 is amended to read:

§ 904. CULTIVATOR LICENSE

* * *

(d) Each cultivator shall create packaging for its cannabis.

(1) Packaging shall include:

(A) The name and registration number of the cultivator.

(B) The strain and variety of cannabis contained.

(C) The potency of the cannabis represented by the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol in milligrams total and per serving.

(D) A ~~"produced on" date reflecting the date that the cultivator finished producing the cannabis~~ "harvested on" date reflecting the date the cultivator harvested the cannabis and a "packed on" date reflecting the date the product was packaged for sale.

(E) Appropriate warnings as prescribed by the Board in rule.

(F) Any additional requirements contained in rules adopted by the Board in accordance with this chapter. Rules shall take into consideration that different labeling requirements may be appropriate depending on whether the cannabis is sold to a wholesaler, product manufacturer, or retailer.

(2) Packaging shall not be designed to appeal to persons under 21 years of age.

* * *

Sec. 10. 7 V.S.A. § 904b is amended to read:

§ 904b. PROPAGATION CULTIVATOR LICENSE

(a) A propagation cultivator licensed under this section may:

(1) cultivate not more than 3,500 square feet of cannabis clones, immature cannabis plants, or mature cannabis plants;

(2) test, transport, and sell cannabis clones and immature cannabis plants to licensed cultivators and retailers; and

(3) test, transport, and sell cannabis seeds that meet the federal definition of hemp to a licensed cultivator or retailer or to the public.

(b) A licensed propagation cultivator shall not cultivate mature cannabis plants for the purpose of producing, harvesting, transferring, or selling cannabis flower for or to any person.

Sec. 11. 7 V.S.A. § 904c is added to read:

§ 904c. TRIM AND HARVEST SERVICE LICENSE

A trim and harvest service licensed under this section may contract with cultivators licensed under section 904 or 904a of this chapter, on a seasonal or temporary basis, to supply specified cannabis maintenance services within the scope of each client-cultivator's license.

Sec. 12. 7 V.S.A. § 910 is amended to read:

§ 910. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT FEE SCHEDULE

The following fees shall apply to each person or product licensed by the Board:

* * *

(8) Trim and harvest services. Trim and harvest services shall be assessed an annual licensing fee of $500.00.

(9) Employees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual licensing fee of $50.00 for each employee. The Board shall offer one-year and two-year employee licenses.

~~(9)~~(10) Products. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual product licensing fee of $50.00 for every type of cannabis and cannabis product that is sold in accordance with this chapter. The Board may issue longer product registrations, prorated at the same cost per year, for products it deems low risk and shelf stable. Such products may be defined and distinguished in readily accessible published guidance.

~~(10)~~(11) Local licensing fees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual local licensing fee of $100.00 in addition to each fee assessed under subdivisions (1)–(7) of this section. Local licensing fees shall be distributed to the municipality in which the cannabis establishment is located pursuant to section 846(c) of this title.

~~(11)~~(12) ~~One-time fees~~ Application fee.

~~(A)~~ All applicants for a cannabis establishment license shall be assessed an initial one-time application fee of $1,000.00.

~~(B) An applicant may choose to be assessed an initial one-time intent-to-apply fee of $500.00. If the applicant subsequently seeks a license within one year after paying the intent-to-apply fee, the initial one-time application fee of $1,000.00 shall be reduced by $500.00.~~

Sec. 12a. CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD REPORT; PROPOSAL FOR FEES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

(a) On or before November 15, 2025, the Cannabis Control Board shall submit to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report that includes the following information:

(1) a summary of all cannabis fees in effect in fiscal year 2026, including the amounts of revenue derived from each fee in fiscal year 2025;

(2) a projection of the fee revenues in fiscal year 2026;

(3) any available information regarding comparable fees in other jurisdictions;

(4) any polices or trends that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

(5) a recommendation regarding how the cannabis establishment fee schedule as set forth in 7 V.S.A. § 910 may be adjusted to better promote the intent of the General Assembly to encourage participation in the regulated cannabis market by small local farmers and social equity applicants.

(b) As part of the report required under subsection (a) of this section, the Cannabis Control Board shall recommend whether a portion of the cannabis excise tax established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902 should be allocated to the Cannabis Business Development Fund for uses as provided pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987 and the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board to fulfill the duties of the Board.

Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 3260 is amended to read:

§ 3260. BULK SALES

(a) Whenever a person (transferor) required to collect or withhold a trust tax pursuant to chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233 of this title shall make any sale, transfer, long-term lease, or assignment (transfer) in bulk of any part or the whole of the assets of a business, otherwise than in the ordinary course of the business, the purchaser, transferee or assignee (transferee) shall, at least 10

days before taking possession of the subject of the transfer or before payment therefore if earlier, notify the Commissioner in writing of the proposed sale and of the price, terms, and conditions thereof whether or not the transferor has represented to or informed the transferee that the transferor owes any trust tax pursuant to chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233 and whether or not the transferee has knowledge that such taxes are owed, and whether any taxes are in fact owed.

(b) Whenever the transferee shall fail to give notice to the Commissioner as required by subsection (a) of this section, or whenever the Commissioner shall inform the transferee that a possible claim for tax exists, any sums of money, property, or choses in action, or other consideration, which the transferee is required to transfer over to or for the transferor, shall be subject to a first priority right and lien for any taxes theretofore or thereafter determined to be due from the transferor to the State, and the transferee is forbidden to transfer the consideration to or for the transferor to the extent of the amount of the State's claim.

(c) For failure to comply with this section, the transferee shall be personally liable for the payment to the State of any taxes theretofore or thereafter determined to be due to the State from the transferor and the liability may be assessed and enforced in the same manner as the liability for tax under chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233.

* * *

Sec. 13a. 32 V.S.A. § 7702 is amended to read:

§ 7702. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

* * *

(15) "Other tobacco products" means any product manufactured from, derived from, or containing tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, including nicotine alkaloids and nicotine analogs, that is intended for human consumption by smoking, chewing, or in any other manner, including products sold as a tobacco substitute, as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001(8), and including any liquids, whether nicotine based or not, or delivery devices sold separately for use with a tobacco substitute, but shall not include cigarettes, little cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, snuff, new smokeless tobacco as defined in this section, or cannabis products as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 831.

* * *

(20) "New smokeless tobacco" means any tobacco product manufactured from, derived from, or containing tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, including nicotine alkaloids and nicotine analogs, that is not intended to be smoked, has a moisture content of less than 45 percent, or is offered in individual single-dose tablets or other discrete single-use units.

* * *

Sec. 14. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Sec. 6d, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 90, is further amended to read:

Sec. 6d. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15a. CANNABIS SHOWCASE EVENT PERMIT PILOT

(a) A licensed retail cannabis establishment in good standing with the Board may apply to the Board for a cannabis showcase event permit. Multiple retailers may apply and be granted permission to participate in each event, but the Board shall allow not more than five events between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026, and such events shall be issued in geographically dispersed locations.

(b) A permit issued under this section shall authorize the recipient to coordinate, oversee, and be the responsible administrator of a single, defined commercial event, held at a defined access-controlled location, for a defined period not to exceed 24 hours, at which cannabis or cannabis products lawfully may be purchased and possessed by screened participants acting in conformity with terms set out by the Board in the issued permit.

(c) To be eligible for a cannabis showcase event permit, an applicant retail cannabis establishment shall demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction:

(1) written approval to pursue a permit in the proposed location, from the cannabis control commission created by the municipality pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863, if one exists, or from the local legislative body or designee;

(2) partnership with a minimum of three tier 1 or tier 2 licensed cultivators or product manufacturers that are in good standing with the Board and wholly independent of the retail cannabis establishment and its affiliates who will be showcased at the event;

(3) a commitment that the retailer will not offer for sale any cannabis or cannabis products produced from a cultivator license or product manufacturer license held by the retailer;

(4) a transparent revenue-sharing agreement that, in the Board's sole judgment, meaningfully promotes the goals of the General Assembly to promote market access for small cultivators;

(5) a security plan to ensure intoxicated persons or persons under 21 years of age cannot access the space subject to the permit, that the premises are secured from diversion or inversion, and that the premises lawfully may be used for the purpose intended;

(6) a product sale plan that describes quantities and types of cannabis and cannabis products that will be offered for sale and explains how they will be transported to the site, monitored, secured, displayed, and sold in conformity with State law and Board rule;

(7) actual capacity and intent to administer and enforce and apply the required plans;

(8) proof of commercially reasonable insurance for the proposed event; and

(9) compliance with such other requirements as the Board may prescribe.

(d) Deviation from security and sales plans, product tracking and taxation requirements, or permit terms shall be a violation subject to adverse licensing action consistent with Board rules.

(e) Permittee cannabis establishments shall be assessed a fee of $250.00 to apply for a Cannabis Showcase Event Permit of which 50 percent shall be distributed to the host municipality and 50 percent shall be deposited in the Cannabis Regulation Fund.

(f) The Board shall prioritize social equity applicants, as defined by 7 V.S.A. § 911 and any related rules, when deciding whether to approve an application under this section.

Sec 15b. CANNABIS RETAIL SALES REPORT

The Cannabis Control Board shall monitor and evaluate events authorized under Sec. 15a of this act. On or before January 15, 2026, the Board shall provide an interim report and, on or before January 15, 2027, a final report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on a concise assessment of the benefits, challenges, and administrative viability of offering cannabis retail sales at events outside the confines of a retail cannabis establishment. The Board may recommend best practices for, among other considerations, security, inventory tracking, tax enforcement,

permit administration, local government coordination, and optimizing market access for small cultivators.

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Birong of Vergennes** moved that the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4, 7 V.S.A. § 881, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. [Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 8, 7 V.S.A. § 901, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

Third: By striking out Sec. 11, 7 V.S.A. § 904c, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 11. [Deleted.]

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 12, 7 V.S.A. § 910, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 12. [Deleted.]

Which was agreed to.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 23

Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4 is added to read:

Subchapter 4. Use of Synthetic Media in Elections

§ 2031. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media" means synthetic media that appears to a reasonable person to be an authentic recording of a political candidate saying or doing something that injures the reputation of the candidate or that attempts to unduly influence the outcome of an election.

(2) "Synthetic media" means an image, an audio recording, or a video recording of a political candidate's appearance, speech, or conduct that has been created or intentionally manipulated with the use of digital technology, including artificial intelligence, without the consent of the candidate.

§ 2032. DISCLOSURE OF A DECEPTIVE AND FRAUDULENT SYNTHETIC MEDIA

(a) Disclosure. A person shall not, within 90 days before an election in Vermont, publish, communicate, or otherwise distribute synthetic media that the person knows is deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media unless the person includes a disclosure in the synthetic media stating: "This media has been created or intentionally manipulated by digital technology or artificial intelligence."

(1) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of images and video recordings, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer. For video recordings, the disclosure shall appear for the full duration of the video recording.

(2) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of audio recordings only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch and pace that can be easily heard by the average listener, at the beginning of the audio recording, at the end of the audio recording, and, if the audio is greater than two minutes in length, interspersed within the audio recording at intervals of not greater than two minutes each.

(b) Exceptions. Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:

(1) a radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, or to a website, streaming platform, or mobile application, that:

(A) broadcasts deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media as part of a bona fide newscast, news interview, news documentary, commentary of general interest, or on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events, so long as the broadcast clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner that can be easily heard or read by the average listener or viewer, that there are questions about the authenticity of the deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media;

(B) is paid to broadcast deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media; or

(C) is required by federal law to broadcast advertisements from legally qualified candidates;

(2) a website or a regularly published newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of general circulation, including an internet or electronic publication, that routinely carries news and commentary of general interest, and that publishes deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media, if the publication clearly states that the deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media does not accurately represent the speech or conduct of the represented individual;

(3) a person that produces or distributes deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media constituting satire or parody;

(4) a provider of a telecommunications service or information service, as those terms are defined in the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. § 153, for content provided by another person; or

(5) a provider of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230, for content provided by another person.

§ 2033. PENALTIES

(a) A person that knowingly and intentionally violates a provision of this subchapter shall be fined not more than $1,000.00, unless:

(1) the person commits the violation with the intent to cause violence or bodily harm, in which case the fine shall be not more than $5,000.00;

(2) the person commits the violation within five years after one or more prior violations under this section, in which case the fine shall be not more than $10,000.00; or

(3) the person commits the violation with the intent to cause violence or bodily harm and the person commits the violation within five years after one or more prior violations under this section, in which case the fine shall be not more than $15,000.00.

(b) A candidate whose appearance, speech, conduct, or environment is misrepresented through the use of deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media in violation of section 2032 of this title may seek injunctive or other equitable relief prohibiting the publication, communication, or other distribution of such deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media.

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5 is added to read:

Subchapter 5. Enforcement and Investigation

§ 2041. ENFORCEMENT

In addition to the other remedies provided in this chapter, a State's Attorney or the Attorney General may institute any appropriate action, injunction, or other proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this chapter.

§ 2042. CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS

(a)(1) The Attorney General or a State's Attorney, whenever there is reason to believe any person to be or to have been in violation of this chapter, may examine or cause to be examined by any designated agent or representative any books, records, papers, memoranda, or physical objects of any nature bearing upon each alleged violation and may demand written responses under oath to questions bearing upon each alleged violation.

(2) The Attorney General or a State's Attorney may require the attendance of such person or of any other person having knowledge in the premises in the county where such person resides or has a place of business or in Washington County if such person is a nonresident or has no place of business within the State and may take testimony and require proof material for that person's information and may administer oaths or take acknowledgment in respect of any book, record, paper, or memorandum.

(3) The Attorney General or a State's Attorney shall serve notice of the time, place, and cause of such examination or attendance or notice of the cause of the demand for written responses personally or by certified mail upon such person at that person's principal place of business or, if such place is not known, to that person's known address. Such notice shall include a statement that a knowing and intentional violation of this chapter is subject to criminal prosecution.

(4) Any book, record, paper, memorandum, or other information produced by any person pursuant to this section shall not, unless otherwise ordered by a court of this State for good cause shown, be disclosed to any person other than the authorized agent or representative of the Attorney General or a State's Attorney or another law enforcement officer engaged in

legitimate law enforcement activities unless with the consent of the person producing the same, except that any transcript of oral testimony, written responses, documents, or other information produced pursuant to this section may be used in the enforcement of this chapter, including in connection with any civil action brought under this subchapter or subsection (c) of this section.

(5) Nothing in this subsection is intended to prevent the Attorney General or a State's Attorney from disclosing the results of an investigation conducted under this section, including the grounds for the decision as to whether to bring an enforcement action alleging a violation of this chapter or of any rule made pursuant to this chapter.

(6) This subsection shall not be applicable to any criminal investigation or prosecution brought under the laws of this or any state.

(b)(1) A person upon whom a notice is served pursuant to the provisions of this section shall comply with its terms unless otherwise provided by the order of a court of this State.

(2) Any person who, with intent to avoid, evade, or prevent compliance, in whole or in part, with any civil investigation under this section, removes from any place; conceals, withholds, or destroys; or mutilates, alters, or by any other means falsifies any documentary material in the possession, custody, or control of any person subject to such notice or mistakes or conceals any information shall be fined not more than $5,000.00.

(c)(1) Whenever any person fails to comply with any notice served upon that person under this section or whenever satisfactory copying or reproduction of any such material cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the material, the Attorney General or a State's Attorney may file, in the Superior Court in the county in which the person resides or of that person's principal place of business or in Washington County if the person is a nonresident or has no principal place of business in this State, and serve upon the person a petition for an order of the court for the enforcement of this section.

(2) Whenever any petition is filed under this section, the court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter so presented and to enter any order or orders as may be required to carry into effect the provisions of this section. Any disobedience of any order entered under this section by any court shall be punished as a contempt of the court.

(d) Any person aggrieved by a civil investigation conducted under this section may seek relief from Washington Superior Court or the Superior Court in the county in which the aggrieved person resides. Except for cases the court considers to be of greater importance, proceedings before Superior Court as

authorized by this section shall take precedence on the docket over all other cases.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs?, **Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte** moved that the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be amended in Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2031, by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (1) to read as follows:

(1) "Deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media" means synthetic media that appears to a reasonable person to be an authentic representation of a political candidate and that injures the reputation of the candidate or attempts to unduly influence the outcome of an election.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, as amended, was agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

H. 266

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate concurred in the House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 5, outpatient prescription drugs; limitations on hospital charges for 2025, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 6, effective dates, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and relettering subsection (c) to be subsection (b)

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

**Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration;
Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended,
Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

S. 123

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.123. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate accede to the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Plug-in Electric Vehicles * * *

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 4(28) is amended to read:

(28) "Pleasure car" shall include all motor vehicles not otherwise defined in this title and shall include plug-in electric vehicles, battery electric vehicles, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles as defined pursuant to subdivision (85) of this section.

* * * Veteran's Designation * * *

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

§ 7. ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE; MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE INFORMATION; FEE

* * *

(b)(1) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced license may be issued to an individual, the individual shall present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to determine identity and U.S. citizenship. ~~An~~ A new application shall be accompanied by a photo identity document, documentation showing the individual's date and place of birth, proof of the individual's Social Security number, and documentation showing the individual's principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the enhanced license.

(2) If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of Veterans' Affairs confirms the individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term "veteran" on its face.

(3) To be issued, an enhanced license must meet the same requirements as those for the issuance of a U.S. passport. Before an application may be processed, the documents and information shall be verified as determined by the Commissioner.

(4) Any additional personal identity information not currently required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security shall need the approval of either the General Assembly or the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules prior to the implementation of the requirements.

* * *

* * * Documentation of Anatomical Gift * * *

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

§ 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

* * *

(g) An identification card issued to a first-time applicant and any subsequent renewals by that person shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the applicant. The photographic identification card shall be available at a location designated by the Commissioner. An individual issued an identification card under this subsection that contains an imaged likeness may renew ~~his or her~~ the individual's identification card by mail. Except that

a renewal by an individual required to have a photograph or imaged likeness under this subsection must be made in person so that an updated imaged likeness of the individual is obtained not less often than once every nine years.

* * *

(k) At the option of the applicant, ~~his or her~~ the applicant's valid Vermont license may be surrendered in connection with an application for an identification card. In those instances, the fee due under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by:

* * *

(n) The Commissioner shall provide a form that, upon the individual's execution, shall serve as a document of an anatomical gift under 18 V.S.A. chapter 110. An indicator shall be placed on the nondriver identification card of any individual who has executed an anatomical gift form in accordance with this section.

* * * Disability Placards for Volunteer Drivers * * *

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 304a is amended to read:

§ 304a. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES AND PLACARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Ambulatory disability" means an impairment that prevents or impedes walking. An individual shall be considered to have an ambulatory disability if ~~he or she~~ the individual:

* * *

(F) is severely limited in ~~his or her~~ the individual's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.

* * *

(b) Special registration plates or removable windshield placards, or both, shall be issued by the Commissioner. The placard shall be issued without a fee to an individual who is blind or has an ambulatory disability. One set of plates shall be issued without additional fees for a vehicle registered or leased to an individual who is blind or has an ambulatory disability or to a parent or guardian of an individual with a permanent disability. The Commissioner shall issue these placards or plates under rules adopted by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner after proper application has been made to the Commissioner by any person residing within the State. Application forms shall be available on request at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(1) Upon application for a special registration plate or removable windshield placard, the Commissioner shall send a form prescribed by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner to the applicant to be signed and returned by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The Commissioner shall file the form for future reference and issue the placard or plate. A new application shall be submitted every four years in the case of placards and at every third registration renewal for plates but in no case greater than every four years. When a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse has previously certified to the Commissioner that an applicant's condition is both permanent and stable, a special registration plate or placard need not be renewed.

* * *

(3) An individual with a disability who abuses such privileges or allows individuals not disabled to abuse the privileges provided in this section may have this privilege revoked after suitable notice and opportunity for hearing has been given ~~him or her~~ the individual by the Commissioner. Hearings under the provisions of this section shall be held in accordance with sections 105–107 of this title and shall be subject to review by the Civil Division of the Superior Court of the county where the individual with a disability resides.

(4) An applicant for a registration plate or placard for individuals with disabilities may request the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which ~~he or she~~ the applicant resides to review a decision by the Commissioner to deny ~~his or her~~ the applicant's application for a special registration plate or placard.

* * *

(6) On a form prescribed by the Commissioner, a nonprofit organization that provides volunteer drivers to transport individuals who have an ambulatory disability or are blind may apply to the Commissioner for a placard. ~~Placards shall be marked "volunteer driver."~~ The organization shall ensure proper use of placards and maintain an accurate and complete record of the volunteer drivers to whom the placards are given by the organization. Placards shall be returned to the organization when the volunteer driver is no longer performing that service. Abuse of the privileges provided by the placards may result in the privileges being revoked and the placards repossessed by the Commissioner. Revocation may occur only after suitable notice and opportunity for a hearing. Hearings shall be held in accordance with sections 105–107 of this title.

* * *

(e)(1) An individual, other than an eligible person, who for ~~his or her~~ the individual's own purposes parks a vehicle in a space for individuals with disabilities shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $200.00 for each violation and shall be liable for towing charges.

(2) An individual, other than an eligible person, who displays a special registration plate or removable windshield placard not issued to ~~him or her~~ the individual under this section and parks a vehicle in a space for individuals with disabilities, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $400.00 for each violation and shall be liable for towing charges.

* * *

(f) Individuals who have a temporary ambulatory disability may apply for a temporary removable windshield placard to the Commissioner on a form prescribed by ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner. The placard shall be valid for a period of up to six months and displayed as required under the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. The application shall be signed by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The validation period of the temporary placard shall be established on the basis of the written recommendation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. The Commissioner shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

* * * Fees * * *

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 115(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis.

(2) Every application for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (l) of this section. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the applicant's identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the

Commissioner, and the Office of Veterans' Affairs confirms the veteran's status as an honorably discharged veteran; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term "veteran" on its face.

(3) The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of $29.00 at the time application for an identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card shall be issued at no charge to:

(A) an individual who surrenders the individual's license in connection with a suspension or revocation under subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition; or

(B) an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 376 is amended to read:

§ 376. STATE, MUNICIPAL, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION MOTOR VEHICLES

* * *

(h)(1) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for vehicles owned by the State.

(2) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for vehicles that are owned by any county or municipality in the State and used by that county or municipality or another county or municipality in this State for county or municipal purposes.

(i)(1) The EV infrastructure fee, required pursuant subsections 361(b) and (c) of this subchapter, shall not be charged for a motor truck, trailer, ambulance, or other motor vehicle that is:

(A) owned by a volunteer fire department or other volunteer firefighting organization, an ambulance service, or an organization conducting rescue operations; and

(B) used solely for firefighting, emergency medical, or rescue purposes, or any combination of those activities.

(2) A motor vehicle or trailer subject to the provisions of this subsection shall be plainly marked on both sides of the body or cab to indicate its ownership.

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 378 is amended to read:

§ 378. VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS

No fees, including the annual emissions fee required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2822(m)(1) and the electric vehicle infrastructure fees required pursuant to section 361 of this subchapter, shall be charged ~~an honorably discharged~~ to a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who received a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions and is a resident of the State of Vermont for the registration of a motor vehicle that the veteran has acquired with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or for the registration of a motor vehicle owned by ~~him or her~~ the veteran during ~~his or her~~ the veteran's lifetime obtained as a replacement thereof, when ~~his or her~~ the veteran's application is accompanied by a copy of an approved VA Form 21-4502 issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying ~~him or her~~ the veteran to be entitled to the financial assistance.

Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FEES

* * *

(b) An additional fee of $4.00 per year shall be paid for a motorcycle endorsement. The endorsement may be obtained for either a two-year or four-year period, to be coincidental with the length of the operator's license.

(c)(1) Individuals under 23 years of age who were in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall be provided with operator's licenses or operator privilege cards at no charge.

(2) No additional fee shall be due for a motorcycle endorsement for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FEES

* * *

(d) Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income and individuals with a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501 shall be provided with operator's licenses or operator privilege cards for the following fees:

(1) Original issuance: $20.00.

(2) Renewal every four years: $20.00.

(3) Replacement of lost, destroyed, or mutilated card or a new name is required: $10.00.

* * * Learner's Permits * * *

Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

§ 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

* * *

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall offer both a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only and a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of any motorcycle. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of $24.00 at the time application is made, except that no fee shall be charged for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

(2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the Commissioner may issue to the applicant a learner's permit that entitles the applicant, subject to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle only, or to operate any motorcycle, upon the public highways for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance. The fee for the examination shall be $11.00, except that no fee shall be charged for an individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age.

(3) A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon payment of a $24.00 fee. An individual under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall not be charged a fee for the renewal of a motorcycle learner's permit.

(4) If, during the original permit period and two renewals the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or motorcycle rider training course, the permittee may not obtain another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the expiration of the permit unless:

(A) ~~he or she~~ the permittee has successfully completed the applicable motorcycle rider training course; or

(B) the learner's permit and renewals thereof authorized the operation of any motorcycle and the permittee is seeking a learner's permit for the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only.

* * *

(c) No learner's permit may be issued to any person under 18 years of age unless the parent or guardian of, or a person standing in loco parentis to, the applicant files ~~his or her~~ written consent to the issuance with the Commissioner.

(d)(1) An applicant shall pay $24.00 to the Commissioner for each learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

(2) An applicant under 23 years of age who was in the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4903(4) in Vermont after attaining 14 years of age shall not be charged a fee for a learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

(3) A replacement learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle may be generated from the applicant's electronic account for no charge.

(e)(1) A learner's permit~~, which is not a learner's permit~~ for the operation of a motorcycle~~,~~ shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the individual. A learner's permit for a motor vehicle shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the individual if the permit is obtained in person. ~~The photographic learner's permit shall be available at locations designated by the Commissioner.~~

(2) An individual issued a permit under this subsection may renew ~~his or her~~ the individual's permit by mail or online, but a permit holder who chooses to have a photograph or imaged likeness under this subsection must renew in person so that an updated imaged likeness of the individual is obtained not less often than once every nine years.

* * *

* * * Commercial Learner's Permit * * *

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 4111a is amended to read:

§ 4111a. COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT

(a) Contents of permit. A commercial learner's permit shall contain the following:

* * *

(3) physical and other information to identify and describe the permit holder, including the month, day, and year of birth; sex; ~~and~~ height; and photograph;

* * *

Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 4122 is amended to read:

§ 4122. DEFERRING IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE; PROHIBITION ON MASKING OR DIVERSION

(a) No court, State's Attorney, or law enforcement officer may utilize the provisions of 13 V.S.A. § 7041 or any other program to defer imposition of sentence or judgment if the defendant holds a commercial driver's license, commercial learner's permit, or was operating a commercial motor vehicle when the violation occurred and is charged with violating any State or local traffic law other than ~~a~~ parking ~~violation~~, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations.

* * *

* * * License Examinations * * *

Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 632 is amended to read:

§ 632. EXAMINATION REQUIRED; WAIVER

(a) Before an operator's or a junior operator's license is issued to an applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory examination, except that the Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, waive the examination when the applicant holds a chauffeur's, junior operator's, or operator's license in force at the time of application or within three years prior to the application in some other jurisdiction where an examination is required similar to the examination required in this State.

(b) The examination shall consist of:

* * *

(3) at the discretion of the Commissioner, such other examination or demonstration as ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner may prescribe, including an oral eye examination.

(c) An applicant may have an individual of ~~his or her~~ the applicant's choosing at the oral examination or road test to serve as an interpreter, including to translate any oral commands given as part of the road test.

Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 634 is amended to read:

§ 634. FEE FOR EXAMINATION

* * *

(b)(1) ~~A~~ Beginning on or before July 1, 2026, a scheduling fee of $29.00 shall be paid by the applicant before the applicant may schedule the road test required under section 632 of this title. ~~Unless an applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation, if~~

(2) If the applicant does not appear as scheduled, the $29.00 scheduling fee ~~is~~ shall be forfeited, unless either:

(A) the applicant gives the Department at least 48 hours' notice; or

(B) the applicant shows good cause for the cancellation, as determined by the Commissioner.

(3) If the applicant appears for the scheduled road test, the fee shall be applied toward the license examination fee. ~~The Commissioner may waive the scheduling fee until the Department is capable of administering the fee electronically.~~

* * *

* * * Non-Real ID Operator's Privilege Cards * * *

Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:

§ 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

(a)(1) The Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's authorized agent may license operators and junior operators when an application, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, signed and sworn to by the applicant for the license, is filed with ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner, accompanied by the required license fee and any valid license from another state or Canadian jurisdiction is surrendered.

(2) The Commissioner may, however, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, refuse to issue a license to any person whenever ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner is satisfied from information given ~~him or her~~ the Commissioner by credible persons, and upon investigation, that the person is mentally or physically unfit or, because of ~~his or her~~ the person's habits or record as to crashes or convictions, is unsafe to be trusted with the operation of motor vehicles. A person refused a license under the provisions of this subsection shall be entitled to hearing as provided in sections 105–107 of this title.

* * *

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section:

(1) ~~A~~ An applicant who is a citizen of a foreign country shall produce ~~his or her~~ the applicant's passport and visa, alien registration receipt card (green card), or other proof of legal presence for inspection and copying as a part of the application process for an operator's license, junior operator's license, or learner's permit.

(2) An operator's license, junior operator's license, or learner's permit issued to an applicant who is a citizen of a foreign country shall expire coincidentally with ~~his or her~~ the applicant's authorized duration of stay.

(e)(1) A citizen of a foreign country unable to establish legal presence in the United States who furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date of birth, and place of birth, and who satisfies all other requirements of this chapter for obtaining a license or permit, shall be eligible to obtain an operator's privilege card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card.

* * *

(f) ~~Persons~~ Applicant's able to establish lawful presence in the United States but who otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201-202, shall be eligible for an operator's privilege card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card, provided the applicant furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date of birth, and place of birth, and satisfies all other requirements of this chapter for obtaining a license or permit. The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the applicant's Vermont residence and ~~his or her~~ the applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth.

* * *

(h) A privilege card issued under this section shall:

(1) on its face bear the phrase ~~"privilege card"~~ "non-Real ID" and text indicating that it is not valid for federal identification or official purposes; and

* * *

* * * License Extension * * *

Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A § 604 is added to read:

§ 604. EARLY RENEWAL

(a) The holder of an operator's license or privilege card issued under the provisions of this subchapter may renew the operator's license or privilege card at any time prior to the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card. If one or more years remain before the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed operator's license or privilege card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the operator's license or privilege card.

(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of an operator's license or privilege card shall apply to the early renewal of an operator's license or privilege card.

Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. § 115b is added to read:

§ 115b. EARLY RENEWAL

(a) The holder of a nondriver identification card issued under the provisions of section 115 of this chapter may renew the nondriver identification card at any time prior to the expiration of the nondriver identification card. If one or more years remain before the expiration of the nondriver identification card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed nondriver identification card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the nondriver identification card.

(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of a nondriver identification card pursuant to section 115 of this chapter shall apply to the early renewal of a nondriver identification card.

Sec. 18. INFORMATION REGARDING PRIVILEGE CARDS AND NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, to the extent permitted by federal law, ensures that any individual who is unable to or does not wish to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201 and 202 continues to be informed of the option of applying for an operator's privilege card pursuant to the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 603(f) or a nondriver identification card pursuant to the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 115.

Sec. 19. OUTREACH; UPDATES

(a) On or before November 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall develop and implement a public education and outreach campaign to inform Vermont residents about:

(1) an individual's ability to obtain an operator's license, operator's privilege card, or nondriver identification card;

(2) an individual's ability under Vermont law to self-attest with respect to the gender marker on the individual's operator's license, operator's privilege card, or nondriver identification card; and

(3) reduced fees that are available to individuals who meet certain requirements.

(b) The Commissioner shall provide two brief, written updates to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding the implementation and utilization of 23 V.S.A. §§ 115b and 604. The first shall be due not more than 30 days after the Department implements the provisions of 23 V.S.A. §§ 115b and 604 and the second shall be due in January 2026.

* * * Commercial Driving Instructors * * *

Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 705 is amended to read:

§ 705. QUALIFICATIONS FOR INSTRUCTOR'S LICENSE

(a) In order to qualify for an instructor's license, each applicant shall:

(1) not have been convicted of:

(A) a felony nor incarcerated for a felony within the 10 years prior to the date of application;

(B) a violation of section 1201 of this title or a like offense in another jurisdiction reported to the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision 3905(a)(2) of this title within the three years prior to the date of application;

(C) a subsequent violation of an offense listed in subdivision 2502(a)(5) of this title or of section 674 of this title; or

(D) a sex offense that requires registration pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 3;

(2) pass ~~such~~ an examination ~~as~~ required by the Commissioner ~~shall require~~ on:

(A) traffic laws;

(B) safe driving practices;

(C) operation of motor vehicles; and

(D) qualifications as a teacher;

(3) be physically able to operate a motor vehicle and to train others in such operation;

(4) have five years' experience as a licensed operator and be at least 21 years of age on date of application; and

(5) pay the application and license fees prescribed in section 702 of this title.

(b) Commercial motor vehicle instructors shall satisfy the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (3), and (5) of this section, and:

(1) If the commercial motor vehicle instructor is a behind the wheel (BTW) instructor, shall either:

(A)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years of experience driving a commercial motor vehicle requiring the same or higher class of CDL and any applicable endorsements required to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors; or

(B)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years' experience as a BTW instructor; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors.

(2) If the commercial motor vehicle instructor is a theory instructor, the instructor shall:

(A)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years of experience driving a commercial motor vehicle requiring the same or higher class of CDL and any applicable endorsements required to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors; or

(B)(i) hold a CDL of the same or higher class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the commercial motor vehicle for which training is to be provided;

(ii) have at least two years' experience as a BTW instructor; and

(iii) meet any additional applicable State requirements for commercial motor vehicle instructors.

* * * Motorcycle Instructors * * *

Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 734 is amended to read:

§ 734. INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING

* * *

(b) The Department shall establish minimum requirements for the qualifications of a rider training instructor. The minimum requirements shall include the following:

* * *

(3) the instructor shall have at least ~~four~~ two years of licensed experience as a motorcycle ~~riding experience~~ operator during the last ~~five~~ four years;

* * *

(7) an applicant shall not be eligible for instructor status until ~~his or her~~ the applicant's driving record for the preceding five years, or the maximum number of years less than five for which a state retains driving records, is furnished; and

* * *

* * * Motor Vehicle Taxes * * *

Sec. 22. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

§ 8902. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly provided, as used in this chapter:

* * *

(5)(A) "Taxable cost" means the purchase price as defined in subdivision (4) of this section or the taxable cost as determined under section 8907 of this title.

(B) For any purchaser who has paid tax on the purchase or use of a motor vehicle that was sold or traded by the purchaser or for which the purchaser received payment under a contract of insurance, the taxable cost of the replacement motor vehicle other than a leased vehicle shall exclude:

~~(A)~~(i) The value allowed by the seller on any motor vehicle accepted by the seller as part of the consideration of the motor vehicle, provided the motor vehicle accepted by the seller is owned and previously or currently registered or titled by the purchaser, with no change of ownership since registration or titling, except for motor vehicles for which registration is not required under the provisions of Title 23 or motor vehicles received under the provisions of subdivision 8911(8) of this title.

~~(B)~~(ii) The amount received from the sale of a motor vehicle last registered or titled in the seller's name, the amount not to exceed the clean trade-in value of the same make, type, model, and year of manufacture as designated by the manufacturer and as shown in the ~~NADA Official Used Car Guide (New England edition)~~ J.D. Power Values, or any comparable publication, provided ~~such~~ the sale occurs within three months after the taxable purchase. However, this three-month period shall be extended day-for-day for any time that a member of a guard unit or of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), spends outside Vermont due to activation or deployment and an additional 60 days following the individual's return from activation or deployment. ~~Such~~ The amount shall be reported on forms supplied by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

~~(C)~~(iii) The amount actually paid to the purchaser within three months prior to the taxable purchase by any insurer under a contract of collision, comprehensive, or similar insurance with respect to a motor vehicle owned by ~~him or her~~ the purchaser, provided that the vehicle is not subject to the tax imposed by subsection 8903(d) of this title and provided that one of these events occur:

~~(i)~~(I) the motor vehicle with respect to which ~~such~~ the payment is made by the insurer is accepted by the seller as a trade-in on the purchased motor vehicle before the repair of the damage giving rise to insurer's payment; or

~~(ii)~~(II) the motor vehicle with respect to which ~~such~~ the payment is made to the insurer is treated as a total loss and is sold for dismantling.

~~(D)~~(C) A purchaser shall be entitled to a partial or complete refund of taxes paid under subsection 8903(a) or (b) of this title if an insurer makes a payment to ~~him or her~~ the purchaser under contract of collision,

comprehensive, or similar insurance after ~~he or she~~ the purchaser has paid the tax imposed by this chapter, if ~~such~~ the payment by the insurer is either:

* * *

~~(E)~~(D) The purchase price of a motor vehicle subject to the tax imposed by subsections 8903(a) and (b) of this title shall not be reduced by the value received or allowed in connection with the transfer of a vehicle that was registered for use as a short-term rental vehicle.

* * *

Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 8907 is amended to read:

§ 8907. COMMISSIONER; COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE COSTS

(a) The Commissioner may investigate the taxable cost of any motor vehicle transferred subject to the provisions of this chapter. If the motor vehicle is not acquired by purchase in Vermont or is received for an amount that does not represent actual value, or if no tax form is filed or it appears to the Commissioner that a tax form contains fraudulent or incorrect information, the Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's discretion, fix the taxable cost of the motor vehicle at the clean trade-in value of vehicles of the same make, type, model, and year of manufacture as designated by the manufacturer, as shown in ~~the NADA Official Used Car Guide (New England Edition)~~ J.D. Power Values or any comparable publication, less the lease end value of any leased vehicle. The Commissioner may develop a process to determine the value of vehicles that do not have clean trade-in value in J.D. Power Values. The Commissioner may compute and assess the tax due and notify the purchaser verbally, if the purchaser is at a DMV location, or immediately by ~~certified~~ mail, and the purchaser shall remit the same within 15 days ~~thereafter~~ after notice is sent or provided.

* * *

Sec. 24. 32 V.S.A. § 8914 is amended to read:

§ 8914. REFUND

Any overpayment of such tax as determined by the Commissioner shall be refunded. To be eligible to receive a refund, a person shall submit a request for a refund within one year after paying the tax.

* * * Refund of Registration Fee * * *

Sec. 25. 23 V.S.A. § 326 is amended to read:

§ 326. REFUND UPON LOSS OF VEHICLE

The Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle when the owner of the motor vehicle proves to the Commissioner's satisfaction that the motor vehicle has been totally destroyed by fire or, through crash or wear, has become wholly unfit for use and has been dismantled. After the Commissioner cancels the registration and the owner returns to the Commissioner either the registration certificate or the number plate or number plates, or other proof of cancellation to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall certify to the Commissioner of Finance and Management the fact of the cancellation, giving the name of the owner of the motor vehicle, the owner's address, the amount of the registration fee paid, and the date of cancellation. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue the Commissioner of Finance and Management's warrant in favor of the owner for such percent of the registration fee paid as the unexpired term of the registration bears to the entire registration period, but in no case shall the Commissioner of Finance and Management retain less than $5.00 of the fee paid.

* * * Fuel Tax Refunds * * *

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 3020 is amended to read:

§ 3020. CREDITS AND REFUNDS

(a) Credits.

(1) A user who purchased fuel within this State from a dealer or distributor upon which ~~he or she~~ the user paid the tax at the time of purchase, or a user exempt from the payment of the tax under subsection 3003(d) of this title who purchased fuel within this State upon which ~~he or she~~ the user paid tax at the time of purchase, shall be entitled to a credit equal to the amount of tax per gallon in effect when the fuel was purchased. When the amount of the credit to which any user is entitled for any reporting period exceeds the amount of ~~his or her~~ the user's tax for the same period, the excess shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

* * *

(3) A user who also sells or delivers fuel subject to the tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 upon which the tax imposed by this chapter has been paid shall be entitled to a credit equal to the amount of such tax paid pursuant to this chapter. When the amount of the credit to which any user is entitled for

any reporting period exceeds the amount of ~~his or her~~ the user's tax for the same period, the excess shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

* * *

(b) Refunds. A user may request, in writing by mail, a refund of any credits in the user's tax account, but in no case may a user collect a refund requested more than ~~33~~ 12 months following the date the amount was credited to the user's tax account.

* * *

* * * Alteration of Odometers * * *

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 1704a is amended to read:

§ 1704a. ALTERATION OF ODOMETERS

(a) ~~Any person who sells~~ No person shall:

(1) sell, ~~attempts~~ attempt to sell, or ~~causes~~ cause to be sold any motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile ~~and has actual knowledge that~~ if the odometer, hubometer reading, or clock meter reading has been changed, tampered with, or defaced without first disclosing ~~same and a person who changes, tampers with, or defaces, or who attempts~~ that information to the buyer;

(2) change, tamper with, or deface, or attempt to change, tamper with, or deface~~,~~ any ~~gauge, dial, or other mechanical instrument, commonly known as an~~ odometer, hubometer, or clock meter~~,~~ in a motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile~~, which, under normal circumstances and without being changed, tampered with, or defaced, is designed to show by numbers or words the distance that the motor vehicle, highway building appliance, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile travels.~~,; or ~~who~~

(3) willfully ~~misrepresents~~ misrepresent the odometer, hubometer, or clock meter reading on the odometer disclosure statement or similar statement, title, or bill of sale.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than $1,000.00 for a first offense and fined not more than $2,500.00 for each subsequent offense.

* * * Definition of Conviction * * *

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 102 is amended to read:

§ 102. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

* * *

(d)(1) The Commissioner may authorize background investigations for potential employees, which may include criminal, traffic, and financial records checks; provided, however, that the potential employee is notified and has the right to withdraw ~~his or her~~ their name from application. Additionally, employees who are involved in the manufacturing or production of operator's licenses and identification cards, including enhanced licenses, or who have the ability to affect the identity information that appears on a license or identification card, or current employees who will be assigned to such positions, shall be subject to appropriate background checks and shall be provided notice of the background check and the contents of that check. These background checks shall include a name-based and fingerprint-based criminal history records check using at a minimum the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification database and State repository records on each covered employee.

(2) Employees may be subject to further appropriate security clearances if required by federal law, including background investigations that may include criminal and traffic records checks and providing proof of U.S. citizenship.

(3) The Commissioner may, in connection with a formal disciplinary investigation, authorize a criminal or traffic record background investigation of a current employee; provided, however, that the background review is relevant to the issue under disciplinary investigation. Information acquired through the investigation shall be provided to the Commissioner or designated division director and must be maintained in a secure manner. If the information acquired is used as a basis for any disciplinary action, it must be given to the employee during any pretermination hearing or contractual grievance hearing to allow the employee an opportunity to respond to or dispute the information. If no disciplinary action is taken against the employee, the information acquired through the background check shall be destroyed.

(e) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 108 is amended to read:

§ 108. APPLICATION FORMS

(a) The Commissioner shall prepare and furnish all forms for applications, crash reports, conviction reports, a pamphlet containing the full text of the motor vehicle laws of the State, and all other forms needed in the proper conduct of ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's office. ~~He or she~~ The Commissioner shall furnish an adequate supply of ~~such~~ registration forms, license applications, and motor vehicle laws each year to each town clerk, and to ~~such~~ other persons ~~as may so~~ upon request.

(b) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 1709 is amended to read:

§ 1709. REPORT OF CONVICTIONS TO COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES

(a) The Judicial Bureau and every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under any law of this State or municipal ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on the highways shall forward a record of any conviction to the Commissioner within 10 days for violation of any State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation.

(b) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

Sec. 31. 23 V.S.A. § 1200 is amended to read:

§ 1200. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(11) As used in this section, "conviction" has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(60) of this title.

* * * Drunken Driving * * *

Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 1205 is amended to read:

§ 1205. CIVIL SUSPENSION; SUMMARY PROCEDURE

(a) Refusal; alcohol concentration at or above legal limits; suspension periods.

* * *

(2) Upon affidavit of a law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a limit specified in subsection 1201(a) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control, the Commissioner shall suspend the person's operating license or nonresident operating privilege or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle for a period of 90 days and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. However, during the suspension, an eligible person may operate under the terms of an ignition interlock RDL or ignition interlock certificate issued pursuant to section 1213 of this title.

* * *

(b) Form of officer's affidavit. A law enforcement officer's affidavit in support of a suspension under this section shall be in a standardized form for use throughout the State and shall be sufficient if it contains the following statements:

* * *

(4) The officer informed the person of ~~his or her~~ the person's rights under subsection 1202(d) of this title.

(5) The officer obtained an evidentiary test (noting the time and date the test was taken) and the test indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, or the person refused to submit to an evidentiary test.

* * *

(c) Notice of suspension. On behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a law enforcement officer requesting or directing the administration of an evidentiary test shall serve notice of intention to suspend and of suspension on a person who refuses to submit to an evidentiary test or on a person who submits to a test the results of which indicate that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title. The notice shall be signed by the law enforcement officer requesting the test. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and a copy shall be mailed or given to the defendant within three business days after the date the officer receives the results of the test. If mailed, the notice is deemed received three days after mailing to the address

provided by the defendant to the law enforcement officer. A copy of the affidavit of the law enforcement officer shall also be mailed by first-class mail or given to the defendant within seven days after the date of notice.

* * *

(h) Final hearing.

(1) If the defendant requests a hearing on the merits, the court shall schedule a final hearing on the merits to be held within 21 days after the date of the preliminary hearing. In no event may a final hearing occur more than 42 days after the date of the alleged offense without the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The final hearing may only be continued by the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The issues at the final hearing shall be limited to the following:

* * *

(D) Whether the test was taken and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title, whether the testing methods used were valid and reliable, and whether the test results were accurate and accurately evaluated. Evidence that the test was taken and evaluated in compliance with rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety shall be prima facie evidence that the testing methods used were valid and reliable and that the test results are accurate and were accurately evaluated.

* * *

(i) Finding by the court. The court shall electronically forward a report of the hearing to the Commissioner. Upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person refused to submit to a test, or upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, at the time the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control, the person's operating license, or nonresident operating privilege, or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle shall be suspended or shall remain suspended for the required term and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title.

Upon a finding in favor of the person, the Commissioner shall cause the suspension to be canceled and removed from the record, without payment of any fee.

* * *

(n) Presumption. In a proceeding under this section, if at any time within two hours of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle a person had an alcohol concentration ~~of~~ at or above a legal limit specified in subsection 1201(a) or (d) of this title, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's alcohol concentration was at or above the applicable limit at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

* * *

Sec. 33. 23 V.S.A. § 1205(d) is amended to read:

(d) Form of notice. The notice of intention to suspend and of suspension shall be in a form prescribed by the Supreme Court. The notice shall include an explanation of rights, a form to be used to request a hearing, and, if a hearing is requested, the date, time, and location of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court where the person must appear for a preliminary hearing. The notice shall also contain, in boldface print, the following:

(1) You have the right to ask for a hearing to contest the suspension of your operator's license.

(2) ~~This notice shall serve as a temporary operator's license and is valid until 12:01 a.m. of the date of suspension.~~ If this is your first violation of section 1201 of this title and if you do not request a hearing, your license will be suspended as provided in this notice. If this is your second or subsequent violation of section 1201 of this title, your license will be suspended on the 11th day after you receive this notice. It is a crime to drive while your license is suspended unless you have been issued an ignition interlock restricted driver's license or ignition interlock certificate.

* * *

* * * Registration Fees for Trucks * * *

Sec. 34. 23 V.S.A. § 367 is amended to read:

§ 367. TRUCKS

(a)(1) The annual fee for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks except truck cranes, truck shovels, road oilers, bituminous distributors, and farm trucks used as specified in subsection (f) of this section shall be based on the total weight of the truck-tractor or motor truck, including body

and cab plus the heaviest load to be carried. In computing the fees for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks with trailers or semi-trailers attached, except trailers or semi-trailers with a gross weight of less than ~~6,000~~ 6,099 pounds, the fee shall be based upon the weight of the tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck, the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer, and the weight of the heaviest load to be carried by the combined vehicles. In addition to the fee set out in the following schedule, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~10,000~~ 10,100 and ~~25,999~~ 26,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $42.53, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~26,000~~ 26,100 and ~~39,999~~ 40,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $85.03, the fee for vehicles weighing between ~~40,000~~ 40,100 and ~~59,999~~ 60,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional $297.68, and the fee for vehicles ~~60,000~~ 60,100 pounds and over shall be an additional $467.80. The fee shall be computed at the following rates per 1,000 pounds of weight determined pursuant to this subdivision and rounded up to the nearest whole dollar; the minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck to ~~6,000~~ 6,099 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:

$18.21 when the weight ~~exceeds 6,000 pounds but does not exceed 8,000 pounds~~ is at least 6,100 pounds but not more than 8,099 pounds.

$20.83 when the weight ~~exceeds 8,000 pounds but does not exceed 12,000 pounds~~ is at least 8,100 pounds but not more than 12,099 pounds.

$22.97 when the weight ~~exceeds 12,000 pounds but does not exceed 16,000 pounds~~ is at least 12,100 pounds but not more than 16,099 pounds.

$24.56 when the weight ~~exceeds 16,000 pounds but does not exceed 20,000 pounds~~ is at least 16,100 pounds but not more than 20,099 pounds.

$25.71 when the weight ~~exceeds 20,000 pounds but does not exceed 30,000 pounds~~ is at least 20,100 pounds but not more than 30,099 pounds.

$26.26 when the weight ~~exceeds 30,000 pounds but does not exceed 40,000 pounds~~ 30,100 pounds but not more than 40,099 pounds.

$26.90 when the weight ~~exceeds 40,000 pounds but does not exceed 50,000 pounds~~ is at least 40,100 pounds but not more than 50,099 pounds.

$27.13 when the weight ~~exceeds 50,000 pounds but does not exceed 60,000 pounds~~ is at least 50,100 pounds but not more than 60,099 pounds.

$28.06 when the weight ~~exceeds 60,000 pounds but does not exceed 70,000 pounds~~ is at least 60,100 pounds but not more than 70,099 pounds.

$29.00 when the weight ~~exceeds 70,000 pounds but does not exceed 80,000 pounds~~ is at least 70,100 pounds but not more than 80,099 pounds.

$29.94 when the weight ~~exceeds 80,000 pounds but does not exceed 90,000 pounds~~ is at least 80,100 pounds but not more than 90,099 pounds.

(2) ~~Fractions of 1,000 pounds shall be computed at the next highest 1,000 pounds, excepting, however, fractions of hundredweight shall be disregarded.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

* * * Purchase and Use Tax * * *

Sec. 35. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

§ 8902. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly provided, as used in this chapter:

* * *

(6) "Motor vehicle" ~~shall have~~ has the same ~~definition~~ meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(21).

* * *

(12) "Mail" has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(87).

Sec. 36. 32 V.S.A. § 8905 is amended to read:

§ 8905. COLLECTION OF TAX; EDUCATION; APPEALS

(a) Every purchaser of a motor vehicle subject to a tax under subsection 8903(a) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax form to the Commissioner, together with the amount of tax due at the time of first registering or transferring a registration to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to registration ~~thereof~~ of the vehicle.

(b) Every person subject to a use tax under subsection 8903(b) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax form and the tax due to the Commissioner with the registration application or transfer, as the case may be, and fee at the time of first registering or transferring a registration to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to registration ~~thereof~~ of the vehicle.

* * *

(d) Every person required to collect the use tax under subsection 8903(d) of this title shall forward ~~such~~ the tax and a report of ~~same~~ the tax on forms prescribed and furnished by the Commissioner at the frequency determined by the Commissioner.

* * *

(f) Every person subject to the tax imposed by subsection 8903(g) of this title shall forward the tax form and the tax due to the Commissioner along with the title application and fee at the time of applying for a certificate of title to ~~such~~ the motor vehicle as a condition precedent to the titling ~~thereof~~ of the motor vehicle.

(g) The Commissioner shall establish procedures for taxpayers to file an appeal regarding the taxpayer's liability for the tax due pursuant to section 8903 of this chapter and compliance with the requirements of this section. The procedures shall include a process by which a taxpayer can resolve the dispute prior to the issuance of a final administrative decision on the appeal.

(h) The Commissioner shall create educational and outreach materials for taxpayers that provide information regarding the appeal process established pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and opportunities to resolve disputes.

* * * Excessive Speed * * *

Sec. 37. 23 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

§ 2502. POINT ASSESSMENT; SCHEDULE

(a) Unless the assessment of points is waived by a Superior judge or a Judicial Bureau hearing officer in the interests of justice and in accordance with subsection 2501(b) of this title, a person operating a motor vehicle shall have points assessed against ~~his or her~~ the person's driving record for convictions for moving violations of the indicated motor vehicle statutes in accord with the following schedule: (All references are to this title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.)

* * *

(9) Eight points assessed for sections 1003 ~~and~~, 1007, and 1097. State speed zones and local speed limits, more than 30 miles per hour over and in excess of the speed limit.

* * *

* * * Tinted Windows * * *

Sec. 38. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 165, Secs. 14, 15, and 16 are amended to read:

Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Sec. 16. [Deleted.]

* * * All-Terrain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 3501 is amended to read:

§ 3501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means any nonhighway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having not less than two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less); not wider than ~~64~~ 72 inches, with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels; and having a dry weight of less than 2,500 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (AAA); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A) and (B); and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device, a motor-assisted bicycle, or an electric bicycle.

* * *

* * * Purchase and Use Tax and Inspections Report * * *

Sec. 40. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASE AND USE TAX; INSPECTIONS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 31, 2026, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Transportation and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Transportation regarding the process for determining the taxable cost of a used motor vehicle for purposes of the purchase and use tax and the impact of annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections on Vermonters.

(b) The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the number of persons during calendar years 2024 and 2025 who utilized the dealer appraisal process for determining the taxable cost of a used motor vehicle for purposes of the purchase and use tax;

(2) the age and type of vehicles for which the dealer appraisal process was utilized during calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(3) the difference between the clean trade-in value and the appraised value of vehicles for which the dealer appraisal process was utilized during calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(4) the number of appeals of the taxable cost of a motor vehicle that were filed in calendar years 2024 and 2025;

(5) the number appeals that resulted in a revision of the taxable cost and the difference between the originally assessed taxable cost and the revised taxable cost following the appeal;

(6) a summary of issues identified by persons contacting the Department pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;

(7) a summary of funding and other assistance related to annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections that is available to Vermonters with lower income;

(8) an examination of the potential approaches to reduce the financial burden of annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections on Vermonters, including the potential to reduce the frequency of inspections to every two years; and

(9) any recommendations for legislative action.

(c)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish an email address or other electronic means, or both, for Vermonters to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding concerns with the motor vehicle purchase and use tax process.

(2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish an email address or other electronic means, or both, for Vermonters to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the affordability of the annual motor vehicle inspection process and suggestions for reducing the financial impact of the inspection process on Vermonters.

(3) The Commissioner shall conduct outreach at Department locations, on the Department's website, and through motor vehicle dealers to make the public aware of the opportunity to contact the Department pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

* * * Operation of Bicycles * * *

Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 1139 is amended to read:

§ 1139. RIDING ON ROADWAYS AND BICYCLE PATHS

(a) ~~A person~~ Due care and riding on the right. An individual operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Bicyclists generally shall ride as near to the right side of the improved area of the highway right-of-way as is safe, except that a bicyclist:

* * *

(b) ~~Persons riding~~ Riding two abreast. Individuals operating bicycles upon a roadway ~~may~~ shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or except as otherwise permitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety in connection with a public sporting event in which case the Commissioner shall be authorized to adopt such rules as the public good requires. ~~Persons~~ Individuals riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(c) Obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals. An individual operating a bicycle shall follow all traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals governing motor vehicles except that an individual operating a bicycle who is facing a "walk" signal, as defined in section 1023 of this chapter, may make a turn or proceed across the roadway or intersection in the direction of the signal but shall yield the right of way to any vehicles or pedestrians in the roadway or intersection.

(d) Riding on a partially controlled access highway. Bicycles may be operated on the shoulders of partially controlled access highways, which are those highways where access is controlled by public authority but where there are some connections with selected public highways, some crossings at grade, and some private driveway connections. The Traffic Committee may determine that any portion of these highways is unsafe and therefore closed to bicycle operation.

Sec. 42. 23 V.S.A. § 1139a is added to read:

§ 1139a. BICYCLE CONTROL SIGNALS

(a) Bicycles shall obey bicycle-control signals. An individual operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of a bicycle-control signal, if present, instead of any traffic-control signal for motor vehicles.

(b) Bicycle-control signal legend.

(1) Green bicycle signal.

(A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a green bicycle signal may proceed straight through the intersection or turn right or left unless a sign prohibits such a turn, provided that:

(i) the individual operating the bicycle will not be in conflict with any simultaneous motor vehicle movements at that location; or

(ii) the bicycle movement at that location is not modified by lane-use signs, turn-prohibition signs, pavement markings, separate turn signal indications, or other traffic-control devices.

(B) An individual operating a bicycle pursuant to a green bicycle signal, including when turning right and left, shall yield the right-of-way to other individuals operating bicycles and pedestrians that are in the intersection when the signal is exhibited.

(2) Steady yellow bicycle signal. An individual operating a bicycle facing a steady yellow bicycle signal is warned that the steady green signal is being terminated and that the red signal will be exhibited immediately following the steady yellow signal, at which time bicycle traffic traveling in that direction shall not enter the intersection.

(3) Steady red bicycle signal.

(A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, or if there is none, shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.

(B) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, an individual operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal may:

(i) cautiously enter the intersection to turn right; or

(ii) after stopping as required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(3), turn left from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

(C) An individual making a turn pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (b)(3) shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles that are in the intersection.

(D) An individual operating a bicycle shall not turn right when facing a red arrow signal unless a sign permitting such a turn is present.

(E) An individual operating a bicycle to the left of adjacent motor vehicle traffic approaching the same intersection shall be prohibited from turning right when facing a steady red bicycle signal and an individual operating a bicycle to the right of adjacent motor vehicle traffic approaching the same intersection shall be prohibited from turning left when facing a steady red bicycle signal.

Sec. 43. BICYCLE OPERATION AT STOP SIGNS AND SIGNALS; EDUCATION; OUTREACH

On or before April 1, 2026, the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Public Safety, in consultation with stakeholders representing bicyclists, pedestrians, municipalities, and law enforcement agencies, shall develop education and outreach materials to inform vehicle operators, law enforcement officers, municipalities, and members of the public regarding the laws governing to the operation of bicycles on roadways, including at signalized intersections. The materials shall include both written and graphical materials explaining permitted bicycle operations and requirements for the operation of motor vehicles in relation to bicycles, including safe passing distance requirements.

* * * Legal Trails * * *

Sec. 44. FINDINGS; INTENT; LEGAL TRAILS

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds the following:

(1) Outdoor recreation is a significant part of Vermont's identity and economy.

(2) Trails provide Vermonters and visitors with access to natural beauty throughout the State and are used for a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities throughout the year.

(3) Some trails are also used by Vermonters for travel or to access their homes and properties.

(4) The State and municipalities use some trails to provide maintenance to State and municipal lands and facilities, as well as to provide public safety and rescue services.

(5) Trails may require regular maintenance to ensure that they remain passable and can continue to support recreation, travel, access, and various public services.

(6) While many trails in Vermont have been established through private easements or other agreements, a subset of trails, known as legal trails, lie along public rights-of-way that were once town highways and are governed by the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify municipalities' authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain legal trails under the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.

Sec. 45. 19 V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 3. TOWN HIGHWAYS

§ 301. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Legislative body" ~~includes boards of selectmen, aldermen, and village trustees~~ means a legislative body as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.

(3) ~~"Selectmen" includes village trustees and aldermen~~ "Selectboard" means a selectboard as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.

* * *

(8)(A) "Trail" means a public right-of-way that is not a highway and that:

(i) municipalities have the authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; and

~~(A)~~(ii)(I) previously was a designated town highway having the same width as the designated town highway, or a lesser width if so designated; or

~~(B)~~(II) a new public right-of-way laid out as a trail by the ~~selectmen~~ legislative body for the purpose of providing access to abutting properties or for recreational use.

(B) Nothing in this ~~section~~ subdivision (8) shall be deemed to independently authorize the condemnation of land for recreational purposes or to affect the authority of ~~selectmen~~ legislative bodies to reasonably regulate the uses of recreational trails.

§ 302. CLASSIFICATION OF TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) For the purposes of this section and receiving State aid, all town highways shall be categorized into one or another of the following classes:

* * *

(2) Class 2 town highways are those town highways selected as the most important highways in each town. As far as practicable, they shall be selected with the purposes of securing trunk lines of improved highways from town to town and to places that by their nature have more than normal amount of traffic. The ~~selectmen~~ legislative body, with the approval of the Agency, shall determine which highways are to be class 2 highways.

(3) Class 3 town highways:

(A) Class 3 town highways are all traveled town highways other than class 1 or 2 highways. The ~~selectmen~~ legislative body, after conference with a representative of the Agency, shall determine which highways are class 3 town highways.

* * *

(5) Trails shall not be considered highways ~~and the town~~. A municipality shall have the authority to maintain trails but shall not be responsible for any maintenance, including culverts and bridges.

* * *

§ 303. TOWN HIGHWAY CONTROL

Town highways shall be under the general supervision and control of the ~~selectmen~~ legislative body of the town where the roads are located. ~~Selectmen~~ The legislative body of a town shall supervise all expenditures.

§ 304. DUTIES OF SELECTBOARD

(a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the selectboard of the town to, or acting as a board, it shall have the authority to:

* * *

(16) Unless the town electorate votes otherwise, under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2646, appoint a road commissioner, or remove ~~him or her~~ the road commissioner from office, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651. Road commissioners, elected or appointed, shall have only the powers and authority regarding highways granted to them by the selectboard.

* * *

(24) Maintain trails, but shall not be required to maintain trails.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 46. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 16 and 17 (early renewal of operator's licenses, operator's privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 45 (maintenance of legal trails) shall take effect on April 1, 2026.

(c) Secs. 9 (reduced license fees for individuals receiving SSI or SSDI benefits) and 41 (operation of bicycles) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(d) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

REP. MATTHEW E. WALKER

REP. PHIL POUECH

REP. CANDICE WHITE

Committee on the part of the House

SEN. PATRICK M. BRENNAN

SEN. REBECCA E. WHITE

SEN. WENDY K. HARRISON

Committee on the part of the Senate

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Recess

At eleven o'clock and twenty-seven minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 74

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 122. An act relating to economic and workforce development.

And has concurred therein with an amendment in the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 472. An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

And has concurred therein.

Called to Order

At one o'clock and ten minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Orders of the Day Interrupted

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended to interrupt the Orders of the Day for the purpose of Announcements.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith and Bill Ordered Delivered to the Governor Forthwith

S. 122

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic and workforce development

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate concurred in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Secs. 8, 9, and 10 in their entireties

Second: In Sec. 11, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) This section and Sec. 3 shall take effect on passage.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith and the bill ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith.

Recess

At one o'clock and twenty minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 75

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 484. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

And has concurred therein.

Called to Order

At three o'clock and forty-three minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 127

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.127. An act relating to housing and housing development.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program.

* * *

(5)(A) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and governmental subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out the purposes of this ~~subsection~~ section.

(B) Solely with regards to actions undertaken pursuant to this subdivision (5), entities carrying out the provisions of this section, including grantees, subgrantees, and contractors of the State, shall be exempt from the provisions of 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators, sales finance companies, and loan solicitation companies).

* * *

(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.

(1)(A) A grant or loan shall not exceed~~:~~

~~(i) $70,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of an eligible rental housing unit meeting the applicable building accessibility requirements under the Vermont Access Rules; or~~

~~(ii)~~ $50,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of any other eligible rental housing unit. Up to an additional $20,000.00 per unit may be made available for specific elements that collectively bring the unit to the visitable standard outlined in the rules adopted by the Vermont Access Board.

* * *

(e) Program requirements applicable to grants and five-year forgivable loans. For a grant or five-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:

(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local ~~coordinated entry~~ homelessness service organizations approved by the Department to identify potential tenants.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision ~~(2)~~(B) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (e)(2), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:

(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;

(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; ~~or~~

(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who receives or is ~~eligible~~ approved to receive Medicaid-funded ~~home and community based~~ home- and community-based services or Social Security Disability Insurance;

(iv) displaced due to a natural disaster; or

(v) with approval from the Department in writing, an organization that will hold a master lease that explicitly states the unit will be used in service of the populations described in this subsection (e).

* * *

(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the grant.

(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive a ~~10-percent~~ prorated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the landlord participates in the Program.

(f) Requirements applicable to 10-year forgivable loans. For a 10-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of 10 years:

(1) ~~A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local coordinated entry organizations to identify potential tenants~~ The total cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, except that a landlord may accept a housing voucher that exceeds fair market rent, if available.

(2)~~(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (f), a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:~~

~~(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;~~

~~(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program; or~~

~~(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who is eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.~~

~~(B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing organization that issued the grant determines that a household under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (f) is not available to lease the unit, then the landlord shall lease the unit:~~

~~(i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of area median income; or~~

~~(ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with the approval of the Department or housing organization.~~

~~(3)(A)~~ A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.

~~(B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.~~

~~(4)~~(3) The Department shall forgive ~~10 percent of the~~ a prorated amount of a forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.

(g) Minimum funding for grants and five-year forgivable loans.

(1) Annually, the Department shall establish a minimum allocation of funding set aside to be used for five-year grants or forgivable loans to serve eligible households pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Remaining funds may be used for either five-year grants or forgivable loans or 10-year forgivable loans pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. The set aside shall be a minimum of 30 percent of funds disbursed annually.

(2) The Department shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to evaluate factors in establishing the amount of the set aside, including:

(A) the availability of housing vouchers;

(B) the current need for housing for eligible households;

(C) the ability and desire of landlords to house eligible households;

(D) the support services available for landlords; and

(E) the prior uptake and success rates for participating landlords.

(3) The Department shall coordinate with the local Coordinated Entry Lead Agencies and Homeownership Centers to direct referrals for those individuals or families prioritized to be housed pursuant to the five-year grants or forgivable loans.

(4) Funds from the set aside not utilized after nine months shall become available for 10-year forgivable loans.

(5) The Department shall annually publish the amount of the set aside on its website.

* * *

(i) Creation of the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program Fund. Funds repaid or returned to the Department from forgivable loans or grants funded by the Program shall return to the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Fund to be used for Program expenditures and administrative costs at the discretion of the Department.

(j) Annual report. Annually, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the following:

(1) separately, the number of units funded and the number of units rehabilitated through grants, through a five-year forgivable loan, and through a 10-year forgivable loan;

(2) for grants and five-year forgivable loans, for the first year after the expiration of the lease requirements outlined in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, whether the unit is still occupied by a tenant who meets the qualifications of that subdivision;

(3) for each program, for the first year after the expiration of the applicable lease requirements outlined in this section, the amount of rent charged by the landlord and how that rent compares to fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(4) the rate of turnover for tenants housed utilizing grants or five-year forgivable loans and 10-year forgivable loans separately.

* * * MHIR * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 700 is added to read:

§ 700. VERMONT MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROGRAM

(a) There is created within the Department of Housing and Community Development the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program. The Department shall design and implement the Program to award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide financial assistance or awards to manufactured homeowners and manufactured

home park owners to improve existing homes, incentivize new slab placement for prospective homeowners, and incentivize park improvements for infill of more homes.

(b) The following projects are eligible for funding through the Program:

(1) The Department may award up to $20,000.00 to owners of manufactured housing communities to complete small-scale capital needs to help infill vacant lots with homes, including disposal of abandoned homes, lot grading and preparation, the siting and upgrading of electrical boxes, enhancing E-911 safety issues, transporting homes out of flood zones, and improving individual septic systems. Costs awarded under this subdivision may also cover legal fees and marketing to help make it easier for home-seekers to find vacant lots around the State.

(2) The Department may award funding to manufactured homeowners for which the home is their primary residence to address habitability and accessibility issues to bring the home into compliance with safe living conditions.

(3) The Department may award up to $15,000.00 per grant to a homeowner to pay for a foundation or federal Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved slab, site preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and utility connections on vacant lots within a manufactured home community.

(c) The Department may adopt rules, policies, and guidelines to aid in enacting the Program.

* * * Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund * * *

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. chapter 119, subchapter 6 is amended to read:

Subchapter 6. Special Funds

* * *

§ 4686. VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund within the Vermont Bond Bank.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to provide capital to extend and increase capacity of water and sewer service and other public infrastructure in municipalities where lack of extension or capacity is a barrier to housing development.

(c) Administration. The Vermont Bond Bank may administer the Fund in coordination with and support from other State agencies, government component parts, and quasi-governmental agencies.

(d) Program parameters.

(1) The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall develop program guidelines to effectively implement the Fund.

(2) The program shall provide low-interest loans or purchase bonds from municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. Eligible activities include:

(A) preliminary engineering and planning;

(B) engineering design and bid specifications;

(C) construction for municipal water and wastewater systems;

(D) transportation investments, including those required by municipal regulation, the municipality's official map, designation requirements, or other planning or engineering identifying complete streets and transportation and transit related improvements, including improvements to existing streets; and

(E) other eligible activities as determined by the guidelines produced by the Vermont Bond Bank in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) Application requirements. Eligible project applications shall demonstrate:

(1) the project will create reserve capacity necessary for new housing unit development;

(2) the project has a direct link to housing unit production; and

(3) the municipality has a commitment to own and operate the project throughout its useful life.

(f) Application criteria. In addition to any criteria developed in the program guidelines, project applications shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

(1) whether there is a direct connection to proposed or in-progress housing development with demonstrable progress toward regional housing targets;

(2) whether the project is an expansion of an existing system;

(3) the proximity to a designated area;

(4) the project readiness and estimated time until the need for financing;

(5) the demonstration of financing for project completion or completion of a project component; and

(6) the relative need of the community per the housing targets established by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(g) Award terms. The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall establish award terms that may include:

(1) the maximum loan or bond amount;

(2) the maximum term of the loan or bond amount;

(3) the time by which amortization shall commence;

(4) the maximum interest rate;

(5) whether the loan is eligible for forgiveness and to what percentage or amount;

(6) the necessary security for the loan or bond; and

(7) any additional covenants required to further secure the loan or bond.

(h) Revolving fund.

(1) Any funds repaid or returned from the Infrastructure Sustainability Fund shall be deposited into the Fund and used to continue the program established in this section.

(2) The Bank may use the funds in conjunction with other Bank programs to accomplish the policy objectives outlined in this section.

* * * VHFA Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program * * *

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

* * *

* * * Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee * * *

Sec. 5. STATE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee to generate a State plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) the State Treasurer or designee;

(7) one member, appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative;

(8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(9) one member, appointed by Green Mountain Self-Advocates;

(10) one member, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(11) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; and

(12) one member, appointed by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall create an actionable plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities that reflects the diversity of needs expressed by those individuals and their families, including individuals with high-support needs who require 24-hour care and those with specific communication needs. The plan shall include:

(1) a schedule for the creation of at least 600 additional units of service-supported housing;

(2) the number and description of the support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities anticipated to be served annually;

(3) anticipated funding needs; and

(4) recommendations for changes in State laws or policies that are obstacles to the development of housing needed by individuals with Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services.

(d) Assistance.

(1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(2) Upon request of the Committee, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall provide an analysis of the current state of housing in Vermont for individuals with development disabilities and, to the extent available, an analysis of the level of community support needed for these individuals.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on November 30, 2025.

(g)(1) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Members of the Committee who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

(h) Intent to appropriate. Notwithstanding subdivision (g)(2) of this section, per diems for the cost of attending meetings shall only be available in the event an appropriation is made in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for that purpose.

* * * Tax Department Housing Data Access * * *

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 5404 is amended to read:

§ 5404. DETERMINATION OF EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND LIST

* * *

(b) Annually, on or before August 15, the clerk of a municipality, or the supervisor of an unorganized town or gore, shall transmit to the Director in an electronic or other format as prescribed by the Director~~:~~ education and municipal grand list data, including exemption information and grand list abstracts; tax rates; an extract of the assessor database also referred to as a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system or Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal database; and the total amount of taxes assessed in the town or unorganized town or gore. The data transmitted shall identify each parcel by a parcel identification number assigned under a numbering system prescribed by the Director. Municipalities may continue to use existing numbering systems in addition to, but not in substitution for, the parcel identification system prescribed by the Director. If changes or additions to the grand list are made by the listers or other officials authorized to do so after such abstract has been so transmitted, such clerks shall forthwith certify the same to the Director.

* * *

* * * Landlord Certificate * * *

Sec. 7. REPEAL; ACT 181 PROSPECTIVE LANDLORD CERTIFICATE CHANGES

2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Secs. 98 (landlord certificate amendments) and 114(5) (effective date of landlord certificate amendments) are repealed.

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 6069 is amended to read:

§ 6069. LANDLORD CERTIFICATE

* * *

(b) The owner of each rental property shall, on or before January 31 of each year, furnish a certificate of rent to the Department of Taxes.

(c) A certificate under this section shall be in a form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include the following:

(1) the name of ~~the~~ each renter~~,~~;

(2) the address and ~~any property tax parcel identification number of the homestead, the information required under subsection (f) of this section,~~ the School Property Account Number of the rental property;

(3) the name of the owner or landlord of the rental property;

(4) the phone number, email address, and mailing address of the owner or landlord of the rental property, as available;

(5) the type or types of rental units on the rental property;

(6) the number of rental units on the rental property;

(7) the number of ADA-accessible units on the rental property; and

(8) any additional information that the Commissioner determines is appropriate.

* * *

(f) ~~Annually on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this section:~~

~~(1) name of owner or landlord;~~

~~(2) mailing address of landlord;~~

~~(3) location of rental unit;~~

~~(4) type of rental unit;~~

~~(5) number of units in building; and~~

~~(6) School Property Account Number.~~ Annually on or before December 15, the Department shall submit a report on the aggregated data collected under this section to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

* * * Land Bank Report * * *

Sec. 9. DHCD LAND BANK REPORT

(a) On or before November 1, 2026, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue a report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs outlining a legal framework for implementation of a State land bank. The report shall include proposed legislative language specific to:

(1) the creation and ongoing administration of a statewide land bank;

(2) the authorization of regional or municipal land banks; and

(3) the identification of funding proposals to support the establishment and sustainability of each separate model.

(b) The report shall include an analysis on which option, the creation of a statewide land bank or the authorization of regional or municipal land banks, best serves the interest of Vermont communities, including rural communities.

(c) On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide a written update to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on progress made, including a preliminary assessment of the information required in the final report.

* * * Housing and Public Accommodations Protections * * *

Sec. 10. 9 V.S.A. § 4456a is amended to read:

§ 4456a. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL APPLICATION ~~FEES; PROHIBITED~~

(a) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not charge an application fee to any individual in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit. This ~~section~~ subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a person from charging a fee to a person in order to apply to rent commercial or nonresidential property.

(b)(1) In order to conduct a background or credit check, a landlord shall accept any of the following:

(A) an original or a copy of any unexpired form of government-issued identification;

(B) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; or

(C) a Social Security number.

(2) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not require a Social Security number for the completion of a residential rental application or refuse to accept an application due to the lack of a Social Security number.

Sec. 11. 9 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12)(A) "Harass" means to engage in unwelcome conduct that detracts from, undermines, or interferes with a person's:

(i) use of a place of public accommodation or any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of a place of public accommodation because of the person's race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(ii) terms, conditions, privileges, or protections in the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the person's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability, or because the person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because the person is a recipient of public assistance, or because the person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

Sec. 12. 9 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

(a) An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of such owner or operator shall not, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person, refuse, withhold from, or

deny to that person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of the place of public accommodation.

* * *

Sec. 13. 9 V.S.A. § 4503 is amended to read:

§ 4503. UNFAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(1) To refuse to sell or rent, or refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling or other real estate to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(2) To discriminate against, or to harass, any person in the terms, conditions, privileges, and protections of the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling or other real estate, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) To make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling or other real estate that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(4) To represent to any person because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, that any dwelling or other real

estate is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when the dwelling or real estate is in fact so available.

* * *

(6) To discriminate against any person in the making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance for real-estate-related transactions or in the selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property, because of the race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(7) To engage in blockbusting practices, for profit, which may include inducing or attempting to induce a person to sell or rent a dwelling by representations regarding the entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

(8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation, on account of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or disability of a person, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

* * *

(12) To discriminate in land use decisions or in the permitting of housing because of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, disability, the presence of one or more minor children, income, or because of the receipt of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, except as otherwise provided by law.

* * *

(d) If required by federal law, the verification of immigration status or differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status shall not constitute a violation of subsection (a) of this section with respect to the sale and rental of dwellings.

(e) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6) of this section, it shall not constitute unlawful discrimination for a lender to consider a credit applicant's immigration status to the extent such status has bearing on the lender's rights and remedies regarding loan repayment and further provided such consideration is consistent with any applicable federal law or regulation.

* * * LURB Study * * *

Sec. 14. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 11a is amended to read:

Sec. 11a. ACT 250 APPEALS STUDY

(a) On or before ~~January 15, 2026~~ November 15, 2025, the Land Use Review Board shall issue a report evaluating whether to transfer appeals of permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to the Land Use Review Board or whether they should remain at the Environmental Division of the Superior Court. The Board shall convene a stakeholder group that at a minimum shall be composed of a representative of environmental interests, attorneys that practice environmental and development law in Vermont, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Association of Realtors, a representative of ~~non-profit~~ nonprofit housing development interests, a representative of for-profit housing development interests, a representative of commercial development interests, an engineer with experience in development, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Natural Resources in preparing the report. The Board shall provide notice of the stakeholder meetings on its website and each meeting shall provide time for public comment.

(b) The report shall at minimum recommend:

(1) whether to allow consolidation of appeals at the Board, or with the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, and how, including what resources the Board would need, if transferred to the Board, appeals of permit decisions issued under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the Agency of Natural Resources can be consolidated with Act 250 appeals;

(2) how to prioritize and expedite the adjudication of appeals related to housing projects, including the use of hearing officers to expedite appeals and the setting of timelines for processing of housing appeals;

(3) procedural rules to govern the Board's administration of Act 250 and the adjudication of appeals of Act 250 decisions. These rules shall include procedures to create a firewall and eliminate any potential for conflicts with the Board managing appeals and issuing permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions; and

(4) other actions the Board should take to promote the efficient and effective adjudication of appeals, including any procedural improvements to the Act 250 permitting process and jurisdictional opinion appeals.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment ~~and Energy~~.

* * * Brownfields * * *

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 6604c is amended to read:

§ 6604c. MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) Management of development soils. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter to the contrary, development soils may be managed at a location permitted pursuant to an insignificant waste event approval authorization issued pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Rules that contains, at a minimum, the following:

(1) the development soils are generated from a hazardous materials site managed pursuant to a corrective action plan or a soil management plan approved by the Secretary;

(2) the development soils have been tested for arsenic, lead, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Secretary that ensures that the soils do not leach above groundwater enforcement standards;

(3) the location where the soils are managed is appropriate for the amount and type of material being managed;

(4) the soils are capped in a manner approved by the Secretary;

(5) any activity that may disturb the development soils at the permitted location shall be conducted pursuant to a soil management plan approved by the Secretary; and

(6) the permittee files a record notice of where the soils are managed in the land records.

* * *

Sec. 16. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SOILS

(a) As part of the biennial report to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy under 10 V.S.A. § 6604(c), the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report on the status of the management of development soils in the State under 10 V.S.A. § 6604c. The report shall include:

(1) the number of insignificant waste event approval authorizations issued by the Secretary in the previous two years for the management of development soils;

(2) the number of certified categorical solid waste facilities operating in the State for the management of development soils;

(3) a summary of how the majority of development soils in the State are being managed;

(4) an estimate of the cost to manage development soils, depending on management method; and

(5) any additional information the Secretary determines relevant to the management of development soils in the State.

(b) As used in this section, "development soil" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6602(39).

Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 6641 is amended to read:

§ 6641. BROWNFIELD PROPERTY CLEANUP PROGRAM; CREATION; POWERS

(a) There is created the Brownfield Property Cleanup Program to enable certain interested parties to request the assistance of the Secretary to review and oversee work plans for investigating, abating, removing, remediating, and monitoring a property in exchange for protection from certain liabilities under section 6615 of this title. The Program shall be administered by the Secretary who shall:

* * *

(c) When conducting any review required by this subchapter, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of remediation at a site that contains housing or that is planned for the construction or rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing.

Sec. 18. BROWNFIELDS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT; REPORT

On or before November 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House Committees on Environment and on General and Housing and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy with proposals to make the Program established pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 3 (brownfields reuse and liability limitation) substantially more efficient. At a minimum, the report shall include both of the following:

(1) A survey of stakeholders in the brownfields program to identify areas that present challenges to the redevelopment of contaminated properties, with a focus on redevelopment for housing. The Secretary shall provide recommendations to resolve these challenges.

(2) An analysis of strengths and weaknesses of implementing a licensed site professional program within the State. The Secretary shall make a recommendation on whether such a program should be implemented. If the Secretary recommends implementation, the report shall include any changes to statute or budget needed to implement this program.

Sec. 19. FISCAL YEAR 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTINGENCY FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR BROWNFIELDS

In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to disburse up to $2,000,000.00 from the Environmental Contingency Fund for the assessment, planning, and cleanup of brownfields sites.

* * * Tax Increment Financing * * *

Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Community and Housing Infrastructure Program

§ 1906. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as in section § 4303 of this title.

(2) "Affordable housing development" means a housing development of which at least 15 percent of the units are affordable housing units. Affordable units shall be subject to covenants or restrictions that preserve their affordability until all indebtedness for the housing infrastructure project of which the housing development is part has been retired.

(3) "Brownfield" means a property on which the presence or potential presence of a hazardous material, pollutant, or contaminant complicates the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property.

(4) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the current and future payment of financing and related costs.

(5) "Developer" means the person undertaking to construct a housing development.

(6) "Financing" means debt, including principal, interest, and any fees or charges directly related to that debt, incurred by a sponsor, or other instruments or borrowing used by a sponsor, to pay for a housing infrastructure project and, in the case of a sponsor that is a municipality, authorized by the municipality pursuant to section 1910a of this subchapter.

(7) "Housing development" means the construction, rehabilitation, or renovation of any building on a housing development site approved under this subchapter.

(8) "Housing development site" means the parcel or parcels encompassing a housing development as authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(9) "Housing infrastructure agreement" means a legally binding agreement to finance and develop a housing infrastructure project and to construct a housing development among a municipality, a developer, and, if applicable, a third-party sponsor.

(10) "Housing infrastructure project" means one or more improvements authorized by a municipality pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter.

(11) "Improvements" means:

(A) the installation, construction, or reconstruction of infrastructure that will serve a public good and fulfill the purpose stated in section 1907 of this subchapter; and

(B) the funding of debt service interest payments for a period of up to four years, beginning on the date on which the debt is first incurred.

(12) "Legislative body" means the mayor and alderboard, the city council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated village, as appropriate.

(13) "Lifetime education property tax increment retention" means the total education property tax increment to be retained for a housing infrastructure project across its lifetime.

(14) "Moderate-income housing" means housing for which the total annual cost of renting or ownership, as applicable, does not exceed 30 percent of the gross annual income of a household at 150 percent of the highest of the following:

(A) the county median income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(B) the standard metropolitan statistical area median income if the municipality is located in such an area, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

(C) the statewide median income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(15) "Moderate-income housing development" means a housing development of which at least 25 percent of the units are moderate-income housing units. Moderate-income units shall be subject to covenants or restrictions that preserve their affordability until all indebtedness for the housing infrastructure project of which the housing development is part has been retired.

(16) "Municipality" means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(17) "Original taxable value" means the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within a housing development site as of its creation date, provided that no parcel within the housing development site shall be divided or bisected.

(18) "Related costs" means expenses incurred and paid by a municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of the municipality's housing infrastructure project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the municipality for those purposes. Related costs may include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the housing infrastructure project to the extent they are paid from the tax increment realized from municipal and not education taxes and using only that portion of the municipal increment above the percentage required for servicing debt as determined in accordance with section 1910c of this subchapter.

(19) "Sponsor" means the person undertaking to finance a housing infrastructure project. Any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards may serve as a sponsor for a housing infrastructure project.

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program is to encourage the development of new primary residences for households of low and moderate income across both rural and urban areas of all Vermont counties that would not be created but for the infrastructure improvements funded by the Program.

§ 1908. CREATION OF HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may create within its jurisdiction a housing infrastructure project, which shall consist of improvements that stimulate the development of housing, and a housing development site, which shall consist of the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is installed or constructed.

(b) To create a housing infrastructure project and housing development site, a municipality, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop a housing development plan, including:

(A) a description of the proposed housing infrastructure project, the proposed housing development, and the proposed housing development site;

(B) identification of a sponsor;

(C) a tax increment financing plan meeting the standards of subsection 1910(h) of this subchapter;

(D) a pro forma projection of expected costs of the proposed housing infrastructure project;

(E) a projection of the tax increment to be generated by the proposed housing development;

(F) a development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for the proposed housing infrastructure project and the proposed housing development; and

(G) a determination that the proposed housing development furthers the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter;

(2) develop a plan describing the housing development site by its boundaries and the properties therein, entitled "Proposed Housing Development Site (municipal name), Vermont";

(3) hold one or more public hearings, after public notice, on the proposed housing infrastructure project, including the plans developed pursuant to this subsection; and

(4) adopt by act of the legislative body of the municipality the plan developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection, which shall be recorded with the municipal clerk and lister or assessor.

(c) The creation of a housing development site shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the calendar year in which the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the use of tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project pursuant to section 1910 of this subchapter.

§ 1909. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

(a) The housing infrastructure agreement for a housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) clearly identify the sponsor for the housing infrastructure project;

(2) clearly identify the developer and the housing development for the housing development site;

(3) obligate the tax increments retained pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter for not more than the financing and related costs for the housing infrastructure project;

(4) provide that any housing unit within the housing development be offered exclusively as a primary residence until all indebtedness for the housing infrastructure project of which the housing development is part has been retired, provided that this condition shall be satisfied by biennially providing a landlord certificate or homestead declaration; and

(5) provide for performance assurances to reasonably secure the obligations of all parties under the housing infrastructure agreement.

(b) A municipality shall provide notice of the terms of the housing infrastructure agreement for the municipality's housing infrastructure project to the legal voters of the municipality and shall provide the same information as set forth in subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter.

§ 1910. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION;
VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Application. A municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council to use tax increment financing for a housing infrastructure project.

(b) But-for test. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review each application other than those for which the housing development is an affordable housing development to determine whether the infrastructure improvements proposed to serve the housing development site and the

proposed housing development would not have occurred as proposed in the application or would have occurred in a significantly different and less desirable manner than as proposed in the application but for the proposed utilization of the incremental tax revenues.

(c) Process requirements. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the municipality has:

(1) created a housing infrastructure project and housing development site pursuant to section 1908 of this subchapter;

(2) executed a housing infrastructure agreement for the housing infrastructure project that adheres to the standards of section 1909 of this subchapter with a developer and, if the municipality is not financing the housing infrastructure project itself, a sponsor; and

(3) approved or pledged to use incremental municipal tax revenues for the housing infrastructure project in the proportion provided for municipal tax revenues in section 1910c of this subchapter.

(d) Project criteria. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether:

(1) at least 60 percent of the floor area of the projected housing development is dedicated to housing; or

(2) the projected housing development meaningfully addresses the purpose of section 1907 of this subchapter.

(e) Affordability criterion. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review a municipality's housing infrastructure project application to determine whether the projected housing development is an affordable housing development or a moderate-income housing development for purposes of the increased education property tax increment retention percentage under section 1910c of this subchapter.

(f) Tax increment financing plan. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve a municipality's tax increment financing plan prior to a sponsor's incurrence of debt for the housing infrastructure project, including, if the sponsor is a municipality, prior to a public vote to pledge the credit of the municipality under section 1910a of this subchapter. The tax increment financing plan shall include:

(1) a statement of costs and sources of revenue;

(2) estimates of assessed values within the housing development site;

(3) the portion of those assessed values to be applied to the housing infrastructure project;

(4) the resulting tax increments in each year of the financial plan and the lifetime education property tax increment retention;

(5) the amount of bonded indebtedness or other financing to be incurred;

(6) other sources of financing and anticipated revenues; and

(7) the duration of the financial plan.

(g) Approval. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall approve or deny an application submitted pursuant to this section not later than 90 days following the site visit conducted as part of the application's review. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall only approve tax increment financing for applications:

(1) that meet the process requirements, either of the project criteria of this section, and, for an application for which the housing development is not an affordable housing development, the but-for test;

(2) for which the Council has approved the tax increment financing plan; and

(3) that are submitted on or before December 31, 2035.

(h) Limit. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall not annually approve more than $200,000,000.00 in aggregate lifetime education property tax increment retention.

§ 1910a. INDEBTEDNESS

(a) A municipality approved for tax increment financing under section 1910 of this subchapter may incur indebtedness against revenues of the housing development site at any time during a period of up to five years following the creation of the housing development site. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may extend this debt incursion period by up to three years.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of any municipal charter, each instance of borrowing by a municipality to finance or otherwise pay for a housing infrastructure project shall occur only after the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so warned.

(c) Any indebtedness incurred under this section may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of the municipality.

(d) The housing development site shall continue until the date and hour the indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, the debt incursion period ends.

(e) A municipal legislative body shall provide information to the public prior to the public vote required under subsection (b) of this section. This information shall include the amount and types of debt and related costs to be incurred, including principal, interest, and fees; terms of the debt; the housing infrastructure project to be financed; the housing development projected to occur because of the housing infrastructure project; and notice to the voters that if the tax increment received by the municipality from any property tax source is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt in any year, the municipality shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of the indebtedness. If interfund loans within the municipality are used, the information must also include documentation of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(f) If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of financing, no interest shall be charged.

(g) The use of a bond anticipation note shall not be considered a first incurrence of debt pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1910b. ORIGINAL TAXABLE VALUE; TAX INCREMENT

(a) As of the date the housing development site is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the housing development site the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property within the housing development site has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.

(b) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the lister or assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which the housing development site is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year.

(c) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, a municipality shall remit not less than the aggregate education property tax due on the original taxable value to the Education Fund.

(d) Annually throughout the life of the housing development site, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts, that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the housing development site that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount held apart each year is the "tax increment" for that year. The tax increment shall only be used for financing and related costs.

(e) Not more than the percentages established pursuant to section 1910c of this subchapter of the municipal and State education tax increments received with respect to the housing development site and committed for the payment for financing for improvements and related costs shall be segregated by the municipality in a special tax increment financing account and in its official books and records until all capital indebtedness incurred for the housing infrastructure project has been fully paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter include the entire assessed valuation of the housing development site in the assessed valuations upon which the municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended, and thereafter no taxes from the housing development site shall be deposited in the special tax increment financing account.

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87 of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site.

§ 1910c. USE OF TAX INCREMENT; RETENTION PERIOD

(a) Uses of tax increments. A municipality may apply tax increments retained pursuant to this subchapter to debt incurred within the period permitted under section 1910a of this subchapter, to related costs, and to the direct payment of the cost of a housing infrastructure project. A municipality may provide tax increment to a sponsor only upon receipt of an invoice for payment of the financing, and the sponsor shall confirm to the municipality once the tax increment has been applied to the financing. Any direct payment shall be subject to the same public vote provisions of section 1910a of this subchapter as apply to debt.

(b) Education property tax increment.

(1) For a housing infrastructure project that does not satisfy the affordability criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 75 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years,

beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(2) For a housing infrastructure project that satisfies the affordability criterion of section 1910 of this subchapter, up to 85 percent of the education property tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(3) Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the retention period of the education property tax increment.

(c) Municipal property tax increment. Not less than 85 percent of the municipal property tax increment may be retained, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred for the housing infrastructure project.

(d) Excess tax increment.

(1) Of the municipal and education property tax increments received in any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the financing and related costs for a housing infrastructure project, equal portions of each increment may be retained for the following purposes:

(A) to prepay principal and interest on the financing;

(B) to place in a special tax increment financing account required pursuant to subsection 1910b(e) of this subchapter and use for future financing payments; or

(C) to use for defeasance of the financing.

(2) Any remaining portion of the excess education property tax increment shall be distributed to the Education Fund. Any remaining portion of the excess municipal property tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village budget in the proportion that each budget bears to the combined total of the budgets unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village.

(e) Adjustment of percentage. During the 10th year following the creation of a housing development site, the municipality shall submit an updated tax increment financing plan to the Vermont Economic Progress Council that shall include adjustments and updates of appropriate data and information sufficient for the Vermont Economic Progress Council to determine, based on tax increment financing debt actually incurred and the history of increment generated during the first 10 years, whether the percentages approved under this section should be continued or adjusted to a lower percentage to be retained for the remaining duration of the retention period and still provide sufficient municipal and education increment to service the remaining debt.

§ 1910d. INFORMATION REPORTING

(a) A municipality with an active housing infrastructure project shall:

(1) develop a system, segregated for the housing infrastructure project, to identify, collect, and maintain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting requirements of this section;

(2) provide timely notification to the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of any housing infrastructure project debt, public vote, or vote by the municipal legislative body immediately following the debt incurrence or public vote on a form prescribed by the Council, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a copy of the information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 1910a(e) of this subchapter; and

(3) annually on or before February 15, submit on a form prescribed by the Vermont Economic Progress Council an annual report to the Council and the Department of Taxes, including the information required by subdivision (2) of this subsection if not previously submitted, the information required for annual audit under section 1910e of this subchapter, and any information required by the Council or the Department of Taxes for the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Annually on or before April 1, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means that provides the aggregate lifetime education property tax increment retention approved that year, describes common reasons applicants to the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program fail to secure approval for tax increment financing, and includes for each housing infrastructure project approved pursuant to this subchapter the following:

(1) the date of approval;

(2) a description of the housing infrastructure project;

(3) the original taxable value of the housing development site;

(4) the scope and value of projected and actual improvements and developments in the housing development site, including the number of housing units created;

(5) the sale prices for initial offerings of any housing units;

(6) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

(7) projected and actual incremental revenue amounts;

(8) the allocation of incremental revenue, including the amount allocated to related costs;

(9) projected and actual financing; and

(10) an evaluation of the amount of public funds flowing to private ownership or usage.

(c) On or before January 15, 2035, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criteria of section 1910 of this chapter.

§ 1910e. AUDITING

Annually on or before April 1 until the year following the end of the period for retention of education property tax increment, a municipality with a housing infrastructure project approved under this subchapter shall ensure that the special tax increment financing account required by section 1910b of this subchapter is subject to the annual audit prescribed in section 1681 or 1690 of this title and submit a copy to the Vermont Economic Progress Council. If an account is subject only to the audit under section 1681 of this title, the Council shall ensure a process is in place to subject the account to an independent audit. Procedures for the audit must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total municipal and education property tax increments generated, expenditures for financing and related costs, and current balance.

§ 1910f. RULEMAKING; GUIDANCE

(a) Authority to adopt rules and guidance.

(1) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this subchapter.

(2) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall issue guidance to implement this subchapter on or before November 15, 2025. Upon issuance, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall publicly post and submit to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means any guidance documents.

(b) Authority to issue decisions.

(1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, after reasonable notice to a municipality and an opportunity for a hearing, may issue decisions to a municipality on questions and inquiries concerning the administration of housing infrastructure projects, statutes, rules, noncompliance with this subchapter, and any instances of noncompliance identified in audit reports conducted pursuant to section 1910e of this subchapter.

(2) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall prepare recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development prior to any decision issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The Council may prepare recommendations in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer. In preparing recommendations, the Council shall provide a municipality with a reasonable opportunity to submit written information in support of its position.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall review the recommendations of the Council and issue a final written decision on each matter within 60 days following receipt of the recommendations. The Secretary may permit an appeal to be taken by any party to a Superior Court for determination of questions of law in the same manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from a Superior Court before issuing a final decision.

(c) Remedy for noncompliance. If the Secretary issues a decision under subsection (b) of this section that includes a finding of noncompliance and that noncompliance has resulted in the improper reduction in the amount due the Education Fund, the Secretary, unless and until the Secretary is satisfied that there is no longer any such failure to comply, shall request that the State Treasurer bill the municipality for the total identified underpayment. The amount of the underpayment shall be due from the municipality upon receipt of the bill. If the municipality does not pay the underpayment amount within 60 days, the amount may be withheld from any funds otherwise payable by the State to the municipality or a school district in the municipality or of which the municipality is a member.

(d) Referral; Attorney General. In lieu of or in addition to any action authorized in subsection (c) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or the State Treasurer may refer the matter to the Office of the Attorney General with a recommendation that an appropriate civil action be initiated.

(e) Appeal; hearing officer. A hearing that is held pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 relating to contested cases. The hearing shall be conducted by the Secretary or by a hearing officer appointed by the Secretary. If a hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall have all authority to conduct the hearing that is provided for in the applicable contested case provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, including issuing findings of fact, hearing evidence, and compelling, by subpoena, the attendance and testimony of witnesses.

Sec. 21. 32 V.S.A. § 3325 is amended to read:

§ 3325. VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Creation. The Vermont Economic Progress Council is created to exercise the authority and perform the duties assigned to it, including its authority and duties relating to:

(1) the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter; ~~and~~

(2) tax increment financing districts pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title; and

(3) the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Council shall have 11 voting members:

(A) nine residents of the State appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate who are knowledgeable and experienced in the subjects of community development and planning, education funding requirements, economic development, State fiscal affairs, property taxation, or entrepreneurial ventures and represent diverse geographical areas of the State and municipalities of various sizes;

(B) one member of the Vermont House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(C) one member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees.

(2)(A) The Council shall have two regional members from each region of the State, one appointed by the regional development corporation of the region and one appointed by the regional planning commission of the region.

(B) A regional member shall be a nonvoting member and shall serve during consideration by the Council of an application from ~~his or her~~ the member's region.

(3) Exclusively for purposes of reviewing and approving housing infrastructure project applications under the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program, the Council shall additionally have three nonvoting members:

(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency or designee;

(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee; and

(C) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee.

* * *

(g) Decisions not subject to review. A decision of the Council to approve or deny an application under subchapter 2 of this chapter, ~~or~~ to approve or deny a tax increment financing district pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title, or to approve or deny a housing infrastructure project pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7 is an administrative decision that is not subject to the contested case hearing requirements under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is not subject to judicial review.

Sec. 22. COMMUNITY AND HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM; VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL; HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITE; REPORT

On or before December 15, 2025, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General and Housing, and on Ways and Means on considerations for amending the definition of "housing development site" under 24 V.S.A. §§ 1906 and 1908 to support the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program, including a recommendation on whether to include immediately contiguous parcels in the definition.

* * * Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms * * *

Sec. 23. 9 V.S.A. chapter 77 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77. SMOKE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS

§ 2881. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Smoke ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

(3) "Carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm" means a device with an assembly that incorporates a sensor control component and an alarm notification that detects elevations in carbon monoxide levels and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

§ 2882. INSTALLATION

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling, and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) Any single-family dwelling when transferred by sale or exchange shall contain ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A single-family dwelling constructed before January 1, 1994 may contain smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after January 1, 1994 that is provided with electrical power, smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after July 1, 2005 that is provided with electrical power, carbon

monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require an owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling to maintain or use a smoke ~~detector~~ alarm or a carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm after installation.

§ 2883. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF DWELLING

(a) The seller of a single-family dwelling, including one constructed for first occupancy, whether the transfer is by sale or exchange, shall certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in accordance with this chapter. This certification shall be signed and dated by the seller.

(b) If the buyer notifies the seller within 10 days by certified mail from the date of conveyance of the dwelling that the dwelling lacks any ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms, or any carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms, or that any ~~detector~~ alarm is not operable, the seller shall comply with this chapter within 10 days after notification.

* * *

Sec. 24. 20 V.S.A. § 2731 is amended to read:

§ 2731. RULES; INSPECTIONS; VARIANCES

* * *

(j) ~~Detectors~~ Alarms. Rules adopted under this section shall require that information written, approved, and distributed by the Commissioner on the type, placement, and installation of ~~photoelectric~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms be conspicuously posted in the retail sales area where the ~~detectors~~ alarms are sold.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 4 (Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program), Sec. 7 (repeal; Act 181 prospective landlord certificate changes), and this section shall take effect on passage.

SEN. ALISON CLARKSON

SEN. KESHA RAM HINSDALE

SEN. CHRISTOPHER P. MATTOS

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. MARC. B. MIHALY

REP. CHARLES A. KIMBELL

REP. MICHAEL J. MARCOTTE

Committee on the part of the House

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, **Rep. Mihaly of Calais** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 137. Nays, 2.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bailey of Hyde Park
Bartholomew of Hartland
Bartley of Fairfax *
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bosch of Clarendon
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boutin of Barre City
Brady of Williston
Brown of Richmond
Burditt of West Rutland
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Burtt of Cabot
Canfield of Fair Haven
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham *
Casey of Montpelier
Casey of Hubbardton
Chapin of East Montpelier
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Goslant of Northfield
Graning of Jericho *
Greer of Bennington
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harple of Glover
Harrison of Chittenden
Harvey of Castleton
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
Howland of Rutland Town
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Krasnow of South Burlington *
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morris of Springfield
Morrissey of Bennington
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nelson of Derby
Nielsen of Brandon
Nigro of Bennington
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
Ode of Burlington
Oliver of Sheldon
Olson of Starksboro
Page of Newport City
Pezzo of Colchester
Pinsonault of Dorset
Pouech of Hinesburg
Powers of Waterford
Priestley of Bradford
Pritchard of Pawlet
Quimby of Lyndon
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury

Charlton of Chester
Christie of Hartford
Coffin of Cavendish
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Bristol
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Dodge of Essex *
Dolan of Essex Junction
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Galfetti of Barre Town
Labor of Morgan
Lalley of Shelburne *
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Luneau of St. Albans City
Maguire of Rutland City
Malay of Pittsford
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McCoy of Poultney *
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Sibilia of Dover *
Squirrell of Underhill
Steady of Milton
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard
Sweeney of Shelburne
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Toof of St. Albans Town
Torre of Moretown
Walker of Swanton
Waszazak of Barre City
Wells of Brownington
White of Waitsfield
Winter of Ludlow
Wood of Waterbury *
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Branagan of Georgia *
Southworth of Walden

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Boyden of Cambridge
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Cina of Burlington
Donahue of Northfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Higley of Lowell
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Parsons of Newbury
Waters Evans of Charlotte
White of Bethel

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Without infrastructure there can be no more housing. Today I'm voting yes in support of our municipalities, yes for housing, and yes for Vermont."

Rep. Branagan of Georgia provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Somewhere some group of taxpayers will have to pay for this money coming right out of the Ed Fund. Estimates show at least five cents on the tax rate to do so. That's already a 50-cent increase in the school tax rate before we even review the program."

Rep. Carris-Duncan of Whitingham provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

S.127 gives us the chance to create the transformative housing we need. This bill supports existing programs while establishing new ones to address critical infrastructure construction all over the State. It sets us on a path to grand list growth. It will put roofs over folks' heads in a timely manner."

Rep. Dodge of Essex provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

It would have felt pointless to make investments and ease permitting without also protecting all Vermonters' rights to fair housing. This is a historic housing bill that brings together the efforts and the voices of all Vermonters. The builders, the investors, the young vibrant families, and small business owners who are struggling to live in this State will all benefit. Gracias. Merci. Thank you."

Rep. Graning of Jericho provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

With the passage of S.127, we have added two new consequential programs that will support and enable the development of significant primary housing for Vermonters."

Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Among the most consequential efforts this year is S.127, a comprehensive housing bill aimed at addressing Vermont's housing crisis. I've had a front-row seat to the complexity of the issue and the collaboration it has taken to bring forward a bill that meets the moment. S.127 is structured around a simple but powerful goal: getting more Vermonters into safe, stable housing – and ensuring they can stay there. Madam Speaker, S.127 is an investment in Vermont's future. It strengthens our communities and provides lasting solutions to our housing crisis."

Rep. Lalley of Shelburne provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Converting outmoded properties in our communities will incentivize building new income and age diverse housing. It will help Vermont build starter homes for young families, affordable homes for working Vermonters,

and age friendly housing for older Vermonters. It will attract investment and create new grand list value in Vermont."

Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

We can accomplish good things when we are willing to listen and compromise. Many thanks to the conferees for getting to yes. A job well done for all Vermonters."

Rep. Sibilia of Dover provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes for this important tool to build more houses and grow the grand list, Vermont's population, and the Ed Fund. We need to add more tools next year that are designed for rural Vermont. I thank the conferees for their work."

Rep. Wood of Waterbury provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes, but let's be clear, this bill will do too little to improve the housing status of people who are homeless or of very low income."

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Reconsideration; Proposal of Amendment Amended; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 321

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

Assuring the Chair that he voted with the prevailing side to concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto, which occurred prior to the recess earlier today, **Rep. Birong of Vergennes** moved to suspend rules to permit immediate reconsideration of the Senate proposal of amendment and the proposed further amendment thereto, which was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes?, **Rep. Harrison of Chittenden** moved to amend the proposal of amendment offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes by adding a fifth instance of amendment to read as follows:

Fifth: By striking out Secs. 15a and 15b, Cannabis Showcase Event Permit Pilot and report, in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 15a. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15b. [Deleted.]

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the House concurred in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as offered by Rep. Birong of Vergennes, as amended.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Recess

At four o'clock and thirty-five minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 76

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 321. An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.

And has concurred therein.

Message from the Senate No. 77

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 124. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered the reports of the Committees of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 12. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

S. 123. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

S. 126. An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

S. 127. An act relating to housing and housing development.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

Called to Order

At nine o'clock and thirteen minutes in the evening, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

S. 45

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.45. An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate accede to the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment in Sec. 1, 12 V.S.A. chapter 195, section 5753, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The nuisance protection for an agricultural activity provided for under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply if the plaintiff demonstrates one or more of the following:

(1) A nuisance violation results from the negligent operation of an agricultural activity.

(2) The agricultural activity has a substantial adverse effect on health, safety, or welfare based upon objective, documented medical or scientific evidence that the agricultural activity was the proximate cause of the alleged effect.

(3) A reasonable person would find that the agricultural activity was a proximate cause of a noxious and significant interference with the use and enjoyment of the neighboring property.

SEN. ROBERT W. NORRIS

SEN. ROBERT PLUNKETT

SEN. RUSSELL H. INGALLS

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. DAVID K. DURFEE

REP. MARTIN J. LALONDE

REP. LELAND J. MORGAN

Committee on the part of the House

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Bill Committed

H. 479

House bill, entitled

An act relating to housing

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Mihaly of Calais**, the bill was committed to the Committee on General and Housing.

Recess

At nine o'clock and eighteen minutes in the evening, the Chair declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 78

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate bill of the following title:

S. 45. An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

Called to Order

At eleven o'clock and nine minutes in the evening, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** called the House to order.

**Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration;
Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Rules Suspended,
Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

S. 51

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.51. An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate accede to the House proposal of amendment.

SEN. CUMMINGS

SEN. CHITTENDEN

SEN. BROCK

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. KORNHEISER

REP. CANFIELD

REP. KIMBELL

Committee on the part of the House

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Message from the Senate No. 79

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted Senate concurrent resolution of the following title:

S.C.R. 6. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier City Manager William J. Fraser for three decades of distinguished municipal public service.

Recess

At eleven o'clock and fourteen minutes in the evening, the Chair declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Called to Order

At eleven o'clock and thirty-two minutes in the evening, the Speaker called the House to order.

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and thirty-four minutes in the evening, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2025 at twelve o'clock in the afternoon.

Concurrent Resolution Adopted

The following concurrent resolution, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, is hereby adopted on the part of the House:

S.C.R. 6

Senate concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier City Manager William J. Fraser for three decades of distinguished municipal public service

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the Senate Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2025 Biennial Session.]

Monday, June 2, 2025

At twelve o'clock in the afternoon, **Rep. McGill of Bridport** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Thursday, June 5, 2025 at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Mr. Jason G. Gibbs, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 2nd day of June, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 44 **An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving**

H. 401 **An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments**

H. 488 **An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation**

H. 505 **An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre**

Thursday, June 5, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, **Rep. Casey of Montpelier** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Friday, June 6, 2025 at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Mr. Jason G. Gibbs, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 5th day of June, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 105 **An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program**

H. 222 **An act relating to civil orders of protection**

H. 231 **An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes**

H. 458 **An act relating to the Agency of Digital Services**

H. 482 **An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer**

H. 504 **An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland**

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Mr. Jason G. Gibbs, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 5th day of June, 2025, he *allowed to become law without his signature* a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 1 **An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission**

Governor's Letter

June 5, 2025

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, I'm allowing H.1, *An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission,* to become law without my signature.

Just last year, in a rare area of consensus in that session, the Legislature agreed to enhance accountability and transparency in State ethics laws, including applying these higher standards to its own branch.

Among the many changes in H.1, it's my belief this bill softens the Legislature's commitment to the statutory State Code of Ethics. I'm concerned about how this change will be viewed by Vermonters, who want their state government to set a high standard for the conduct of its officials and the transparency with which issues are addressed.

Nevertheless, considering the balance of the bill and remaining ethical requirements, it does not rise to the level of a veto.

For these reasons, I'm allowing H.1 to become law without my signature and urge the Legislature to take another look at this in the next session. In the meantime, the Executive Branch will continue to adhere to the standards applied to it by both our laws, as well as the self-imposed higher standards of my executive order on this matter.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor
PBS/kp

Friday, June 6, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, **Rep. Waszazak of Barre City** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Monday, June 9, 2025 at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Monday, June 9, 2025

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, **Rep. Wood of Waterbury** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, **Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Friday, June 13, 2025 at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 11th day of June, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H.106 **An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area**

H.209 **An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools**

H.238 An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

H.266 An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program

H.321 An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

H.397 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response

H.472 An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

H.484 An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 11th day of June 2025, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the House of Representatives of the following title:

H. 91 An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program

Governor's Veto Letter

"June 11, 2025

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning H.91, *An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program,* without my signature.

For quite some time I've talked about the need to put an end to the pandemic-era "hotel/motel" program. We are the only state in the region that continues to operate an emergency housing program at this scale and unfortunately, H.91 does not adequately reduce the size or cost of the program. In fact, this bill

proposes we spend millions of dollars more than the $45 million used last year (for comparison, in 2019 we appropriated $5 million).

It's also important to point out that since the expansion of the program, 135 individuals sheltering in hotels and motels have died. It's my belief many of these deaths may have been prevented had there been more accountability and better engagement.

Rather than continuing to fund a program that isn't good for those in it, I believe we should focus on real solutions like building additional shelter capacity and requirements to engage in work, training, and treatment for those who need it. That way, those who are experiencing homelessness are more likely to get back on their feet and into permanent housing. H.91 does not adequately address how this would be accomplished.

It's my hope the Legislature and community stakeholders will work with the Agency of Human Services to transform the hotel/motel program into one that delivers value for Vermont taxpayers, those in the program, the community-based organizations providing shelters and services, and communities that have been unfairly burdened by this failed program.

Sincerely,
Philip B. Scott
Governor
PBS/kp"

Friday, June 13, 2025

At nine o'clock in the forenoon, **Rep. Conlon of Cornwall** called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum and pursuant to House Rule 9, the House adjourned until Monday, June 16, 2025 at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Message from the Senate No. 80

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 9th day of June, 2025, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 53. An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services.

S. 59. An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 9th day of June, 2025, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 125. An act relating to collective bargaining.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 125**, to the Senate is as follows:

June 9, 2025

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.125, *An act relating to collective bargaining,* without my signature because of my objections described herein:

This bill would effectively unionize a group of Judiciary employees with a simple definitional change. I'm concerned that despite unions testifying this was a priority for their organization, employees who would be impacted by this bill were not consulted or asked to testify.

The Judiciary has advised this change could have a negative impact on the effective management of courthouses and fear a workplace marked by divisiveness and angst were this bill to pass. At a time when our court system is managing a significant backlog, we should be focusing on improving efficiencies within the system.

Further, this bill seeks to bolster existing unions by significantly increasing the voting threshold for union decertification. This means it will be much more difficult for employees who do not feel well represented to consider their alternatives.

I support collective bargaining, but I believe employees should have choices for which union they belong to. This bill seeks to make it harder for employees, if they choose, to seek union representation from other organizations. I believe the threshold to trigger a vote for certification should be the same as decertification.

Our employees should be heard and respected and for this reason I cannot allow this bill to go into law.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 12th day of June, 2025, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 12. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

S. 45. An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

S. 63. An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.

S. 69. An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.

S. 109. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

S. 122. An act relating to economic and workforce development.

S. 123. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

S. 124. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

S. 126. An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

S. 127. An act relating to housing and housing development.

Monday, June 16, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

S. 23

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Recess

At ten o'clock and fourteen minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 81

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate bill of the following title:

S. 51. An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 474. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Called to Order

At two o'clock and thirteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

H. 474

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

* * * One-Bite Candidacy * * *

Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2381 is amended to read:

§ 2381. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

* * *

(c) In no event shall a candidate who loses a major party primary be nominated to appear on the general election ballot pursuant to this subchapter by a committee of any party other than the party for which the candidate appeared on the primary ballot.

Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2401 is amended to read:

§ 2401. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

(a) A person may be nominated and have ~~his or her~~ the person's name printed on the general election ballot for any office by filing a consent similar

in form to the consent prescribed by section 2361 of this title and a statement of nomination with the Secretary of State. In the case of a nomination for justice of the peace, the consent form and statement of nomination shall be filed with the town clerk.

(b) A candidate who loses a major party primary for any office shall not appear on the general election ballot as an independent candidate for the same office for which the candidate lost in the primary election.

Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

* * * Miscellaneous Changes to Electronic Ballot Delivery Law * * *

Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2539 is amended to read:

§ 2539. DELIVERY OF EARLY VOTER ABSENTEE BALLOTS

* * *

(c) Military or overseas voters.

(1) Early voter absentee ballots for military or overseas voters shall be sent air mail, first class, postpaid when such service is available, or they may be electronically delivered when requested by the voter.

(2)(A) The town clerk's office shall be open on the 46th day before any election that includes a federal office and the town clerk shall send on or before that day all absentee ballots to any military or overseas voter who requested an early voter absentee ballot on or before that day.

(B) On that day the town clerk shall complete any reporting requirements and any other responsibilities regarding the mailing of early voter absentee ballots to military or overseas voters, as directed by the Secretary of State.

(3) As used in this section, "overseas voters" means a person who was last domiciled in Vermont before leaving the United States and now resides outside the United States.

(d) Voters who participate in the Secretary of State's Address Confidentiality Program. In the case of persons who participate in the address confidentiality program administered by the Secretary of State set forth in 15 V.S.A. § 1152, if the voter or authorized person requests in the application or otherwise that early voter absentee ballots be mailed or electronically delivered, the town clerk shall mail or electronically deliver the ballots.

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

* * * Write-in Candidate Registration and Minimum Thresholds in Primary Elections * * *

Sec. 9. 17 V.S.A. § 2370 is amended to read:

§ 2370. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

(a)(1) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under section 2587 of this title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the primary election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a write-in candidate is not required to file if:

(A) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

(B) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m. on the election day.

(b) A write-in candidate shall not qualify as a primary winner unless ~~he or she~~ the candidate receives at least one-half the number of votes as the number of signatures required for ~~his or her~~ the candidate's office on a primary petition, except that if a write-in candidate receives more votes than a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot, ~~he or she may~~ the write-in candidate shall qualify as a primary winner.

~~(b)~~(c) ~~The~~ Before becoming the party's candidate in the general election, the write-in candidate who qualifies as a primary winner under this section must:

(1) still be determined a winner under section 2369 of this chapter ~~before he or she becomes the party's candidate in the general election~~; and

(2) file a consent similar in form to the consent prescribed by sections 2361, 2385, and 2402 of this title with the Secretary of State.

Sec. 10. 17 V.S.A. § 2472 is amended to read:

§ 2472. CONTENTS

* * *

(b)(1) Each office to be voted upon shall be separately indicated and preceded by the word "For," as: "For United States Senator." Beneath the office to be voted upon shall appear the instructions: "Vote for not more than (the number of candidates to be elected)."

* * *

(5)(A) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under section 2587 of this title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection (b) as soon as practicable.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(5), a write-in candidate is not required to file if:

(i) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

(ii) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m. on the election day.

* * *

Sec. 11. 17 V.S.A. § 2587 is amended to read:

§ 2587. RULES FOR COUNTING VOTES

* * *

(e)(1) In the case of "write-in" votes, the act of writing in the name of a candidate~~,~~ or pasting a label containing a candidate's name upon the ballot, without other indications of the voter's intent, shall constitute a vote for that candidate, even though the voter did not fill in the square or oval after the name.

(2) The election officials counting ballots and tallying results shall ~~list every person who receives a "write-in" vote and the number of votes received.~~:

(A) count write-in votes:

(i) for candidates who have filed in compliance with section 2370, 2472, or 2702 of this title or who have filed a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

(ii) for all candidates if no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m. on election day;

(B) ~~On each tally sheet, the counters shall~~ add together the names of candidates counted under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (e)(2) that are clearly the same person, even though a nickname or last name is used~~.~~; and

~~(B) Names of fictitious or deceased persons shall not be listed and shall be recorded on the tally sheet as a blank vote.~~

(C) record the name and vote totals on the tally sheet only of a write-in candidate having votes counted pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (e)(2) and list those candidates individually, and record all other write-in votes on the tally sheet as in aggregate as "other write-ins."

(3) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection, if the number of "other write-ins" for the same nomination or office equals or exceeds the number of votes cast for any candidate for the same nomination or office who appears to have been nominated or elected, election officials shall record the name and vote totals on the tally sheet for all candidates for that nomination or office. If this result occurs in a multiple-municipality district, but one or more municipalities did not record the name and vote totals for all candidates, the Secretary of State, on the day after the election, shall order the town clerk to reconvene the board of civil authority. In the presence of at least two other election officials who are not members of the same political party, the clerk shall open the ballot containers, list all write-ins for this nomination or office individually, and record write-in votes for all candidates. The clerk shall then place the entire contents in containers, affix new seals, and transmit the new seal numbers.

* * *

Sec. 12. 17 V.S.A. § 2702 is amended to read:

§ 2702. NOMINATING PETITION

(a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with the written consent of the person to the printing of the person's name on the ballot.

(b) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of December preceding the primary election.

(c) The petition shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(d) A person's name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot of more than one party in the same election.

(e) Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of $2,000.00 to be paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, which shall be available for public inspection, that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of State shall waive all but $300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate.

(f)(1) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under section 2587 of this title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the election, a write-in candidate for nomination shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes for that office in every major political party's primary results listed under subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a write-in candidate is not required to file if:

(A) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

(B) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m. on the election day.

* * * Campaign Finance; Reporting Thresholds * * *

Sec. 13. 17 V.S.A. § 2921 is amended to read:

§ 2921. ~~CANDIDATES;~~ REGISTRATION; ~~CHECKING ACCOUNT; TREASURER~~ CANDIDATES

(a)(1) Each candidate who ~~has made expenditures or accepted contributions of $500.00 or more in an election cycle~~ files a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot, as provided in section 2361, 2370, 2385, or 2402 of this title, shall register with the Secretary of State ~~within 10 days of reaching the $500.00 threshold or on the date that the next report is required of the candidate under this chapter, whichever occurs first,~~ prior to filing the consent stating ~~his or her~~ the candidate's full name and address~~;~~, the office the candidate is seeking~~;~~, ~~the name and address of the bank in which the candidate maintains his or her campaign checking account;~~ and the name and address of the treasurer responsible for maintaining the checking account. A candidate's treasurer may be the candidate or ~~his or her~~ the candidate's spouse.

(2) A candidate's consent, subsequently filed in accordance with section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title, shall state the candidate's name the same as it appears on this registration.

(3) Each candidate who makes an expenditure shall file with the Secretary of State, at the time of making the first expenditure, the name and address of the bank in which the candidate maintains the campaign checking account.

* * *

Sec. 14. 17 V.S.A. § 2922 is amended to read:

§ 2922. REGISTRATION; POLITICAL COMMITTEES; ~~REGISTRATION; CHECKING ACCOUNT; TREASURER~~ INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY POLITICAL COMMITTEES

(a)(1) Each political committee or independent expenditure-only political committee shall register with the Secretary of State within 10 days ~~of~~ after making expenditures of ~~$1,000.00~~ $500.00 or more ~~and~~ or accepting contributions of ~~$1,000.00~~ $500.00 or more, stating its full name and address~~;~~. Committees that are not self-funded individuals shall also state the name and address of the bank in which it maintains its campaign checking account; and the name and address of the treasurer responsible for maintaining the checking account.

* * *

(b) All expenditures by a political committee or an independent expenditure-only political committee shall be paid by either a credit card or a debit card, check, or other electronic transfer from the single campaign checking account in the bank designated by the ~~political~~ committee under subsection (a) of this section, or, if under $250.00, the ~~political~~ committee may make the expenditure from cash from that campaign checking account if accompanied by a receipt, a copy of which shall be maintained by the ~~political~~ committee for at least two years from the end of the two-year general election cycle in which the expenditure was made. A self-funded individual need not utilize a campaign checking account, but shall otherwise comply with this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the payment of fees required to be made from a separately held online account designated solely to collect campaign contributions made to the ~~political~~ committee.

(c) A political committee or an independent expenditure-only political committee whose principal place of business or whose treasurer is not located in this State shall file a statement with the Secretary of State designating a person who resides in this State upon whom may be served any process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon the ~~political~~ committee. This statement shall be filed at the same time as the registration required in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 15. 17 V.S.A. § 2964 is amended to read:

§ 2964. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE; POLITICAL COMMITTEES; INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY POLITICAL COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

(a)(1) Each candidate for State office, the General Assembly, or a two-year-term county office who has rolled over any amount of surplus into ~~his or her~~ the candidate's new campaign or who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of $500.00 or more during the two-year general election cycle and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each political committee and independent expenditure-only political committee that has not filed a final report pursuant to subsection 2965(b) of this chapter, and each political party required to register under section 2923 of this chapter shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows:

(A) in the first year of the two-year general election cycle, on July 1; and

(B) in the second year of the two-year general election cycle:

(i) on March 15;

(ii) on July 1 and August 1;

(iii) on September 1;

(iv) on October 1, October 15, and the Friday before the general election; and

(v) two weeks after the general election.

(2) Each candidate for a four-year-term county office who has rolled over any amount of surplus into ~~his or her~~ the candidate's new campaign or who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of $500.00 or more during the four-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows:

(A) in the first three years of the four-year general election cycle, on July 1; and

(B) in the fourth year of the four-year general election cycle:

(i) on March 15;

(ii) on July 1 and August 1;

(iii) on September 1;

(iv) on October 1, October 15, and the Friday before the general election; and

(v) two weeks after the general election.

(b)(1) A political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or a political party that has accepted contributions or made expenditures of ~~$1,000.00~~ $500.00 or more during the local election cycle for the purpose of influencing a local election or supporting or opposing one or more candidates in a local election shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports regarding that local election 30 days before, 10 days before, and two weeks after the local election.

* * *

(c) ~~The failure of a candidate, political committee, or political party to file a report under this section shall be deemed an affirmative statement that a report is not required of the candidate, political committee, or political party under this section~~ A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only committee, or political party that is not otherwise required to file a report pursuant to this section shall file with the Secretary of State a report and affirmative statement that the candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only committee, or political party has not either rolled over any amount of surplus into a new campaign or made expenditures or accepted contributions in the amounts specified in this section.

Sec. 16. REPEAL

17 V.S.A. § 2966 (reports by candidates not reaching monetary reporting threshold) is repealed.

Sec. 17. 17 V.S.A. § 2970 is amended to read:

§ 2970. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; ~~OTHER ENTITIES;~~ PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(a) Any formal or informal political action committee ~~of two or more individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political party,~~ or independent expenditure-only political committee that makes expenditures of ~~$1,000.00~~ $500.00 or more during the election cycle for the purpose of advocating a position on a public question or influencing an election in any election shall file a report of its expenditures 30 days before, 10 days before, and two weeks after the election with the Secretary of State.

* * *

* * * Campaign Finance; Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees * * *

Sec. 17a. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10) "Independent expenditure-only political committee" means ~~a political committee that~~ any one or more individuals, or any corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, excluding a political party, that accepts contributions or makes expenditures in any amounts within any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public question; conducts its activities entirely independent of candidates; does not give contributions to candidates, political committees, or political parties; does not make related expenditures; and is not closely related to a political party or to a political committee that makes contributions to candidates or makes related expenditures. "Independent expenditure-only political committee" includes any "self-funded individual," meaning an individual who receives no contributions from any other source for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public question.

* * *

(13) "Political committee" or "political action committee" means any formal or informal committee of ~~two~~ one or more individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political party, that accepts contributions ~~of $1,000.00~~ or ~~more and~~ makes expenditures ~~of $1,000.00 or more~~ in any amounts in any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a public question in any election, and includes ~~an independent expenditure-only political committee and~~ a legislative leadership political committee.

* * *

Sec. 17b. 17 V.S.A. § 2925 is amended to read:

§ 2925. POLITICAL COMMITTEES; SURPLUS CAMPAIGN FUNDS

(a) A member of a political committee or an independent expenditure-only political committee that has surplus funds after all campaign debts have been paid shall not convert the surplus to personal use.

* * *

Sec. 17c. 17 V.S.A. § 2945 is amended to read:

§ 2945. ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS

(a) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party accepts a contribution when the contribution is deposited in the candidate's, committee's, or party's campaign account or five business days after the candidate, committee, or party receives it, whichever comes first.

(b) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party shall not accept a monetary contribution in excess of $100.00 unless made by check, credit or debit card, or other electronic transfer.

Sec. 17d. 17 V.S.A. § 2962 is amended to read:

§ 2962. REPORTS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Any report required to be submitted to the Secretary of State under this chapter shall contain the statement "I hereby certify that the information provided on all pages of this campaign finance disclosure report is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief" and places for the signature of the candidate or the treasurer of the candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party.

* * *

Sec. 17e. 17 V.S.A. § 2965 is amended to read:

§ 2965. FINAL REPORTS; ~~CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE; POLITICAL COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES;~~ END-OF-CYCLE REPORTS ~~FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL PARTIES~~

* * *

(b)(1) At any time, but not later than December 15 following the general election, each political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party that has not filed a final report as set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall file an end-of-cycle report that lists a complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report.

(2) At any time, a political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or a political party may file a "final report" that lists a complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report and liquidation of surplus and that shall constitute the termination of its campaign activities.

Sec. 17f. 17 V.S.A. § 2972 is amended to read:

§ 2972. IDENTIFICATION IN ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS

(a) An electioneering communication shall contain the name and mailing address of the person, candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party that paid for the communication. The name and address shall appear prominently and in a manner such that a reasonable person would clearly understand by whom the expenditure has been made, except that:

(1) An audio electioneering communication paid for by a candidate does not need to contain the candidate's address.

(2) An electioneering communication paid for by a person acting as an agent or consultant on behalf of another person, candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party shall clearly designate the name and mailing address of the person, candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party on whose behalf the communication is published or broadcast.

* * *

(c)(1) In addition to the identification requirements in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, an electioneering communication paid for by or on behalf of a political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party shall contain the name of any contributor who contributed more than 25 percent of all contributions and more than $2,000.00 to that committee or party since the beginning of the two-year general election cycle in which the electioneering communication was made to the date on which the expenditure for the electioneering communication was made.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, a ~~political~~ committee or political party shall be treated as having made an expenditure if the committee or party or person acting on behalf of the committee or party has executed a contract to make the expenditure.

* * *

Sec. 17g. 17 V.S.A. § 2973 is amended to read:

§ 2973. SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIO, TELEVISION, OR INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

(a) In addition to the identification requirements set forth in section 2972 of this subchapter, a person, candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party that makes an expenditure for an electioneering communication shall include in any communication that is transmitted through radio, television, or online video, in a clearly spoken manner, an audio statement of the name and title of the person who paid for the communication and that the person paid for the communication.

(b) If the person who paid for the communication is not an individual, the audio statement required by this section shall include the name of that person and the name and title of the treasurer in the case of a political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party or the principal officer in the case of any other person that is not an individual.

* * * Audits of Voter Checklists and District Boundaries* * *

Sec. 18. AUDITS OF VOTER CHECKLISTS AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

(a) On or before September 15, 2025, local boards of civil authority and town clerks whose municipal boundaries are divided for the purpose of Representative districts and Senatorial districts shall audit their voter checklists to ensure that those checklists accurately correspond to the prescribed district boundaries.

(b) On or before October 1, 2025, each town clerk described in subsection (a) of this section shall provide a written summary of the audit to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office.

(c) On or before November 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with the findings of the audits.

(d) Within two weeks after passage of this act, the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office shall notify each town clerk and board of civil authority described in subsection (a) of this section that they must perform the audits.

(e) The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office shall provide support and training to each town clerk and board of civil authority described in subsection (a) of this section.

* * * Deadline Modifications and Miscellaneous Clarifications * * *

Sec. 20. 17 V.S.A. § 1971 is amended to read:

§ 1971. CASTING MORE THAN ONE BALLOT

A legal voter who knowingly ~~casts more than one ballot at any one time of balloting~~ votes more than once in any election held in this State, or who votes in both this State and another state or territory in the same or equivalent election for the same office shall be fined not more than $1,000.00 if the offense is committed at a primary or general election, and not more than $100.00 if committed at a local election.

Sec. 21. REPEAL

17 V.S.A. § 1973 (voting in more than one place) is repealed.

Sec. 22. 17 V.S.A. § 2103 is amended to read:

§ 2103. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title, unless the context or a specific definition requires a different reading:

* * *

(6) "Campaign" means any organized or coordinated activity undertaken by ~~two~~ one or more persons, any part of which is designed to influence the nomination, election, or defeat of any candidate or the passage, defeat, or modification of any public question.

* * *

Sec. 23. 17 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

§ 2358. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS

* * *

(b) If found not to conform, ~~he or she~~ the officer shall state in writing on a particular petition why it cannot be accepted, and within ~~72 hours~~ two business days from receipt, ~~he or she~~ the officer shall return it to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, supplementary petitions may be filed not later than 10 days after the date for filing petitions. However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with signatures of different persons totaling at least the required number were not received by the filing deadline.

* * *

Sec. 24. [Deleted.]

Sec. 25. 17 V.S.A. § 2413 is amended to read:

§ 2413. NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(a)(1) The party members in each town, on or before the third Monday in July before each primary election, upon the call of the town committee, may meet in caucus and nominate candidates for justice of the peace.

* * *

(e) For any nomination made under this section, the chair and secretary of the committee or caucus shall file the statement required by section 2385 of this title by 5:00 p.m. on the ~~third day following~~ fourth Monday in July before the primary election.

Sec. 26. 17 V.S.A. § 2402 is amended to read:

§ 2402. REQUISITES OF STATEMENT

* * *

(d)(1) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form shall be filed:

* * *

(B) in the case of nomination for justice of the peace, not earlier than the fourth Monday in April and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third ~~day following the~~ Monday in July before each primary election; or

* * *

Sec. 27. 17 V.S.A. § 2546 is amended to read:

§ 2546. RECEIPT OF BALLOTS BY CLERK; VOTER STATUS; OPPORTUNITY TO CURE; PROCESSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS

(a) Town clerk; process generally. Beginning ~~30~~ 45 days before the opening of the polls on election day, upon receipt of a mailing envelope containing ballots returned by a voter, the town clerk shall, within three business days or on the next day the office is open for business, whichever is later, direct two election officials working together to do all of the following:

* * *

Sec. 28. 17 V.S.A. § 2703 is amended to read:

§ 2703. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS

The Secretary of State shall examine the petitions and ascertain whether they conform to the provisions of this chapter, and sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title. If found not to conform, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall state in writing why a particular petition cannot be accepted, and within ~~72 hours~~ two business days from receipt ~~he or she~~, the Secretary shall return it to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, supplementary petitions may be filed not later than 10 days after the deadline for filing petitions. However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with the signatures of at least 1,000 persons were not filed by the deadline for filing petitions set forth in section 2702 of this chapter.

* * * Local Elections; Open Meeting Law Not Applicable to Annual Meetings * * *

Sec. 29. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(5)(A) "Meeting" means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a public body for the purpose of discussing the business of the public body or for the purpose of taking action.

* * *

(E) "Meeting" does not mean a gathering of the voters of a municipality for purposes of conducting an annual or special municipal meeting.

(6) "Public body" means any board, council, or commission of the State or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the State or one or more of its political subdivisions, or any committee or subcommittee of any of the foregoing boards, councils, or commissions, except that "public body" does not include:

(A) councils or similar groups established by the Governor for the sole purpose of advising the Governor with respect to policy; or

(B) the voters of a municipality at an annual or special municipal meeting.

* * *

Sec. 30. [Deleted.]

Sec. 31. [Deleted.]

Sec. 32. [Deleted.]

Sec. 33. [Deleted.]

Sec. 34. [Deleted.]

Sec. 35. [Deleted.]

Sec. 36. [Deleted.]

* * * Automatic Voter Registration * * *

Sec. 37. 17 V.S.A. § 2145a is amended to read:

§ 2145a. REGISTRATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

(a) An application for, or renewal of, a motor vehicle driver's license or nondriver identification card shall serve as a simultaneous application to register to vote if the applicant attests to U.S. citizenship or the Department has proof of U.S. citizenship unless the applicant checks the box on the application designating that ~~he or she~~ the applicant declines to use the application as a voter registration application.

(b)(1) A motor vehicle driver's license or nondriver identification card application shall provide and request the following information and shall be in the form approved by the Secretary of State:

(A) The applicant's citizenship.

(B) The applicant's place and date of birth.

(C) The applicant's town of legal residence.

(D) The applicant's E-911 street address or a description of the physical location of the applicant's residence. The description must contain sufficient information so that the town clerk can determine whether the applicant is a resident of the town.

(E) The voter's oath.

(F) The applicant's ~~e-mail~~ email address and phone number, which shall be optional to provide.

* * *

(d)(1) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall transmit motor vehicle driver's license and nondriver identification card applications received under this section to the Secretary of State not later than five days after the date the application was accepted by the Department, or before the date of any primary or general election, whichever is sooner.

(2) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not transmit motor vehicle driver's license and nondriver identification card applications when the Department does not have proof of U.S. citizenship for an applicant and the applicant has failed to attest to U.S. citizenship, or when the applicant has designated that ~~he or she~~ the applicant declines to be registered.

(3) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall ensure confidentiality of records as required by subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section.

* * *

Sec. 38. [Deleted.]

Sec. 39. [Deleted.]

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 40. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Recess

At two o'clock and thirty-three minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 82

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House bill of the following title:

H. 454. An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

Called to Order

At five o'clock and twelve minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Point of Order; Rules Suspended, Consideration of Objectionable Committee of Conference Report Permitted; Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

H. 454

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill, entitled:

H.454. An act relating to an act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Findings and Intent * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS; INTENT; PLAN

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In 1997, the first piece of law the General Assembly enacted in response to *Brigham v. State*, 166 Vt. 246 (1997) stated, "[t]he right to public education is integral to Vermont's constitutional form of government and its guarantees of political and civil rights…[and] fundamental for the success of Vermont's children in a rapidly-changing society and global marketplace as well as the State's own economic and social prosperity." 16 V.S.A. § 1.

(2) From the very first attempt at creating a basic frame of government, Vermont's founders chose to include a right to public education, the only governmental service included in Vermont's first Constitution of 1777.

(3) As the U.S. Supreme Court stated in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), "education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments…[i]t is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities…[i]t is the very foundation of good citizenship."

(4) The most enduring legacy of *Brigham* is the State's responsibility to ensure substantially equal educational opportunities for all Vermont students.

(5) The education system is still reeling from the effects of a global pandemic, yet the same challenges that have faced Vermont's education system remain. Thirty to 40 years ago, Vermont educated more than 110,000 students each year. Today, there are approximately 84,000 students in the public education system. Many schools have lost a significant number of students and, with them, the ability to offer robust services and programs at every school. Vermont's youth need to be prepared for a rapidly evolving future.

(6) Vermonters deserve an exceptional educational system that is stable and predictable and where a student's home address does not dictate the quality of education they receive. School district size and boundaries, school size, and class size are all influential factors in shaping the quality of instruction and overall student outcomes. The effectiveness of our schools depends on teacher quality, resource availability, and the unique strengths of local communities. Change in our educational system is needed. Systems are made of people, so change must come carefully and thoughtfully, with meaningful engagement by all Vermonters.

(b) Intent; plan.

(1) To ensure each student is provided substantially equal educational opportunities that will prepare them to thrive in a 21st-century world, it is the intent of the General Assembly to work strategically, intentionally, and

thoughtfully to ensure that each incremental change made to Vermont's public education system provides strength and support to its only constitutionally required governmental service.

(2) It is further the intent of the General Assembly to:

(A) in the 2026 session:

(i) enact new, larger school district boundaries that would be effective July 1, 2026;

(ii) enact updates to career and technical education governance systems, both at the local and statewide levels, that are reflective of the larger public education governance transformation to new, larger school districts;

(iii) create a coordinated and coherent statewide strategy for career and technical education that is responsive to students and the State's workforce needs and that provides opportunities for more integration between career and technical education and traditional high school work;

(iv) enact student-centered updates to fully fund career and technical education within a foundation formula that does not create competition between sending schools and career and technical education programs for available funds nor exceed current spending levels;

(v) begin the process to create voting wards within each school district to ensure school board membership is apportioned in such a manner as to achieve substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters in the election of school board members; and

(vi) establish an appropriate weight for prekindergarten students, as well as enact changes to the publicly funded prekindergarten program that ensure costs are borne by the appropriate funding source depending on the age of the student and the prekindergarten education provider;

(B) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing, resources, and support to the Agency of Education, the Secretary of State's Office, town clerks, and other integral parties to the election system to hold the first school board member elections within the newly created school districts in a special election in November 2027; and

(C) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing, resources, and support to the Agency of Education, State Board of Education, and other integral parties to ensure that the necessary guidance and funding is in place to allow for a smooth and successful transition between the operation of Vermont's current 119 school districts to the new, larger school districts, with new school districts assuming responsibility for the education of all resident students on July 1, 2028; and

(3) It is further the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that the imposition of the new statewide education tax rate contemplated by this act does not result in an increase of education property tax bills relative to Vermont's current education funding system for municipalities across Vermont. The General Assembly intends to mitigate or reduce property tax bills for Vermonters by, among other things:

(A) enacting new school district boundaries that increase the efficiency of the delivery of educational services through scale;

(B) addressing inefficiencies of education delivery through programmatic updates to prekindergarten, career and technical education, and special education;

(C) improving staffing ratios to increase sustainability and reduce costs;

(D) addressing high-cost, languishing physical school infrastructure through implementation of a new State aid for school construction program;

(E) evaluating and consolidating education governance structures to reduce administrative costs and burdens;

(F) stabilizing education property taxes by transitioning from an education funding system that funds locally varying budgets to a foundation formula that funds predictable educational opportunity payments;

(G) implementing a foundation formula with costs reflective of the most efficient method of delivery of education services to Vermont pupils of all educational needs within Vermont's existing education structure;

(H) providing a process for regular recalibration of the foundation formula to reduce costs over time as educational efficiencies are gained through the implementation of new governance and programmatic structures;

(I) reserving support for small and sparse schools for schools that are small or sparse by necessity;

(J) shifting certain education and other related costs off of the Education Fund and on to other sources of funding that do not impact the property tax bills of Vermonters;

(K) implementing equalizing measures for any local spending additional to educational opportunity payments that reserve funds within the Education Fund to reduce following-year property tax bills;

(L) imposing a cap on local spending additional to educational opportunity payments to limit property tax rate increases through the supplemental district spending tax;

(M) providing transitionary measures to ease school district movement from current education spending to educational opportunity payments under the new foundation formula; and

(N) replacing the existing property tax credit with a homestead exemption that increases income sensitivity benefits to Vermonters with low and moderate income and smooths existing income sensitivity benefit cliffs.

* * * Commission on the Future of Public Education * * *

Sec. 2. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION; REPORTS

(a) Creation. There is hereby created the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont. The right to education is fundamental for the success of Vermont's children in a rapidly changing society and global marketplace as well as for the State's own economic and social prosperity. The Commission shall study the provision of education in Vermont and make recommendations for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system to ensure that all students are afforded substantially equal educational opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and stable education system. The Commission shall also make recommendations for the strategic policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality for all Vermont students.

(b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following members and, to the extent possible, the members shall represent the State's geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity:

(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee;

(3) the Tax Commissioner or designee;

(4) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(5) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(6) one representative from the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), appointed by the VSBA Executive Director;

(7) one representative from the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA), appointed by the VPA Executive Director;

(8) one representative from the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA), appointed by the VSA Executive Director;

(9) one representative from the Vermont National Education Association (VTNEA), appointed by the VTNEA Executive Director;

(10) one representative from the Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) with experience in school construction projects, appointed by the President of VASBO;

(11) the Chair of the Census-Based Funding Advisory Group, created under 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173;

(12) the Executive Director of the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative; and

(13) one representative from the Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA), appointed by the President of VISA.

(c) Steering group. On or before July 1, 2024, the Speaker of the House shall appoint two members of the Commission, the Committee on Committees shall appoint two members of the Commission, and the Governor shall appoint two members of the Commission to serve as members of a steering group. The steering group shall provide leadership to the Commission and shall work with a consultant or consultants to analyze the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing Vermont's public education system, as well as develop and propose a work plan to formalize the process through which the Commission shall seek to achieve its final recommendations. The formal work plan shall be approved by a majority of the Commission members. The steering group ~~shall form a subcommittee of the Commission to address education finance topics in greater depth and~~ may form one or more ~~additional~~ subcommittees of the Commission to address ~~other~~ key topics in greater depth, as necessary. ~~The steering group may appoint non-Commission members to the education finance subcommittee. All other subcommittees shall be composed solely of Commission members.~~

(d) Collaboration and information review.

(1) The Commission ~~shall~~ may seek input from and collaborate with key stakeholders, as directed by the steering group. At a minimum, the Commission shall consult with:

(A) the Department of Mental Health;

(B) the Department of Labor;

(C) the President of the University of Vermont or designee;

(D) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation or designee;

(E) a representative from the Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee;

(F) the Office of Racial Equity;

(G) a representative with expertise in the Community Schools model in Vermont;

(H) the Vermont Youth Council;

(I) the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits; and

(J) an organization committed to ensuring equal representation and educational equity.

(2) The Commission shall also review and take into consideration existing educational laws and policy, including legislative reports the Commission deems relevant to its work and, at a minimum, 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 76.

(e) Duties of the Commission. The Commission shall study Vermont's public education system and make recommendations to ensure all students are afforded quality educational opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and equitable education system that will enable students to achieve the highest academic outcomes. The result of the Commission's work shall be ~~a recommendation for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system, with recommendations for the policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality~~ recommendations for what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of local control and what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of control at the State level. In creating and making its recommendations, the Commission shall engage in the following:

(1) Public engagement. The Commission shall conduct not fewer than 14 public meetings to inform the work required under this section. At least one meeting of the Commission as a whole or a subcommittee of the Commission shall be held in each county. The Commission shall publish a draft of its final recommendations on or before October 1, 2025, solicit public feedback, and incorporate such feedback into its final recommendations. When submitting its final recommendations to the General Assembly, the Commission shall include all public feedback received as an addendum to its final report. The public feedback process shall include:

(A) a minimum 30-day public comment period, during which time the Commission shall accept written comments from the public and stakeholders; and

(B) a public outreach plan that maximizes public engagement and includes notice of the availability of language assistance services when requested.

(2) Policy considerations. ~~In developing its recommendations, the Commission shall consider and prioritize the following topics~~ The Commission's work shall include recommendations for:

(A) ~~Governance, resources, and administration. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding education governance at the State level, including the role of the Agency of Education in the provision of services and support for the education system. Recommendations under this subdivision (A) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) whether changes need to be made to the structure of the Agency of Education, including whether it better serves the recommended education vision of the State as an agency or a department;~~

~~(ii) what are the staffing needs of the Agency of Education;~~

~~(iii) whether changes need to be made to the composition, role, and function of the State Board of Education to better serve the recommended education vision of the State;~~

~~(iv) what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of local control and what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of control at the State level; and~~

~~(v) the effective integration of career and technical education in the recommended education vision of the State.~~ necessary updates to the roles and responsibilities of school district boards and the electorate, including amendments to 16 V.S.A. §§ 562 and 563;

(B) ~~Physical size and footprint of the education system. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding how the unique geographical and socioeconomic needs of different communities should factor into the provision of education in Vermont, taking into account and building upon the recommendations of the State Aid to School Construction Working Group. Recommendations under this subdivision (B) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) an analysis and recommendation for the most efficient and effective number and location of school buildings, school districts, and supervisory unions needed to achieve Vermont's vision for education, provided~~

~~that if there is a recommendation for any change, the recommendation shall include an implementation plan;~~

~~(ii) an analysis of the capacity and ability to staff all public schools with a qualified workforce, driven by data on class-size recommendations;~~

~~(iii) analysis of whether, and if so, how, collaboration with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support the development and retention of a qualified educator workforce;~~

~~(iv) an analysis of the current town tuition program and whether, and if so, what, changes are necessary to meet Vermont's vision for education, including the legal and financial impact of funding independent schools and other private institutions, including consideration of the following:~~

~~(I) the role designation, under 16 V.S.A. § 827, should play in the delivery of public education; and~~

~~(II) the financial impact to the Education Fund of public dollars being used in schools located outside Vermont; and~~

~~(v) an analysis of the current use of private therapeutic schools in the provision of special education services and whether, and if so, what, changes are necessary to meet Vermont's special education needs, including the legal and financial impact of funding private therapeutic schools.~~ a process for a community served by a school to have a voice in decisions regarding school closures and recommendations for what that process shall entail; and

(C) ~~The role of public schools. The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the role public schools should play in both the provision of education and the social and emotional well-being of students. Recommendations under this subdivision (C) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) how public education in Vermont should be delivered;~~

~~(ii) whether Vermont's vision for public education shall include the provision of wraparound supports and collocation of services;~~

~~(iii) whether, and if so, how, collaboration with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support and strengthen the delivery of public education; and~~

~~(iv) what the consequences are for the Commission's recommendations regarding the role of public schools and other service providers, including what the role of public schools means for staffing, funding, and any other affected system, with the goal of most efficiently~~

~~utilizing State funds and services and maximizing federal funding~~ a process for monitoring implementation of this act in a manner that is transparent and public facing.

(D) ~~Education finance system. The Commission shall explore the efficacy and potential equity gains of changes to the education finance system, including weighted educational opportunity payments as a method to fund public education. The Commission's recommendations shall be intended to result in an education funding system designed to afford substantially equal access to a quality basic education for all Vermont students in accordance with State v. Brigham, 166 Vt. 246 (1997). Recommendations under this subdivision (D) shall include, at a minimum, the following:~~

~~(i) allowable uses for the Education Fund that shall ensure sustainable and equitable use of State funds;~~

~~(ii) the method for setting tax rates to sustain allowable uses of the Education Fund;~~

~~(iii) whether, and if so, what, alternative funding models would create a more affordable, sustainable, and equitable education finance system in Vermont, including the consideration of a statutory, formal base amount of per pupil education spending and whether school districts should be allowed to spend above the base amount;~~

~~(iv) adjustments to the excess spending threshold, including recommendations that target specific types of spending;~~

~~(v) the implementation of education spending caps on different services, including administrative and support services and categorical aid;~~

~~(vi) how to strengthen the understanding and connection between school budget votes and property tax bills;~~

~~(vii) adjustments to the property tax credit thresholds to better match need to the benefit;~~

~~(viii) a system for ongoing monitoring of the Education Fund and Vermont's education finance system, to include consideration of a standing Education Fund advisory committee;~~

~~(ix) an analysis of the impact of healthcare costs on the Education Fund, including recommendations for whether, and if so, what, changes need to be made to contain costs; and~~

~~(x) implementation details for any recommended changes to the education funding system.~~ [Repealed.]

(E) Additional considerations. The Commission may consider any other topic, factor, or issue that it deems relevant to its work and recommendations.

(f) Reports. The Commission shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly the following:

(1) a formal, written work plan, which shall include a communication plan to maximize public engagement, on or before September 15, 2024;

(2) a written report containing its preliminary findings and recommendations, including short-term cost containment considerations for the 2025 legislative session, on or before December 15, 2024; and

(3) a written report containing its final findings and recommendations ~~for a statewide vision for Vermont's public education system and the policy changes necessary to make that educational vision a reality~~ based on its analysis of the governance topics contained in subdivisions (e)(2)(A)–(C) of this section, on or before December 1, 2025~~; and~~

~~(4) proposed legislative language to advance any recommendations for the education funding system on or before December 15, 2025~~.

(g) Assistance. The Agency of Education shall contract with one or more independent consultants or facilitators to provide technical and legal assistance to the Commission for the work required under this section. For the purposes of scheduling meetings and providing administrative assistance, the Commission shall have the assistance of the Agency of Education. The Agency shall also provide the educational and financial data necessary to facilitate the work of the Commission. School districts shall comply with requests from the Agency to assist in data collections.

(h) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Commission to occur on or before July 15, 2024.

(2) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore shall jointly select a Commission chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

(5) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2025.

(i) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 30 meetings, including subcommittee meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Education.

* * * School District Redistricting * * *

Sec. 3. SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the School District Redistricting Task Force to recommend new school district boundaries and configurations to the General Assembly.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(A) Nonlegislative members. There shall be five nonlegislative members, all of whom shall have extensive experience working within the Vermont public education system. Appointing authorities shall coordinate to ensure that, to the extent possible, each of the five nonlegislative members represents a different geographic region of the State.

(i) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be a retired or former Vermont superintendent of a supervisory union with multiple member school districts and one of whom shall be either a retired or former Vermont school business manager or a retired or former school board member.

(ii) Two members shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees, one of whom shall be a retired or former Vermont superintendent and one of whom shall be a retired or former Vermont school business manager.

(iii) One member shall be appointed by the Governor, who shall be a retired or former Vermont superintendent.

(B) Legislative members. There shall be six legislative members.

(i) Three members shall be current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party nor from the same school district, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(ii) Three members shall be current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party nor from the same school district, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

(c) Powers and duties. In consultation with the Commission on the Future of Public Education, the Task Force shall study and consider different configurations for school district consolidation and propose not more than three options for new school district boundaries. At least one boundary proposal recommendation shall consider the use of supervisory unions and supervisory districts, allow for the continuation of a tuitioning system that provides continued access to independent schools that have served geographic areas that do not operate public schools for the grades served by the independent schools, and to the extent practical, not separate geographic areas that contain nonoperating school districts as such districts exist on July 1, 2025.

(1) Proposed new school districts or supervisory unions and supervisory districts shall have, to the extent practical, an average daily membership of not fewer than approximately 4,000 and not more than 8,000 prekindergarten through grade 12 students.

(2) Proposed new school districts or supervisory unions and supervisory districts shall also be, to the greatest extent possible, grand list and pupil-count balanced, demographically equitable, logistically feasible, and create the least amount of disruption to students as possible.

(3) In creating the proposed districts, the Task Force shall consider the following with the goal of increasing equitable access to educational opportunity for all students:

(A) current school district and town boundaries and other historic and current community connections, including access to regional services for students, such as designated agencies;

(B) geographic barriers, including mountains and rivers;

(C) population distribution;

(D) location, capacity, and the facility condition index score of current school buildings;

(E) transportation and employment patterns and practices:

(F) grand list values accounting for the homestead exemption and current education spending;

(G) student demographics;

(H) the debt, liabilities, and assets of current school districts;

(I) staffing levels and salary scales;

(J) opportunities to support local elementary schools, central middle schools, and regional high schools, with the least disruption to students;

(K) access to career and technical education (CTE) for all eligible students;

(L) the maximization of cost efficiencies;

(M) the location of schools and CTE centers; and

(N) any other factors the Task Force deems relevant.

(d) Public input. The Task Force shall hold not fewer than two public hearings to receive and consider feedback from members of the public regarding school district consolidation and proposed boundaries and shall work closely with the Commission on the Future of Public Education's public engagement process to maximize public input regarding the development of the proposed new school district boundaries.

(e) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Digital Services, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, and the Department of Taxes. The Task Force shall retain the services of one or more independent third parties to provide contracted facilitation resources or any other services the Task Force deems necessary.

(f) Report and maps. On or before December 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Education and on Government Operations with its proposals for new consolidated school district boundaries. The report shall include how each proposal meets the requirements contained in subdivisions (c)(1) and (2) of this section, how the considerations in subdivision (c)(3) of this section factored into each proposal, and the pros and cons of each proposal. Detailed maps shall also be included with the report and the maps shall include the following information, in addition to the proposed school district boundaries themselves:

(1) average daily membership for each proposed school district for the 2023–2024 school year;

(2) the member towns for each proposed school district;

(3) the location of public schools and nontherapeutic approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition as of July 1, 2025, and the grades operated by each of those schools;

(4) the five-year facility condition index score for each school;

(5) PCB testing score for each school;

(6) the 10-year change in enrollment between 2014 and 2024 for each school; and

(7) the grand list value of each proposed school district.

(g) Meetings.

(1) The member appointed by the Governor shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2025.

(2) The Task Force shall select co-chairs from among its members at the first meeting, one a member of the House and the other a member of the Senate.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

(h) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Administration.

(i) Appropriations.

(1) The sum of $50,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for the purposes of supporting the Task Force and the hiring of one or more facilitation consultants pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

(2) The sum of $100,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Digital Services from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to cover costs associated with supporting the Task Force, or, if necessary, for the purposes of hiring one or more consultants to provide support to the Task Force.

(3) The sum of $10,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for nonlegislative members of the Task Force.

(4) The sum of $10,000.00 is appropriated to the General Assembly from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for legislative members of the Task Force.

* * * School District Voting Ward Task Force * * *

Sec. 4. SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING WARD WORKING GROUP; REPORT; MAPS

(a) Creation. There is created the School District Voting Ward Working Group to create voting district wards within the new school districts contemplated by this act, to ensure school board membership is apportioned in such a manner as to achieve substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters in the choice of school board members.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members who shall have substantial understanding of Vermont geography, trade, travel, social interaction, and Vermont's public education system:

(1) the Secretary of State or designee, who shall be the chair;

(2) three members, who shall be appointed by the Vermont Municipal Clerk Treasurer Association;

(3) two members, appointed by the Vermont School Boards Association; and

(4) the Director of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. On or before October 15, 2025, the Working Group shall consult with the School District Redistricting Task Force created in Sec. 3 of this act to gain an understanding of the status of the work of the Task Force and to determine whether the Task Force has one or more boundary proposals ready for the Working Group to begin the work of creating voting wards. Using the boundary proposals of the Task Force, the Working Group shall, following the principles of apportionment followed by the legislative apportionment board, make recommendations to the General Assembly to achieve voting districts within each school district that are compact, contiguous, and drawn to achieve substantially equal weighting of votes and that meet the requirements of applicable State and federal law. If at any time during the work of the Working Group, the General Assembly enacts new school district boundaries, or it appears clear the General Assembly is focused on only one proposal, the Working Group shall focus its work and recommendations to align with the work of the General Assembly. The Working Group's recommendations shall include:

(1) the optimal number of school board members per school board to maximize public representation and democratic input while maintaining effective school board size; and

(2) boundaries for school district voting wards within each school district, with alternative options if necessary, including detailed maps clearly and unambiguously delineating ward boundaries that respect current municipal boundary lines.

(d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Secretary of State's office and the technical assistance of the Agency of Digital Services, Vermont Center for Geographic Information. The Working Group may contract for such expert services as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

(e) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of State shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before October 1, 2025.

(2) The Secretary of State shall be the chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Secretary of State's office.

(g) Appropriation for Working Group. The sum of $15,000.00 is appropriated to the Secretary of State's Office from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Working Group.

(h) Appropriation for voting ward creation. The sum of $200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Legislative Counsel for the contracting and software resources necessary to create school district voting wards.

* * * Class Size Minimums * * *

Sec. 5. SCALE; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to transform education in Vermont by leveraging attainable and research-based scale to increase equity of opportunity and promote efficiency and affordability.

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

§ 165. EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; INDEPENDENT SCHOOL MEETING EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS

(a) In order to carry out Vermont's policy that all Vermont children will be afforded educational opportunities that are substantially equal in quality, each Vermont public school, including each career technical center, shall meet the following education quality standards:

* * *

(9) The school complies with average class size minimum standards; provided, however, that when class size minimums apply to content areas, an individual class may be smaller than the minimum average. As used in this subdivision, "content area" means a group of courses within a specific licensing endorsement area.

(A) Class size standards.

(i) The average class size minimum for first-grade classes shall be 10 students.

(ii) The average class size minimum for grades two through five shall be 12 students.

(iii) The average class size minimum for grades six through eight in all required content areas shall be 15 students.

(iv) The average class size minimum for grades nine through 12 in all required content area classes shall be 18 students.

(v) Multiage classrooms for grades kindergarten through eight shall be limited to two grade levels per classroom.

(vi) Prekindergarten, kindergarten, career and technical education, flexible pathways, terminal courses, advanced placement courses, courses that require specialized equipment, and driver's education classes shall be excluded from the class size minimum requirements in this subdivision (9). Small group services for the purpose of providing special education, supplemental or targeted academic intervention, or English learner instruction shall also be excluded from the class size minimum requirements in this subdivision (9).

(vii) Class sizes shall not exceed the maximum occupancy limits established by local and State fire codes, including egress and safety requirements.

(B) Waivers. If a school board determines that it operates a school that is unable to comply with the class size minimum standards due to geographic isolation, or a school has developed an implementation plan to meet the standards contained in this subdivision (9) that may include consolidation or merger, the school board may ask the State Board of Education to grant it waiver from this subdivision (9). The State Board shall define what qualifies as geographic isolation in its rules adopted pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section. The State Board's decision shall be final.

(C) State Board action. If the Secretary determines that a school is not meeting the class size minimum standards set forth in this subdivision (9) over the course of three consecutive school years, the Secretary may recommend to the State Board one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section, regardless of whether the school is meeting all other education quality standards. The State Board shall then follow the procedure of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Annually, the Secretary shall determine whether students in each Vermont public school are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other public schools. If the Secretary determines that a school is not meeting the education quality standards listed in subsection (a) of this section or that the school is making insufficient progress in improving student performance in relation to the standards for student performance set forth in subdivision 164(9) of this title, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall describe in writing actions that a district must take in order to meet either or both sets of standards and shall provide technical assistance to the school. If the school fails to meet the standards or make sufficient progress within two years ~~of~~ following the determination, the Secretary shall recommend to the State Board one or more of the following actions:

(1) the Agency continue to provide technical assistance for one more cycle of review;

(2) the State Board adjust supervisory union boundaries or responsibilities of the superintendency pursuant to section 261 of this title;

(3) the Secretary assume administrative control of an individual school, school district, or supervisory union, including budgetary control to ensure sound financial practices, only to the extent necessary to correct deficiencies;

(4) the State Board close an individual school or schools and require that the school district pay tuition to another public school or an approved independent school pursuant to chapter 21 of this title; or

(5) the State Board require two or more school districts to consolidate their governance structures.

(c) The State Board, after offering the school board an opportunity for a hearing, shall either dismiss the Secretary's recommendation or order that one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section be taken. The action ordered by the State Board shall be the least intrusive consistent with the need to provide students attending the school substantially equal educational opportunities. A school board aggrieved by an order of the State Board may appeal the order in accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure.

* * *

(e) If the Secretary determines at any time that the failure of a school to meet the education quality standards listed in subsection (a) of this section is severe or pervasive, potentially results in physical or emotional harm to students or significant deprivation of equal education opportunities, and the school has either unreasonably refused to remedy the problem or its efforts have proved ineffective, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary may recommend to the State Board one or more of the actions listed in subsection (b) of this section. The State Board shall then follow the procedure of subsection (c) of this section.

* * *

Sec. 7. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; STATE BOARD ACTION

Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 165(b)(4) and (5) and any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Board shall be prohibited from ordering school district consolidation or school consolidation if a school fails to comply with class size minimum education quality standards and the resulting consolidation would result in school construction costs in excess of the applicable district's capital reserve account until the General Assembly establishes new school district boundaries and takes further action regarding the consequences for failure to meet education quality standards.

* * * Agency and State Board Rules and Reports * * *

Sec. 8. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; RULES; REPORT

(a) Rules.

(1) The State Board of Education shall initiate rulemaking to amend the Education Quality Standards rule 2000 series, Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (22-000-003), pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25:

(A) on or before August 1, 2026, to ensure compliance with the class size minimum standards set pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9); and

(B) on or before July 1, 2027, to adopt standards for statewide graduation requirements based on standards adopted by the State Board and recommendations from the Agency of Education, which shall take effect beginning in the 2027–2028 school year for the graduating class of 2031 and every graduating class thereafter.

(2) On or before August 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall initiate rulemaking to amend the approved independent school rule 2200 series, Agency of Education, Independent School Program Approval (22-000-004), pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to require approved independent schools that intend to accept public tuition to comply with the class size minimum standards set pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9). The amendments shall also create a process for review by the State Board for failure to meet the class size minimum requirements and the corresponding actions the Board may take for such noncompliance; provided, however, that the Board shall provide an approved independent school a substantially similar opportunity to come into compliance with class size minimum standards that it would provide to a public school.

(b) Report. On or before December 1, 2025, the State Board of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with proposed standards for schools to be deemed "small by necessity" or "sparse by necessity."

Sec. 9. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; SCHOOL CALENDAR; GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; REPORT

(a) Statewide graduation requirements. On or before January 1, 2026, the Agency of Education shall recommend to the State Board of Education standards for statewide graduation requirements based on standards adopted by the State Board.

(b) Statewide school calendar.

(1) On or before January 15, 2027, the Secretary of Education shall develop and publish a statewide calendar for the public schools of the State, including career and technical centers, that shall be in effect in the 2028–2029 academic year and after.

(2) On or before January 15, 2027, the Secretary shall present to the House and Senate Committees on Education a list of the statutory amendments necessary to effect the intent of this subsection.

(c) Report. On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report and recommended legislative language, as applicable, to the House and Senate Committees on Education with the following:

(1) In consultation with educators and administrators, a proposed implementation plan for statewide financial data and student information systems.

(2) Recommendations for a school construction division within the Agency of Education, including position descriptions and job duties for each position within the division, a detailed description of the assistance the division would provide to the field, and the overall role the Agency would play within a State aid to school construction program.

(3) A progress report regarding the development of clear, unambiguous guidance that would be provided to school officials and school board members regarding the business processes and transactions that would need to occur to facilitate school district mergers into larger, consolidated school districts, including the merging of data systems, asset and liability transfers, and how to address collective bargaining agreements for both educators and staff. The report shall include a detailed description of how the Agency will provide support and consolidation assistance to the field in each of these areas and an estimate of the costs associated with such work.

(4) In consultation with superintendents, directors of therapeutic independent schools, special education directors, and, in the opinion of the Agency, other experts, recommendations for the need for cooperative education services and the oversight of therapeutic schools within the school governance framework both at a State and local level.

Sec. 10. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; REVIEW OF RULES; APPROPRIATION

(a) The State Board of Education shall review each rule series the State Board is responsible for and make a determination as to the continuing need for, appropriateness of, or need for updating of said rules. On or before December 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its recommendation for rules that are no longer needed and a plan to update rules that are still necessary, including the order in which the Board proposes to update the rules and any associated costs or staffing needs.

(b) The sum of $200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to provide the State Board of Education with the contracted resources necessary to review and update the Board's rules.

Sec. 11. [Deleted.]

* * * State Aid to School Construction * * *

Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 3440 is added to read:

§ 3440. STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the intent of this chapter to encourage the efficient use of public funds to modernize school infrastructure in alignment with current educational needs. School construction projects supported by this chapter should be developed taking consideration of standards of quality for public schools under section 165 of this title and prioritizing cost, geographic accessibility, 21st century education facilities standards, statewide enrollment trends, and capacity and scale that support best educational practices. Further, it is the intent of this chapter to encourage the use of existing infrastructure to meet the needs of Vermont students. Joint construction projects between two or more school districts and consolidation of buildings within a district where feasible and educationally appropriate are encouraged.

Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 3442 is added to read:

§ 3442. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Agency of Education shall be responsible for implementing the State Aid for School Construction Program according to the provisions of this chapter. The Agency shall be responsible for:

(1) reviewing all preliminary applications for State school construction aid and issuing an approval or denial in accordance with section 3445 of this chapter;

(2) adopting rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 pertaining to school construction and capital outlay, including rules to specify a point prioritization methodology and a bonus incentive structure aligned with the legislative intent expressed in section 3440 of this title;

(3) including as part of its budget submitted to the Governor pursuant to subdivision 212(21) of this title its annual school construction funding request;

(4) developing a prequalification and review process for project delivery consultants and architecture and engineering firms specializing in prekindergarten through grade 12 school design, renovation, or construction and maintaining a list of such prequalified firms and consultants;

(5) providing technical assistance and guidance to school districts and supervisory unions on all phases of school capital projects;

(6) providing technical advice and assistance, training, and education to school districts, supervisory unions, general contractors, subcontractors, construction or project managers, designers, and other vendors in the planning, maintenance, and establishment of school facility space;

(7) maintaining a current list of school construction projects that have received preliminary approval, projects that have received final approval, and the priority points awarded to each project;

(8) collecting, maintaining, and making publicly available quarterly progress reports of all ongoing school construction projects that shall include, at a minimum, the costs of the project and the time schedule of the project;

(9) recommending policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school construction programs at both State and local levels;

(10) conducting a needs survey at least every five years to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for all public schools and maintaining such data in a publicly accessible format;

(11) developing a formal enrollment projection model or using projection models already available;

(12) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or supervisory union;

(13) collecting and maintaining a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans, as appropriate, that may be consulted by eligible applicants;

(14) retaining the services of consultants, as necessary, to effectuate the roles and responsibilities listed within this section; and

(15) notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before December 15, submitting a written report to the General Assembly regarding the status and implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program, including the data required to be collected pursuant to this section.

Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 3443 is added to read:

§ 3443. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD

(a) Creation. There is hereby created the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board, which shall advise the Agency on the implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including the adoption of rules, setting of statewide priorities, criteria for project approval, and recommendations for project approval and prioritization.

(b) Membership.

(1) Composition. The Board shall be composed of the following eight members:

(A) four members who shall serve as ex officio members:

(i) the State Treasurer or designee;

(ii) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

(iii) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank or designee; and

(iv) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee; and

(B) four members, none of whom shall be a current member of the General Assembly, who shall serve four-year terms as follows:

(i) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House, each of whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or finance and one of whom shall represent a supervisory union; and

(ii) two members, appointed by the Committee on Committees, each of whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or finance and one of whom shall be an educator.

(2) Members with four-year terms.

(A) A member with a term limit shall serve a term of four years and until a successor is appointed. A term shall begin on January 1 of the year of appointment and run through December 31 of the last year of the term. Terms of these members shall be staggered so that not all terms expire at the same time.

(B) A vacancy created before the expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.

(C) A member with a term limit shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. A member appointed to fill a vacancy created before the expiration of a term shall not be deemed to have served a term for the purpose of this subdivision (C).

(c) Duties. The Board shall advise the Agency on the implementation of the State Aid for School Construction Program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including:

(1) rules pertaining to school construction and capital outlay;

(2) project priorities;

(3) proposed legislation the Board deems desirable or necessary related to the State Aid for School Construction Program, the provisions of this chapter, and any related laws;

(4) policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school construction programs at both State and local levels;

(5) development of a formal enrollment projection model or the consideration of using projection models already available;

(6) processes and procedures necessary to apply for, receive, administer, and comply with the conditions and requirements of any grant, gift, appropriation of property, services, or monies;

(7) the collection and maintenance of a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans that may be consulted by eligible applicants and recommended incentives to utilize such prototypes;

(8) the determination of eligible cost components of projects for funding or reimbursement, including partial or full eligibility for project components for which the benefit is shared between the school and other municipal and community entities;

(9) development of a long-term vision for a statewide capital plan in accordance with needs and projected funding;

(10) collection and maintenance of data on all public school facilities in the State, including information on size, usage, enrollment, available facility space, and maintenance;

(11) advising districts on the use of a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for schools across the State; and

(12) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or supervisory union.

(d) Meetings.

(1) The Chair of the State Board of Education shall call the first meeting of the Board to occur on or before September 1, 2025.

(2) The Board shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Board shall meet not more than six times per year.

(e) Assistance. The Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Board shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings per year.

(g) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Board shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education and on Finance on recommendations for addressing the transfer of any debt obligations from current school districts to future school districts as contemplated by Vermont's education transformation.

Sec. 15. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL OF STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD

16 V.S.A. § 3443 (State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board) is repealed on July 1, 2035.

Sec. 16. 16 V.S.A. § 3444 is added to read:

§ 3444. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID SPECIAL FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the School Construction Aid Special Fund, to be administered by the Agency of Education. Monies in the Fund shall be used for the purposes of:

(1) awarding aid to school construction projects under section 3445 of this title;

(2) awarding grants through the Facilities Master Plan Grant Program established in section 3441 of this title;

(3) funding administrative costs of the State Aid for School Construction Program; and

(4) awarding emergency aid under section 3445 of this title.

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

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

(2) any interest earned by the Fund.

Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. § 3445 is added to read:

§ 3445. APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

(a) Construction aid.

(1) Preliminary application for construction aid. A school district eligible for assistance under section 3447 of this title that intends to construct or purchase a new school, or make extensive additions or alterations to its existing school, and desires to avail itself of State school construction aid shall submit a written preliminary application to the Secretary. A preliminary application shall include information required by the Agency by rule and shall specify the need for and purpose of the project.

(2) Approval of preliminary application.

(A) When reviewing a preliminary application for approval, the Secretary shall consider:

(i) regional educational opportunities and needs, including school building capacities across school district boundaries, and available infrastructure in neighboring communities;

(ii) economic efficiencies;

(iii) the suitability of an existing school building to continue to meet educational needs; and

(iv) statewide educational initiatives.

(B) The Secretary may approve a preliminary application if:

(i)(I) the project or part of the project fulfills a need occasioned by:

(aa) conditions that threaten the health or safety of students or employees;

(bb) facilities that are inadequate to provide programs required by State or federal law or regulation;

(cc) excessive energy use resulting from the design of a building or reliance on fossil fuels or electric space heat; or

(dd) deterioration of an existing building; or

(II) the project results in consolidation of two or more school buildings and will serve the educational needs of students in a more cost-effective and educationally appropriate manner as compared to individual projects constructed separately;

(ii) the need addressed by the project cannot reasonably be met by another means;

(iii) the proposed type, kind, quality, size, and estimated cost of the project are suitable for the proposed curriculum and meet all legal standards;

(iv) the applicant achieves the level of "proficiency" in the school district quality standards regarding facilities management adopted by rule by the Agency; and

(v) the applicant has completed a facilities master planning process that:

(I) engages robust community involvement;

(II) considers regional solutions;

(III) evaluates environmental contaminants; and

(IV) produces a facilities master plan that unites the applicant's vision statement, educational needs, enrollment projections, renovation needs, and construction projects.

(3) Priorities. Following approval of a preliminary application and provided that the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of a project, the Agency, with the advice of the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board, shall assign points to the project as prescribed by rule of the Agency so that the project can be placed on a priority list based on the number of points received.

(4) Request for legislative appropriation. The Agency shall submit its annual school construction funding request to the Governor as part of its budget pursuant to subdivision 212(21) of this title. Following submission of the Governor's recommended budget to the General Assembly pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 306, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education shall recommend a total school construction appropriation for the next fiscal year to the General Assembly.

(5) Final approval for construction aid.

(A) Unless approved by the Secretary for good cause in advance of commencement of construction, a school district shall not begin construction before the Secretary approves a final application. A school district may submit a written final application to the Secretary at any time following approval of a preliminary application.

(B) The Secretary may approve a final application for a project provided that:

(i) the project has received preliminary approval;

(ii) the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of the project;

(iii) the district has made arrangements for project construction supervision by persons competent in the building trades;

(iv) the district has provided for construction financing of the project during a period prescribed by the Agency;

(v) the project has otherwise met the requirements of this chapter;

(vi) if the proposed project includes a playground, the project includes a requirement that the design and construction of playground equipment follow the guidelines set forth in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety; and

(vii) if the total estimated cost of the proposed project is less than $50,000.00, no performance bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be required.

(C) The Secretary may provide that a grant for a high school project is conditioned upon the agreement of the recipient to provide high school instruction for any high school pupil living in an area prescribed by the Agency who may elect to attend the school.

(D) A district may begin construction upon receipt of final approval. However, a district shall not be reimbursed for debt incurred due to borrowing of funds in anticipation of aid under this section.

(6) Award of construction aid.

(A) The base amount of an award shall be 20 percent of the eligible debt service cost of a project. Projects are eligible for additional bonus incentives as specified in rule for up to an additional 20 percent of the eligible debt service cost. Amounts shall be awarded annually and are subject to an annual appropriation for the purposes of the program.

(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6), "eligible debt service cost" of a project means the product of the lifetime cost of the bond authorized for the project and the ratio of the approved cost of a project to the total cost of the project.

(b) Emergency aid. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary may grant aid for a project the Secretary deems to be an emergency in the amount of 30 percent of eligible project costs, up to a maximum eligible total project cost of $300,000.00.

Sec. 18. 16 V.S.A. § 3446 is added to read:

§ 3446. APPEAL

Any municipal corporation as defined in section 3447 of this title aggrieved by an order, allocation, or award of the Agency of Education may, within 30 days, appeal to the Superior Court in the county in which the project is located.

Sec. 19. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF RULES

(a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education pertaining to school construction and capital outlay adopted under 16 V.S.A. § 3448(e) and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

(b) All rules pertaining to school construction and capital outlay adopted by the State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2026 shall be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(c) The Agency of Education shall provide notice of the transfer to the Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 848(d)(2).

Sec. 20. REPEALS

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 3448 (approval of funding of school construction projects; renewable energy) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

(b) 16 V.S.A. § 3448a (appeal) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

* * * Schools Eligible to Receive Public Tuition * * *

Sec. 21. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

§ 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

(a) A school district shall not pay the tuition of a student except to:

(1) a public school~~,~~ located in Vermont;

(2) an approved independent school~~,~~ that:

(A) is located in Vermont;

(B) is approved under section 166 of this title on or before July 1, 2025;

(C) is located within either:

(i) a supervisory district that does not operate a public school for some or all grades as of July 1, 2024; or

(ii) a supervisory union with one or more member school districts that does not operate a public school for some or all grades as of July 1, 2024;

(D) had at least 25 percent of its student enrollment composed of students attending on a district-funded tuition basis pursuant to chapter 21 of this title during the 2023–2024 school year; and

(E) complies with the minimum class size requirements contained in subdivision 165(a)(9) of this title and State Board rule; provided, however, that if a school is unable to comply with the class size minimum standards due to geographic isolation or a school has developed an implementation plan to meet the class size minimum requirements, the school may ask the State Board to grant it a waiver from this subdivision (E), which decision shall be final;

(3) an independent school meeting education quality standards~~,~~;

(4) a tutorial program approved by the State Board~~,~~;

(5) an approved education program~~, or~~;

(6) ~~an independent school in another state or country approved under the laws of that state or country, that complies with the reporting requirement under subsection 4010(c) of this title,~~ a public school located in another state; or

(7) a therapeutic approved independent school located in Vermont or another state or country that is approved under the laws of that state or country.

(b) ~~nor shall payment~~ Payment of tuition on behalf of a person shall not be denied on account of age.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, a person who is aggrieved by a decision of a school board relating to eligibility for tuition payments, the amount of tuition payable, or the school the person may attend, may appeal to the State Board and its decision shall be final.

(d) As used in this section, "therapeutic approved independent school" means an approved independent school that limits enrollment for publicly funded students residing in Vermont to students who are on an individualized education program or plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, or who are enrolled pursuant to a written agreement between a local education agency and the school or pursuant to a court order.

Sec. 22. TUITION TRANSITION

A school district that pays tuition pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. chapter 21 in effect on June 30, 2025 shall continue to pay tuition on behalf of a resident student enrolled for the 2024–2025 school year in or who has been accepted for enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year by an approved independent school subject to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 828 in effect on June 30, 2025, until such time as the student graduates from that school.

* * * State-Level Governance * * *

Sec. 23. STATE-LEVEL GOVERNANCE; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to consolidate structures and systems that are foundational to the administration of education and to ensure that the State Board of Education is the independent, transparent, and public facing body for public education and to ensure the Board maintains its ability to provide an important outlet for the public to engage in the rulemaking process and regularly provide public comment regarding the state of Vermont's education system.

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 161 is amended to read:

§ 161. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERM; VACANCY

The State Board shall consist of ~~ten~~ 10 members. Two of the members shall be secondary students, one of whom shall be a full member and the other of whom shall be a junior member who may not vote. ~~All~~ Eight members, including the two student members, shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees. In the appointment of the nonstudent members, priority shall be given to the selection of persons with a demonstrated commitment to ensuring quality education for Vermont students. To the extent possible, the members shall represent the State's geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity. The Secretary shall serve on the State Board as a nonvoting member.

(1) Upon the expiration of the respective terms of those members of the Board previously appointed, excluding the student members, the ~~Governor~~ appointing authority that made the initial appointment to the expired term shall, biennially in the month of February with the advice and consent of the Senate, as applicable, appoint members for terms of six years. The terms shall begin March 1 of the year in which the appointments are made. A member serving a term of six years shall not be eligible for reappointment for successive terms.

(2) In the event of any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board, the ~~Governor~~ appointing authority that made the initial appointment to the vacated term shall fill the vacancy with a qualified person whose appointment shall be for the unexpired portion of the term.

(3) Biennially, the Board shall choose a member of the Board to be its chair.

(4) Annually, using an application process that is open and accessible to all eligible students, the Governor shall appoint a Vermont secondary school student who will continue to be a secondary student for at least two years following taking office, to serve on the State Board for two years, beginning on July 1 of the year of appointment. The student member shall not vote during the first year and shall be a full and voting member during the second year of ~~his or her~~ the student's term.

Sec. 25. TRANSITION PERIOD APPOINTMENTS; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(a) Members currently serving on the State Board of Education may continue to serve for the duration of the term to which they were appointed.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2025, as terms of currently serving members expire, appointments of successors shall be made in accordance with the considerations and appointment authority contained in 16 V.S.A. § 161.

(1) The Speaker of the House shall make the first appointment to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(2) The Senate Committee on Committees shall make the second appointment to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(3) The Governor shall make the third appointment, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to a vacant or expired seat that occurs after July 1, 2025 and shall make any subsequent appointments to fill the vacated or expired term for that same seat after the initial transition period appointment.

(c) Once the first three appointments after July 1, 2025 are made in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the Governor shall make all subsequent appointments for the remaining five nonstudent seats, with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 161.

Sec. 26. 16 V.S.A. § 162 is amended to read:

§ 162. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS

After notice and hearing, the Governor may remove a member of the State Board for incompetency, failure to discharge ~~his or her~~ the member's duties, malfeasance, illegal acts, or other cause inimical to the welfare of the public schools; and in case of such removal, ~~he or she~~ the appointing authority that made the initial appointment shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term.

* * * Calculation of Tuition * * *

Sec. 27. 16 V.S.A. § 823 is amended to read:

§ 823. ~~ELEMENTARY~~ TUITION

(a) Tuition for ~~elementary~~ students shall be paid by the district in which the student is a resident. The district shall pay ~~the full tuition charged its students attending a public elementary school~~ to a receiving school for each resident student attending the receiving school an amount equal to the base amount contained in subdivision 4001(16) of this title multiplied by the sum of one and any weights applicable to the resident student under section 4010 of this title. ~~If a payment made to a public elementary school is three percent more or less than the calculated net cost per elementary pupil in the receiving school district for the year of attendance, the district shall be reimbursed, credited, or refunded pursuant to section 836 of this title. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection or of subsection 825(b) of this title, the boards of both the receiving and sending districts may enter into tuition agreements with terms differing from the provisions of those subsections, provided that the receiving district must offer identical terms to all sending districts, and further provided that the statutory provisions apply to any sending district that declines the offered terms.~~

(b) ~~Unless the electorate of a school district authorizes payment of a higher amount at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the tuition paid to an approved independent elementary school or an independent school meeting education quality standards shall not exceed the least of:~~

~~(1) the average announced tuition of Vermont union elementary schools for the year of attendance;~~

~~(2) the tuition charged by the approved independent school for the year of attendance; or~~

~~(3) the average per-pupil tuition the district pays for its other resident elementary students in the year in which the student is enrolled in the approved independent school.~~ (1) In addition to the tuition amount calculated in subsection (a) of this section, a receiving school may charge, and a sending

school shall be required to pay, an additional fee in the amount of the product of the base amount and up to 0.05 for each student attending the receiving school in grades nine through 12 only if the following conditions are met:

(A) the receiving school has received approval from the State Board of Education to charge the additional fee under this subsection (b), which approval shall be granted in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board; and

(B) the electorate of each school district with at least one student attending the receiving school has approved supplemental district spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, for the purpose of this subsection and in an amount sufficient to cover the additional fee authorized under this subsection (b).

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, a receiving school shall not include an approved independent school in Vermont functioning as an approved area career and technical center.

(c) A receiving school that elects and is eligible to charge an additional fee pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall charge the same additional fee for each student attending on a publicly funded tuition basis pursuant to chapter 21 of this title. A receiving school is prohibited from charging different fees pursuant to this section to different school districts.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, or any other provision of law to the contrary, the district shall pay the full tuition charged its students attending an approved independent school in Vermont functioning as an approved area career and technical center.

Sec. 28. REPEALS

16 V.S.A. §§ 824 (high school tuition), 825 (maximum tuition rate; calculated net cost per pupil defined), 826 (notice of tuition rates; special education charges), and 836 (tuition overcharge or undercharge) are repealed on July 1, 2029.

Sec. 28a. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TUITION FEE RULES

On or before July 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to govern the approval process for a receiving school to charge an additional fee pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 823. The Board's rules shall require a receiving school to demonstrate that an additional fee is necessary to educate the specific students the fee is being applied to and that the fee will be used to educate such students and not used to shift costs elsewhere within the applicable school's budget.

* * * Special Education Delivery * * *

Sec. 29. STATE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION DELIVERY; AGENCY OF EDUCATION; REPORT

(a) On or before September 1, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance addressing the factors contributing to growth in extraordinary special education reimbursement costs. The report shall include detailed information regarding the current state of special education delivery in Vermont, including an update on the implementation of special education changes enacted pursuant to 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 (Act 173). The report shall include a description of the current state of support for students with disabilities in Vermont and recommended changes to structure, practice, and law with the goal of:

(1) improving the delivery of special education services and managing the rising extraordinary special education costs as Vermont's special education finance system transitions from a census block grant to a weight for special education costs;

(2) ensuring better, more inclusive services in the least restrictive environment in a way that makes efficient and effective use of limited resources while resulting in the best outcomes;

(3) responding to the challenges of fully implementing Act 173 and the lessons learned from implementation efforts to date;

(4) ensuring that the delivery of special education is responsive to student needs; and

(5) addressing drivers of growth of extraordinary expenditures in special education.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) An analysis of the costs of and services provided for students with extraordinary needs in specialized settings, separated by school-district-operated specialized programs, independent nonprofit programs, and independent for-profit programs. The report shall include a geographic map with the location of all specialized programs within the State of Vermont, as well as the following information for each individual specialized program:

(A) disability categories served;

(B) grade levels served;

(C) the number of students with IEPs and the average duration of time each student spent in the program over the last 10 years;

(D) average cost per pupil, inclusive of extraordinary spending and any costs in excess of general tuition rates;

(E) years of experience, training, and tenure of licensed special education staff;

(F) a review of the findings of all investigations conducted by the Agency of Education; and

(G) a review of the Agency's public assurance capabilities, with respect to special education programs in all settings, and an analysis of the effectiveness of current oversight or rule, and recommended changes if needed.

(2) An evaluation of the state of implementation of Act 173, including examples of where implementation has been successful, where it has not, and why.

(3) Identification of drivers of accelerating costs within the special education system.

(4) Identification of barriers to the success of students with disabilities.

(5) A description of how specialized programs for students with extraordinary needs operated by school districts, independent nonprofit schools, and independent for-profit schools are funded, with an analysis of the benefits and risks of each funding model.

(6) An assessment of whether Vermont's current special education laws ensure equitable access for all students with disabilities to education alongside their peers in a way that is consistent with the Vermont education quality standards for public schools and the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400–1482.

(7) A review of the capacity of the Agency to support and guide school districts on the effective support of students with disabilities, as well as compliance with federal law, which shall include:

(A) a review of final reports of investigations conducted by the Agency in school-district-operated specialized programs, independent nonprofit programs, and independent for-profit programs in the previous 10 years and an evaluation of what practices could reduce adverse findings in these settings;

(B) an assessment of the ability of the State to ensure State resources are used in the most efficient and effective way possible to support the success of students with disabilities and their access to a free and appropriate public education;

(C) a review of any pending and recent federal findings against the State or school districts, as well as progress on corrective actions;

(D) a review of the Agency's staffing and capacity to review and conduct monitoring and visits to schools, especially independent settings;

(E) a description of the process and status of reviews and approvals of approved independent schools that provide special education and therapeutic schools; and

(F) recommendations for whether the Agency has capacity to ensure timely review of approved independent schools and provide sufficient oversight for specialized programs in nonprofit independent schools and for-profit independent schools.

(8) Recommendations for needed capacity at the Agency to provide technical assistance and support to school districts in the provision of special education services.

(9) An analysis of whether more strategic support for better primary first instruction and more successful implementation of Act 173 needs to be in place for a weighted funding model for special education to succeed, including a suggested transition timeline, with indicators, to be incorporated into the Agency's strategic plan.

(10) If warranted, a review of options for changes to practice, structure, and law that ensure students with disabilities are provided access to quality education, in the least restrictive environment, in a cost-effective way that is consistent with State and federal law, which may include a review of the possible role of BOCES and the impact of larger districts on effective, high-quality support for students with disabilities.

(11) Recommendations for reducing the growth in extraordinary special education reimbursement costs, which shall include recommended legislative language to accomplish any such recommendations.

Sec. 30. SPECIAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

(a) Strategic plan. In consultation with the State Advisory Panel on Special Education established under 16 V.S.A. § 2945, the Agency of Education shall develop a three-year strategic plan for the delivery of special education services in Vermont. The strategic plan shall include unambiguous

measurable outcomes and a timeline for implementation. The strategic plan shall be informed by the analysis and findings of the report required of the Agency under Sec. 29 of this act and be designed to ensure successful implementation of 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 (Act 173) and provide the supports and processes that need to be in place for the transition to a weighted funding model for special education to succeed, including a suggested transition timeline, with benchmarks for success. The strategic plan shall also include contingency recommendations for special education funding in the event federal special education funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400–1482, is no longer available or transitions to a system that requires more planning and management on the part of the State to ensure funds are distributed equitably.

(b) Reports.

(1) On or before December 1, 2025, the Agency shall submit the three-year strategic plan created pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

(2) On or before December 1 of 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, the Agency shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance with a detailed update on the Agency's implementation of its strategic plan and any recommendations for legislative changes needed to ensure a successful transition to a weighted funding model and continued successful implementation of Act 173.

Sec. 31. POSITION; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

(a) Establishment of one new permanent, classified position is authorized in the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support development and implementation of the three-year strategic plan required under Sec. 30 of this act.

(b) The sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education's base budget in fiscal year 2026 for the purposes of funding the position created in subsection (a) of this section. The Agency shall include funding for this permanent position in their annual base budget request in subsequent years.

* * * Agency of Education Transformation Support * * *

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION APPROPRIATION

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

(1) $200,000.00 to support school boards transitioning to new governance models as contemplated in this act;

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

(3) $2,102,500.00 for contracted services to support school districts with administrative activities relating to consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula, instructional materials, and teaching activities.

Sec. 33. EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION; POOL POSITIONS

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

(1) one Business Operations Support Specialist;

(2) one Data Integration Support Specialist;

(3) one Curriculum and Education Quality Standards Integration Specialist;

(4) one Learning and Teaching Integration Specialist; and

(5) one School Facilities Field Support Specialist.

* * * State Funding of Public Education * * *

Sec. 34. 16 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Average daily membership" of a school district ~~or, if needed in order to calculate the appropriate homestead tax rate, of the municipality as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(9),~~ in any year means:

* * *

(6) ~~"Education spending" means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.~~

~~(A) [Repealed.]~~

~~(B) For all bonds approved by voters prior to July 1, 2024, voter-approved bond payments toward principal and interest shall not be included in "education spending" for purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12).~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(13) "~~Base education~~ Categorical base amount" means a number used to calculate categorical grants awarded under this title that is equal to $6,800.00 per equalized pupil, adjusted as required under section 4011 of this title.

(14) ~~"Per pupil education spending" of a school district in any school year means the per pupil education spending of that school district as determined under subsection 4010(f) of this title.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(16) "Base amount" means a per pupil cost-factor amount of $15,033.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the base dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(17) "Educational opportunity payment" means the base amount multiplied by the school district's weighted long-term membership as determined under section 4010 of this title.

Sec. 35. 16 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. DETERMINATION OF WEIGHTED LONG-TERM MEMBERSHIP AND ~~PER PUPIL EDUCATION SPENDING~~ EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PAYMENT

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "EL pupils" means pupils described under section 4013 of this title.

(2) "FPL" means the Federal Poverty Level.

(3) "Weighting categories" means the categories listed under subsection (b) of this section.

(4) "Child with a disability" means any child in Vermont eligible under State rules to receive special education who is enrolled in any of kindergarten through grade 12.

(5) "Disability" means any of:

(A) a specific learning disability or a speech or language impairment, each of which is identified as "Category A";

(B) an emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or other health impairment, each of which is identified as "Category B"; or

(C) autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment, each of which is identified as "Category C."

(6) "English language proficiency level" means each of the English language proficiency levels published as a standardized measure of academic language proficiency in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and available to members of the WIDA consortium of state departments of education.

(7) "Newcomer or SLIFE" means a pupil identified as a New American or as a student with limited or interrupted formal education.

(b) Determination of average daily membership and weighting categories. On or before the first day of December during each school year, the Secretary shall determine the average daily membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(1) of this title, of each school district for the current school year and shall ~~perform the following tasks.~~,

~~(1) Using~~ using average daily membership, list for each school district the number of:

~~(A)~~(1) pupils in prekindergarten;

~~(B)~~(2) pupils in kindergarten through grade five;

~~(C)~~(3) pupils in grades six through eight;

~~(D)~~(4) pupils in grades nine through 12;

~~(E)~~(5) pupils whose families are at or below 185 percent of FPL, using the highest number of pupils in the district:

~~(i)~~(A) that meet this definition under the universal income declaration form; or

~~(ii)~~(B) who are directly certified for free and reduced-priced meals; ~~and~~

~~(F)~~(6) EL pupils who have been most recently assessed at an English language proficiency level of:

(A) Level 1;

(B) Level 2 or 3;

(C) Level 4; or

(D) Level 5 or 6;

(7) EL pupils who are identified as Newcomer or SLIFE; and

(8) Children with a disability whose disability is identified as:

(A) Category A;

(B) Category B; or

(C) Category C, provided that a child with multiple disabilities shall be counted solely under this subdivision (C).

~~(2)(A) Identify all school districts that have low population density, measured by the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of the year of determination, equaling:~~

~~(i) fewer than 36 persons per square mile;~~

~~(ii) 36 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 55 persons per square mile; or~~

~~(iii) 55 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 100 persons per square mile.~~

~~(B) Population density data shall be based on the best available U.S. Census data as provided to the Agency of Education by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.~~

~~(C) Using average daily membership, list for each school district that has low population density the number of pupils in each of subdivisions (A)(i) (iii) of this subdivision (2).~~

~~(3)(A) Identify all school districts that have one or more small schools, which are schools that have an average two-year enrollment of:~~

~~(i) fewer than 100 pupils; or~~

~~(ii) 100 or more pupils but fewer than 250 pupils.~~

~~(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), "average two-year enrollment" means the average enrollment of the two most recently completed school years, and "enrollment" means the number of pupils who are enrolled in a school operated by the district on October 1. A pupil shall be counted as one whether the pupil is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student.~~

~~(C) Using average two-year enrollment, list for each school district that has a small school the number of pupils in each of subdivisions (A)(i) (ii) of this subdivision (3).~~

(c) Reporting on weighting categories to the Agency of Education. Each school district shall annually report to the Agency of Education by a date established by the Agency the information needed in order for the Agency to compute the weighting categories under subsection (b) of this section for that district. In order to fulfill this obligation, a school district that pays public tuition on behalf of a resident student (sending district) to a public school in another school district, an approved independent school, or an out-of-state school (each a receiving school) may request the receiving school to collect this information on the sending district's resident student, and if requested, the receiving school shall provide this information to the sending district in a timely manner.

(d) Determination of weighted long-term membership. For each weighting category ~~except the small schools weighting category under subdivision (b)(3) of this section~~, the Secretary shall compute the weighting count by using the long-term membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(7) of this title, in that category.

(1) ~~The Secretary shall first apply grade level weights~~ Prekindergarten weight. Each pupil included in long-term membership ~~shall count as one, multiplied by the following amounts:~~

~~(A)~~ who is enrolled in prekindergarten— shall receive an additional weighting amount of negative 0.54~~;~~

~~(B) grades six through eight—0.36; and~~

~~(C) grades nine through 12 – 0.39~~.

(2) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a~~ Economic disadvantage weight ~~for pupils whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL~~. Each pupil included in long-term membership whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL shall receive an additional weighting amount of ~~1.03~~ 1.02.

(3) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a weight for EL pupils~~ EL proficiency weights. Each EL pupil included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the EL pupil's English language proficiency level, of ~~2.49~~:

(A) 2.11, if assessed as Level 1;

(B) 1.41, if assessed as Level 2 or 3;

(C) 1.20, if assessed as Level 4; or

(D) 0.12, if assessed as Level 5 or 6.

(4) ~~The Secretary shall then apply a weight for pupils living in low population density school districts~~ EL Newcomer/SLIFE weight. Each EL pupil included in long-term membership ~~residing in a low population density school district, measured by the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of the year of determination,~~ who is a Newcomer or SLIFE shall receive an additional weighting amount of~~:~~ 0.42

~~(A) 0.15, where the number of persons per square mile is fewer than 36 persons;~~

~~(B) 0.12, where the number of persons per square mile is 36 or more but fewer than 55 persons; or~~

~~(C) 0.07, where the number of persons per square mile is 55 or more but fewer than 100~~.

(5) ~~The Secretary shall lastly apply a weight for pupils who attend a small school. If the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of a school district as of July 1 of the year of determination is 55 or fewer, then, for each pupil listed under subdivision (b)(3)(C) of this section (pupils who attend small schools)~~ Special education weights. Each child with a disability included in long-term membership shall receive an additional weighting amount, based on the categorization of the child's disability, of:

(A) ~~where the school has fewer than 100 pupils in average two-year enrollment, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of 0.21 for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment~~ 0.79, if the disability is identified as Category A; ~~or~~

(B) ~~where the small school has 100 or more but fewer than 250 pupils, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of 0.07 for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment~~ 1.89, if the disability is identified as Category B; or

(C) 2.49, if the disability is identified as Category C.

(6) A school district's weighted long-term membership shall equal long-term membership plus the cumulation of the weights assigned by the Secretary under this subsection.

(e) Hold harmless. A district's weighted long-term membership shall in no case be less than 96 and one-half percent of its actual weighted long-term membership the previous year prior to making any adjustment under this subsection.

(f) Determination of ~~per pupil education spending~~ educational opportunity payment. ~~As soon as reasonably possible after a school district budget is approved by voters, the Secretary shall determine the per pupil education spending for the next fiscal year for the school district. Per pupil education spending shall equal a school district's education spending divided by its weighted long-term membership~~ The Secretary shall determine each school district's educational opportunity payment by multiplying the school district's weighted long-term membership determined under subsection (d) of this section by the base amount.

* * *

(h) Updates to weights, base amount, and transportation reimbursement. On or before January 1, ~~2027~~ 2026 and on or before January 1 of every fifth year thereafter, the Agency of Education and the Joint Fiscal Office shall calculate, based on their consensus view and with the advice and consultation of a professional judgment panel convened by the Agency, updates to the weights and the base amount, including any inflationary measure, to account for cost changes underlying those weights and shall issue a written report on their work to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The General Assembly shall update the weights under this section, the base amount, and transportation reimbursement under section 4016 of this title not less than every five years and the implementation date for the updated weights and transportation reimbursement shall be delayed by a year in order to

provide school districts with time to prepare their budgets. Updates to the weights may include recalibration, recalculation, adding or eliminating weights, or any combination of these actions.

Sec. 36. 16 V.S.A. § 4011 is amended to read:

§ 4011. EDUCATION PAYMENTS

(a) Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for ~~statewide education spending~~ each school district's educational opportunity payment and supplemental district spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, the small schools and sparsity support grants under section 4019 of this chapter, and a portion of a ~~base education~~ categorical base amount for each adult education and secondary credential program student.

(b) For each fiscal year, the categorical base ~~education~~ amount shall be $6,800.00, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education. As used in this subsection, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the categorical base dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(c) Annually, each school district shall receive ~~an education spending payment~~ for support of education costs its educational opportunity payment determined pursuant to subsection 4010(f) of this chapter and a dollar amount equal to its supplemental district spending, if applicable to that school district, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401. ~~An unorganized town or gore shall receive an amount equal to its per pupil education spending for that year for each student. No district shall receive more than its education spending amount.~~

(d) [Repealed.]

(e) [Repealed.]

(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the categorical base ~~education~~ amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the program, based on an average of the previous two years; 40 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.

* * *

(i) Annually, on or before October 1, the Secretary shall send to school boards for inclusion in town reports and publish on the Agency website ~~the following information:~~

~~(1) the statewide average district per pupil education spending for the current fiscal year; and~~

~~(2)~~ a statewide comparison of student-teacher ratios among schools that are similar in number of students and number of grades.

Sec. 37. 16 V.S.A. § 4019 is added to read:

§ 4019. SMALL SCHOOLS; SPARSE SCHOOLS; SUPPORT GRANTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Enrollment" means the number of students who are enrolled in a school operated by the school district on October 1. A student shall be counted as one whether the student is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student.

(2) "Small school" means a school that:

(A) has fewer than 100 pupils in two-year average enrollment; and

(B) has been determined by the State Board of Education, on an annual basis, to be "small by necessity" under standards consistent with those submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Sec. 8(b) of this act.

(3) "Sparse area" means a city, town, or incorporated village where the number of persons per square mile residing within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the city, town, or incorporated village as of July 1 of the year of determination is fewer than 55 persons.

(4) "Sparse school" means a school that:

(A) is within a sparse area; and

(B) has been determined by the State Board of Education, on an annual basis, to be "sparse by necessity" under standards consistent with those submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Sec. 8(b) of this act.

(5) "Two-year average enrollment" means the average enrollment of the two most recently completed school years.

(b) Small schools support grant. Annually, the Secretary shall pay a small schools support grant to each school district for each small school within the school district in an amount determined by multiplying the two-year average enrollment in the small school by $3,157.00.

(c) Sparse schools support grant. Annually, the Secretary shall pay a sparse schools support grant to each school district for each sparse school within the school district in an amount determined by multiplying the two-year average enrollment in the sparse school by $1,954.00.

(d) Inflationary adjustment. Each dollar amount under subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Secretary. As used in this subsection, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

Sec. 38. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

(a) The Education Fund is established to comprise the following:

(1) all revenue paid to the State from the statewide education tax on nonhomestead and homestead property under 32 V.S.A. chapter 135;

(2) all revenue paid to the State from the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f);

* * *

(b) Monies in the Education Fund shall be used for the following:

* * *

(3) ~~To make payments required under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a)(1) and only that portion attributable to education taxes, as determined by the Commissioner of Taxes, of payments required under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a)(3).~~ The State Treasurer shall withdraw funds from the Education Fund upon warrants issued by the Commissioner of Finance and Management based on information supplied by the Commissioner of Taxes. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from the Fund in anticipation of receipts. All balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain a part of the Fund. Interest accruing from the Fund shall remain in the Fund.

* * *

Sec. 39. 16 V.S.A. § 4026 is amended to read:

§ 4026. EDUCATION FUND BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE~~; CREATION AND PURPOSE~~

* * *

(e) ~~The enactment of this chapter and other provisions of the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of which it is a part have been premised upon estimates of balances of revenues to be raised and expenditures to be made under the act for such purposes as education spending payments, categorical State support grants, provisions for property tax income sensitivity, payments in lieu of taxes, current use value appraisals, tax stabilization agreements, the stabilization reserve established by this section, and for other purposes.~~ If the stabilization reserve established under this section should in any fiscal year be less than 5.0 percent of the prior fiscal year's appropriations from the Education Fund, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, the Joint Fiscal Committee shall review the information provided pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b and provide the General Assembly its recommendations for change necessary to restore the stabilization reserve to the statutory level provided in subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 40. 16 V.S.A. § 4028 is amended to read:

§ 4028. FUND PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) On or before September 10, December 10, and April 30 of each school year, one-third of ~~the education spending payment under section 4011 of this title~~ each school district's educational opportunity payment as determined under subsection 4010(f) of this chapter and supplemental district spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, shall become due to school districts~~, except that districts that have not adopted a budget by 30 days before the date of payment under this subsection shall receive one-quarter of the base education amount and upon adoption of a budget shall receive additional amounts due under this subsection~~.

(b) Payments made for special education under chapter 101 of this title, for career technical education under chapter 37 of this title, and for other aid and categorical grants paid for support of education shall also be from the Education Fund.

(c)~~(1) Any district that has adopted a school budget that includes high spending, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12), shall, upon timely notice, be authorized to use a portion of its high spending penalty to reduce future education spending:~~

~~(A) by entering into a contract with an operational efficiency consultant or a financial systems consultant to examine issues such as transportation arrangements, administrative costs, staffing patterns, and the potential for collaboration with other districts;~~

~~(B) by entering into a contract with an energy or facilities management consultant; or~~

~~(C) by engaging in discussions with other school districts about reorganization or consolidation for better service delivery at a lower cost.~~

~~(2) To the extent approved by the Secretary, the Agency shall pay the district from the property tax revenue to be generated by the high spending increase to the district's spending adjustment as estimated by the Secretary, up to a maximum of $5,000.00. For the purposes of this subsection, "timely notice" means written notice from the district to the Secretary by September 30 of the budget year. If the district enters into a contract with a consultant pursuant to this subsection, the consultant shall not be an employee of the district or of the Agency. A copy of the consultant's final recommendations or a copy of the district's recommendations regarding reorganization, as appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretary, and each affected town shall include in its next town report an executive summary of the consultant's or district's final recommendations and notice of where a complete copy is available. No district is authorized to obtain funds under this section more than one time in every five years.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 41. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

§ 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and authority specifically assigned by law:

* * *

(11)(A) Shall prepare and distribute annually a proposed budget for the next school year according to such major categories as may from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary.

(B) [Repealed.]

(C) At a school district's annual or special meeting, the electorate may vote to provide notice of availability of the school budget required by this subdivision to the electorate in lieu of distributing the budget. If the electorate of the school district votes to provide notice of availability, it must specify how notice of availability shall be given, and such notice of availability shall

be provided to the electorate at least 30 days before the district's annual meeting. The proposed budget shall be prepared and distributed at least ~~ten~~ 10 days before a sum of money is voted on by the electorate. Any proposed budget shall show the following information in a format prescribed by the Secretary:

(i) all revenues from all sources, and expenses, including as separate items any assessment for a supervisory union of which it is a member and any tuition to be paid to a career technical center; and including the report required in subdivision 242(4)(D) of this title itemizing the component costs of the supervisory union assessment;

(ii) the specific amount of any deficit incurred in the most recently closed fiscal year and how the deficit was or will be remedied;

(iii) the anticipated ~~homestead~~ statewide education tax rate ~~and the percentage of household income used to determine income sensitivity in the district as a result of passage of the budget, including those portions of the tax rate attributable to supervisory union assessments~~, as adjusted for each tax classification pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402; ~~and~~

(iv) the definition of "~~education spending~~ supplemental district spending," the ~~number of pupils and number of equalized pupils in~~ long-term membership of the school district, and the district's ~~education spending~~ per ~~equalized~~ pupil supplemental district spending in the proposed budget and in each of the prior three years; and

(v) the supplemental district spending yield.

(D) The board shall present the budget to the voters by means of a ballot in the following form:

"Article #1 (School Budget):

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend $ _____, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary in excess of the school district's educational opportunity payment for the ensuing fiscal year?

The _____ District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil ~~education~~ supplemental district spending of $_____, which is _____% higher/lower than per pupil ~~education~~ supplemental district spending for the current year, and a supplemental district spending tax rate of _____ per $100.00 of equalized education property value."

* * *

Sec. 42. REPEALS

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 4031 (unorganized towns and gores) is repealed.

(b) 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, Sec. 8 (suspension of excess spending penalty, hold harmless provision, and ballot language requirement) is repealed.

(c) 16 V.S.A. § 2961 (census grant; special education) is repealed.

(d) 16 V.S.A. § 4013(d) (English learners services; State aid; categorical aid) is repealed.

(e) 16 V.S.A. § 4015 (merger support for merged districts) is repealed.

Sec. 43. 16 V.S.A. § 4032 is added to read

§ 4032. SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT SPENDING RESERVE

(a) There is hereby created the Supplemental District Spending Reserve within the Education Fund. Any recapture, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401, paid to the Education Fund as part of the revenue from the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f) shall be reserved within the Supplemental District Spending Reserve.

(b) In any fiscal year in which the amounts raised through the supplemental district spending tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402(f) are insufficient to cover payment to each school district of its supplemental district spending, the Supplemental District Spending Reserve shall be used by the Commissioner of Finance and Management to the extent necessary to offset the deficit as determined by generally accepted accounting principles.

(c) Any funds remaining in the Supplemental District Spending Reserve at the close of the fiscal year after accounting for the process under subsection (b) of this section shall be unreserved in the Education Fund for the purpose of decreasing the following year's statewide education property tax rate.

Sec. 44. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

On or before December 15, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Education and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Education on clear and equitable guidelines for minimum transportation to be provided and covered by transportation reimbursement grant under 16 V.S.A. § 4016 as part of Vermont's education transformation.

Sec. 45. REPORT; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; INFLATIONARY MEASURES; PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION FUNDING

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Education and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Education that analyzes the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and alternative inflationary measures that may be applied to state education funding systems. As part of the report, the Joint Fiscal Office shall analyze options and provide considerations for selecting an inflationary measure appropriate to Vermont's education funding system.

(b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committees on Education on the current funding systems for prekindergarten education, the Child Care Financial Assistance Program, or any other early care and learning systems. The report shall review financial incentives in these existing early care and learning systems. As part of the report, the Joint Fiscal Office shall provide considerations for changing the funding streams associated with these early care and learning systems to align with the education transformation initiatives envisioned in this act.

Sec. 45a. FOUNDATION FORMULA; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; REPORT

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with one or more contractors with expertise in Vermont's education funding system to recommend updates to the cost-factor foundation formula created by this act to move from special education weights based on disability categories to a reliance on the provision of special education services and to update any other weights determined to be empirically necessary for an adequate and equitable education, taking into account the cost savings generated by new, larger consolidated school districts. Additionally, the contractors shall make recommendations regarding the following:

(1) suitable geographic measures for determining sparsity within the foundation formula;

(2) whether it costs more to educate a secondary student than an elementary student in Vermont and, if so, an appropriate weight to capture the cost differential of educating secondary students; and

(3) how to account for the provision of career and technical education within Vermont's foundation formula.

(b) The contractors shall submit the foundation formula, analysis of geographic measures, and the other recommendations required under subsection (a) of this section, along with a detailed analysis to support the contractor's recommendations, to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committees on Education on or before December 1, 2026.

(c) The sum of $400,000.00 is appropriated to the Joint Fiscal Office from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to hire one or more contractors for the purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The contractors shall be required to train the Joint Fiscal Office and the Agency of Education in the methodologies needed to recalibrate and recalculate the base and weights in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f).

Sec. 45b. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PAYMENTS; TUITION; TRANSITION; FYS 2029–2032

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(17), in each of fiscal years 2029 through 2032, the educational opportunity payment for a school district shall equal the educational opportunity payment for the school district as calculated pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f) plus a yearly adjustment equal to:

(1) in fiscal year 2029, the transition gap multiplied by 0.80;

(2) in fiscal year 2030, the transition gap multiplied by 0.60;

(3) in fiscal year 2031, the transition gap multiplied by 0.40; and

(4) in fiscal year 2032, the transition gap multiplied by 0.20.

(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 823(a), in each of fiscal years 2029 through 2032, a school district shall pay as tuition to a receiving school for each resident student attending the receiving school an amount equal to the adjusted base multiplied by the sum of one and any weights applicable to the resident student under section 16 V.S.A. § 4010.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Adjusted base" means the quotient resulting from dividing the school district's educational opportunity payment, as adjusted by the yearly adjustment, by the school district's weighted long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001.

(2) "Adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the school district's education spending by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of

Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029 and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(3) "Transition gap" means the amount, whether positive or negative, that results from subtracting the school district's educational opportunity payment as calculated pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f) for fiscal year 2029 from the school district's education spending in fiscal year 2025, as adjusted for inflation. The school district's education spending shall be adjusted for inflation on or before November 15 by the Secretary of Education.

Sec. 45c. 32 V.S.A. § 5414 is amended to read:

§ 5414. CREATION; EDUCATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(e) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Taxes shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, ~~2025~~ 2026.

* * *

* * * Education Property Tax Rate Formula * * *

Sec. 46. 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(8) ~~"Education spending" means "education spending" as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6).~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(12) ~~"Excess spending" means:~~

~~(A) The per pupil spending amount of the district's education spending, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), plus any amount required to be added from a capital construction reserve fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b).~~

~~(B) In excess of 118 percent of the statewide average district per pupil education spending increased by inflation, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date. As used in this subdivision, "increased by inflation" means increasing the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025 by the most recent New England Economic Project cumulative price index, as of November 15, for state and local government~~

~~purchases of goods and services, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined.~~ [Repealed.]

(13)~~(A) "Education property tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which:~~

~~(i) the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and~~

~~(ii) the denominator is the property dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (15) of this section, multiplied by the statewide adjustment.~~

~~(B) "Education income tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and the denominator is the income dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (16) of this section.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(15) ~~"Property dollar equivalent yield" means the amount of per pupil education spending that would result in a district having a homestead tax rate of $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value.~~ [Repealed.]

(16) ~~"Income dollar equivalent yield" means the amount of per pupil education spending that would result in a district having an income percentage in subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title of 2.0 percent.~~ [Repealed.]

(17) "Statewide adjustment" means the ratio of the aggregate education property tax grand list of all municipalities to the aggregate value of the equalized education property tax grand list of all municipalities.

(18) "Adjusted equalized education property tax grand list" means the equalized education property tax grand list after removing the value of homestead property exempted from the statewide education property tax and the supplemental district spending tax pursuant to section 6066 of this title.

(19) "Per pupil supplemental district spending" means the per pupil amount of supplemental district spending resulting from dividing a school district's supplemental district spending by its long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7).

(20) "Recapture" means the amount of revenue raised through imposition of the supplemental district spending tax pursuant to subsection 5402(f) of this chapter that is in excess of the school district's supplemental district spending.

(21) "School district with the lowest taxing capacity" means the school district other than an interstate school district anticipated to have the lowest aggregate adjusted equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members per long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7) in the following fiscal year.

(22) "Supplemental district spending" means the spending that the voters of a school district approve in excess of the school district's educational opportunity payment, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(17), for the fiscal year, provided that the voters of a school district other than an interstate school district shall not approve spending in excess of 5 percent of the product of the base amount, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16), and the school district's long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7).

(23) "Supplemental district spending yield" means the amount of property tax revenue per long-term membership as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7) that would be raised in the school district with the lowest taxing capacity using a supplemental district spending tax rate of $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value multiplied by the statewide adjustment.

Sec. 46a. SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT SPENDING; CAP; TRANSITION; FYS 2029–2037

Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5401(22), in each of fiscal years 2029 through 2037, the voters of a school district other than an interstate school district shall not approve spending in excess of the following percentage of the product of the base amount, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16), and the school district's long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7):

(1) in fiscal years 2029 through 2033, 10 percent;

(2) in fiscal year 2034, 9 percent;

(3) in fiscal year 2035, 8 percent;

(4) in fiscal year 2036, 7 percent; and

(5) in fiscal year 2037, 6 percent.

Sec. 47. 32 V.S.A. § 5402 is amended to read:

§ 5402. EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY

(a) A statewide education tax is imposed on all nonhomestead and homestead property at ~~the following rates:~~

~~(1) The tax rate for nonhomestead property shall be $1.59 per $100.00 divided by the statewide adjustment.~~

~~(2) The tax rate for homestead property shall be $1.00 multiplied by the education property tax spending adjustment for the municipality per $100.00 of equalized education property value as most recently determined under section 5405 of this title. The homestead property tax rate for each municipality that is a member of a union or unified union school district shall be calculated as required under subsection (e) of this section.~~ a rate sufficient to cover expenditures from the Education Fund other than supplemental district spending, after accounting for forecasted non-property tax revenues and any funds unreserved in the Education Fund following the process under 16 V.S.A. § 4032(c). It is the intention of the General Assembly that the statewide education tax rate under this section shall be adopted for each fiscal year by act of the General Assembly. If the General Assembly fails to adopt a statewide education tax rate for a fiscal year, the statewide education tax rate for the fiscal year shall equal the product of 110 percent and the statewide education tax rate for the preceding fiscal year. The statewide education tax rate shall be adjusted for homestead property and each general class of nonhomestead property provided under section 4152a of this title as follows:

If the tax classification of the property subject to taxation is:	then the statewide education tax rate is multiplied by a factor of:
Homestead	1.0
Nonhomestead Nonresidential	1.0
Nonhomestead Residential	1.0

(b) The statewide education tax shall be calculated as follows:

(1) The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine for each municipality the education tax rates under subsection (a) of this section divided by the number resulting from dividing the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal by the statewide adjustment. The legislative body in each municipality shall then bill each property taxpayer at the ~~homestead or nonhomestead~~ applicable rate determined by the Commissioner under this subdivision, multiplied by the education property tax grand list value of the property, properly classified as homestead or nonhomestead property and without regard to any other tax classification of the property not authorized under this chapter. Statewide education property tax bills shall show the tax due and the calculation of the rate determined under subsection (a) of this section, divided by the number resulting from dividing the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal by the statewide adjustment, multiplied by the current grand list value of the property to be taxed. Statewide education property tax bills shall also include language provided by the Commissioner pursuant to subsection 5405(g) of this title.

(2) Taxes assessed under this section shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title with no tax classification other than ~~as homestead or nonhomestead property~~ those required by this section; provided, however, that the tax levied under this chapter shall be billed to each taxpayer by the municipality in a manner that clearly indicates the tax is separate from any other tax assessed and collected under chapter 133, including an itemization of the separate taxes due. The bill may be on a single sheet of paper with the statewide education tax and other taxes presented separately and side by side.

(3) ~~If a district has not voted a budget by June 30, an interim homestead education tax shall be imposed at the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, divided by the number resulting from dividing the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal by the statewide adjustment, but without regard to any spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title. Within 30 days after a budget is adopted and the deadline for reconsideration has passed, the Commissioner shall determine the municipality's homestead tax rate as required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.~~ [Repealed.]

(c)(1) The treasurer of each municipality shall by December 1 of the year in which the tax is levied and on June 1 of the following year pay to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Education Fund one-half of the municipality's statewide ~~nonhomestead tax and one-half of the municipality's homestead~~ education tax, as determined under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(2) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net ~~nonhomestead~~ education tax payment ~~and its net homestead education tax payment~~ to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total education tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district or districts. ~~Each municipality may also retain $15.00 for each late property tax credit claim filed after April 15 and before September 2, as notified by the Department of Taxes, for the cost of issuing a new property tax bill.~~

(d) [Repealed.]

~~(e) The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine a homestead education tax rate for each municipality that is a member of a union or unified union school district as follows:~~

~~(1) For a municipality that is a member of a unified union school district, use the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based upon the per pupil education spending of the unified union.~~

~~(2) For a municipality that is a member of a union school district:~~

~~(A) Determine the municipal district homestead tax rate using the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based on the per pupil education spending in the municipality who attends a school other than the union school.~~

~~(B) Determine the union district homestead tax rate using the base rate determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section and a spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13) of this title based on the per pupil education spending of the union school district.~~

~~(C) Determine a combined homestead tax rate by calculating the weighted average of the rates determined under subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (2), with weighting based upon the ratio of union school long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7), from the member municipality to total long-term membership of the member municipality; and the ratio of long-term membership attending a school other than the union school to total long-term membership of the member municipality. Total long-term membership of the member municipality is based on the number of pupils who are legal residents of the municipality and attending school at public expense. If necessary, the Commissioner may adopt a rule to clarify and facilitate implementation of this subsection (e).~~ [Repealed.]

(f)(1) A supplemental district spending tax is imposed on all homestead and nonhomestead property in each member municipality of a school district that approves spending pursuant to a budget presented to the voters of a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 563. The Commissioner of Taxes shall determine the supplemental district spending tax rate for each school district by dividing the school district's per pupil supplemental district spending as certified by the Secretary of Education by the supplemental district spending yield. The legislative body in each member municipality shall then bill each property taxpayer at the rate determined by the Commissioner under this subsection, divided by the number resulting from dividing the municipality's most recent common level of appraisal by the statewide adjustment and multiplied by the

current grand list value of the property to be taxed. The bill shall show the tax due and the calculation of the rate.

(2) The supplemental district spending tax assessed under this subsection shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as taxes assessed under chapter 133 of this title with no tax classification other than as homestead or nonhomestead property; provided, however, that the tax levied under this chapter shall be billed to each taxpayer by the municipality in a manner that clearly indicates the tax is separate from any other tax assessed and collected under chapter 133 of this title and the statewide education property tax under this section, including an itemization of the separate taxes due. The bill may be on a single sheet of paper with the supplemental district spending tax, the statewide education tax, and other taxes presented separately and side by side.

(3) The treasurer of each municipality shall on or before December 1 of the year in which the tax is levied and on or before June 1 of the following year pay to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Education Fund one-half of the municipality's supplemental district spending tax as determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(4) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net supplemental district spending tax payment to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total supplemental district spending tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district.

Sec. 48. 32 V.S.A. § 5402b is amended to read:

§ 5402b. STATEWIDE EDUCATION TAX ~~YIELDS~~ RATE; SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT SPENDING YIELD; RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER

(a) Annually, not later than December 1, the Commissioner of Taxes, after consultation with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Administration, and the Joint Fiscal Office, shall calculate and recommend ~~a property dollar equivalent yield, an income dollar equivalent yield, and a nonhomestead property tax rate~~ the statewide education property tax rate pursuant to subsection 5402(a) of this chapter and the supplemental district spending yield for the following fiscal year. In making these calculations, the Commissioner shall assume~~:~~ the statutory reserves are maintained at five percent pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4026, the amounts in the Supplemental District Spending Reserve

are unavailable for any purpose other than that specified in 16 V.S.A. § 4032(b), and the statewide education property tax rate is divided by the statewide adjustment

~~(1) the homestead base tax rate in subdivision 5402(a)(2) of this title is $1.00 per $100.00 of equalized education property value;~~

~~(2) the applicable percentage in subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title is 2.0;~~

~~(3) the statutory reserves under 16 V.S.A. § 4026 and this section were maintained at five percent;~~

~~(4) the percentage change in the average education tax bill applied to nonhomestead property and the percentage change in the average education tax bill of homestead property and the percentage change in the average education tax bill for taxpayers who claim a credit under subsection 6066(a) of this title are equal;~~

~~(5) the equalized education grand list is multiplied by the statewide adjustment in calculating the property dollar equivalent yield; and~~

~~(6) the nonhomestead rate is divided by the statewide adjustment~~.

(b) For each fiscal year, the ~~property dollar equivalent~~ supplemental district spending yield ~~and the income dollar equivalent yield~~ shall be the same as in the prior fiscal year~~,~~ unless set otherwise by the General Assembly.

* * *

(d) Along with the recommendations made under this section, the Commissioner shall include:

(1) the base amount as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16);

(2) for each school district, the estimated long-term membership, weighted long-term membership, and aggregate adjusted equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members;

(3) for each school district, the estimated aggregate adjusted equalized education property tax grand list of its municipal members per long-term membership;

(4) the estimated school district with the lowest taxing capacity; and

(5) the range of per pupil supplemental district spending between all districts in the State for the previous year.

* * *

Sec. 48a. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RATE; TRANSITION; FYS 2029–2032; REPORT

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5402, in each of fiscal years 2029 through 2032, the homestead property tax rate for a school district shall equal the homestead property tax rate imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402 plus a yearly adjustment equal to:

(1) in fiscal year 2029, the transition gap multiplied by 0.80;

(2) in fiscal year 2030, the transition gap multiplied by 0.60;

(3) in fiscal year 2031, the transition gap multiplied by 0.40; and

(4) in fiscal year 2032, the transition gap multiplied by 0.20.

(b) As used in this section, "transition gap" means the amount, whether positive or negative, that results from subtracting the uniform homestead property tax rate for fiscal year 2029 were it calculated assuming no tax rate transition under this section from the homestead property tax rate for the school district in fiscal year 2028.

(c) On or before December 15, 2027, the Department of Taxes, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office and the Agency of Education, shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance with recommendations and an implementation plan to ensure that education property tax rates do not increase as part of the transition to the new foundation formula.

* * * Conforming Revisions; Statewide Property Tax Rate * * *

Sec. 49. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b)(1) An agreement affecting the education property tax grand list defined under subsection (a) of this section shall reduce the municipality's education property tax liability under this chapter for the duration of the agreement or exemption without extension or renewal, and for a maximum of 10 years. A municipality's property tax liability under this chapter shall be reduced by any difference between the amount of the education property taxes collected on the subject property and the amount of education property taxes that would have been collected on such property if its fair market value were taxed at the equalized ~~nonhomestead~~ rate for the tax year.

Sec. 50. 32 V.S.A. § 5405(g) is amended to read:

(g) The Commissioner shall provide to municipalities for the front of property tax bills the ~~district homestead property~~ statewide education tax rate before equalization~~, the nonresidential tax rate before equalization,~~ and the calculation process that creates the equalized homestead and nonhomestead tax

rates. The Commissioner shall further provide to municipalities for the back of property tax bills an explanation of the common level of appraisal, including its origin and purpose.

* * * Statewide Property Tax Credit Repeal; Homestead Exemption Created * * *

Sec. 51. 32 V.S.A. § 5400 is amended to read:

§ 5400. STATUTORY PURPOSES

* * *

(c) The statutory purpose of the exemption for qualified housing in subdivision 5404a(a)(6) of this title is to ensure that taxes on this rent-restricted housing provided to Vermonters of low and moderate income are more equivalent to property taxed ~~using the State~~ as a homestead ~~rate~~ property and to adjust the costs of investment in rent-restricted housing to reflect more accurately the revenue potential of such property.

* * *

(j) The statutory purpose of the homestead property tax exemption in subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this title is to reduce the property tax liability for Vermont households with low and moderate household income.

Sec. 52. 32 V.S.A. chapter 154 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 154. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, AND RENTER CREDIT

§ 6061. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter ~~unless the context requires otherwise~~:

(1) "~~Property~~ Municipal property tax credit" means a credit of the prior tax year's ~~statewide or~~ municipal property tax liability ~~or a homestead owner credit,~~ as authorized under ~~section~~ subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this ~~title, as the context requires~~ chapter.

* * *

(8) ~~"Annual tax levy" means the property taxes levied on property taxable on April 1 and without regard to the year in which those taxes are due or paid.~~ [Repealed.]

(9) "Taxable year" means the calendar year preceding the year in which the claim is filed.

(10) [Repealed.]

(11) "Housesite" means that portion of a homestead, as defined under subdivision 5401(7) of this title but not under subdivision 5401(7)(G) of this title, that includes as much of the land owned by the claimant surrounding the dwelling as is reasonably necessary for use of the dwelling as a home, but in no event more than two acres per dwelling unit, and, in the case of multiple dwelling units, not more than two acres per dwelling unit up to a maximum of 10 acres per parcel.

(12) "Claim year" means the year in which a claim is filed under this chapter.

(13) "Homestead" means a homestead as defined under subdivision 5401(7) of this title, but not under subdivision 5401(7)(G) of this title, and declared on or before October 15 in accordance with section 5410 of this title.

(14) ~~"Statewide education tax rate" means the homestead education property tax rate multiplied by the municipality's education spending adjustment under subdivision 5402(a)(2) of this title and used to calculate taxes assessed in the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(21) "Homestead property tax exemption" means a reduction in the amount of housesite value subject to the statewide education tax and the supplemental district spending tax in the claim year as authorized under sections 6066 and 6066a of this chapter.

§ 6062. NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF CLAIMANTS; APPORTIONMENT

* * *

(d) Whenever a housesite is an integral part of a larger unit such as a farm or a multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building, property taxes paid shall be that percentage of the total property tax as the value of the housesite is to the total value. Upon a claimant's request, the listers shall certify to the claimant the value of ~~his or her~~ the claimant's homestead and housesite.

* * *

§ 6063. CLAIM AS PERSONAL; CREDIT AND EXEMPTION AMOUNT AT TIME OF TRANSFER

(a) The right to file a claim under this chapter is personal to the claimant and shall not survive ~~his or her~~ the claimant's death, but the right may be exercised on behalf of a claimant by ~~his or her~~ the claimant's legal guardian or attorney-in-fact. When a claimant dies after having filed a timely claim, the municipal property tax credit and the homestead exemption amount shall be

~~credited~~ applied to the ~~homestead~~ property tax liability of the claimant's estate as provided in section 6066a of this title.

(b) In case of sale or transfer of a residence~~,~~ after April 1 of the claim year:

(1) any municipal property tax credit ~~amounts~~ amount related to that residence shall be allocated to the ~~seller~~ transferor at closing unless the parties otherwise agree;

(2) any homestead property tax exemption related to that residence based on the transferor's household income under subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this chapter shall cease to be in effect upon transfer; and

(3) a transferee who is eligible to declare the residence as a homestead but for the requirement to own the residence on April 1 of the claim year shall, notwithstanding subdivision 5401(7) and subsection 5410(b) of this title, be eligible to apply for a homestead property tax exemption in the claim year when the transfer occurs by filing with the Commissioner of Taxes a homestead declaration pursuant to section 5410 of this title and a claim for exemption on or before the due date prescribed under section 6068 of this chapter.

* * *

§ 6065. FORMS; TABLES; NOTICES

(a) In administering this chapter, the Commissioner shall provide suitable claim forms with tables of allowable claims, instructions, and worksheets for claiming a homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit.

(b) Prior to June 1, the Commissioner shall also prepare and supply to each town in the State notices describing the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit for inclusion in property tax bills. The notice shall be in simple, plain language and shall explain how to file for a homestead property tax exemption and a municipal property tax credit, where to find assistance filing for a credit or an exemption, or both, and any other related information as determined by the Commissioner. The notice shall direct taxpayers to a resource where they can find versions of the notice translated into the five most common non-English languages in the State. A town shall include such notice in each tax bill and notice of delinquent taxes that it mails to taxpayers who own in that town a residential property, without regard for whether the property was declared a homestead pursuant to subdivision 5401(7) of this title.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, towns that use envelopes or mailers not able to accommodate notices describing the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit may distribute such notices in an alternative manner.

§ 6066. COMPUTATION OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, AND RENTER CREDIT

(a) ~~An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the year in which the claim is filed shall be entitled to a credit for the prior year's homestead property tax liability amount determined as follows:~~

~~(1)(A) For a claimant with household income of $90,000.00 or more:~~

~~(i) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year;~~

~~(ii) minus (if less) the sum of:~~

~~(I) the income percentage of household income for the taxable year; plus~~

~~(II) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $225,000.00.~~

~~(B) For a claimant with household income of less than $90,000.00 but more than $47,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus (if less) the sum of:~~

~~(i) the income percentage of household income for the taxable year; plus~~

~~(ii) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $400,000.00.~~

~~(C) For a claimant whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus the lesser of:~~

~~(i) the sum of the income percentage of household income for the taxable year plus the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year in excess of $400,000.00; or~~

~~(ii) the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year reduced by $15,000.00.~~

~~(2) "Income percentage" in this section means two percent, multiplied by the education income tax spending adjustment under subdivision 5401(13)(B) of this title for the property tax year that begins in the claim year for the municipality in which the homestead residence is located~~

(1) An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed $115,000.00 shall be entitled to a homestead property tax exemption in the claim year in an amount determined as follows:

If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:	then the claimant is entitled to a homestead property tax exemption against the first $425,000.00 in housesite value of this percent:
$0.00 — 25,000.00	95.00
$25,001.00 — 40,000.00	90.00
$40,001.00 — 50,000.00	80.00
$50,001.00 — 60,000.00	70.00
$60,001.00 — 70,000.00	60.00
$70,001.00 — 80,000.00	50.00
$80,001.00 — 90,000.00	40.00
$90,001.00 — 100,000.00	30.00
$100,001.00 — 110,000.00	20.00
$110,001.00 — 115,000.00	10.00

~~(3)~~(2) ~~A~~ An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00 shall also be entitled to ~~an additional~~ a credit amount ~~from~~ against the claimant's municipal taxes for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the municipal property taxes for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:

If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:	then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income:
$0.00 — 9,999.00	1.50

$10,000.00 — 47,000.00	3.00

~~(4) A claimant whose household income does not exceed $47,000.00 shall also be entitled to an additional credit amount from the claimant's statewide education tax for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the education property tax for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite, reduced by the credit amount determined under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:~~

~~If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is:~~	~~then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income:~~
~~$0.00 — 9,999.00~~	~~0.5~~
~~$10,000.00 — 24,999.00~~	~~1.5~~
~~$25,000.00 — 47,000.00~~	~~2.0~~

~~(5)~~(3) In no event shall the homestead property tax exemption provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection reduce the housesite value below zero. In no event shall the municipal property tax credit provided for in subdivision ~~(3) or (4)~~(2) of this subsection exceed the amount of the reduced municipal property tax. ~~The credits under subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be calculated considering only the tax due on the first $400,000.00 in equalized housesite value.~~

(4) Each dollar amount in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be adjusted for inflation annually on or before November 15 by the Commissioner of Taxes. As used in this subdivision, "adjusted for inflation" means adjusting the dollar amount by the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures and gross investment published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed $2,500.00, to be calculated as follows:

* * *

(c) To be eligible for an ~~adjustment~~ exemption or credit under this chapter, the claimant:

(1) must have been domiciled in this State during the entire taxable year;

(2) may not be a person claimed as a dependent by any taxpayer under the federal Internal Revenue Code during the taxable year; and

(3) in the case of a renter, shall have rented property for at least six calendar months, which need not be consecutive, during the taxable year.

(d) The owner of a mobile home that is sited on a lot not owned by the homeowner may include an amount determined under subdivision 6061(7) of this title as allocable rent paid on the lot with the amount of property taxes paid by the homeowner on the home for the purpose of computation of ~~credits~~ the municipal property tax credit under subdivision (a)~~(3)~~(2) of this section, unless the homeowner has included in the claim an amount of property tax on common land under the provisions of subsection (e) of this section.

(e) Property taxes paid by a cooperative, not including a mobile home park cooperative, allocable to property used as a homestead shall be attributable to the co-op member for the purpose of computing the ~~credit of~~ property tax liability of the co-op member under this section. Property owned by a cooperative declared as a homestead may only include the homestead and a pro rata share of any common land owned or leased by the cooperative, not to exceed the two-acre housesite limitation. The share of the cooperative's assessed value attributable to the housesite shall be determined by the cooperative and specified annually in a notice to the co-op member. Property taxes paid by a mobile home park cooperative, allocable to property used as a housesite, shall be attributed to the owner of the housesite for the purpose of computing the ~~credit of~~ property tax liability of the housesite owner under this section. Property owned by the mobile home park cooperative and declared as a housesite may only include common property of the cooperative contiguous with at least one mobile home lot in the park, not to exceed the two-acre housesite limitation. The share attributable to any mobile home lot shall be determined by the cooperative and specified in the cooperative agreement. A co-op member who is the housesite owner shall be entitled to a property tax credit in an amount determined by multiplying the property taxes allocated under this subsection by the percentage of the exemption for which the housesite owner's household income qualifies under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(f) [Repealed.]

(g) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, if the land surrounding a homestead is owned by a nonprofit corporation or community land trust with tax exempt status under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), the homeowner may include an allocated amount as property tax paid on the land with the amount of property taxes paid by the homeowner on the home for the purposes of computation of ~~the credit~~ property tax liability under this section. The allocated amount shall be determined by the nonprofit corporation or community land trust on a proportional basis. The nonprofit corporation or community land trust shall provide to that homeowner, by January 31, a certificate specifying the allocated amount. The certificate shall indicate the proportion of total property tax on the parcel that was assessed for municipal property tax and for statewide property tax and the proportion of total value of the parcel. A homeowner under this subsection shall be entitled to a property tax credit in an amount determined by multiplying the property taxes allocated under this subsection by the percentage of the exemption for which the homeowner's household income qualifies under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(h) A homestead owner shall be entitled to an additional property tax credit amount equal to one percent of the amount of income tax refund that the claimant elects to allocate to payment of ~~homestead~~ statewide education property tax under section 6068 of this title.

(i) ~~Adjustments~~ The homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit under subsection (a) of this section shall be calculated without regard to any exemption under subdivision 3802(11) of this title.

§ 6066a. DETERMINATION OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

(a) Annually, the Commissioner shall determine the homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit amount under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant, based on the prior taxable year's income and for the municipal property tax credit, crediting property taxes paid in the prior year, and for the homestead property tax exemption, exempting the housesite value in the claim year. The Commissioner shall notify the municipality in which the housesite is located of the amount of the homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit for the claimant for ~~homestead~~ property tax liabilities on a monthly basis. The municipal property tax credit of a claimant who was assessed property tax by a town that revised the dates of its fiscal year, however, is the excess of the property tax that was assessed in the last 12 months of the revised fiscal year, over the adjusted property tax of the claimant for the revised fiscal year, as determined under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant.

(b) The Commissioner shall include in the total homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amount determined under subsection (a) of this section, for credit to the taxpayer for ~~homestead~~ statewide education property tax and supplemental district spending tax liabilities, any income tax overpayment remaining after allocation under section 3112 of this title and setoff under section 5934 of this title, which the taxpayer has directed to be used for payment of property taxes.

(c) The Commissioner shall notify the municipality of any claim and refund amounts unresolved by November 1 at the time of final resolution, including adjudication, if any; provided, however, that towns will not be notified of any additional credit amounts after November 1 of the claim year, and such amounts shall be paid to the claimant by the Commissioner.

(d) [Repealed.]

(e) At the time of notice to the municipality, the Commissioner shall notify the taxpayer of the homestead property tax ~~credit~~ exemption amount determined under subdivision 6066(a)(1) of this title~~, the amount determined under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title,~~; any ~~additional~~ municipal property credit ~~amounts~~ amount due the homestead owner under ~~section~~ subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title~~,~~; the amount of income tax refund, if any, allocated to payment of ~~homestead~~ statewide education property tax liabilities~~,~~; and any late-claim reduction amount.

(f)(1) For taxpayers and amounts stated in the notice to towns on or before July 1, municipalities shall create and send to taxpayers a ~~homestead~~ property tax bill, instead of the bill required under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title, providing the total amount allocated to payment of ~~homestead~~ statewide education property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due. Municipalities shall apply the amount of the homestead property tax exemption allocated under this chapter to current year property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include education taxes and the amount of the municipal property tax credit allocated under this chapter to current year municipal property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include municipal taxes. Notwithstanding section 4772 of this title, if a town issues a corrected bill as a result of the notice sent by the Commissioner under subsection (a) of this section, issuance of the corrected new bill does not extend the time for payment of the original bill nor relieve the taxpayer of any interest or penalties associated with the original bill. If the corrected bill is less than the original bill, and there are also no unpaid current year taxes, interest, or penalties, and no past year delinquent taxes or penalties and interest charges, any

overpayment shall be reflected on the corrected tax bill and refunded to the taxpayer.

(2) For homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amounts for which municipalities receive notice after November 1, municipalities shall issue a new ~~homestead~~ property tax bill with notice to the taxpayer of the total amount allocated to payment of ~~homestead~~ property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due.

(3) The homestead property tax exemption and municipal property tax credit amount determined for the taxpayer shall be allocated first to current year housesite value and property tax on the homestead parcel, next to current-year homestead parcel penalties and interest, next to any prior year homestead parcel penalties and interest, and last to any prior year housesite value and property tax on the homestead parcel. No homestead property tax exemption or municipal credit shall be allocated to a housesite value or property tax liability for any year after the year for which the claim or refund allocation was filed. No municipal tax-reduction incentive for early payment of taxes shall apply to any amount allocated to the property tax bill under this chapter.

(4) If the homestead property tax exemption or the municipal property tax credit amount as described in subsection (e) of this section exceeds the property tax, penalties, and interest due for the current and all prior years, the municipality shall refund the excess to the taxpayer, without interest, within 20 days of the first date upon which taxes become due and payable or 20 days after notification of the exemption or credit amount by the Commissioner of Taxes, whichever is later.

(g) The Commissioner of Taxes shall pay monthly to each municipality the amount of municipal property tax credit of which the municipality was last notified related to municipal property tax on homesteads within that municipality, as determined by the Commissioner of Taxes.

§ 6067. ~~CREDIT~~ CLAIM LIMITATIONS

(a) Claimant. Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a homestead exemption claim or property tax credit claim, or both, under this chapter.

(b) Other states. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter.

(c) Dollar amount. No ~~taxpayer~~ claimant shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of $2,500.00. No ~~taxpayer~~ claimant shall receive a municipal property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)~~(3)~~(2)

of this title greater than $2,400.00 ~~or cumulative credit under subdivisions 6066(a)(1)-(2) and (4) of this title greater than $5,600.00~~.

§ 6068. APPLICATION AND TIME FOR FILING

(a) A homestead property tax exemption or municipal property tax credit claim or request for allocation of an income tax refund to ~~homestead~~ statewide education property tax payment shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension, and shall describe the school district in which the homestead property is located and shall particularly describe the homestead property for which the exemption or credit ~~or allocation~~ is sought, including the school parcel account number prescribed in subsection 5404(b) of this title. A renter credit claim shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension.

(b)(1) If ~~the~~ a claimant files a municipal property tax credit claim after October 15 but on or before March 15 of the following calendar year, the municipal property tax credit under this chapter:

~~(1)~~(A) shall be reduced in amount by $150.00, but not below $0.00;

~~(2)~~(B) shall be issued directly to the claimant; and

~~(3)~~(C) shall not require the municipality where the claimant's property is located to issue an adjusted ~~homestead~~ property tax bill.

(2) If a claimant files a homestead property tax exemption claim under this chapter after October 15 but on or before March 15 of the following calendar year, the claimant shall pay a penalty of $150.00 and the municipality where the claimant's property is located shall not be required to issue an adjusted property tax bill.

(c) No request for allocation of an income tax refund or for a renter credit claim may be made after October 15. No homestead property tax exemption or municipal property tax credit claim may be made after March 15 of the calendar year following the due date under subsection (a) of this section.

* * *

§ 6070. DISALLOWED CLAIMS

A claim shall be disallowed if the claimant received title to ~~his or her~~ the claimant's homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under this chapter.

§ 6071. EXCESSIVE AND FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

(a) In any case in which it is determined under the provisions of this title that a claim is or was excessive and was filed with fraudulent intent, the claim shall be disallowed in full and the Commissioner may impose a penalty equal to the amount claimed. A disallowed claim may be recovered by assessment as income taxes are assessed. The assessment, including assessment of penalty, shall bear interest from the date the claim was credited against property tax or income tax or paid by the State until repaid by the claimant at the rate per annum established from time to time by the Commissioner pursuant to section 3108 of this title. The claimant in that case, and any person who assisted in the preparation of filing of such excessive claim or supplied information upon which the excessive claim was prepared, with fraudulent intent, shall be fined not more than $1,000.00 or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) In any case in which it is determined that a claim is or was excessive, the Commissioner may impose a 10 percent penalty on such excess, and if the claim has been paid or credited against property tax or income tax otherwise payable, the municipal property tax credit or homestead exemption shall be reduced or canceled and the proper portion of any amount paid shall be similarly recovered by assessment as income taxes are assessed, and such assessment shall bear interest at the rate per annum established from time to time by the Commissioner pursuant to section 3108 of this title from the date of payment or, in the case of credit of a municipal property tax bill under section 6066a of this title, from December 1 of the year in which the claim is filed until refunded or paid.

* * *

§ 6073. ~~REGULATIONS~~ RULES OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner may, from time to time, ~~issue~~ adopt, amend, and withdraw ~~regulations~~ rules interpreting and implementing this chapter.

§ 6074. AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS

At any time within three years after the date for filing claims under subsection 6068(a) of this chapter, a claimant who filed a claim by October 15 may file to amend that claim with regard to housesite value, ~~housesite education tax,~~ housesite municipal tax, and ownership percentage or to correct the amount of household income reported on that claim.

Sec. 53. DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; REPORT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to transition the way income-based property tax relief is provided to homestead property owners from the existing credit system towards an income-based homestead exemption.

(b) On or before December 15, 2026, the Department of Taxes, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall submit a proposal to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance designing a homestead exemption structure that minimizes the:

(1) property tax impacts for homestead property owners under the new education tax structure established in this act; and

(2) benefit cliffs compared to those in the existing credit system.

(c) The Department of Taxes shall additionally include with its proposal:

(1) recommendations for an inflationary adjustment measure suited to the income sensitivity and housesite value measures of the proposed homestead exemption;

(2) an analysis of the implications of moving to income sensitivity measures that provide benefits to households with household income of up to $175,000.00 a year; and

(3) updates to the homestead declaration under 32 V.S.A. § 5410 to address the implementation of the proposed homestead exemption, which may be provided as a sample form.

* * * Conforming Revisions; Property Tax Credit Repeal * * *

Sec. 54. 11 V.S.A. § 1608 is amended to read:

§ 1608. ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Members of cooperative housing corporations shall be eligible to apply for and receive a homestead property tax ~~adjustment~~ exemption and municipal property tax credit under 32 V.S.A. § 6066, subject to the conditions of eligibility set forth therein.

Sec. 55. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(j) is amended to read:

(j) Tax bills prepared by a municipality under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title showing only the amount of total tax due shall not be considered confidential return information under this section. For the purposes of calculating ~~credits~~ the homestead property tax exemption and the municipal property tax credit under chapter 154 of this title, information provided by the Commissioner to a municipality under subsection 6066a(a) of this title and

information provided by the municipality to a taxpayer under subsection 6066a(f) shall be considered confidential return information under this section.

Sec. 56. 32 V.S.A. § 3206(b) is amended to read:

(b) As used in this section, "extraordinary relief" means a remedy that is within the power of the Commissioner to grant under this title, a remedy that compensates for the result of inaccurate classification of property as homestead or nonhomestead pursuant to section 5410 of this title through no fault of the taxpayer, or a remedy that makes changes to a taxpayer's homestead property tax exemption, municipal property tax credit, or renter credit claim necessary to remedy the problem identified by the Taxpayer Advocate.

* * * Education Fund Advisory Committee * * *

Sec. 57. 32 V.S.A. § 5414 is amended to read:

§ 5414. CREATION; EDUCATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Education Fund Advisory Committee to monitor Vermont's education financing system, conduct analyses, assist with the transformation of Vermont's education finance system, and perform the duties under subsection (c) of this section.

* * *

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) Annually, on or before December 15, the Committee shall make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding:

(A) updating the weighting factors using the weighting model and methodology used to arrive at the weights enacted ~~under 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127~~ for the foundation formula, which may include recalibration, recalculation, adding or eliminating weights, or any combination of these actions, as necessary;

(B) changes to, or the addition of new or elimination of existing, categorical aid, as necessary;

(C) changes to income levels eligible for a ~~property tax credit~~ homestead exemption under section 6066 of this title;

(D) means to adjust the revenue sources for the Education Fund;

(E) means to improve equity, transparency, and efficiency in education funding statewide;

(F) the amount of the Education Fund stabilization reserve;

(G) school district use of reserve fund accounts; ~~and~~

(H) national best practices for addressing intra-school district effects of a foundation formula, including through the use of weighting factors;

(I) how to maintain intra-district equity under Vermont's foundation formula;

(J) whether weighted foundation formula payments lead to improved outcomes across all populations; and

(K) any other topic, factor, or issue the Committee deems relevant to its work and recommendations.

* * *

Sec. 58. [Deleted.]

Sec. 59. [Deleted.]

* * * Property Classification * * *

Sec. 60. 32 V.S.A. § 4152 is amended to read:

§ 4152. CONTENTS

(a) When completed, the grand list of a town shall be in such form as the Director prescribes and shall contain such information as the Director prescribes, including:

(1) In alphabetical order, the name of each real property owner and each owner of taxable personal property.

(2) The last known mailing address of all such owners.

(3) A brief description of each parcel of taxable real estate in the town, including a classification assigned pursuant to section 4152a of this title. ~~"Parcel"~~ As used in this subdivision, "parcel" means a separate and sellable lot or piece of real estate. Parcels may be combined to represent all contiguous land in the same ownership, together with all improvements thereon.

* * *

Sec. 61. 32 V.S.A. § 4152a is added to read:

§ 4152a. PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATIONS

(a) The grand list of a town shall include one or more tax classifications for each parcel of real estate. A parcel shall be classified using one of the general classes of real estate listed under subsection (b) of this section and based on the considerations set forth in this section and by guidance provided by the Division of Property Valuation and Review. The listers and assessors shall

annually update the grand list to include a tax classification not later than June 1 of every year, using information submitted to the Department of Taxes pursuant to this section. The tax classification may be updated after June 1 when a taxpayer files, or corrects an erroneously filed, homestead declaration after June 1.

(b) A parcel shall be assigned one or more of the following general classes:

(1) Homestead;

(2) Nonhomestead nonresidential; and

(3) Nonhomestead residential.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Homestead" means a parcel, or portion of a parcel, declared as a homestead on or before October 15 in accordance with section 5410 of this title for the current year.

(2) "Nonhomestead nonresidential" means a parcel, or portion of a parcel, that does not qualify as "homestead," or "nonhomestead residential" under this section.

(3) "Nonhomestead residential" means a parcel, or portion of a parcel, for which a homestead was not declared in accordance with section 5410 of this title for the current year and that has a residential property, as defined by the Commissioner by rule.

(d) A parcel with two or more portions qualifying for different tax classifications under this section shall be classified proportionally based on the percentage of floor space used.

(1) In the case of a homestead with 25 percent or less of floor space used for a business purpose, the parcel shall be classified as a homestead pursuant to subdivision 5401(a)(7)(F) of this title.

(2) If a portion of floor space is used for more than one purpose, the use in which the floor space is most often used shall be considered the primary use and the floor space shall be dedicated to that use for purposes of tax classification.

(e) The Commissioner shall amend existing forms, and publish new forms, as needed to gather the necessary attestations and declarations required under this section.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the tax treatment or enrollment eligibility of property as it relates to use value appraisal under chapter 124 of this title.

(g) Persons aggrieved by a decision to classify property for taxation purposes under this section may appeal in the manner provided for property valuation appeals under this title.

Sec. 61a. PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATIONS; TRANSITION; DATA COLLECTION

For calendar year 2027, the Commissioner of Taxes shall amend and create forms so that taxpayers report information on the use of their property for such property to be classified as homestead, nonhomestead residential, nonhomestead nonresidential, or a proportional classification of those uses. The information collected, and classifications determined, shall align with the definitions and requirements of Sec. 61 of this act. The Commissioner shall use the information to determine and assign a tax classification for every grand list parcel and, on or before October 1, 2027, the Commissioner shall provide that information to the Joint Fiscal Office.

Sec. 61b. PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATIONS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Taxes shall study the implementation of new property tax classifications under this act and identify any further actions required by the Department of Taxes, Vermont municipalities, and the General Assembly to successfully implement the new tax classification system on the timeline established by this act. The issues considered by the Commissioner shall include any adjustments to the statutory definitions, any needed changes to existing forms, whether new forms or taxpayer filings are needed, and how the Department could identify parcels with dwelling units that do not have an affiliated homestead declaration or landlord certificate on file.

(b) The Commissioner shall additionally recommend sets of tax rate multipliers to be applied under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(a) as amended by this act.

(1) The Commissioner shall recommend a multiplier set that would ensure any new revenue derived from the nonhomestead residential classification would cover the cost to the Education Fund caused by the homestead property tax exemption under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a) as amended by this act.

(2) The Commissioner shall recommend a different multiplier set that would ensure that any new revenue derived from the nonhomestead residential classification would mitigate forecasted property tax increases on homestead property taxpayers caused by the implementation of this act.

(c) On or before December 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Taxes shall submit a study report detailing the Commissioner's findings under this section to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance.

Sec. 61c. TAX CLASSIFICATIONS; RATE MULTIPLIERS; INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the creation of a tax classification system, and the specific tax classifications to be used by that system, will be reevaluated at the same time as any further amendment of the tax rate multipliers created under 32 V.S.A. § 6066(a) as amended by this act.

Sec. 61d. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL OF TAX CLASSIFICATIONS

In order to ensure successful implementation of education finance reform as set forth in this act, in the absence of legislative action on or before July 1, 2028 that creates a new tax rate multiplier to be used in a tax classification system, subdivision (f)(10) of Sec. 70 of this act is repealed on July 1, 2028.

* * * Regional Assessment Districts * * *

Sec. 62. 32 V.S.A. chapter 121, subchapter 1A is added to read:

Subchapter 1A. Statewide and Regional Property Assessment

§ 3415. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly in adopting this subchapter to create regional assessment districts so that:

(1) properties on grand lists are regularly reappraised;

(2) property data collection is consistent and standardized across the State; and

(3) property valuation is conducted by trained and certified individuals and firms.

§ 3416. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHMENT

(a) There are hereby established 12 regional assessment districts, whose member municipalities shall fully and jointly reappraise their grand lists every six years pursuant to subsection 3417(b) of this subchapter. Member municipalities shall contract jointly with one or more third parties to conduct reappraisals.

(b) Each county shall constitute one regional assessment district, except that Franklin and Grand Isle Counties shall constitute one district and Essex and Orleans Counties shall constitute one district.

§ 3417. STANDARD GUIDELINES; PROCEDURES; RULEMAKING

(a) The Director of Property Valuation and Review shall establish standard guidelines and procedures, and may adopt rules, for regional assessment districts, including:

(1) guidelines for contracting with third parties to conduct or assist with reappraisals, including standard reappraisal contract terms;

(2) standards for the collection and recordation of parcel data;

(3) requirements relating to information technology, including standards for data software contracts and computer-assisted mass appraisal systems; and

(4) standardized practices for a full reappraisal, including cases in which physical inspections are unnecessary and how technology is to be utilized.

(b) The Director of Property Valuation and Review shall establish a schedule for each regional assessment district to fully reappraise every six years. The Director, at the Director's discretion, may alter the reappraisal schedule for a regional assessment district or for one or more of a regional assessment district's member municipalities.

* * * Transition to Regional Assessment Districts * * *

Sec. 63. TRANSITION; ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 4041a or any other provision of law to the contrary:

(1) the Director of Property Valuation and Review shall not order any new municipal reappraisals of grand list properties that is not part of a regionalized reappraisal system on and after January 1, 2027;

(2) a reappraisal order for which a municipality does not have a contract in place before January 1, 2030 shall no longer have the force and effect of law on and after January 1, 2030, except for those that are part of a regionalized reappraisal system; and

(3) a municipality shall not enter into a new reappraisal contract on or after January 1, 2027, except for those that are part of a regionalized reappraisal system.

(b) On or before every January 15 from January 15, 2027 to January 15, 2030, the Commissioner of Taxes shall submit a report to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance relating to the progress made in preparing for the implementation of regional assessment districts pursuant to this act.

Sec. 64. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

On or before January 15, 2026, the Department of Taxes, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall submit recommendations to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance advising on the implementation of regional assessment districts and on the development of guidelines, procedures, and rules needed to effectuate a regionalized reappraisal system. The recommendations will include an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of having the State take full responsibility for regionalized appraisals. In making its recommendation, the Department of Taxes shall provide suggestions for legislative language that address:

(1) the authority or authorities who will contract for and conduct reappraisals;

(2) the authority or authorities who will hear and decide property valuation appeals;

(3) amendments necessary to conform statute to the change from an April 1 to January 1 grand list assessment date; and

(4) any other recommended revisions to achieve a regionalized reappraisal system.

* * * Miscellaneous Tax * * *

Sec. 65. 32 V.S.A. § 6066a(f)(1) is amended to read:

(f)(1) For taxpayers and amounts stated in the notice to towns on or before July 1, municipalities shall create and send to taxpayers a homestead property tax bill, instead of the bill required under subdivision 5402(b)(1) of this title, providing the total amount allocated to payment of homestead education property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be interpreted as altering the requirement under subdivision 5402(b)(2) of this title that the statewide education homestead tax be billed in a manner that is stated clearly and separately from any other tax. Municipalities shall apply the amount allocated under this chapter to current year property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include education taxes. Notwithstanding section 4772 of this title, if a town issues a corrected bill as a result of the notice sent by the Commissioner under subsection (a) of this section, issuance of the corrected new bill does not extend the time for payment of the original bill nor relieve the taxpayer of any interest or penalties associated with the original bill. If the corrected bill is less than the original bill, and there are also no unpaid current year taxes, interest, or penalties, and no past year delinquent taxes or penalties

and interest charges, any overpayment shall be reflected on the corrected tax bill and refunded to the taxpayer.

Sec. 66. 32 V.S.A. § 5252 is amended to read:

§ 5252. LEVY AND NOTICE OF SALE; SECURING PROPERTY

(a) When the collector of taxes of a town or of a municipality within it has for collection a tax assessed against real estate in the town and the taxpayer owes a minimum of $1,500.00 and is delinquent for a period longer than one year, the collector may extend a warrant on such land. However, no warrant shall be extended until a delinquent taxpayer is given an opportunity to enter a written reasonable repayment plan pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. If a collector receives notice from a mobile home park owner pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6248(b), the collector shall, within 15 days after the notice, commence tax sale proceedings to hold a tax sale within 60 days after the notice. If the collector fails to initiate such proceedings, the town may initiate tax sale proceedings only after complying with 10 V.S.A. § 6249(f). If the tax collector extends the warrant, the collector shall:

* * *

Sec. 67. 32 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY VALUATION HEARING OFFICER; OATH; PAY

When an appeal to the Director is not withdrawn or forwarded by the Director to Superior Court pursuant to subsection 4461(a) of this title, the Director shall refer the appeal in writing to a person not employed by the Director, appointed by the Director as hearing officer. The Director shall have the right to remove a hearing officer for inefficiency, malfeasance in office, or other cause. In like manner, the Director shall appoint a hearing officer to fill any vacancy created by resignation, removal, or other cause. Before entering into their duties, persons appointed as hearing officers shall take and subscribe the oath of the office prescribed in the Constitution, which oath shall be filed with the Director. The ~~Director~~ Commissioner of Taxes shall pay each hearing officer ~~a sum not to exceed $150.00 per diem for each day wherein hearings are held~~ $38.00 per hour plus a cost-of-living adjustment in an amount equal to any adjustment approved for exempt employees by the Secretary of Administration, together with reasonable expenses as the ~~Director~~ Commissioner may determine. A hearing officer may subpoena witnesses, records, and documents in the manner provided by law for serving subpoenas in civil actions and may administer oaths to witnesses.

Sec. 68. 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c)(2) is amended to read:

(2) The Secretary of Education shall determine each municipality's net nonhomestead education tax payment and its net homestead education tax payment to the State based on grand list information received by the Secretary not later than the March 15 prior to the June 1 net payment. Payment shall be accompanied by a return prescribed by the Secretary of Education. Each municipality may retain 0.225 of one percent of the total education tax collected, only upon timely remittance of net payment to the State Treasurer or to the applicable school district or districts. ~~Each municipality may also retain $15.00 for each late property tax credit claim filed after April 15 and before September 2, as notified by the Department of Taxes, for the cost of issuing a new property tax bill.~~

Sec. 69. 32 V.S.A. § 5401(13) is amended to read:

(13)(A) "Education property tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which:

(i) the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and

(ii) the denominator is the property dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (15) of this section~~, multiplied by the statewide adjustment~~.

(B) "Education income tax spending adjustment" means the greater of one or a fraction in which the numerator is the district's per pupil education spending plus excess spending for the school year, and the denominator is the income dollar equivalent yield for the school year, as defined in subdivision (16) of this section.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 70. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and the following sections shall take effect on passage:

(1) Sec. 1 (findings; intent; plan);

(2) Sec. 2 (Commission on the Future of Public Education);

(3) Sec. 3 (School District Redistricting Task Force);

(4) Sec. 4 (School District Voting Ward Working Group);

(5) Sec. 28a (State Board of Education tuition fee rules);

(6) Sec. 32 (Agency of Education transformation support);

(7) Sec. 33 (Agency of Education positions);

(8) Sec. 44 (transportation reimbursement guidelines);

(9) Sec. 45 (inflationary measures; prekindergarten; reports);

(10) Sec. 45a (foundation formula report);

(11) Sec. 45c (Education Fund Advisory Committee; delay);

(12) Sec. 53 (homestead exemption report);

(13) Sec. 61b (property tax classifications implementation report);

(14) Sec. 61c (tax classifications intent);

(15) Sec. 61d (prospective repeal);

(16) Sec. 63 (regional assessment district transition; progress report);

(17) Sec. 64 (RAD stakeholder working group);

(18) Sec. 65 (inadvertently removed language);

(19) Sec. 66 (minimum debt for tax sales);

(20) Sec. 68 (property tax credit late fee); and

(21) Sec. 69 (statewide adjustment correction).

(b) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025:

(1) Sec. 5 (scale; intent);

(2) Sec. 8 (SBE rules; report);

(3) Sec. 9 (AOE report; school calendar; graduation requirements);

(4) Sec. 10 (SBE rule review; appropriation);

(5) Sec. 14 (16 V.S.A. § 3443);

(6) Sec. 15 (School Construction Advisory Board sunset);

(7) Sec. 21 (16 V.S.A. § 828);

(8) Sec. 22 (tuition transition);

(9) Sec. 23 (state-level governance; intent);

(10) Sec. 24 (16 V.S.A. § 161);

(11) Sec. 25 (SBE appointments transition);

(12) Sec. 26 (16 V.S.A. § 162);

(13) Sec. 29 (special education report);

(14) Sec. 30 (AOE special education strategic plan);

(15) Sec. 31 (AOE position); and

(16) Sec. 67 (PVR hearing officer pay).

(c) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026:

(1) Sec. 6 (class size minimums);

(2) Sec. 7 (failure to comply with class size minimums);

(3) Sec. 12 (school construction policy);

(4) Sec. 13 (16 V.S.A. § 3442);

(5) Sec. 16 (16 V.S.A. § 3444);

(6) Sec. 17 (16 V.S.A. § 3445);

(7) Sec. 18 (16 V.S.A. § 3446);

(8) Sec. 19 (transfer of rulemaking authority); and

(9) Sec. 20 (repeals).

(d) Sec. 48 (December 1 letter) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(e) Sec. 61a shall take effect on January 1, 2027, provided that the General Assembly has enacted new school district boundaries between the enactment of this act and January 1, 2027.

(f) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2028, provided that the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed responsibility for the education of all resident students and that the expert tasked with developing a cost-factor foundation formula has provided to the General Assembly the report pursuant to Sec. 45a to provide the General Assembly an opportunity to enact legislation in consideration of the report:

(1) In Sec. 27, 16 V.S.A. § 823(a) and (d);

(2) Sec. 28 (tuition repeals);

(3) Secs. 34–43 (transition to cost-factor foundation formula);

(4) Sec. 45b (educational opportunity payment transition);

(5) Secs. 46, 47, 49, and 50 (statewide education tax; supplemental district spending tax);

(6) Sec. 46a (supplemental district spending tax; cap; transition);

(7) Sec. 48a (tax rate transition);

(8) Secs. 51, 52, and 54–56 (property tax credit repeal; creation of homestead exemption);

(9) Sec. 57 (Education Fund Advisory Committee; review of foundation formula); and

(10) Secs. 60 and 61 (property tax classifications).

(g) In Sec. 27, 16 V.S.A. § 823(b) and (c) shall take effect on July 1, 2028, provided that the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed responsibility for the education of all resident students and that the cost-factor foundation formula report required pursuant to Sec. 45a contains evidence that it costs more to educate students in grades nine through 12 but the General Assembly has failed to enact legislation to add a secondary student weight.

(h) Sec. 62 (regional assessment districts) shall take effect on January 1, 2029.

SEN. SETH BONGARTZ

SEN. ANN E. CUMMINGS

SEN. SCOTT L. BECK

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. PETER C. CONLON

REP. EMILIE K. KORNHEISER

REP. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Committee on the part of the House

Rep. McCann of Montpelier raised a Point of Order in that the Committee of Conference had not confined itself to the differences of opinion between the two chambers in violation of Mason's section 771-2, which included a new Section 28a (tuition fee rules) and Section 46a (supplemental district spending; cap; transition), and amendments in Section 47 (education property tax liability) that did not appear in either the bill as passed by the House or the Senate proposal of amendment. The Speaker ruled the point of order well-taken because Mason's section 771-2 provides that a report of a Committee of Conference is objectionable in form if the Committee of Conference has not confined itself to the differences of opinion between the two chambers and the member described how the Committee of Conference report went beyond the two chambers′ proposed versions of the bill.

Thereupon, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** moved to suspend rules to permit consideration of the objectionable Committee of Conference report.

Pending the question, Shall the House suspend its rules to permit consideration of the objectionable Committee of Conference report?, **Rep. Headrick of Burlington** requested the vote be by division.

Thereupon, the rules were suspended to permit consideration of the objectionable Committee of Conference report on the vote by division: Yeas, 113. Nays, 26 (the necessary 3/4 vote of at least 105 members present and voting in the affirmative having been attained).

Thereafter, the report of the Committee of Conference was adopted.

Thereupon, **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** moved to deliver the bill to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be delivered to the Governor forthwith?, **Rep. Headrick of Burlington** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be delivered to the Governor forthwith?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 96. Nays, 45.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Austin of Colchester
Bailey of Hyde Park
Bartley of Fairfax
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bosch of Clarendon
Boutin of Barre City
Branagan of Georgia
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Casey of Hubbardton
Charlton of Chester
Coffin of Cavendish
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Corcoran of Bennington
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Donahue of Northfield
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Feltus of Lyndon
Galfetti of Barre Town
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Goslant of Northfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Harvey of Castleton
Higley of Lowell
Hooper of Burlington
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howland of Rutland Town
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester
Kascenska of Burke
Keyser of Rutland City
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Labor of Morgan
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
Laroche of Franklin
Luneau of St. Albans City
Maguire of Rutland City
Malay of Pittsford
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morris of Springfield
Morrissey of Bennington
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nielsen of Brandon
Nigro of Bennington
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
Ode of Burlington
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Pezzo of Colchester
Pinsonault of Dorset *
Pouech of Hinesburg
Powers of Waterford
Pritchard of Pawlet *
Quimby of Lyndon
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Southworth of Walden
Steady of Milton
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Milton
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton *
Waszazak of Barre City
White of Waitsfield
Winter of Ludlow
Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston
Brown of Richmond
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor
Carris Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Christie of Hartford
Cina of Burlington
Cole of Hartford
Cordes of Bristol
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Harple of Glover *
Headrick of Burlington *
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Howard of Rutland City
Kleppner of Burlington *
Krasnow of South Burlington
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
McCann of Montpelier *
McGill of Bridport *
Minier of South Burlington
Nelson of Derby
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Olson of Starksboro *
Priestley of Bradford *
Rachelson of Burlington
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Surprenant of Barnard *
Sweeney of Shelburne
Tomlinson of Winooski *
Torre of Moretown
Waters Evans of Charlotte
Wells of Brownington
White of Bethel
Yacovone of Morristown

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland
Berbeco of Winooski
Burtt of Cabot
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Gregoire of Fairfield
LaMont of Morristown
Parsons of Newbury
Squirrell of Underhill

Rep. Harple of Glover provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I am voting no today because I did not have the opportunity to document my no vote on H.454 in a roll call, and I want to make it explicitly clear to my community that I hear them, I stand with them, and I do not support H.454."

Rep. Headrick of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no on H.454 and on this final question because this bill reflects a complete disregard for the voices of our public educators. Those on the ground – who know our students and communities best – were sidelined while this bill was shaped around political convenience. We had an opportunity to build trust and stability; instead, we sent a message that their expertise is negotiable. I also remain deeply concerned by how quickly the final vote was called, without adequate space for the many voices who were clearly preparing to speak. That moment mirrored the process itself: rushed in the last minute, exclusionary, and disrespectful to the professionals and communities we claim to represent. This is not what democracy looks like."

Rep. Kleppner of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

We are proposing a top to bottom transformation of our educational system. We have done hard work setting up the framework, but the true work of transformation will happen in the classrooms, the schools, the school boards, and the superintendents' offices. We cannot be successful without the support and engagement of the teachers, principals, school boards, and superintendents, and right now we do not have that."

Rep. McCann of Montpelier provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

While this bill will help some struggling communities like Barre, it will further exacerbate the problem in districts like St. Johnsbury where the districts' hands are tied. They have to pay the Academy first whatever they charge and H.454 allows them to charge even more. The K-8 public school will have to make do with whatever public tax dollars are left."

Rep. McGill of Bridport provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no because we owe it to our children, our educators, our communities, and to the values of democracy and public trust to do better. A vote of this magnitude demands transparency, collaboration, and care. This process has not met that standard."

Rep. Olson of Starksboro provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted NO on the question relating to the Foundation Formula which I find positive, at least in theory. But the details matter. The bill will probably result in closing many smaller schools, even if they provide a good education for students at a reasonable cost. Also, some districts will see a significant reduction in funding, without any relief from State mandates and other expenses beyond a district's control. I know we can do better. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Rep. Pinsonault of Dorset provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Today I voted yes because my constituents sent me here for change. By voting no, the can continues to be kicked down the road and education in Vermont remains status quo! Today I voted to try!"

Rep. Priestley of Bradford provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted No because I am here to represent the constituents of my district. Their voices have called out loud and clear for me to stand up on the record against the passage of this bill on their behalf."

Rep. Pritchard of Pawlet provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because I believe this gives us the opportunity to finally start necessary reform to improve education for our students and provide tax relief to all the Vermonters that must fund it. H.454 allows this process to begin and move forward. While I have concerns with some of the content, I am hopeful and optimistic they can be improved upon as this reform evolves."

Rep. Surprenant of Barnard provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I'm voting no to uplift the many voices I heard throughout my community. And I am ashamed at leadership for how they led members astray in the process of this vote."

Rep. Tomlinson of Winooski provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no on H.454, and I vote no to send this bill to the Governor. This is not what my constituents asked for. Both this process and the product are a disservice to my community and to our democracy."

Rep. Walker of Swanton provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

When the students enrolled in pre-K this year reach graduation age, they will likely be the first graduating class where the student population in Vermont public schools drops below 60,000 students."

Amendment Offered and Withdrawn; Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in; Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

H. 480

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * School Safety * * *

Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 29, Secs. 5 and 6 are amended to read:

Sec. 5. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS; IMPLEMENTATION

* * *

(b) Establishment of behavioral threat assessment teams; training.

(1) School districts and independent schools not already using behavioral threat assessment teams shall ~~take all actions necessary to establish a team~~ establish a team and identify team members not later than July 1, 2025~~, including:~~.

(2) School districts and independent schools shall take all actions necessary to implement comprehensive behavioral threat assessment and management programs not later than October 1, 2025, including:

(A) identifying and training team members, which shall include group bias training and the training requirements contained in 16 V.S.A. § 1485(d);

(B) adopting a behavioral threat assessment team policy;

(C) establishing procedures for proper, fair, and effective use of behavioral threat assessment teams;

(D) updating and exercising emergency operations plans; and

(E) providing education to the school community on the purpose and use of behavioral threat assessment teams.

~~(2)~~(3) School districts and independent schools currently using behavioral threat assessment teams shall certify compliance with the training requirements contained in 16 V.S.A. § 1485(d) on or before the first day of the 2023–2024 school year.

~~(3)~~(4) The Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety shall issue guidance and offer training necessary to assist school districts and independent schools with implementation of this subsection.

(c) ~~The Agency of Education shall establish guidelines necessary to collect the data required pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1485(e). Each supervisory union, supervisory district, and independent school using behavioral threat assessment teams as of July 1, 2023 shall comply with the data collection requirements under 16 V.S.A. § 1485(e) beginning in the 2023 2024 school year.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(c) Sec. 2 (16 V.S.A. § 1480) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025.

(d) Sec. 4 (16 V.S.A. § 1485) shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that subdivision (b)(3) shall take effect on October 1, 2025 and subsection (e) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1485 is amended to read:

§ 1485. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

* * *

(b) Policy.

* * *

(3) Each school district and each approved or recognized independent school shall develop, adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and procedures for use of behavioral threat assessment teams that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the model policy and procedures developed by the Secretary. Any school board or independent school that fails to adopt such a policy ~~or procedures~~ shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy ~~and procedures~~ published by the Secretary. Any superintendent or independent school that fails to adopt such procedures shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model procedures published by the Secretary.

* * *

* * * Postsecondary Schools Chartered in Vermont * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 176(d) is amended to read:

(d) Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this section except for the requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C) of this section:

* * *

(4) Postsecondary schools that are accredited. The following postsecondary institutions are accredited, meet the criteria for exempt status, and are authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary education, including programs leading to a degree or certificate: Bennington College, Champlain College, ~~College of St. Joseph, Goddard College, Green Mountain College,~~ Landmark College, ~~Marlboro College,~~ Middlebury College, ~~New England Culinary Institute,~~ Norwich University, Saint Michael's College, SIT Graduate Institute, ~~Southern Vermont College,~~ Sterling College, Vermont College of Fine Arts, and Vermont Law and Graduate School. This authorization is provided solely to the extent necessary to ensure institutional compliance with federal financial aid-related regulations, and it does not affect, rescind, or supersede any preexisting authorizations, charters, or other forms of recognition or authorization.

* * *

* * * Nutrition Contracts and Public Bids * * *

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 559 is amended to read:

§ 559. PUBLIC BIDS

* * *

(e) Application of this section. Any contract entered into or purchase made in violation of the provisions of this section shall be void; provided, however, that:

(1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to contracts for the purchase of books or other materials of instruction.

(2) A school board may name in the specifications and invitations for bids under this section the particular make, kind, or brand of article or articles to be purchased or contracted.

(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to emergency repairs.

(4) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school board from awarding a school nutrition contract after using any method of bidding or requests for proposals permitted under federal law for award of the contract. Notwithstanding the monetary amount in subsection (a) of this section for~~

~~which a school board is required to advertise publicly or invite three or more bids or requests for proposal, a school board is required to publicly advertise or invite three or more bids or requests for proposal for purchases made from the nonprofit school food service account for purchases in excess of the federal simplified acquisition threshold when purchasing food or in excess of $25,000.00 when purchasing nonfood items, unless a municipality sets a lower threshold for purchases from the nonprofit school food service account.~~ The provisions of this section shall not apply to contracts for the purchase of food made from a nonprofit school food services account.

* * *

* * * Virtual Learning * * *

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 948 is added to read:

§ 948. VIRTUAL LEARNING

(a) The Agency of Education shall maintain access to and oversight of a virtual learning provider for the purpose of offering virtual learning opportunities to Vermont students.

(b) A student may enroll in virtual learning if:

(1) the student is enrolled in a Vermont public school, including a Vermont career technical center;

(2) virtual learning is determined to be an appropriate learning pathway outlined in the student's personalized learning plan; and

(3) the student's learning experience occurs under the supervision of an appropriately licensed educator and aligns with State expectations and standards, as adopted by the Agency and the State Board of Education, as applicable.

(c) A school district shall count a student enrolled in virtual learning in the school district's average daily membership, as defined in section 4001 of this title, if the student meets all of the criteria in subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 942(13) is amended to read:

(13) "Virtual learning" means ~~learning in which the teacher and student communicate concurrently through real-time telecommunication. "Virtual learning" also means online learning in which communication between the teacher and student does not occur concurrently and the student works according to his or her own schedule~~ an intentionally designed learning environment for online teaching and learning using online design principles and teachers trained in the delivery of online instruction. This instruction may take place either in a self-paced environment or a real-time environment.

* * * BOCES Start-up Grant Program * * *

Sec. 7. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 168, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. BOCES GRANT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

(a) There is established the Boards of Cooperative Education Services Start-up Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of Education, from funds appropriated for this purpose, to award grants to enable the formation of boards of cooperative education services (BOCES) formed pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 10 after July 1, 2024. ~~BOCES~~ Supervisory unions shall be eligible for a single $10,000.00 grant after ~~the Secretary of Education approves the applicant's initial articles of agreement pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(b)~~ two or more boards vote to explore the advisability of forming a board of cooperative education services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(a). Grants may be used for start-up and formation costs ~~and may include reimbursement to member supervisory unions for costs incurred during the exploration and formation of the BOCES and articles of agreement~~, including the development of proposed articles of agreement. Grants shall be awarded to only one supervisory union within each group of supervisory unions exploring the formation of a BOCES.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the sum of $70,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2025 to fund the Boards of Cooperative Education Services Start-up Grant Program created in subsection (a) of this section. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose.

* * * Military-Related Postsecondary Opportunities * * *

Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

§ 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

(a) There is created within the Agency a Flexible Pathways Initiative:

(1) to encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral part of secondary education in the evolving ~~21st Century~~ 21st-century classroom;

(2) to promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and

(3) to increase the rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary continuation and retention in Vermont.

(b) The Secretary shall develop, publish, and regularly update guidance, in the form of technical assistance, sharing of best practices and model documents, legal interpretations, and other support designed to assist school districts:

(1) ~~to~~ To identify and support secondary students who require additional assistance to succeed in school and to identify ways in which individual students would benefit from flexible pathways to graduation~~;~~.

(2) ~~to~~ To work with every student in grade ~~7~~ seven through grade 12 in an ongoing personalized learning planning process that:

(A) identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and disposition;

(B) includes participation by families and other engaged adults;

(C) guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-quality educational experiences; ~~and~~

(D) identifies career and postsecondary planning options using resources provided pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection (b); and

(E) is documented by a personalized learning plan~~;~~.

(3) ~~to~~ To create opportunities for secondary students to pursue flexible pathways to graduation that:

(A) increase aspiration and encourage postsecondary continuation of training and education;

(B) are an integral component of a student's personalized learning plan; and

(C) include:

(i) applied or work-based learning opportunities, including career and career technical education and internships;

(ii) virtual learning and blended learning;

(iii) dual enrollment opportunities as set forth in section 944 of this title;

(iv) early college programs as set forth in subsection 4011(e) of this title; and

(v) [Repealed.]

(vi) adult education and secondary credential opportunities as set forth in section 945 of this title~~; and~~.

(4) ~~to~~ To provide students, beginning ~~no~~ not later than in grade ~~7~~ seven, with career development and postsecondary planning resources to ensure that they are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available within the flexible pathways to graduation and to achieve their career and postsecondary education and training goals. Resources provided pursuant to this subdivision shall include information regarding the admissions process and requirements necessary to proceed with any and all military-related opportunities.

(c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as discouraging or limiting the authority of any school district to develop or continue to provide educational opportunities for its students that are otherwise permitted, including the provision of Advanced Placement courses.

(d) An individual entitlement or private right of action shall not arise from creation of a personalized learning plan.

* * * Secretary of Education Search * * *

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 2702 is amended to read:

§ 2702. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

(a) With the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor shall appoint a Secretary of Education from among ~~no~~ not fewer than three candidates proposed by the State Board of Education. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(1) Not later than 30 days after public notification of a vacancy or anticipated vacancy in the position of Secretary of Education, the Governor shall send a letter to the Chair of the State Board of Education asking the Board to initiate the candidate selection process for a new Secretary of Education. The Governor's letter shall include direction as to the Governor's preferred candidate qualifications and experience.

(2) The State Board shall begin a national search process not later than 60 days after receipt of a letter from the Governor issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The State Board may request from the Agency of Education the funds necessary to utilize outside resources for the search process required pursuant to this subsection.

(b) The Secretary shall report directly to the Governor and shall be a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

(c) At the time of appointment, the Secretary shall have expertise in education management and policy and demonstrated leadership and management abilities.

* * * Supplemental Reading Instruction * * *

Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

§ 2903. ~~PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING INSTRUCTION~~ FOUNDATION FOR LITERACY

(a) Statement of policy. The ability to read is critical to success in learning. Children who fail to read by the end of the first grade will likely fall further behind in school. The personal and economic costs of reading failure are enormous both while the student remains in school and long afterward. All students need to receive systematic and explicit evidence-based reading instruction in the early grades from a teacher who is skilled in teaching the foundational components of reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students who require intensive supplemental instruction tailored to the unique difficulties encountered shall be provided those additional supports by an appropriately trained education professional.

* * *

(c) Reading instruction. A public school or approved independent school that is eligible to receive public tuition that offers instruction in grades kindergarten, one, two, or three shall provide systematic and explicit evidence-based reading instruction to all students. In addition, ~~such~~ for students in grades kindergarten through 12, public schools and approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition shall provide supplemental reading instruction to any enrolled student whose reading proficiency falls significantly below proficiency standards for the student's grade level or whose reading proficiency prevents progress in school. Schools shall provide support and information to ~~the~~ parents and legal guardians ~~of such students regarding the student's current level of reading proficiency, which shall be based on valid and reliable assessments~~.

* * * Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program * * *

Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

§ 2857. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM

(a) Program creation. The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program (Program) is created, under which a member of the Vermont National Guard (member) who meets the eligibility requirements in subsection (c) of this section is entitled to the following tuition benefit for up to full-time attendance:

(1) For courses at any Vermont State College institution or the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM), the benefit shall be the in-state residence tuition rate for the relevant institution.

(2) For courses at any eligible Vermont private postsecondary institution, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

(3) For courses at an eligible training institution offering nondegree, certificate training, or continuing education programs, the benefit shall be the lower of the institution's standard tuition or the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

(4) For courses at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education institution approved for federal Title IV funding where the degree program is not available in Vermont, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

(b) Tuition benefit.

(1) The tuition benefit provided under the Program shall be paid on behalf of the member by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly specifically for this purpose. An eligible Vermont postsecondary institution that accepts or receives the tuition benefit on behalf of a member shall charge the member the tuition rate for an in-state student. The amount of tuition for a member who attends an educational institution under the Program on less than a full-time basis shall be reduced to reflect the member's course load in a manner determined by VSAC under subdivision (f)(1) of this section.

(2) The tuition benefit shall be conditioned upon the member's executing a promissory note obligating the member to repay the member's tuition benefit, in whole or in part, if the member fails to complete the period of Vermont National Guard service required in subsection (d) of this section, or if the member's benefit is terminated pursuant to subdivision (e)(1) of this section.

(c) Eligibility.

(1) To be eligible for the Program, an individual, whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(A) be an active member of the Vermont National Guard;

(B) have successfully completed basic training;

(C) be enrolled:

(i) at UVM, a Vermont State College, or any other college or university located in Vermont in a program that leads to an undergraduate certificate ~~or~~, an undergraduate degree, or a graduate degree;

(ii) at an eligible training institution in a program that leads to a certificate or other credential recognized by VSAC; or

(iii) at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education institution approved for Title IV funding only when the degree program is not available in Vermont;

(D) ~~have not previously earned an undergraduate bachelor's degree;~~ [Repealed.]

(E) continually demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as determined by criteria established by the Vermont National Guard and VSAC, in consultation with the educational institution at which the individual is enrolled under the Program;

(F) have used available post-September 11, 2001 tuition benefits and other federally funded military tuition assistance; provided, however, that this subdivision shall not apply to:

(i) tuition benefits and other federally funded military tuition assistance for which the individual has not yet earned the full amount of the benefit or tuition;

(ii) Montgomery GI Bill benefits;

(iii) post-September 11, 2001 educational program housing allowances;

(iv) federal educational entitlements;

(v) National Guard scholarship grants;

(vi) loans under section 2856 of this title; and

(vii) other nontuition benefits; and

(G) have submitted a statement of good standing to VSAC signed by the individual's commanding officer within 30 days prior to the beginning of each semester.

(2) An individual may receive more than one undergraduate certificate, undergraduate degree, graduate degree, or other credential recognized by VSAC under the Program, provided that the cost of all certificates, degrees, and credentials received by the individual under the Program does not exceed an amount equal to twice the full-time in-state tuition rate charged by UVM for completion of an undergraduate baccalaureate degree.

(d) Service commitment.

(1) For each full academic year of attendance under the Program, a member shall be required to serve two years in the Vermont National Guard in order to receive the full tuition benefit under the Program.

(2) If a member's service with the Vermont National Guard terminates before the member fulfills this two-year service commitment, other than for good cause as determined by the Vermont National Guard, the individual shall reimburse VSAC a pro rata portion of the tuition paid under the Program pursuant to the terms of an interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

(3) For members participating in the Program on a less than full-time basis, the member's service commitment shall be at the rate of one month of Vermont National Guard service commitment for each credit hour, not to exceed 12 months of service commitment for a single semester.

(e) Termination of tuition benefit.

(1) The Office of the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General may terminate the tuition benefit provided an individual under the Program if:

(A) the individual's commanding officer revokes the statement of good standing submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(7) of this section as a result of an investigation or disciplinary action that occurred after the statement of good standing was issued;

(B) the individual is dismissed from the educational institution in which the individual is enrolled under the Program for academic or disciplinary reasons; or

(C) the individual withdraws without good cause from the educational institution in which the individual is enrolled under the Program.

(2) If an individual's tuition benefit is terminated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the individual shall reimburse VSAC for the tuition paid under the Program, pursuant to the terms of an interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program; shall be responsible on a pro rata basis for the remaining tuition cost for the current semester or any courses in which the individual is currently enrolled; and shall be ineligible to receive future tuition benefits under the Program.

(3) If an individual is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons from any postsecondary educational institution before receiving tuition benefits under the Program, the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General may make a determination regarding the individual's eligibility to receive tuition benefits under the Program.

(f) Adoption of policies, procedures, and guidelines.

(1) VSAC, in consultation with the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General, shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to implement the provisions of this section, which shall include eligibility, application, and acceptance requirements, proration of service requirements for academic semesters or attendance periods shorter than one year, data sharing guidelines, and the criteria for determining "good cause" as used in subdivisions (d)(2) and (e)(1)(C) of this section.

(2) Each educational institution participating in the Program shall adopt policies and procedures for the enrollment of members under the Program. These policies and procedures shall be consistent with the policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted by VSAC under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(g) Reports.

(1) On or before November 1 of each year, the President, Chancellor, or equivalent position of each educational institution that participated in the Program during the immediately preceding school year shall report to the Vermont National Guard and VSAC regarding the number of members enrolled at its institution during that school year who received tuition benefits under the Program and, to the extent available, the courses or program in which the members were enrolled.

(2) On or before January 15 of each year, the Vermont National Guard and VSAC shall report these data and other relevant performance factors, including information pertaining to the achievement of the goals of this entitlement program and the costs of the Program to date, to the Governor, the House and Senate Committees on Education, and the House Committees on Appropriations and on ~~General, Housing, and Military Affairs~~ Government Operations and Military Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), expiration of reports, shall not apply to the reports to be made under this subsection

* * * Cardiac Emergency Response Plans * * *

Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 1480 is amended to read:

§ 1480. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

* * *

(d) The template maintained by the Vermont School Safety Center shall include, at a minimum, hazard-specific provisions for:

(1) acute cardiac events in schools, including protocols that address:

(A) the use and maintenance of automated external defibrillator (AED) devices;

(B) the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest during school activities or within school or district facilities, which shall be consistent with nationally recognized, evidence-based standards;

(C) the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds;

(D) implementation of AED placement and routine maintenance within each school or district facility, which shall be consistent with applicable nationally recognized, evidence-based standards, and which shall include a requirement for clearly marked and easily accessible AEDs at each athletic venue where practices or competitions are held;

(E) required staff training in CPR and AED use and practice drills regarding the cardiac response plan; and

(2) an athletic emergency action plan (AEAP) for all public or approved and recognized independent schools with an athletic department or organized athletic program. The AEAP shall detail the steps to be taken in response to a serious or life-threatening injury of a student participating in sports or other athletic activities. The AEAP established by public and independent schools pursuant to this subdivision shall be consistent with the athletic emergency action plans policy established by the Vermont Principals' Association.

Sec. 13. IMPLEMENTATION

School districts and independent schools shall have a cardiac emergency response plan developed and ready for implementation beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

* * * Energy Performance Contracting * * *

Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 3448f is amended to read:

§ 3448f. ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING; AUTHORIZATION; STATE AID

* * *

(b) Authorization. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a district may enter into a performance contract pursuant to this section for a period not to exceed 20 years. Cost-saving measures implemented under the contract shall comply with all State and local building codes.

(c) Selection of qualified contractor.

(1) Request for proposals. The district shall issue a request for proposals from individuals or entities interested in entering into a performance contract (who shall become the "contractor"), shall consider the proposals, and shall select a qualified contractor to engage in final contract negotiations. In developing the request for proposals and in selecting a qualified contractor, the district should make use of any assistance available from Efficiency Vermont, the School Energy Management Program of the Vermont Superintendents Association, and other similar entities. Factors to be considered in the final selection shall include contract terms, comprehensiveness of the proposal, comprehensiveness of cost-saving measures, experience of the contractor, quality of technical approach, and overall benefits to the district.

(2) Financial grade audit. The person selected pursuant to this subsection shall prepare a financial grade energy audit that, upon acceptance by the district, shall be part of the final performance contract executed with the district. If after preparation of the financial grade energy audit the district decides not to execute a performance contract with the contractor, the district shall pay the qualified contractor for costs incurred in preparing the financial grade energy audit. If, however, the district decides to execute a performance contract with the contractor, the costs of the financial grade energy audit shall be part of the costs of the performance contract.

(3) ~~Voter approval of proposed performance contract. If the terms of the proposed performance contract permit the district to make payments to the contractor over a period of time exceeding 10 years, then the district shall not enter into a final performance contract until it receives approval from the electorate to do so.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

* * * School Library Material Selection Procedures * * *

Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 1624 is amended to read:

§ 1624. SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

(a) Each school board and each approved independent school shall develop, adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described under subdivision 563(1) of this title a library material selection policy ~~and~~. Each superintendent and head of school of an approved

independent school shall develop and implement procedures for the reconsideration and retention of materials. The policy and procedures shall affirm the importance of intellectual freedom and be guided by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Vermont laws prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation, the 2004 American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, ~~Vermont's~~ the 2024 Vermont Freedom to Read Statement, and reflect Vermont's diverse people and history, including diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, and political beliefs.

* * *

* * * Exception to Moratorium on New Approved Independent Schools * * *

Sec. 16. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.511.1 is amended to read:

Sec. E.511.1 MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW APPROVED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Board of Education shall be prohibited from approving an application for initial approval of an approved independent school until further direction by the General Assembly.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a change in either tax status or conversion to a nonprofit organization by a therapeutic approved independent school, absent any other changes, shall not effect the approval status of the school.

* * * Cell Phone and Social Media Use in Schools * * *

Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. chapter 9, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Cell Phone, Personal Electronic Device, and Social Media Use in Schools

§ 581. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly for all students in Vermont to access the benefits of a phone- and social media-free school environment, which promotes focus, improved mental health, and increased social cohesion.

§ 582. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Cell phone" means any device capable of using cellular technology to facilitate voice service through a commercial telecommunications company, regardless of whether the device can access internet services and electronic mail.

(2) "Individualized health care plan" means a written document developed by a school nurse, in collaboration with parents, students, and other relevant professionals, to outline specific health care needs and management strategies tailored to the unique health condition of a student.

(3) "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes legal guardians who are legally authorized to make education decisions for the student.

(4) "School" means any public school, approved independent school, or career and technical education center located in Vermont.

(5) "Student" means an individual currently enrolled in or registered at a school located in Vermont, as defined under subdivision (4) of this section.

§ 583. STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

(a) Model policy.

(1) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Independent School Association, and a representative from the Vermont Coalition for Phone and Social Media Free Schools, shall develop, and review at least annually, a policy to, subject to the exceptions in subdivision (2) of this subsection, prohibit student use of cell phones and non-school-issued personal electronic devices that connect to cellular networks, the internet, or have wireless capabilities at school from arrival to dismissal.

(2) The model policy shall provide exceptions for students to use a cell phone or personal electronic device if such use is:

(A) required as part of a student's individualized health care plan, individualized education program, or 504 plan, which shall be documented according to applicable State and federal law; provided, however, that if such use is required to meet an international student's special education needs or as part of a disability accommodation, and the international student does not have an individualized education program or 504 plan, the need for such use shall be documented in a manner the school deems appropriate;

(B) approved by an administrator for an academic,school-sponsored athletic, or co-curricular purpose, for the most limited use reasonably possible; or

(C) required for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431–11435.

(b) Policy adoption.

(1) Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, each school board shall develop, adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described under subdivision 563(1) of this title a student cell phone and personal electronic device use policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Secretary. Any school board that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Secretary.

(2) Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, each approved independent school shall develop, adopt, and ensure the enforcement of a student cell phone and personal electronic device use policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Secretary. Any approved independent school that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Secretary.

§ 584. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN EDUCATION

Schools, school districts, and supervisory unions shall be prohibited from:

(1) utilizing social media for communication with students directly unless the program or platform is approved for such communication by the school district or independent school; provided, however, that any approved communication program or platform shall allow school officials to archive all communications and prevent all communications from being edited or deleted once a communication has been sent; and

(2) requiring students to use social media for out-of-school academic work, school sports, extracurricular clubs, or any other out-of-school school-sponsored activities.

Sec. 18. CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

(a) On or before January 1, 2026, the Agency of Education shall develop and publish a model student cell phone and personal electronic device use policy pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act.

(b) On or before July 1, 2026, school boards and approved independent schools shall adopt student cell phone and personal electronic device use policies as required pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act, to be effective in the 2026–2027 school year.

* * * CTE Attendance Outside Service Region * * *

Sec. 18a. STUDENTS ATTENDING A CTE CENTER OUTSIDE THEIR SERVICE REGION

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Receiving district" means a school district receiving tuition on behalf of a student to whom it provides career technical education.

(2) "Sending district" means a school district paying tuition on behalf of a student to a school district that provides CTE courses.

(b) Secondary students may apply for enrollment into programs offered at CTE centers outside their service region when the center in their service region does not offer the program in which they wish to enroll or they are not able to enroll in the program of their choice. The school district of the students' residence shall pay tuition for that enrollment pursuant to an agreement between the sending district and the receiving district that specifies how costs for such enrollments shall be covered.

(c) Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, a regional CTE center may provide transportation to and from the technical center for students residing outside the technical center's service region if the student is attending pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Any changes in the tuition charged by a career and technical center due to the acceptance of students residing outside of the CTE center's service region shall be reconciled through the tuition reconciliation process outlined in State Board of Education rule 2393, Agency of Education, Career and Technical Education State Board Regulations (22-000-007).

(e) A school district that maintains a secondary school shall provide the requested directory information of enrolled students to a CTE center located outside the school district's assigned CTE service region, for the limited purpose of the CTE center providing information to students and their parents about CTE center offerings in the following situations:

(1) the school district's assigned CTE center has a waitlist for enrollment;

(2) students were denied entry to their assigned CTE center or a program operated by their assigned CTE center; or

(3) when a student has interest in a program not offered at the student's assigned CTE center.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 8 (military-related postsecondary opportunities) and 13 (cardiac emergency response plans implementation) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b) Sec. 12 (16 V.S.A. § 1480(d)) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(c) This section and the remainder of this act shall take effect on passage

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Reps. McCann of Montpelier and Waszazak of Barre City** moved to concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with a further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Secs. 17 and 18 in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 17 and 18 to read as follows:

Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. chapter 9, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Cell Phone and Social Media Use in Schools

§ 581. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly for all students in Vermont to access the benefits of a phone- and social media-free school environment, which promotes focus, improved mental health, and increased social cohesion.

§ 582. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Cell phone" means any device capable of using cellular technology to facilitate voice service through a commercial telecommunications company, regardless of whether the device can access internet services and email.

(2) "Individualized health care plan" means a written document developed by a school nurse, in collaboration with parents, students, and other relevant professionals, to outline specific health care needs and management strategies tailored to the unique health condition of a student.

(3) "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes legal guardians who are legally authorized to make education decisions for the student.

(4) "School" means any public school, approved independent school, or career and technical education center located in Vermont.

(5) "Student" means an individual currently enrolled in or registered at a school located in Vermont, as defined under subdivision (4) of this section.

§ 583. STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

(a) Model policy.

(1) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Independent School Association, and a representative from the Vermont Coalition for Phone and Social Media Free Schools, shall develop, and review at least annually, a policy to, subject to the exceptions in subdivision (2) of this subsection, prohibit student use of cell phones from arrival to dismissal.

(2) The model policy shall provide exceptions for students to use a cell phone if such use is:

(A) required as part of a student's individualized health care plan, individualized education program, or 504 plan, which shall be documented according to applicable State and federal law; provided, however, that if such use is required to meet an international student's special education needs or as part of a disability accommodation, and the international student does not have an individualized education program or 504 plan, the need for such use shall be documented in a manner the school deems appropriate;

(B) approved by an administrator for an academic, school-sponsored athletic, or cocurricular purpose, for the most limited use reasonably possible; or

(C) required for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431–11435.

(b) Policy adoption.

(1) Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, each school board shall develop, adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described under subdivision 563(1) of this title a student cell phone use policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Secretary. Any school board that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Secretary.

(2) Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, each approved independent school shall develop, adopt, and ensure the enforcement of a student cell phone use policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Secretary. Any approved independent school that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Secretary.

§ 584. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN EDUCATION

Schools, school districts, and supervisory unions shall be prohibited from:

(1) utilizing social media for communication with students directly unless the program or platform is approved for such communication by the school district or independent school; provided, however, that any approved communication program or platform shall allow school officials to archive all communications and prevent all communications from being edited or deleted once a communication has been sent; and

(2) requiring students to use social media for out-of-school academic work, school sports, extracurricular clubs, or any other out-of-school school-sponsored activities.

Sec. 18. CELL PHONE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

(a) On or before January 1, 2026, the Agency of Education shall develop and publish a model student cell phone use policy pursuant to Sec. 17 of this act.

(b) On or before July 1, 2026, school boards and approved independent schools shall adopt student cell phone use policies as required pursuant to Sec. 17 of this act, to be effective in the 2026–2027 school year.

Second: By adding one new section to be Sec. 17a to read as follows:

Sec. 17a. CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS; FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that requiring school staff to police students' use of personal electronic devices other than cell phones is legislative overreach and places an unnecessary strain on educators and administrators.

Thereupon, **Rep. McCann of Montpelier** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Thereafter, the House concurred in the Senate proposal of amendment.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

Message from the Senate No. 83

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 28. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2025.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Message from the Senate No. 84

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that the Senate has on its part completed the business of the session and is ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 28.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 28

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 28. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives adjourn their respective houses on the sixteenth or seventeenth day of June 2025, they shall do so to reconvene on the joint call of the Speaker of the House and the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, if needed, or on the sixth day of January 2026 at ten o'clock in the forenoon, if not so reconvened prior to that date.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Senate Notified of Completion of House Business

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved that the House direct the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House has completed the business of the first half of Biennial Session and is ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 28, which was agreed to.

Governor Notified of Completion of House Business

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved that the Speaker appoint a committee of six to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the Biennial Session and is ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 28, which was agreed to. Thereupon, the Speaker appointed to serve on the Committee the following members:

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction
Rep. McCoy of Poultney
Rep. Logan of Burlington
Rep. Lipsky of Stowe
Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock
Rep. Kascenska of Burke

Governor Presented at the Bar of the House

The Committee appointed to wait upon the Governor retired to the Executive Chamber and returned with His Excellency, Governor Philip B. Scott, and presented him at the bar of the House. The Governor addressed the House and, having completed his remarks, was escorted from the Hall by the Committee.

Adjournment

At eight o'clock and thirty-five minutes in the evening, on motion of **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction**, the House adjourned pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 28.

FINAL MESSAGES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Message from Rep. Cordes of Bristol

"June 19, 2025

Hon. Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House
Vermont House of Representatives State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Speaker Krowinski,

I am writing to formally tender my resignation from the Vermont House of Representatives, effective today.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of my district and the State of Vermont. I will cherish the relationships we have built together, doing hard but good work, from standing up a healthcare system that would support Vermont through COVID to adding protections against gun violence and ensuring the right to abortion care. There is so much more that I am proud of; I know you know it all.

I'm also incredibly proud of our all-women leadership team, with you as its lead; I'll be cheering you on from afar (and close up when I'm back for visits).

Thank you again for your leadership and support - I always knew I could count on you, even—or especially—during struggle.

Onward.

Respectfully,

Mari K. Cordes, RN
State Representative, Addison 4 District"

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 25th day of June, 2025, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 474 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

Message from the Senate No. 85

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 25th day of June, 2025, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 51. An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 27th day of June, 2025, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 480 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 1st day of July, 2025, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 454 An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems

Message from Rep. Surprenant of Barnard

"September 29, 2025

To the Office of the Speaker:

Often, a resignation can appear to the outside viewer that something must have gone awry. Yet in my experience, it has been just the opposite. There isn't an isolated moment that has led to my decision to step away. Simply, I've come to realize for myself that I can serve my community in so many abundant ways that don't put strain on my values or my farming career. I have

spent these past five years working to understand a system that has the sincere intention to best serve all Vermonters—and I have such genuine respect for each of you who continue to show up in this work with humility, integrity, and selflessness. I've gained so much from being in this role and will always feel gratitude towards my community who trusted me to be their voice. I have also learned that it is brave and compassionate to leave something that no longer makes space for you to be your best self. I believe that when we've outgrown our willingness to acquiesce, then it's time to step aside for someone else who can and who wants to.

Going forward, there is so much work that I am excited to engage with, that allows for my passion in agriculture to be the focal point of my energies and efforts. I wish you all a productive and collaborative second half to the biennium. I know how hard you work—and I hope each of you finds ways to ground yourself when the challenges arise. As for me, I'll be touching earth and taking all I've learned from within this chamber to build stronger or more resilient communities from outside these walls.

With sincere thanks to you all,
Heather Surprenant"

Message from the Governor

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-2301

Dear Speaker Krowinski:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed Karen Lueders of Lincoln, Vermont to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Addison-4.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/te

CC: Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House

Message from the Governor

December 2, 2025

The Honorable Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-2301

Dear Speaker Krowinski:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed Michael Hoyt, of West Hartford, to serve in the General Assembly, representing House District Windsor-4.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp

CC: Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House

MEMBERS APPOINTED AFTER FINAL ADJOURNMENT

School District Redistricting Task Force Appointments

Pursuant to 2025, Act No. 73 (H.454), Sec. 3, the Speaker appointed the following members to the School District Redistricting Task Force:

Rep. Graning of Jericho
Rep. Holcombe of Norwich
Rep. Quimby of Lyndon

Clean Energy Development Board Appointments

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8015(e)(4), Rep. James of Manchester, Chair of the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, appointed the following members to the Clean Energy Development Board:

Rep. James of Manchester
Rep. Torre of Moretown

Convention Center and Performance Venue Task Force Appointment

Pursuant to 2025, Act No. 65 (S.122), Sec. 3, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Convention Center and Performance Venue Task Force:

Rep. Duke of Burlington

Vermont Milk Commission Appointment

Pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 2922, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont Milk Commission:

Rep. O'Brien of Tunbridge

State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 2025, Act No. 69 (S.127), Sec. 5, the Speaker appointed the following member to the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee:

Rep. Donahue of Northfield

Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council Appointment

Pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2885(h), the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council:

Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington

Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 5606, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee:

Rep. Noyes of Wolcott

County and Regional Governance Study Committee Appointments

Pursuant to 2024, Act No. 118 (S.159), Sec. 1, **Rep. Birong of Vergennes**, Chair of the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, is Co-Chair ex officio of the County and Regional Governance Study Committee, and the Speaker appointed the following members to the Committee:

Rep. Higley of Lowell
Rep. Carris Duncan of Whitingham

Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House Appointments

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 651, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House:

Rep. Emmons of Springfield
Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield
Rep. Burke of Brattleboro

Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 5608, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee:

Rep. Morris of Springfield

Governor's Snowmobile Council Appointment

Pursuant to 23 VSA § 3216, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Governor's Snowmobile Council:

Rep. Casey of Hubbardton

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) Board of Directors Appointment

Pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2831, the Speaker appointed the following member to the VSAC Board of Directors:

Rep. Stone of Burlington

Building Bright Futures Council Appointment

Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4602, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Building Bright Futures Council:

Rep. Garofano of Essex

Vermont State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision Appointment

Pursuant to 28 V.S.A. § 1354, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision:

Rep. Minier of South Burlington

Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families Appointments

Pursuant to 2018, Act No. 207 (S.280), the Speaker appointed the following members to the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families:

Rep. McGill of Bridport
Rep. Hunter of Manchester
Rep. Bartley of Fairfax

Recreational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 5605(b), the Speaker appointed the following member to the Recreational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee:

Rep. Bishop of Colchester

Oversight Commission on Children, Youths, and Families Appointment

Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3211, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Oversight Commission on Children, Youths, and Families:

Rep. Bishop of Colchester

Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Appointment

Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3085b, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders:

Rep. Noyes of Wolcott

Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee Appointments

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 601, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee:

Rep. Carris Duncan of Whitingham
Rep. Kascenska of Burke

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Journal is a true and correct record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont for the first year of the Seventy-Eighth Biennial Session of the General Assembly, beginning on the eighth day of January 2025, and ending on the sixteenth day of June 2025.

/s/ BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the House

APPENDIX A

Members, Standing Committees and Panels, Legislative Districts, and Officers and Assistants of the House of Representatives
2025 Biennial Session

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jill L. Krowinski, *Speaker*
Burlington

BetsyAnn Wrask, *Clerk*
Barre Town

Representative	Town	Committee	Seat
Arsenault, Angela	Williston	Judiciary	48
Austin, Sarah C.	Colchester	Environment, *Clerk*	96
Bailey, Richard J.	Hyde Park	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	118
Bartholomew, John L.	Hartland	Environment; Rules	133
Bartley, Ashley R.	Fairfax	General and Housing, *Vice Chair*	106
Berbeco, Daisy	Winooski	Health Care	3
Birong, Matthew J.	Vergennes	Government Ops. & Military Affairs, *Chair*	141
Bishop, Doug	Colchester	Human Services	41
Black, Alyssa	Essex	Health Care, *Chair*	59
Bluemle, Tiffany	Burlington	Appropriations	94
Bos-Lun, Michelle	Westminster	Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry	52
Bosch, David	Clarendon	Commerce and Economic Development	101
Boutin, Michael	Barre City	Commerce and Economic Development	16
Boyden, Lucy	Cambridge	Government Ops. & Military Affairs, *Clerk*	44
Brady, Erin	Williston	Education	146
Branagan, Carolyn W.	Georgia	Ways and Means	17
Brown, Jana	Richmond	Education, *Clerk*	139
Burditt, Thomas B.	West Rutland	Judiciary, *Vice Chair*	115
Burke, Mollie S.	Brattleboro	Transportation	24
Burkhardt, Bridget M.	South Burlington	Ways and Means, *Clerk*	11
Burrows, Elizabeth L.	West Windsor	General and Housing	55
Burtt, Gregory	Cabot	Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry	99
Campbell, R. Scott	St. Johnsbury	Energy and Digital Infrastructure, *Vice Chair*	149
Canfield, William P.	Fair Haven	Ways and Means, *Vice Chair*	71
Carris-Duncan, Emily	Whitingham	Commerce and Economic Development	28
Casey, Conor	Montpelier	Corrections and Institutions	23
Casey, James	Hubbardton	Transportation	79
Chapin, Elanor	East Montpelier	Environment	57
Charlton, Thomas F.	Chester	General and Housing	122
Christie, Kevin B.	Hartford	Judiciary	10
Cina, Brian J.	Burlington	Health Care	88
Coffin, Voranus L.	Cavendish	Government Operations and Military Affairs	80
Cole, Esme	Hartford	Human Services	86
Conlon, Peter C.	Cornwall	Education, *Chair*	145

Representative	Town	Committee	Seat
Cooper, Jonathan	Pownal	Commerce and Economic Development	129
Corcoran, Timothy R.	Bennington	Transportation, *Vice Chair*	62
[*]Cordes, Mari K.	Bristol	Health Care, *Clerk*	89
Critchlow, Wendy A.	Colchester	Health Care	124
Demar, Allen R.	Enosburgh	Health Care	67
Dickinson, Eileen G.	St. Albans Town	Appropriations	113
Dobrovich, Joshua	Williamstown	Education	100
Dodge, Leonora	Essex	General and Housing	95
Dolan, Karen N.	Essex Junction	Judiciary; Rules	132
Dolgin, Deborah C.	St. Johnsbury	General and Housing	68
Donahue, Anne B.	Northfield	Human Services	20
Duke, Abbey	Burlington	Commerce and Economic Development	128
Durfee, David K.	Shaftsbury	Agriculture, Food Resiliency & Forestry, *Chair*	97
Eastes, Zon	Guilford	Human Services	125
Emmons, Alice M.	Springfield	Corrections and Institutions, *Chair*	61
Feltus, Martha A.	Lyndon	Ways and Means; Rules	47
Galfetti, Gina M.	Barre Town	Corrections and Institutions	6
Garofano, Golrang	Essex	Human Services, *Vice Chair*	60
Goldman, Leslie	Rockingham	Health Care	81
Goodnow, Ian	Brattleboro	Judiciary	126
Goslant, Kenneth W.	Northfield	Judiciary, *Clerk*	103
Graning, Edye	Jericho	Commerce & Econ. Development, *Vice Chair*	50
Greer, William	Bennington	Corrections and Institutions	63
Gregoire, James A.R.	Fairfield	Corrections and Institutions, *Vice Chair*	120
Hango, Lisa A.	Berkshire	Government Ops. & Military Affairs, *Vice Chair*	7
Harple, Leanne	Glover	Education	30
Harrison, James F.	Chittenden	Appropriations, *Vice Chair*	72
†Harvey, Zachary J.	Castleton	Judiciary	18
Headrick, Troy	Burlington	Corrections and Institutions	54
Higley, Mark A.	Lowell	Ways and Means	112
Holcombe, Rebecca	Norwich	Ways and Means	64
Hooper, Philip J.	Randolph	Government Operations and Military Affairs	45
Hooper, Robert J.	Burlington	Government Operations and Military Affairs	98
Houghton, Lori	Essex Junction	Health Care; Rules, *Vice Chair*	131
Howard, Mary E.	Rutland City	General and Housing, *Clerk*	56
Howland, Christopher	Rutland Town	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	70
[§§]Hoyt, Michael N.	Hartford	[*n/a*]	[*n/a*]
Hunter, Robert	Manchester	Education	36

[*] Rep. Mari Cordes of Bristol resigned on June 19, 2025.

[†] Rep. Zachary Harvey of Castleton appointed on Jan. 8, 2025 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Rep.-elect Christopher Brown of Castleton on Dec. 13, 2024.

[§§] Rep. Michael Hoyt of Hartford appointed Dec. 2, 2025 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Rep. Heather Surprenant of Barnard on Sept. 29, 2025

Representative	Town	Committee	Seat
James, Kathleen C.	Manchester	Energy and Digital Infrastructure, *Chair*	148
Kascenska, John	Burke	Appropriations	33
Keyser, Chris	Rutland City	Transportation	65
Kimbell, Charles A.	Woodstock	Ways and Means	9
Kleppner, Bram	Burlington	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	26
Kornheiser, Emilie K.	Brattleboro	Ways and Means, *Chair*	147
Krasnow, Emilie	South Burlington	General and Housing	58
Krowinski, Jill L.	Burlington	*Speaker*; Rules, *Chair ex officio*	1
Labor, Larry	Morgan	Environment, *Vice Chair*	75
Lalley, Kate	Shelburne	Transportation	38
LaLonde, Martin J.	South Burlington	Judiciary, *Chair*	137
LaMont, Saudia	Morristown	General and Housing	25
Laroche, Wayne A.	Franklin	Appropriations	107
Lipsky, Jed	Stowe	Agriculture, Food Resiliency & Forestry, *Clerk*	8
Logan, Kate	Burlington	Environment	87
Long, Emily J.	Newfane	Education	135
[**]Lueders, Karen	Lincoln	[*n/a*]	[*n/a*]
Luneau, Joseph	St. Albans City	Corrections and Institutions	78
Maguire, Eric	Rutland City	Human Services	73
Malay, Alicia	Pittsford	Judiciary	76
Marcotte, Michael J.	Coventry	Commerce and Economic Development, *Chair*	66
Masland, James W.	Thetford	Ways and Means	82
McCann, Kate	Montpelier	Education	77
McCoy, Patricia A.	Poultney	Transportation; Rules	110
McFaun, Francis M.	Barre Town	Health Care, *Vice Chair*	5
McGill, Jubilee	Bridport	Human Services	90
Micklus, Anthony	Milton	Commerce and Economic Development	19
Mihaly, Marc B.	Calais	General and Housing, *Chair*	40
Minier, Brian	South Burlington	Corrections and Institutions	143
Morgan, Leland J.	Milton	Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry	116
Morgan, Michael R.	Milton	Government Operations and Military Affairs	117
Morris, Kristi C.	Springfield	Environment	22
Morrissey, Mary A.	Bennington	Corrections and Institutions	74
Morrow, Christopher	Weston	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	85
Mrowicki, Michael	Putney	Appropriations	138
Nelson, Richard M.	Derby	Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry	43
Nielsen, Todd	Brandon	Human Services	42
Nigro, Michael	Bennington	Appropriations	123
North, Robert	Ferrisburgh	Environment	32
Noyes, Daniel A.	Wolcott	Human Services, *Clerk*	142
Nugent, Kate	South Burlington	Government Operations and Military Affairs	144

[**] Rep. Karen Lueders of Lincoln appointed on Oct. 17, 2025 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Rep. Mari Cordes of Bristol on June 19, 2025.

Representative	Town	Committee	Seat
O'Brien, John K.	Tunbridge	Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry	39
Ode, Carol	Burlington	Ways and Means	136
Oliver, Thomas	Sheldon	Judiciary	104
Olson, Herb	Starksboro	Commerce and Economic Development	83
Page, Woodman H.	Newport City	Health Care	102
Parsons, Joseph	Newbury	General and Housing	108
Pezzo, Gayle	Colchester	General and Housing	29
Pinsonault, Sandra H.	Dorset	Government Operations and Military Affairs	109
Pouech, Phil	Hinesburg	Transportation	130
Powers, Debra L.	Waterford	Health Care	35
Priestley, Monique	Bradford	Commerce and Economic Development, *Clerk*	31
Pritchard, Christopher A.	Pawlet	Environment	69
Quimby, Beth M.	Lyndon	Education	105
Rachelson, Barbara	Burlington	Judiciary	84
Satcowitz, Lawrence	Randolph	Environment	134
Scheu, Robin P.	Middlebury	Appropriations, *Chair*	93
Sheldon, Amy D.	Middlebury	Environment, *Chair*	92
Sibilia, Laura H.	Dover	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	127
Southworth, Michael	Walden	Energy and Digital Infrastructure	14
Squirrell, Trevor J.	Underhill	Appropriations, *Clerk*	4
Steady, Brenda	Milton	Human Services	13
Stevens, Thomas S.	Waterbury	Appropriations	150
Stone, Mary-Katherine A.	Burlington	Government Operations and Military Affairs	49
[§]Surprenant, Heather	Barnard	Ag., Food Resiliency & Forestry, *Vice Chair*	140
Sweeney, Shawn	Shelburne	Corrections and Institutions, *Clerk*	51
Tagliavia, Michael	Corinth	Environment	34
Taylor, Christopher A.	Milton	Education, *Vice Chair*	114
Tomlinson, Chloe	Winooski	Transportation, *Clerk*	53
Toof, Casey J.	St. Albans Town	Education; Rules	111
Torre, Dara	Moretown	Energy and Digital Infrastructure, *Clerk*	37
Walker, Matthew E.	Swanton	Transportation, *Chair*	119
Waszazak, Edward	Barre City	Ways and Means	21
Waters Evans, Chea	Charlotte	Government Operations and Military Affairs	2
Wells, Kenneth L.	Brownington	Transportation	121
White, Candice	Waitsfield	Transportation	46
White, Kirk	Bethel	Commerce and Economic Development	27
Winter, Kevin C.	Ludlow	Corrections and Institutions	15
Wood, Theresa A.	Waterbury	Human Services, *Chair*	91
Yacovone, David W.	Morristown	Appropriations	12

[§] Rep. Heather Surprenant of Barnard resigned on Sept. 29, 2025.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry

Durfee of Shaftsbury, *Chair*
Surprenant of Barnard, *Vice Chair*
Morgan, L. of Milton, *Ranking Member*
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Burtt of Cabot
Lipsky of Stowe, *Clerk*
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Nelson of Derby

Appropriations

Scheu of Middlebury, *Chair*
Harrison of Chittenden, *Vice Chair*
Bluemle of Burlington, *Ranking Member*
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Kascenska of Burke
Laroche of Franklin
Mrowicki of Putney
Nigro of Bennington
Squirrell of Underhill, *Clerk*
Stevens of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Commerce and Economic Development

Marcotte of Coventry, *Chair*
Graning of Jericho, *Vice Chair*
White of Bethel, *Ranking Member*
Bosch of Clarendon
Boutin of Barre City
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham
Cooper of Pownal
Duke of Burlington
Micklus of Milton
Olson of Starksboro
Priestley of Bradford, *Clerk*

Corrections and Institutions

Emmons of Springfield, *Chair*
Gregoire of Fairfield, *Vice Chair*
Headrick of Burlington, *Ranking Member*
Casey of Montpelier
Galfetti of Barre Town
Greer of Bennington
Luneau of St. Albans City
Minier of South Burlington
Morrissey of Bennington
Sweeney of Shelburne, *Clerk*
Winter of Ludlow

Education

Conlon of Cornwall, *Chair*
Taylor of Milton, *Vice Chair*
Brady of Williston, *Ranking Member*
Brown of Richmond, *Clerk*
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Harple of Glover
Hunter of Manchester
Long of Newfane
McCann of Montpelier
Quimby of Lyndon
Toof of St. Albans Town

Energy and Digital Infrastructure

James of Manchester, *Chair*
Campbell of St. Johnsbury, *Vice Chair*
Sibilia of Dover, *Ranking Member*
Bailey of Hyde Park
Howland of Rutland Town
Kleppner of Burlington
Morrow of Weston
Southworth of Walden
Torre of Moretown, *Clerk*

Environment

Sheldon of Middlebury, *Chair*
Labor of Morgan, *Vice Chair*
Satcowitz of Randolph, *Ranking Member*
Austin of Colchester, *Clerk*
Bartholomew of Hartland
Chapin of East Montpelier
Logan of Burlington
Morris of Springfield
North of Ferrisburgh
Pritchard of Pawlet
Tagliavia of Corinth

General and Housing

Mihaly of Calais, *Chair*
Bartley of Fairfax, *Vice Chair*
Krasnow of South Burlington, *Ranking Member*
Burrows of West Windsor
Charlton of Chester
Dodge of Essex
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Howard of Rutland City, *Clerk*
LaMont of Morristown
Parsons of Newbury
Pezzo of Colchester

Government Operations and Military Affairs

Birong of Vergennes, *Chair*
Hango of Berkshire, *Vice Chair*
Waters Evans of Charlotte, *Ranking Member*
Boyden of Cambridge, *Clerk*
Coffin of Cavendish
Hooper of Randolph
Hooper of Burlington
Morgan, M. of Milton
Nugent of South Burlington
Pinsonault of Dorset
Stone of Burlington

Health Care

Black of Essex, *Chair*
McFaun of Barre Town, *Vice Chair*
Berbeco of Winooski, *Ranking Member*
Cina of Burlington
Cordes of Bristol, *Clerk*
Critchlow of Colchester
Demar of Enosburgh
Goldman of Rockingham
Houghton of Essex Junction
Page of Newport City
Powers of Waterford

Human Services

Wood of Waterbury, *Chair*
Garofano of Essex, *Vice Chair*
Donahue of Northfield, *Ranking Member*
Bishop of Colchester
Cole of Hartford
Eastes of Guilford
Maguire of Rutland City
McGill of Bridport
Nielsen of Brandon
Noyes of Wolcott, *Clerk*
Steady of Milton

Judiciary

LaLonde of South Burlington, *Chair*
Burditt of West Rutland, *Vice Chair*
Christie of Hartford, *Ranking Member*
Arsenault of Williston
Dolan of Essex Junction
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Goslant of Northfield, *Clerk*
Harvey of Castleton
Malay of Pittsford
Oliver of Sheldon
Rachelson of Burlington

Rules

Krowinski of Burlington, *Chair ex officio*
Houghton of Essex Junction, *ex officio, Vice Chair*
Dolan of Essex Junction, *ex officio*
Bartholomew of Hartland
McCoy of Poultney, *ex officio*
Toof of St. Albans Town, *ex officio*
Feltus of Lyndon

Transportation

Walker of Swanton, *Chair*
Corcoran of Bennington, *Vice Chair*
Pouech of Hinesburg, *Ranking Member*
Burke of Brattleboro
Casey of Hubbardton
Keyser of Rutland City
Lalley of Shelburne
McCoy of Poultney
Tomlinson of Winooski, *Clerk*
Wells of Brownington
White of Waitsfield

Ways and Means

Kornheiser of Brattleboro, *Chair*
Canfield of Fair Haven, *Vice Chair*
Kimbell of Woodstock, *Ranking Member*
Branagan of Georgia
Burkhardt of South Burlington, *Clerk*
Feltus of Lyndon
Higley of Lowell
Holcombe of Norwich
Masland of Thetford
Ode of Burlington
Waszazak of Barre City

Discrimination Prevention Panel

Burrows of West Windsor, *Chair*
Berbeco of Winooski
Galfetti of Barre Town
McFaun of Barre Town
Sibilia of Dover

Ethics Panel

LaLonde of South Burlington, *Chair*
Cina of Burlington
Morgan, M. of Milton
Ode of Burlington
Taylor of Milton

Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel

Burke of Brattleboro, *Chair*
Branagan of Georgia
Headrick of Burlington
Mrowicki of Putney
Quimby of Lyndon

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative(s)
Addison-1	Robin P. Scheu (D)
	Amy D. Sheldon (D)
Addison-2	Peter C. Conlon (D)
Addison-3	Matthew J. "Matt" Birong (D)
	Robert "Rob" North (R)
Addison-4	[*]Mari K. Cordes (D)
	[**]Karen Lueders (D)
	Herb Olson (D)
Addison-5	Jubilee McGill (D)
Addison-Rutland	James "Jim" Casey (R)
Bennington-1	Jonathan Cooper (D)
Bennington-2	Timothy R. Corcoran, II (D)
	William "Will" Greer (D)
Bennington-3	David K. Durfee (D)
Bennington-4	Robert "Rob" Hunter (D)
	Kathleen C. James (D)
Bennington-5	Mary A. Morrissey (R)
	Michael Nigro (D)
Bennington-Rutland	Sandra H. "Sandy" Pinsonault (R)
Caledonia-1	Debra L. "Debbie" Powers (R)
Caledonia-2	Michael "Mike" Southworth (R)
Caledonia-3	Martha A. "Marty" Feltus (R)
	Beth M. Quimby (R)
Caledonia-Essex	R. Scott Campbell (D)
	Deborah C. "Debbie" Dolgin (R)
Caledonia-Washington	Gregory "Greg" Burtt (R)

[*] Rep. Mari Cordes of Bristol resigned on June 19, 2025.

[**] Rep. Karen Lueders of Lincoln appointed on Oct. 17, 2025 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Rep. Mari Cordes of Bristol on June 19, 2025.

District	Representative(s)
Chittenden-1	Jana Brown (D)
Chittenden-2	Angela Arsenault (D)
	Erin Brady (D)
Chittenden-3	Edye Graning (D)
	Trevor J. Squirrell (D)
Chittenden-4	Phil Pouech (D)
Chittenden-5	Chea Waters Evans (D)
Chittenden-6	Kate Lalley (D)
Chittenden-7	Shawn Sweeney (D)
Chittenden-8	Bridget M. Burkhardt (D)
Chittenden-9	Emilie Krasnow (D)
Chittenden-10	Kate Nugent (D)
Chittenden-11	Brian Minier (D)
Chittenden-12	Martin J. LaLonde (D)
Chittenden-13	Tiffany “Tiff” Bluemle (D)
	Bram Kleppner (D)
Chittenden-14	Barbara Rachelson (D)
	Mary-Katherine A. Stone (D)
Chittenden-15	Brian J. Cina (P/D)
	Troy Headrick (I)
Chittenden-16	Jill L. Krowinski (D)
	Kate Logan (P/D)
Chittenden-17	Abbey Duke (D)
Chittenden-18	Robert J. “Bob” Hooper (D)
	Carol Ode (D)
Chittenden-19	Sarah C. “Sarita” Austin (D)
	Wendy A. Critchlow (D)
Chittenden-20	Doug Bishop (D)
	Gayle Pezzo (D)
Chittenden-21	Daisy Berbeco (D)
	Chloe Tomlinson (P/D)
Chittenden-22	Karen N. Dolan (D)
	Lori Houghton (D)

District	Representative(s)
Chittenden-23	Leonora Dodge (D)
	Golrang "Rey" Garofano (D)
Chittenden-24	Alyssa Black (D)
Chittenden-25	Brenda Steady (R)
Chittenden-Franklin	Anthony "Tony" Micklus (R)
	Christopher A. "Chris" Taylor (R)
Essex-Caledonia	John Kascenska (R)
Essex-Orleans	Larry Labor (R)
Franklin-1	Ashley R. Bartley (R/D)
	Carolyn W. Branagan (R)
Franklin-2	Eileen G. "Lynn" Dickinson (R)
Franklin-3	Joseph "Joe" Luneau (R)
Franklin-4	Thomas "Tom" Oliver, Jr. (R/D)
	Matthew E. "Matt" Walker (R)
Franklin-5	Lisa A. Hango (R)
	Wayne A. Laroche (R)
Franklin-6	James A.R. Gregoire (R)
Franklin-7	Allen R. "Penny" Demar (R)
Franklin-8	Casey J. Toof (R)
Grand Isle-Chittenden	Leland J. Morgan (R)
	Michael R. Morgan (R)
Lamoille-1	Jed Lipsky (I)
Lamoille-2	Richard J. Bailey (R)
	Daniel A. Noyes (D)
Lamoille-3	Lucy Boyden (D)
Lamoille-Washington	Saudia LaMont (D)
	David W. Yacovone (D)
Orange-1	Michael "Mike" Tagliavia (R)
Orange-2	Monique Priestley (D)
Orange-3	Joshua Dobrovich (R)
Orange-Caledonia	Joseph Parsons (R)
Orange-Washington-Addison	Philip J. "Jay" Hooper (D)
	Lawrence "Larry" Satcowitz (D)

District	Representative(s)
Orleans-1	Richard M. Nelson (R)
Orleans-2	Woodman H. “Woody” Page (R)
Orleans-3	Kenneth L. “Ken” Wells (R)
Orleans-4	Leanne Harple (D)
Orleans-Lamoille	Mark A. Higley (R)
	Michael J. Marcotte (R)
Rutland-1	Patricia A. McCoy (R)
Rutland-2	David “Dave” Bosch (R)
	Thomas B. “Tom” Burditt (R)
Rutland-3	[†]Zachary J. “Zak” Harvey (R)
Rutland-4	Christopher “Chris” Howland (R)
Rutland-5	Eric Maguire (R)
Rutland-6	Mary E. Howard (D)
Rutland-7	Chris Keyser (R)
Rutland-8	Alicia Malay (R/D)
Rutland-9	Todd Nielsen (R)
Rutland-10	William P. “Bill” Canfield (R)
Rutland-11	James F. “Jim” Harrison (R)
Rutland-Bennington	Christopher A. “Chris” Pritchard (R)
Rutland-Windsor	Kevin C. Winter (R)
Washington-1	Anne B. Donahue (I)
	Kenneth W. Goslant (R)
Washington-2	Dara Torre (D)
	Candice White (D)
Washington-3	Michael Boutin (R)
	Edward “Teddy” Waszazak (D)
Washington-4	Conor Casey (D)
	Kate McCann (D)
Washington-5	Elanor “Ela” Chapin (D)
Washington-6	Marc B. Mihaly (D)

[†] Rep. Zachary Harvey of Castleton appointed on Jan. 8, 2025 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Rep.-elect Christopher Brown of Castleton on Dec. 13, 2024.

District	Representative(s)
Washington-Chittenden	Thomas S. "Tom" Stevens (D)
	Theresa A. Wood (D)
Washington-Orange	Gina M. Galfetti (R)
	Francis M. "Topper" McFaun (R)
Windham-1	Zon Eastes (D)
Windham-2	Laura H. Sibilia (I)
Windham-3	Michelle Bos-Lun (D)
	Leslie Goldman (D)
Windham-4	Michael "Mike" Mrowicki (D)
Windham-5	Emily J. Long (D)
Windham-6	Emily Carris-Duncan (D)
Windham-7	Emilie K. Kornheiser (D)
Windham-8	Mollie S. Burke (D)
Windham-9	Ian Goodnow (D)
Windham-Windsor-Bennington	Christopher Morrow (D)
Windsor-1	John L. Bartholomew (D)
	Elizabeth L. Burrows (D)
Windsor-2	Voranus L. "VL" Coffin, IV (R)
Windsor-3	Alice M. Emmons (D)
	Kristi C. Morris (D)
Windsor-4	[§]Heather Surprenant (D)
	[§§]Michael N. Hoyt (D)
Windsor-5	Charles A. "Charlie" Kimbell (D)
Windsor-6	Kevin B. "Coach" Christie (D)
	Esme Cole (D)
Windsor-Addison	Kirk White (D)
Windsor-Orange-1	John K. O'Brien (D)
Windsor-Orange-2	Rebecca Holcombe (D)
	James W. "Jim" Masland (D)
Windsor-Windham	Thomas F. "Tom" Charlton (R)

[§] Rep. Heather Surprenant of Barnard resigned Sept. 29, 2025.

[§§] Rep. Michael Hoyt of Hartford appointed Dec. 2, 2025 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rep. Heather Surprenant of Barnard on Sept. 29, 2025

OFFICERS AND ASSISTANTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Residence	Office
Jill L. Krowinski	Burlington	Speaker of the House
Conor Kennedy	Montpelier	Speaker's Chief of Staff
Molly Moore	East Haven	Speaker's Deputy Director of Comms. & Leg. Affairs
BetsyAnn Wrask	Barre Town	Clerk of the House
Nigel Hicks-Tibbles	Northfield	First Assistant Clerk
Courtney Reckord	Williamstown	Second Assistant Clerk
Theresa Utton-Jerman	Barre Town	Journal Clerk
Christine Ditmeyer	Plainfield	Clerk Associate

APPENDIX B

The following table includes all constitutional proposals of amendment, bills, joint resolutions, and House resolutions acted upon during the 2025 Biennial Session, arranged numerically with the name of the legislator and committee introducing the same. Under each title is an abbreviated history of the action taken on the legislation, with references to the pages of the printed House Journal on which that record of action taken may be found. The number in parentheses following the number of a bill or a joint resolution is the act or resolved number, as applicable, for those bills that were enacted into law and those joint resolutions adopted in concurrence.

The following is a list of abbreviations and their meanings:

act	**action**
adj	**adjourn; adjournment**
adpt	**adopt; adoption**
adptd	**adopted**
adv	**adverse/ly**
agrd	**agreed**
AFR&F	**Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry**
amend	**amended; amendment/s**
app	**approve**
Appr	**Appropriations**
appt	**appoint; appointed; appoints**
C	**Committee/Committees**
C of C	**Committee of Conference**
Cal	**Calendar**
C&EcD	**Commerce and Economic Development**
cmtd	**committed**
con	**concur; concurred; concurrence**
cons	**consider; consideration**
consti	**constitution/al**
C&I	**Corrections and Institutions**
delv	**deliver/ed**
disagr/d	**disagree/d**
disp	**dispense**
divid	**divide; divided; division**
Edu	**Education**
E&DI	**Energy and Digital Infrastructure**
Enviro	**Environment**
exp	**explained**
fav	**favorable**
f/w	**forthwith**
fr	**from**
G&H	**General and Housing**
GO&MA	**Government Operations and Military Affairs**
Gov	**Governor**

H	**House**
HC	**Health Care**
HS	**Human Services**
imm	**immediate**
indef	**indefinitely**
instnc	**instance**
Jt Assy	**Joint Assembly**
Judic	**Judiciary**
lv	**leave**
msg	**message/d**
mo	**motion**
neg	**negative**
O of D	**Orders of the Day**
offd	**offered**
ord	**order/ed**
pass	**passed/passage**
p/con	**pass/d in concurrence**
pndg	**pending**
pl	**placed**
pt of o	**point of order**
postp	**postpone/d**
prop	**proposal; propose/d**
prov	**provision/s**
purs	**pursuant**
qstn	**question**
R C	**Roll Call**
rd	**read**
rdg	**reading**
recd	**received**
recomd	**recommended**
recmt/d	**recommit/ted**
reconsid/d	**reconsider/ed; reconsideration**
ref	**referred**
rej/d	**reject/ed**
relv/d	**relieve/d**
rpt	**report**
rptd	**reported**
req	**request/ed**
res	**resolution**
resmd	**resumed**
rl/d/s; rul/d/s	**rule/d/s**
R	**Rules**
Sen	**Senate**
S O	**special order**
stgs	**stages**
subst/d	**substitute/d**
susp/d	**suspend/ed; suspension**

sustnd	**sustained**
tkn	**taken**
t	**time**
T	**Title**
Trans	**Transportation**
W&M	**Ways and Means**
w	**with**
wdr	**withdraw/withdrew**
wdrn	**withdrawn**
w/o	**without**

CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

Prop 3. Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain.

S msg: adptd in con, 680; Ref to the C on G&H, 684; Read, 1203; Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington rptd for the C on G&H, 1203; Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington demanded yeas and nays, 1204; Adptd in con, 1204; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 70 of 140 to Pass -- Yeas = 125, Nays = 15, 1204.

HOUSE BILLS

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 1. (No. 0044) An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 35; Rd 2nd t, 384; Rep. Morgan, M. of Milton rptd for the C on GO&MA, 384; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 386; 3rd rdg ord, 386; Rd 3rd t and pass, 400; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1853; S pro of amend con in, 1885; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Allowed to become law w/o the signature of the Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Dolan of Essex Junction, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 2. (No. 0004) An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 35; Rd 2nd t, 367; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington rptd for the C on Judic, 367; Rep. Maguire of Rutland City moved to amend the rpt of the C on Judic, 371; Rep. Maguire of Rutland City demanded yeas and nays, 372; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 71 of 141 to Pass -- Yeas = 55, Nays = 86, 372; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 373; 3rd rdg ord, 373; Rd 3rd t and pass, 383; S msg: pass in con, 726; Delv to the Gov on March 27, 2025; Signed by Gov on March 31, 2025, 781.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 3. An act relating to the minimum qualifications required for State employment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 36.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and Cole of Hartford,

H. 4. An act relating to standards for the care of egg-laying hens.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 36.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 5. An act relating to a hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 36.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 6. An act relating to marriage license fees.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 36.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 7. An act relating to termination of parental rights in an adoption proceeding.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 36.

By Representative Stone of Burlington,

H. 8. An act relating to a tax credit for home modifications for safety and livability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 37.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 9. An act relating to the Vermont State and Judiciary Employees' Cost-Savings Incentive Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 37.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 10. (No. M001) An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 37; Rd 2nd t, 644; Rep. Coffin of Cavendish rptd for the C on GO&MA, 644; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 644; 3rd rdg ord, 644; Rd 3rd t and pass, 697; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1128; Rep. Coffin of Cavendish moved to postp act until 4/23/2025, which was agrd to, 1145; S pro of amend con in, 1147; Delv to the Gov on April 25, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 1, 2025, 1208.

By Representative Sibilia of Dover,

H. 11. An act relating to consumer protections applicable to broadband and VoIP services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 37.

By Representatives Bluemle of Burlington and Goldman of Rockingham,

H. 12. An act relating to addressing barriers to blenderized tube feeding.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 37.

By Representatives Wood of Waterbury and Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 13. (No. 0014) An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 38; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 145; Rd 2nd t, 173; Rep. Noyes of Wolcott rptd for the C on HS, 173; Rep. Yacovone of Morristown recomd for the C on Appr, 176; Rpt of C on HS agrd to, 176; 3rd rdg ord, 176; Rd 3rd t and pass, 201; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1155; S pro of amend con in, 1179; Delv to the Gov on May 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 13, 2025, 1539.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 14. An act relating to prohibiting the use of animals in product testing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 38.

By Representative Donahue of Northfield,

H. 15. An act relating to assistance for room and board at a Vermont postsecondary school for students served by foster or kinship care.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 38.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 16. An act relating to repealing the Affordable Heat Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 38.

By Representatives Yacovone of Morristown and LaMont of Morristown,

H. 17. (No. M002) An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Morristown.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 39; Rd 2nd t, 733; Rep. Coffin of Cavendish rptd for the C on GO&MA, 733; 3rd rdg ord, 733; Rd 3rd t and pass, 751; S msg: pass in con, 1167; Delv to the Gov on April 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 5, 2025, 1412.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Dolan of Essex Junction, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 18. An act relating to decriminalizing nonmoving DLS violations for third-time offenders.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 39.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Burditt of West Rutland, and Goslant of Northfield,

H. 19. An act relating to grand larceny of a firearm.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 39.

By Representative Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 20. An act relating to establishing a voluntary firearms storage program for persons in crisis.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 39.

By Representative Dolan of Essex Junction,

H. 21. (No. 0013) An act relating to service of writs of possession.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 40; Rd 2nd t, 373; Rep. Malay of Pittsford rptd for the C on Judic, 373; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 374; 3rd rdg ord, 374; Rd 3rd t and pass, 384; S msg: pass in con, 1155; Delv to the Gov on April 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 5, 2025, 1412.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Burke of Brattleboro, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Harrison of Chittenden, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Priestley of Bradford, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 22. An act relating to access to information concerning benefit extension agreements for employees of public agencies.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 40.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 23. An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 40.

By Representative Donahue of Northfield,

H. 24. An act relating to requiring retail businesses to accept cash.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 40.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Dolan of Essex Junction, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 25. An act relating to imposing Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees based on a person's ability to pay.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 40.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield and Howard of Rutland City,

H. 26. An act relating to guardianship proceedings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 42.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and Nugent of South Burlington,

H. 27. (No. 0025) An act relating to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 42; Rd 2nd t, 93; Rep. Rachelson of Burlington rptd for the C on Judic, 93; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 93; 3rd rdg ord, 93; Rd 3rd t and pass, 97; S msg: pass in con, 1500; Delv to the Gov on May 14, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 20, 2025, 1854.

By Representatives Chapin of East Montpelier and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 28. An act relating to including an affirmation option in oath requirements in Titles 1–10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 42.

By Representative Berbeco of Winooski,

H. 29. An act relating to replacing statutory references to Vermont Psychiatric Survivors with MadFreedom, Inc.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 44.

By Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 30. An act relating to the use of seclusion and restraint on children and youth in the custody of the Department for Children and Families.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 44.

By Representative Black of Essex,

H. 31. (No. 0003) An act relating to claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 44; Rd 2nd t, 99; Rep. Black of Essex rptd for the C on HC, 99; 3rd rdg ord, 99; Rd 3rd t and pass, 106; S msg: pass in con, 287; Delv to the Gov on February 28, 2025; Signed by Gov on March 5, 2025, 306.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Rachelson of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Tomlinson of Winooski, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 32. An act relating to treatment for opioid use disorder in correctional facilities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 44.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Greer of Bennington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Stevens of Waterbury, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, and White of Bethel,

H. 33. An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 52.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H. 34. An act relating to workforce leadership in Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 52; Rd 2nd t, 109; Rep. Graning of Jericho rptd for the C on C&EcD, 109; 3rd rdg ord, 109; Rd 3rd t and pass, 115.

By Representative Houghton of Essex Junction,

H. 35. (No. 0002) An act relating to unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 52; Rd 2nd t, 93; Rep. Demar of Enosburgh rptd for the C on HC, 93; 3rd rdg ord, 94; Rd 3rd t and pass, 97; S msg: pass in con, 154; Delv to the Gov on February 14, 2025; Signed by Gov on 2/19/2025, 202.

By Representatives Goodnow of Brattleboro and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 36. An act relating to family forensic evaluators.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 52.

By Representative Harrison of Chittenden,

H. 37. An act relating to the consolidation of Vermont's school districts to align with career and technical education service regions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 53.

By Representatives Christie of Hartford, Stevens of Waterbury, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Priestley of Bradford, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 38. An act relating to adding new positions to the Human Rights Commission.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 54.

By Representatives Maguire of Rutland City, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 39. An act relating to repeal of authorization of overdose prevention centers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 54.

By Representatives Chapin of East Montpelier, Arsenault of Williston, Burke of Brattleboro, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Mrowicki of Putney, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 40. An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 56.

By Representatives Burditt of West Rutland and Demar of Enosburgh,

H. 41. (No. 0030) An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 56; Rd 2nd t, 152; Rep. Burditt of West Rutland rptd for the C on Judic, 152; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 153; 3rd rdg ord, 153; Rd 3rd t and pass, 157; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1413; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to postp act until 5/9/2025, which was agrd to, 1471; Rep. Burditt of West Rutland moved to postp act until 5/13/25, which was agrd to, 1487; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to postp act until 5/14/2025, which was agrd to, 1526; S pro of amend con in, 1545; Delv to the Gov on May 16, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 22, 2025, 1902.

By Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cole of Hartford, LaMont of Morristown, McCann of Montpelier, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 42. An act relating to the creation of the Housing Board of Appeals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 57.

By Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Hango of Berkshire, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Corcoran of Bennington, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown,

Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Hunter of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 43. An act relating to exempting military retirement and survivor benefit income from Vermont income tax.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 57.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and Burditt of West Rutland,

H. 44. (No. 0041) An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 60; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 136; Rd 2nd t, 176; Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro rptd for the C on Judic, 176; Rep. Squirrell of Underhill recomd for the C on Appr, 189; Rpt of C on Judic amend as recomd by C on Appr, 189; Rpt of C on Judic, as amend, agrd to, 189; 3rd rdg ord, 189; Rd 3rd t and pass, 201; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1853; S pro of amend con in, 1889; Delv to the Gov on May 27, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 2, 2025, 2557.

By Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 45. An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 60.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Noyes of Wolcott, and Stone of Burlington,

H. 46. An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 61; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1412; Rd 2nd t, 1511; Rep. Garofano of Essex rptd for the C on HS, 1511; Rep. Bluemle of Burlington recomd for the C on Appr, 1513; Rpt of C on HS agrd to, 1513; 3rd rdg ord, 1513; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1546.

By Representatives Stone of Burlington and Donahue of Northfield,

H. 47. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 61.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho and Arsenault of Williston,

H. 48. An act relating to prohibiting the emission of excessive soot or smoke from certain motor vehicles.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 61.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 49. An act relating to the implementation of an electronic roll-call system in the Vermont House of Representatives.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on R, 61.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and McCann of Montpelier,

H. 50. An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 61; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved that the C on G&H be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on C&I, which was agrd to, 74; Rd 2nd t, 320; Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield rptd for the C on C&I, 320; Rpt of C on C&I agrd to, 321; 3rd rdg ord, 321; Rd 3rd t and pass, 384; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2197; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2250; Rep. Emmons of Springfield moved to commit the bill to the C on C&I, which was agrd to, 2250.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes and Boyden of Cambridge,

H. 51. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing alcoholic beverages.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 62.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Lipsky of Stowe, and Morris of Springfield,

H. 52. An act relating to changing the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements to goals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 62.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Burrows of West Windsor, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 53. An act relating to counteracting federal discriminatory mandates.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 66.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Boutin of Barre City, Brady of Williston, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hunter of Manchester, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Minier of South Burlington, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Nugent of South Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Waitsfield, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 54. An act relating to cell phone-free schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 66.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Surprenant of Barnard, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 55. An act relating to coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 67.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 56. An act relating to establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and gender-affirming care.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 67.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Arsenault of Williston, Bailey of Hyde Park, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Hango of Berkshire, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nielsen of Brandon, Noyes of Wolcott,

Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 57. An act relating to survivor benefits for law enforcement officers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 67; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 294.

By Representatives Dobrovich of Williamstown, Arsenault of Williston, Boutin of Barre City, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burtt of Cabot, Cooper of Pownal, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Hunter of Manchester, Malay of Pittsford, McCann of Montpelier, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Taylor of Milton, Torre of Moretown, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 58. An act relating to Medicaid coverage for play therapy.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 68.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 59. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 68.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nielsen of Brandon, Oliver of Sheldon, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 60. An act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on immunization status.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 68.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Nielsen of Brandon, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 61. An act relating to bodily autonomy and health care decision making.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 68.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Bailey of Hyde Park, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Feltus of Lyndon, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 62. An act relating to repealing the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 69.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Boyden of Cambridge, Casey of Montpelier, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 63. An act relating to fair employment practices and legislative leave.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 70.

By Representatives Oliver of Sheldon, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Demar of Enosburgh, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Harvey of Castleton, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Quimby of Lyndon,

H. 64. An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 70.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Donahue of Northfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 65. An act relating to revoking Vermont's use of California's Clean Air Act waiver.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 70.

By Representative Scheu of Middlebury,

H. 66. An act relating to the number of votes required for a write-in candidate to win a primary election.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 71.

By Representatives Boyden of Cambridge, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Garofano of Essex,

H. 67. An act relating to legislative operations and government accountability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 71; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 316; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury moved that the C on Appr be relv/d of the bill and that the same be recmtd to the C on GO&MA, which was agrd to, 784.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Birong of Vergennes, Bartley of Fairfax, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Christie of Hartford, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Southworth of Walden, Stone of Burlington, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 68. An act relating to expanding the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 71.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nielsen of Brandon, Powers of Waterford, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 69. An act relating to reporting on adverse reactions related to immunizations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 71.

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Bailey of Hyde Park, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Hango of Berkshire, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Taylor of Milton,

H. 70. An act relating to the inclusion of use value appraisal land in the conserved land inventory.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 72.

By Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, Goldman of Rockingham, and Page of Newport City,

H. 71. An act relating to health care entity transaction oversight and clinical decision making.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 72.

By Representative Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 72. An act relating to municipal ordinances governing nuisance properties containing salvage and scrap.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 72.

By Representative Parsons of Newbury,

H. 73. An act relating to the zoning requirements for group homes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 73.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Noyes of Wolcott, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boyden of Cambridge, Burditt of West Rutland, Burrows of West Windsor, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Christie of Hartford, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Surprenant of Barnard, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 74. An act relating to exempting Social Security benefits from Vermont income tax.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 73.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 75. An act relating to clinician participation in patient choice at end of life and DNR/COLST orders.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 73.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Branagan of Georgia, Christie of Hartford, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Burlington, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Laroche of Franklin, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott,

Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 76. An act relating to an income tax exemption for National Guard active duty subsistence and quarters allowance.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 74.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 77. An act relating to creating a new income tax bracket.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 74.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

H. 78. (No. 0001) An act relating to the use of the Australian ballot system in local elections.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 1/24/2025, 74; Rd 2nd t, 88; Rep. Birong of Vergennes spoke for the C on GO&MA, 88; 3rd rdg ord, 88; Rd 3rd t and pass, 93; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 93; S msg: pass in con, 110; Delv to the Gov on February 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on February 13, 2025, 154.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 79. An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 75.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, McFaun of Barre Town, and Page of Newport City,

H. 80. (No. 0006) An act relating to the Office of the Health Care Advocate.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 76; Rd 2nd t, 588; Rep. Critchlow of Colchester rptd for the C on HC, 588; Rep. Black of Essex, Berbeco of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and Powers of Waterford moved to amend the rpt of the C on HC, which was agrd to, 589; Rpt of C on HC, as amend, agrd to, 590; 3rd rdg ord, 590; Rd 3rd t and pass, 608; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 823; S pro of amend con in, 1090; Delv to the Gov on April 17, 2025; Signed by Gov on April 23, 2025, 1152.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 81. An act relating to requiring legislative approval prior to entering into certain immigration agreements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 76.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Casey of Montpelier,

H. 82. An act relating to establishing the Division of Planning and Evaluation and strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Green Mountain Care Board.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 76.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 83. An act relating to firearms storage.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 76.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Branagan of Georgia, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Duke of Burlington, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, McCann of Montpelier, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nielsen of Brandon, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 84. An act relating to allowing telehealth appointments to be recorded with patient and provider consent.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 77.

By Representatives Lipsky of Stowe, Bosch of Clarendon, Branagan of Georgia, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Demar of Enosburgh, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland City, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Sweeney of Shelburne, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 85. An act relating to the taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 77.

By Representatives Sheldon of Middlebury, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Chapin of East Montpelier, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, and Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 86. An act relating to establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 77; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1153; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1171; Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier moved to postp act until 5/6/2025, which was agrd to, 1214; Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier moved to commit the bill to the C on Enviro, which was agrd to, 1419.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Sibilia of Dover, Stone of Burlington, Bartley of Fairfax, Boyden of Cambridge, Coffin of Cavendish, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Noyes of Wolcott, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 87. An act relating to raising awareness of military-related postsecondary opportunities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 78.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 88. An act relating to a prohibition on utility disconnections during periods of extreme heat.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 78.

By Representatives Tagliavia of Corinth, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Morgan, M. of Milton, Page of Newport City, and Powers of Waterford,

H. 89. An act relating to school choice for all Vermont students.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 78.

By Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 90. An act relating to the Vermont earned income tax credit and the Vermont child tax credit.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 78.

By Representatives McGill of Bridport, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Garofano of Essex, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 79; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 640; Rd 2nd t, 784; Rep. McGill of Bridport rptd for the C on HS, 784;

Rep. Bluemle of Burlington recomd for the C on Appr, 799; Rpt of C on HS agrd to, 799; 3rd rdg ord, 799; Rd 3rd t and pass, 804; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2049; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2092; S pro of amend not con in and C of C req/d upon mo of Rep. Wood of Waterbury, 2112; Speaker apptd Reps. Wood of Waterbury, Maguire of Rutland City, and McGill of Bridport as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2112; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2112; S msg: C of C members apptd, 2197; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2314; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2342; Rep. McGill of Bridport demanded yeas and nays, 2362; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 2362; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 67 of 134 to Pass -- Yeas = 92, Nays = 42, 2362; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Vetoed by the Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representatives McFaun of Barre Town, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Boutin of Barre City, Charlton of Chester, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Labor of Morgan, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Morrissey of Bennington, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Tagliavia of Corinth, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 92. An act relating to Human Services Board fair hearing proceedings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 79.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Critchlow of Colchester, Duke of Burlington, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Maguire of Rutland City, McCann of Montpelier, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nielsen of Brandon, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 93. An act relating to the creation and maintenance of a database of veterans in Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 79.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Boyden of Cambridge, Casey of Montpelier, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Sibilia of Dover, and Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 94. An act relating to events at accessory on-farm businesses.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 79.

By Representative Black of Essex,

H. 95. An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 83.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Goldman of Rockingham, Harrison of Chittenden, Logan of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, McFaun of Barre Town, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 96. (No. 0015) An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 83; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 238; Rd 2nd t, 310; Rep. Cordes of Bristol rptd for the C on HC, 310; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 314; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 314; 3rd rdg ord, 314; Rd 3rd t and pass, 320; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1200; S pro of amend con in, 1214; Delv to the Gov on May 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 13, 2025, 1539.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, White of Waitsfield, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 97. An act relating to prohibiting firearms and deadly weapons in schools, on school property, and at childcare centers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 83.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Headrick of Burlington, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 98. (No. 0031) An act relating to confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 83; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to postp act until 2/18/2025, which was agrd to, 157; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to postp act until 2/19/2025, which was agrd to, 173; Rd 2nd t, 198; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington rptd for the C on Judic, 198; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 201; 3rd rdg ord, 201; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 206; Rd 3rd t and pass, 206; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1441. Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved to postp act until 5/13/2025, which was agrd to, 1499; S pro of amend con in, 1526; T revised via Rule 41; Delv to the Gov on May 16, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 22, 2025, 1902.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H. 99. An act relating to regulating earned wage access services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 84.

By Representative Graning of Jericho,

H. 100. An act relating to creating a Department and Commissioner of Education.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 84.

By Representative Graning of Jericho,

H. 101. An act relating to the role and structure of the Agency of Education.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 84.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Burke of Brattleboro, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 102. An act relating to annual reporting on health care sharing plans and arrangements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 84.

By Representatives Labor of Morgan, Page of Newport City, Coffin of Cavendish, Morgan, M. of Milton, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 103. An act relating to prohibited practices for services involving veterans' benefits.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 84.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Goslant of Northfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Lipsky of Stowe, Morrissey of Bennington, Oliver of Sheldon, Quimby of Lyndon, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 104. An act relating to excluding veterans' disability benefits from income-based eligibility determinations for public assistance programs or benefits.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 85.

By Representative Dolan of Essex Junction,

H. 105. (No. 0045) An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 85; Rd 2nd t, 374; Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro rptd for the C on Judic, 374; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 382; 3rd rdg ord, 382; Rd 3rd t and pass, 384; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2049; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2251; S pro of amend con in, 2260; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representative Stevens of Waterbury,

H. 106. (No. 0052) An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 85; Rd 2nd t, 755; Rep. Dolgin of St. Johnsbury rptd for the C on G&H, 755; Rpt of C on G&H agrd to, 757; 3rd rdg ord, 757; Rd 3rd t and pass, 773; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2049; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2260; S pro of amend con in, 2261; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2560.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Coffin of Cavendish, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H. 107. An act relating to reports or complaints of sex offenses or sexual harassment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 85.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 108. An act relating to filial support.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 86.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Boutin of Barre City, Coffin of Cavendish, Harrison of Chittenden, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Morrissey of Bennington, Oliver of Sheldon, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 109. An act relating to municipal ordinances governing the maintenance of properties within downtown districts.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 86.

By Representative Boyden of Cambridge,

H. 110. An act relating to a reciprocity requirement for out-of-state consumer shipping licenses.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 86.

By Representatives Toof of St. Albans Town and Hango of Berkshire,

H. 111. An act relating to waived registration fees for volunteer firefighter motor vehicles.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 86.

By Representatives Black of Essex, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hunter of Manchester,

Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Powers of Waterford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 112. An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 86.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Goslant of Northfield, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 113. An act relating to lakes in crisis and requirements for designation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 87.

By Representatives Black of Essex, Bishop of Colchester, Brown of Richmond, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Hooper of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, McFaun of Barre Town, Noyes of Wolcott, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Waszazak of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 114. An act relating to expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 87.

By Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bishop of Colchester, Cordes of Bristol, Goldman of Rockingham, Howard of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Torre of Moretown, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 115. An act relating to tax debt forgiveness for victims of fraud.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 88.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Labor of Morgan, Coffin of Cavendish, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Parsons of Newbury, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 116. An act relating to limiting campaign contributions for State Representatives and State Senators.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 89.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Branagan of Georgia, Brown of Richmond, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Critchlow of Colchester, Duke of Burlington, Greer of Bennington, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Morgan, M. of Milton, and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 117. An act relating to general election candidates.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 89.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 118. (No. 0008) An act relating to expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 89; Rd 2nd t, 124; Rep. Arsenault of Williston rptd for the C on Judic, 124; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 125; 3rd rdg ord, 125; Rd 3rd t and pass, 138; S msg: pass in con, 1136; Delv to the Gov on April 23, 2025; Signed by Gov on April 29, 2025, 1184.

By Representative Branagan of Georgia,

H. 119. An act relating to the beverage container redemption system.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 89.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 120. An act relating to the study and design of a long-term care trust fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 89.

By Representative Morrow of Weston,

H. 121. An act relating to affordable broadband service.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 90.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes and Graning of Jericho,

H. 122. An act relating to the sustainable realignment of Vermont's school districts.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 90.

By Representative Arsenault of Williston,

H. 123. An act relating to driving while ability impaired.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 90.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Marcotte of Coventry, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, and White of Bethel,

H. 124. An act relating to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation and an annual supervision and regulation report.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 94.

By Representative Sibilia of Dover,

H. 125. An act relating to reporting on the energy transition.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 94; Rd 2nd t, 430; Rep. Sibilia of Dover rptd for the C on E&DI, 430; Divid demanded, 431; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction demanded yeas and nays, 431; Rpt of C on E&DI agrd to, 431; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 143 to Pass -- Yeas = 84, Nays = 59, 431; 3rd rdg ord, 433; Rd 3rd t and pass, 586.

By Representative Goldman of Rockingham,

H. 126. An act relating to universal basic income payments for youth exiting foster care.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 95.

By Representative Dodge of Essex,

H. 127. An act relating to deed restrictions and renewable energy devices.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 95.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Luneau of St. Albans City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, and Nielsen of Brandon,

H. 128. An act relating to unlawful drug activity in a dwelling by a person who is not a legal tenant.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 95.

By Representatives Brady of Williston, Emmons of Springfield, and Taylor of Milton,

H. 129. An act relating to the State Aid for School Construction Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 98.

By Representatives Minier of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Burrows of West Windsor, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, McCann of Montpelier, and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 130. An act relating to expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 98.

By Representatives Garofano of Essex and McGill of Bridport,

H. 131. An act relating to Reach Up grant calculation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 98.

By Representatives Satcowitz of Randolph, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Torre of Moretown,

H. 132. An act relating to the taking of furbearers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 102.

By Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Headrick of Burlington, and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 133. An act relating to repealing the statutes that authorize the State Lottery and sports wagering.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 103.

By Representatives Kimbell of Woodstock, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 134. An act relating to calculating land use change tax and creating a new land use change tax exemption for developing affordable housing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 103; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved that the C on W&M be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on AFR&F, which was agrd to, 115.

By Representative Canfield of Fair Haven,

H. 135. An act relating to administrative and policy changes to Vermont tax laws and extending reimbursement to municipalities for tax abatement due to flooding.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 103.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Hango of Berkshire, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, and Taylor of Milton,

H. 136. An act relating to health insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 103.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, and White of Bethel,

H. 137. (No. 0023) An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 104; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 308; Rd 2nd t, 401; Rep. White of Bethel rptd for the C on C&EcD, 401; Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 419; Rpt of C on C&EcD agrd to, 419; 3rd rdg ord, 419; Rd 3rd t and pass, 429; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1413; S pro of amend con in, 1471; Delv to the Gov on May 13, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 19, 2025, 1812.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and Goodnow of Brattleboro,

H. 138. An act relating to maximum liability of municipalities for tort claims.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 104.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Branagan of Georgia, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, M. of Milton, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Walker of Swanton, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 139. An act relating to requiring licensed athletic trainers at secondary school athletic events and practices.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 104.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford,

H. 140. An act relating to the provision of grants for community nurses and community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 104.

By the Committee on Appropriations,

H. 141. An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 105; Rd 2nd t, 115; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury spoke for the C on Appr, 115; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro recomd for the C on W&M, 115; Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town demanded yeas and nays, 115; 3rd rdg ord, 115; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 69 of 138 to Pass -- Yeas = 87, Nays = 51, 115; Rd 3rd t and pass, 124; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 227; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to susp/d R to permit imm cons of the bill, pndg its entry on the Notice cal, 241; Which was agrd to, 241; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury moved the H refuse to con and asked for a C of C, 287; Which was agrd to, 287; Speaker apptd Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Bluemle of Burlington, and Squirrell of Underhill as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 287; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to susp/d R and msg acts to the S f/w, 287; Which was agrd to, 287; S msg: C of C members apptd, 287; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 304; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 321; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to delv the bill to the Gov f/w, which was agrd to, 367; Delv to the Gov on March 12, 2025; Vetoed by the Gov on March 14, 2025, 423; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved to postp act until 3/21/2025, which was agrd to, 604; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved to postp act until 3/25/2025, which was agrd to, 643; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved that the bill be cmtd to the C on Appr, which was agrd to, 697.

By Representative Austin of Colchester,

H. 142. An act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 107.

By Representative Wood of Waterbury,

H. 143. An act relating to establishing a support service program for individuals who are DeafBlind.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 107.

By Representatives Minier of South Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Hango of Berkshire, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 144. An act relating to enhancing food allergen awareness in food service establishments.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 107.

By Representative Harrison of Chittenden,

H. 145. An act relating to the disruption of proceedings governed by Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 108.

By Representative Sheldon of Middlebury,

H. 146. An act relating to administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements in the State.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 108.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Burditt of West Rutland, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Kascenska of Burke, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, Squirrell of Underhill, Surprenant of Barnard, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, and White of Bethel,

H. 147. An act relating to establishing the Recreational Trails Compensation Study Committee.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 108.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 148. An act relating to creating a statewide school district.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 108.

By Representative Stevens of Waterbury,

H. 149. An act relating to expanding equal pay protections.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 109.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City, Bosch of Clarendon, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Tagliavia of Corinth, Walker of Swanton, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 150. An act relating to reinstating the waiting period exemption for firearms transfers at gun shows.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 110.

By Representatives McGill of Bridport, Burrows of West Windsor, Cole of Hartford, Headrick of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Morrow of Weston, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 151. An act relating to implementing the Restaurant Meals Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 111.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bosch of Clarendon, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Graning of Jericho, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Nelson of Derby, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Wells of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

H. 152. An act relating to the permitting of pilot or demonstration projects to treat or destroy emerging contaminants.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 111.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Galfetti of Barre Town, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Howland of Rutland Town, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, McGill of Bridport, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 153. An act relating to expanding family access to certified copies of birth and death certificates.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 111.

By Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Hunter of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Lalley of Shelburne, Laroche of Franklin, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, M. of Milton,

Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Steady of Milton, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Taylor of Milton, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 154. (No. 0005) An act relating to designating November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 112; Rd 2nd t, 201; Rep. Hooper of Burlington rptd for the C on GO&MA, 201; 3rd rdg ord, 201; Rd 3rd t and pass, 207; S msg: pass in con, 799; Delv to the Gov on April 10, 2025; Signed by Gov on April 15, 2025, 1096.

By Representatives Torre of Moretown, Cordes of Bristol, Goldman of Rockingham, Hunter of Manchester, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, Morrow of Weston, and Pouech of Hinesburg,

H. 155. An act relating to the Standard Offer Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 112.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 156. An act relating to prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers from owning or operating a pharmacy in Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 112.

By Representatives North of Ferrisburgh, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

H. 157. An act relating to Act 250 exemptions and delegation of stormwater permitting.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 113.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 158. An act relating to prohibiting municipal regulation of the use of hygienic face masks.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 113.

By Representatives North of Ferrisburgh, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Canfield of Fair Haven, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Feltus of Lyndon, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Steady of Milton, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 159. An act relating to repealing the Renewable Energy Standard.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 113.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Priestley of Bradford, Marcotte of Coventry, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 160. An act relating to creating a right to repair for medical devices.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 119.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Priestley of Bradford, Marcotte of Coventry, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 161. An act relating to the Vermont Fair Repair Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 120.

By Representatives North of Ferrisburgh, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Morrow of Weston, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 162. An act relating to repealing the three-acre stormwater permit.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 120.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Duke of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Olson of Starksboro, and White of Bethel,

H. 163. An act relating to workers' compensation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 120.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City, Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Brady of Williston, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, Nielsen of Brandon, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Parsons of Newbury, Pezzo of Colchester, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 164. An act relating to the distribution of local option tax revenue and the PILOT Special Fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 120.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 165. An act relating to funding inclusive schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 121.

By Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, and Torre of Moretown,

H. 166. An act relating to establishing requirements for hunting with dogs.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 121.

By Representatives Cole of Hartford, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burtt of Cabot, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Surprenant of Barnard, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 167. (No. 0034) An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 121; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 428; Rd 2nd t, 709; Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster rptd for the C on AFR&F, 709; Rep. Stevens of Waterbury recomd for the C on Appr, 711; Rpt of C on AFR&F amend as recomd by C on Appr, 711; Rpt of C on AFR&F, as amend, agrd to, 711; 3rd rdg ord, 711; Rd 3rd t and pass, 751; S msg: pass in con, 1808; Delv to the Gov on May 21, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 27, 2025, 2196.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington and McCann of Montpelier,

H. 168. An act relating to protecting academic freedom for prekindergarten through grade 12 educators.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 122.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Arsenault of Williston, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Duke of Burlington, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Keyser of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 169. An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations and housing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 122.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 170. An act relating to University of Vermont and State Agricultural College residential living space.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 122.

By Representative Burditt of West Rutland,

H. 171. An act relating to Attorney General investigations into a law enforcement officer's use of a firearm.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 123.

By Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Torre of Moretown, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Hooper of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, and Pezzo of Colchester,

H. 172. An act relating to establishing a Common Interest Community Resource Center.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 132.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,

H. 173. An act relating to granting public higher education employees the right to strike.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 133.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,

H. 174. An act relating to the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 133.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,

H. 175. An act relating to clarifying the right of adjunct faculty to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 133; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved that the C on G&H be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on C&EcD, which was agrd to, 198.

By Representatives Burditt of West Rutland, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, LaLonde of South Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, Oliver of Sheldon, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 176. An act relating to developing the Department of Corrections' community restitution program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 133.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol and Kleppner of Burlington,

H. 177. An act relating to income-based education funding.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 133.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Steady of Milton, Taylor of Milton, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 178. An act relating to refunding property tax overpayments to the City of Barre and to the Town of Milton.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 134.

By Representative McCann of Montpelier,

H. 179. An act relating to the membership of the State Board of Education and the reestablishment of the Vermont Department of Education.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 134.

By Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Boyden of Cambridge, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Charlton of Chester, Cordes of Bristol, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

H. 180. An act relating to the closure of an elementary school.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 134.

By Representatives Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Austin of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Dodge of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 181. An act relating to Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standards.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 134.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Noyes of Wolcott, and Nugent of South Burlington,

H. 182. An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 135; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved that the C on GO&MA be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on HS, which was agrd to, 1545.

By Representative Dobrovich of Williamstown,

H. 183. An act relating to strict liability for damages caused by domestic dogs.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 135.

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Burrows of West Windsor, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, and LaMont of Morristown,

H. 184. An act relating to establishing a community health center pilot program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 135.

By Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

H. 185. An act relating to developing and implementing a universal primary care program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 135.

By Representative Taylor of Milton,

H. 186. An act relating to removal of court discretion in sentencing a defendant for selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 135.

By Representative Garofano of Essex,

H. 187. An act relating to requiring the use of personal flotation devices during cold weather.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 136.

By Representatives Nugent of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 188. An act relating to cancellation of motor vehicle purchases.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 136.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 189. An act relating to funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 136.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 190. An act relating to voluntary engagement in sex work.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 136.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Hooper of Randolph, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 191. An act relating to prohibiting the use of private and for-profit correctional facilities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 139.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 192. An act relating to prohibiting solitary confinement for children.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 139.

By Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Garofano of Essex, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 193. An act relating to a child and parent legal representation working group.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 139.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, and Minier of South Burlington,

H. 194. An act relating to high-capacity, gender-neutral restrooms in schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 140.

By Representative McGill of Bridport,

H. 195. An act relating to universal basic income payments for homeless and runaway youth.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 140.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 196. An act relating to energy efficiency utility jurisdiction.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 140.

By Representatives McGill of Bridport, Cole of Hartford, Maguire of Rutland City, and Wood of Waterbury,

H. 197. An act relating to establishing peer support positions for housing stability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 140.

By Representatives Minier of South Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 198. An act relating to the reconstitution of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 140.

By Representatives Burrows of West Windsor, Bartholomew of Hartland, Coffin of Cavendish, Cordes of Bristol, and McGill of Bridport,

H. 199. An act relating to tuition charged by public schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 141.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 200. An act relating to persons prohibited from possessing firearms.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 141.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Christie of Hartford, and Headrick of Burlington,

H. 201. An act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's criminal history.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 141.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 202. An act relating to increasing the transparency of prescription drug costs and spending.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 141.

By Representative Graning of Jericho,

H. 203. An act relating to expanding options for association health plans.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 142.

By Representatives Taylor of Milton and Harple of Glover,

H. 204. An act relating to the collection and recycling of waste motor vehicle tires.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 142.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Christie of Hartford, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, LaLonde of South Burlington, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, and White of Bethel,

H. 205. An act relating to agreements not to compete.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 142.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Graning of Jericho, and White of Bethel,

H. 206. (No. 0017) An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 142; Rd 2nd t, 386; Rep. Olson of Starksboro rptd for the C on C&EcD, 386; Rpt of C on C&EcD agrd to, 387; 3rd rdg ord, 387; Rd 3rd t and pass, 400; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1155; S pro of amend con in, 1182; Delv to the Gov on May 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 13, 2025, 1539.

By Representative Branagan of Georgia,

H. 207. An act relating to health insurance coverage for diabetes treatment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 142.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Marcotte of Coventry, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, and White of Bethel,

H. 208. An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 143.

By Representative Goldman of Rockingham,

H. 209. (No. 0053) An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 143; Rd 2nd t, 590; Rep. Harple of Glover rptd for the C on Edu, 590; Rpt of C on Edu agrd to, 593; 3rd rdg ord, 593; Rd 3rd t and pass, 608; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1855; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Harple of Glover, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Long of Newfane, McCann of Montpelier, Quimby of Lyndon, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town, 1932; Rep. Conlon of Cornwall moved to susp/d Rule 78 to permit reconsid imm, 1936; Which was agrd to, 1936; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Harple of Glover, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Long of Newfane, McCann of Montpelier, Quimby of Lyndon, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town, 1936; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 2262; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2560.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Marcotte of Coventry, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton,

Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, and White of Bethel,

H. 210. An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 143.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Marcotte of Coventry, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, and White of Bethel,

H. 211. An act relating to data brokers and personal information.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 144.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 212. An act relating to creating incentives for AmeriCorps members.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 144.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 213. An act relating to amending the bases and process of child abuse and neglect investigations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 145.

By Representative Bluemle of Burlington,

H. 214. An act relating to establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 155.

By Representative Nugent of South Burlington,

H. 215. An act relating to the compensation of members of the General Assembly and the Governor.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 155.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 216. An act relating to authorizing the Clean Heat Standard rules.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 155.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Branagan of Georgia, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Goslant of Northfield, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 217. An act relating to prohibiting geoengineering.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 155.

By Representative Wood of Waterbury,

H. 218. (No. 0016) An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 155; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 308; Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved to postp act until 3/27/2025, which was agrd to, 712; Rd 2nd t, 740; Rep. Maguire of Rutland City rptd for the C on HS, 740; Rep. Bluemle of Burlington recomd for the C on Appr, 746; Rep. Steady of Milton asked that the qstn be divid, 749; Rep. Steady of Milton demanded yeas and nays, 749; 1st divid of amend agrd to, 749; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 73 of 145 to Pass -- Yeas = 87, Nays = 58, 749; 2nd divid of amend agrd to, 750; Rpt of C on Appr agrd to, 750; Rpt of C on HS, as amend, agrd to, 750; 3rd rdg ord, 750; Rd 3rd t, 773; Rep. Steady of Milton demanded yeas and nays, 773; Passed, 773; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 143 to Pass -- Yeas = 119, Nays = 24, 773; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1184; S pro of amend con in, 1208; Delv to the Gov on May 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 13, 2025, 1539.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, LaLonde of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 219. An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 156; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 309; Rd 2nd t, 593; Rep. Sweeney of Shelburne rptd for the C on C&I, 593; Rep. Squirrell of Underhill recomd for the C on Appr, 595; Rpt of C on C&I amend as recomd by C on Appr, 596; Rpt of C on C&I, as amend, agrd to, 596; 3rd rdg ord, 596; Rd 3rd t and pass, 608; S msg: pass in con, 1413; Delv to the Gov on May 9, 2025; Vetoed by the Gov on May 15, 2025, 1726; Rep. Emmons of Springfield moved to commit the bill to the C on C&I, which was agrd to, 1821.

By Representatives Christie of Hartford and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 220. An act relating to establishing a task force to update Vermont's CHINS laws.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 156.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford, LaLonde of South Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 221. An act relating to the Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 159.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford, Goslant of Northfield, LaLonde of South Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 222. (No. 0046) An act relating to civil orders of protection.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 159; Rep. Arsenault of Williston moved to postp act until 3/19/2025, which was agrd to, 433; Rd 2nd t, 581; Rep. Arsenault of Williston rptd for the C on Judic, 581; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 586; 3rd rdg ord, 586; Rd 3rd t and pass, 608; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1855; S pro of amend con in, 1935; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 223. An act relating to stalking through the use of tracking technology.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 159.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 224. An act relating to establishing a thermal benefits charge.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 160.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 225. An act relating to conducting a climate health study.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 160.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 226. An act relating to conducting a Clean Heat Standard study.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 160.

By Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 227. An act relating to establishing a residential peer respite facility in southern Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 164; Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved that the C on HS be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on HC, which was agrd to, 241.

By Representatives Cole of Hartford and Cordes of Bristol,

H. 228. An act relating to hospital employee compensation and administrative staffing ratios.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 164.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Boyden of Cambridge, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burtt of Cabot, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, and Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 229. An act relating to establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide grants for losses to farms and forestry operations due to weather conditions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 165.

By Representative Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 230. An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 165; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1201; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1412; Rd 2nd t, 1461; Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph rptd for the C on Enviro, 1461; Rep. Masland of Thetford recomd for the C on W&M, 1470; Rep. Squirrell of Underhill recomd for the C on Appr, 1470; Rpt of C on Enviro agrd to, 1470; 3rd rdg ord, 1470; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1487.

By Representative Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 231. (No. 0047) An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 165; Rd 2nd t, 433; Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph rptd for the C on Enviro, 433; Rpt of C on Enviro agrd to, 438; 3rd rdg ord, 438; Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Chapin of East Montpelier, Labor of Morgan, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, North of Ferrisburgh, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 587; Rd 3rd t and pass, 587; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1936; S pro of amend con in, 2200; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representative Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 232. An act relating to creating the Vermont Municipal Response and Recovery Special Fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 165.

By Representatives Nugent of South Burlington, Brown of Richmond, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Hooper of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 233. An act relating to requirements for State-funded grants.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 165.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 234. An act relating to determining the appropriateness of a collective bargaining unit for adjunct faculty.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 166.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 235. An act relating to unemployment insurance eligibility and benefits.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 166.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Bailey of Hyde Park, Boyden of Cambridge, LaMont of Morristown, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 236. An act relating to authorizing the use of State waters by hydroelectric generation facilities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 166.

By Representatives McFaun of Barre Town, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goldman of Rockingham, and Page of Newport City,

H. 237. An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 166; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 428; Rep. McFaun of Barre Town moved to postp act until 3/26/2025, which was agrd to, 698; Rd 2nd t, 733; Rep. McFaun of Barre Town rptd for the C on HC, 733; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 737; Rpt of C on HC amend as recomd by C on W&M, 737; Rpt of C on HC, as amend, agrd to, 737; 3rd rdg ord, 737; Rd 3rd t and pass, 751.

By Representatives Sheldon of Middlebury and Chapin of East Montpelier,

H. 238. (No. 0054) An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 167; Rd 2nd t, 387; Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier rptd for the C on Enviro, 387; Rpt of C on Enviro agrd to, 396; 3rd rdg ord, 396; Rd 3rd t and pass, 400; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1903; S pro of amend con in, 2218; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Casey of Montpelier, Cordes of Bristol, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 239. An act relating to temporary State employees.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 167.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Bailey of Hyde Park, Boyden of Cambridge, LaMont of Morristown, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 240. An act relating to authorizing drawdown of dams during emergency flood events.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 167.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes, Bartley of Fairfax, Bluemle of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Kleppner of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Toof of St. Albans Town, Wells of Brownington, White of Bethel, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 241. An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 167.

By Representatives Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Logan of Burlington,

H. 242. An act relating to regulating short-term rentals.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 168.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Graning of Jericho, and White of Bethel,

H. 243. (No. 0010) An act relating to the regulation of business organizations.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 168; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 382; Rd 2nd t, 448; Rep. Cooper of Pownal rptd for the C on C&EcD, 448; Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 519; Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington and Cooper of Pownal moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, which was agrd to, 580; Rpt of the C on C&EcD amend as recomd by the C on W&M, as amend, 580; Rpt of C on C&EcD, as amend, agrd to, 580; 3rd rdg ord, 580; Rd 3rd t and pass, 609; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1096. Rep. Cooper of Pownal moved to postp act until 4/23/2025, which was agrd to, 1128; S pro of amend con in, 1148; Delv to the Gov on April 25, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 1, 2025, 1208.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 244. An act relating to State contracting standards for advertising.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 168; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to postp act until 3/20/2025, which was agrd to, 596; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to postp act until 3/26/2025, which was agrd to, 608; Rd 2nd t, 706; Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte rptd for the C on GO&MA, 706; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 709; 3rd rdg ord, 709; Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town moved to amend the bill, 751; Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 752; Rd 3rd t and pass, 752.

By Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Donahue of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, and McCann of Montpelier,

H. 245. An act relating to hospital and health network budgets.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 168.

By Representatives McGill of Bridport, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Eastes of Guilford, Logan of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 246. An act relating to supports to help students experiencing homelessness and students exiting the foster care system succeed in postsecondary educational institutions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 168.

By Representatives Micklus of Milton, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Hango of Berkshire, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nielsen of Brandon, Steady of Milton, and Taylor of Milton,

H. 247. An act relating to cardiac emergency response plans in schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 169.

By Representatives Gregoire of Fairfield and Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 248. An act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 169; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1156; Rep. Cole of Hartford moved to postp act until 5/8/2025, which was agrd to, 1214; Rd 2nd t, 1445; Rep. Cole of Hartford rptd for the C on HS, 1445; Rep. Mrowicki of Putney recomd for the C on Appr, 1447; Rpt of the C on HS amend as recomd by the C on Appr, 1448; Rep. Holcombe of Norwich moved to amend the rpt of the C on HS, as amend, 1448; Rep. Sibilia of Dover demanded yeas and nays, 1459; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 72 of 144 to Pass -- Yeas = 20, Nays = 124, 1459; Rpt of C on HS, as amend, agrd to, 1459; 3rd rdg ord, 1460. Rd 3rd t and pass, 1487.

By Representatives Taylor of Milton, Bartley of Fairfax, Burditt of West Rutland, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 249. An act relating to an income tax deduction for home study programs.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 169.

By Representatives Morris of Springfield, Krasnow of South Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Logan of Burlington, Pritchard of Pawlet, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 250. An act relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting personal protective equipment and station wear.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 170.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 251. An act relating to establishing a competency restoration process.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 170.

By Representatives Pritchard of Pawlet, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 252. An act relating to prohibiting earned time for second or subsequent felony convictions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 170.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Lalley of Shelburne,

H. 253. An act relating to workforce housing zones.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 171; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved that the C on G&H be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on Enviro, which was agrd to, 1100.

By Representatives Luneau of St. Albans City, Bartley of Fairfax, Boutin of Barre City, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Laroche of Franklin, Malay of Pittsford, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Oliver of Sheldon, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 254. An act relating to orders permitting alternate service of process in civil proceedings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 171.

By Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 255. An act relating to establishing increased criminal penalties for an assault of a public transit worker.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 171.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 256. An act relating to Judiciary Employees Labor Relations Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 171.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Boyden of Cambridge, Chapin of East Montpelier, Micklus of Milton, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 257. An act relating to creating the Office of Entrepreneurship.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 190.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 258. An act relating to law enforcement interrogation policies.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 190.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H. 259. (No. 0009) An act relating to preventing workplace violence in hospitals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 191; Rd 2nd t, 439; Rep. Cordes of Bristol rptd for the C on HC, 439; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 443; 3rd rdg ord, 443; Rep. Cordes of Bristol moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 587; Rd 3rd t and pass, 587; S msg: pass in con, 1106; Delv to the Gov on April 23, 2025; Signed by Gov on April 29, 2025, 1184.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Cole of Hartford, Chapin of East Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Howard of Rutland City, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, North of Ferrisburgh, Nugent of South Burlington, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 260. An act relating to prohibiting certain substances in food manufactured, sold, or distributed in Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 191.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, and McGill of Bridport,

H. 261. An act relating to establishing a 32-hour workweek.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 191.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Chapin of East Montpelier, Hooper of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 262. An act relating to restricting electronic monitoring of employees and the use of employment-related automated decision systems.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 191.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, and Minier of South Burlington,

H. 263. An act relating to creating a right for employees to disconnect from work.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 191.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Black of Essex, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Goldman of Rockingham, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Nugent of South Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, and Scheu of Middlebury,

H. 264. An act relating to safe storage of firearms.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 192.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 265. An act relating to prohibiting the imposition of convenience fees on online municipal utility payments.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 192.

By Representative Black of Essex,

H. 266. (No. 0055) An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 192; Rd 2nd t, 419; Rep. Berbeco of Winooski rptd for the C on HC, 419; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 422; 3rd rdg ord, 422; Rd 3rd t and pass, 430; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1809; Rep. Black of Essex moved to postp act until 5/21/2025,

which was agrd to, 1853; Rep. Black of Essex moved to postp act until 5/23/2025, which was agrd to, 1856; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and Powers of Waterford, 1910; S msg: H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 2409; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2473; S pro of amend to H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in, 2474; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to delv the bill to the Gov f/w, which was agrd to, 2474; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representative McFaun of Barre Town,

H. 267. An act relating to the Vermont Hospital Security Plan.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 192.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 268. An act relating to consumer protections related to the towing and storage of vehicles.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 193.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Birong of Vergennes, Goldman of Rockingham, and McGill of Bridport,

H. 269. An act relating to the federal benefits of youth in State custody.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 193.

By Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Burtt of Cabot, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Dodge of Essex, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Graning of Jericho, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaMont of Morristown, Luneau of St. Albans City, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 270. An act relating to confidentiality for peer support counseling among emergency service providers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 193; Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved that the C on HS be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on HC, which was agrd to, 241.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol and Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 271. An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for physical therapy services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 193.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Maguire of Rutland City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, and L. of Milton,

H. 272. An act relating to development on slopes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 194.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Bishop of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Cole of Hartford, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Harvey of Castleton, Hooper of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Surprenant of Barnard, Tagliavia of Corinth, Toof of St. Albans Town, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 273. An act relating to the Use Value Appraisal Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 194.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Bosch of Clarendon, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Powers of Waterford, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 274. An act relating to a hospital patient's right not to be denied care based on vaccination status.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 194.

By Representatives Coffin of Cavendish, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Greer of Bennington, Hooper of Burlington, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 275. An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplement insurance policies.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 194.

By Representative Sheldon of Middlebury,

H. 276. An act relating to the designation of State wildlands.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 195.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 277. An act relating to weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 195.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Eastes of Guilford, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 278. An act relating to a plan on energy storage development.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 195.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Eastes of Guilford, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 279. An act relating to sharing the costs of electric grid upgrades.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 195.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Higley of Lowell, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 280. An act relating to the siting of an expanded polystyrene foam densifier in the State.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 195.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Cordes of Bristol, Graning of Jericho, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 281. An act relating to amending a death certificate to reflect gender identity.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 196.

By Representatives Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Bartley of Fairfax, Burditt of West Rutland, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 282. An act relating to driver education for students participating in the home study program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 196.

By Representatives Harple of Glover, Priestley of Bradford, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Dodge of Essex, Hunter of Manchester, Labor of Morgan, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Southworth of Walden, and Wells of Brownington,

H. 283. An act relating to delegation of authority to regulate use of State waters.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 196.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Pouech of Hinesburg,

H. 284. An act relating to requirements for older drivers to renew operator's licenses and for the operation of motor homes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 196.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 285. An act relating to making motor vehicle inspections more affordable.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 197.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 286. An act relating to drinking water standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 202.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Randolph, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 287. An act relating to a consortium on nuclear power feasibility.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 203.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boyden of Cambridge, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hooper of Randolph, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 288. An act relating to reduced motor vehicle registration fees for veterans.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 203.

By Representatives McCoy of Poultney, Harrison of Chittenden, Bailey of Hyde Park, Howland of Rutland Town, and Southworth of Walden,

H. 289. An act relating to affordable climate initiatives.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 203.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 290. An act relating to the State Employees Labor Relations Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 203.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Eastes of Guilford, Kimbell of Woodstock, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 291. An act relating to enrollment of posted land in the Use Value Appraisal Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 203.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 292. An act relating to the land application and sale of biosolids containing PFAS.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 204.

By Representative Maguire of Rutland City,

H. 293. An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 204; Rd 2nd t, 954; Rep. Eastes of Guilford rptd for the C on HS, 954; Rpt of C on HS agrd to, 956; 3rd rdg ord, 956; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1089.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Logan of Burlington, and McCann of Montpelier,

H. 294. An act relating to commissary and telecommunications prices in State correctional facilities and fair compensation for incarcerated labor.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 204.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Hooper of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, LaMont of Morristown, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, Nielsen of Brandon, Nigro of Bennington, and Pouech of Hinesburg,

H. 295. An act relating to payment of vacation leave upon separation from employment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 204.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes, Hango of Berkshire, Minier of South Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Gregoire of Fairfield, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nugent of South Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Stone of Burlington,

H. 296. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Dietician Licensure Compact.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 205.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Chapin of East Montpelier, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sweeney of Shelburne, and White of Waitsfield,

H. 297. An act relating to the creation of the Free Degree Promise Grant Program for the Community College of Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 205.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Donahue of Northfield, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 298. An act relating to restricting the Department of Corrections' cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 205.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 299. An act relating to prohibiting the transfer of Family Court cases to criminal court when the offender is a victim of human trafficking.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 206.

By Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton, Boyden of Cambridge, Hango of Berkshire, Hooper of Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 300. An act relating to an income tax credit for emergency first responders.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 206.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 301. An act relating to age verification in social media.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 207.

By Representatives Bartley of Fairfax, Boyden of Cambridge, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Micklus of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 302. An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility care.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 207.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Charlton of Chester, Cole of Hartford, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Lipsky of Stowe, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 303. An act relating to the use of septage, sludge, and biosolids.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 208.

By Representatives Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan and M. of Milton,

H. 304. An act relating to traffic cameras and traffic violations for illegally passing a school bus.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 208.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Goldman of Rockingham, Kleppner of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and White of Bethel,

H. 305. An act relating to prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 208.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Micklus of Milton, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 306. An act relating to prohibiting deed restrictions or covenants that prohibit use of property for commercial or industrial purposes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 208.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 307. An act relating to the establishment of the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 209.

By Representatives Bartley of Fairfax, Charlton of Chester, Krasnow of South Burlington, Parsons of Newbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 308. An act relating to exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 209.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 309. An act relating to creating a Housing and Conservation Trust Fund checkoff on the Vermont personal income tax return.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 209.

By Representatives Toof of St. Albans Town, Birong of Vergennes, Austin of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bosch of Clarendon, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Emmons of Springfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 310. An act relating to education on the evolving nature of antisemitism.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 209.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Page of Newport City, Pritchard of Pawlet, Taylor of Milton, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 311. An act relating to the retirement allowance for interim educators.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 215.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Burrows of West Windsor, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 312. An act relating to the appointment of members of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 215.

By Representatives Sibilia of Dover and Logan of Burlington,

H. 313. An act relating to ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 216.

By Representatives Sibilia of Dover and Logan of Burlington,

H. 314. An act relating to a top-four nonpartisan primary election system.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 216.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 315. An act relating to nondiscrimination concerning a parent with a disability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 216.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 316. An act relating to the governance of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and the University of Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 216.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier, Birong of Vergennes, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Springfield, Ode of Burlington, Pinsonault of Dorset, Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Toof of St. Albans Town, Waszazak of Barre City, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 317. An act relating to credit card fees on taxes and gratuities.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 216.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 318. An act relating to computer science in Vermont's public schools.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 217.

By Representative Sheldon of Middlebury,

H. 319. An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 217; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 428; Rd 2nd t, 644; Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph rptd for the C on Enviro, 644; Rep. Ode of Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 662; Rpt of C on Enviro agrd to, 662; 3rd rdg ord, 662; Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 698; Rd 3rd t and pass, 698.

By Representatives Labor of Morgan, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, Page of Newport City, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 320. An act relating to stabilizing Vermont's rural hospitals.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 217.

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes and Boyden of Cambridge,

H. 321. (No. 0056) An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 217; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 383; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 429; Rd 2nd t, 662; Rep. Boyden of Cambridge rptd for the C on GO&MA, 662; Rep. Higley of Lowell recomd for the C on W&M, 673; Rep. Nigro of Bennington recomd for the C on Appr, 674; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 674; Rep. Higley of Lowell moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, which was agrd to, 674; Rpt of C on W&M, as amend, agrd to, 674; 3rd rdg ord, 674; Rd 3rd t and pass, 698; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2262; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Birong of Vergennes, 2453; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to susp/d Rule 78 to permit reconsid/d imm, 2550; Which was agrd to, 2550; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden moved to amend the amend, 2551; Which was agrd to, 2551; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Birong of Vergennes, as amend, 2551; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2551; S msg: H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in, 2551; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and Cina of Burlington,

H. 322. An act relating to social worker licensure requirements.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 217.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, and McFaun of Barre Town,

H. 323. An act relating to mental health programming funded by the Mental Health Innovation Special Fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 218; Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved that the C on HS be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on HC, which was agrd to, 241.

By Representative Burditt of West Rutland,

H. 324. An act relating to mandatory retirement age of the Vermont State Retirement System.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 218.

By Representative Berbeco of Winooski,

H. 325. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 218.

By Representative Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 326. An act relating to the regulation of the use of rodenticides.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 218.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 327. An act relating to labor requirements for certain energy projects.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 218.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 328. An act relating to compliance with the environmental justice State policy.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 219.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 329. An act relating to the towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 219.

By Representatives Boyden of Cambridge and Burrows of West Windsor,

H. 330. An act relating to authorizing the use of electronic and remote voting for annual meetings of municipal corporations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 219.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 331. An act relating to a victim's right to be heard at an appeal or postconviction remedy hearing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 219.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Bishop of Colchester, Boyden of Cambridge, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 332. An act relating to the creation of the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 219.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 333. An act relating to collective bargaining for agricultural workers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 220.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 334. An act relating to limiting employer restrictions on individuals separating from employment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 220.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 335. An act relating to payroll records of workers on State construction projects.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 220.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 336. An act relating to enhancing enforcement of employment laws.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 220.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 337. An act relating to duties of the Commissioner of Labor.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 221.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 338. An act relating to unemployment compensation.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 221.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

H. 339. (No. 0035) An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 2/26/2025, 221; Rd 2nd t, 294; Rep. Boyden of Cambridge spoke for the C on GO&MA, 294; 3rd rdg ord, 294; Rd 3rd t and pass, 303; S msg: pass in con, 1538; Delv to the Gov on May 21, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 27, 2025, 2196.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Sibilia of Dover, and White of Waitsfield,

H. 340. An act relating to regulating developers and deployers of certain automated decision systems.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 221.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Sibilia of Dover, and White of Bethel,

H. 341. An act relating to creating oversight and safety standards for developers and deployers of inherently dangerous artificial intelligence systems.
Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 221.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, and White of Bethel,

H. 342. An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 222; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved that the C on Judic be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on C&EcD, which was agrd to, 319; Rd 2nd t, 596; Rep. Priestley of Bradford rptd for the C on C&EcD, 596; Rep. Headrick of Burlington demanded yeas and nays, 601; Rpt of C on C&EcD agrd to, 601; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 144 to Pass -- Yeas = 99, Nays = 45, 601; 3rd rdg ord, 604; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry moved to postp act until 3/21/2025, which was agrd to, 609; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry moved to postp act until 3/25/2025, which was agrd to, 643; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry moved to postp act until 3/27/2025, which was agrd to, 689; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry moved to postp act until 3/28/2025, which was agrd to, 761; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel moved to amend the bill, 764; Rep. Harvey of Castleton demanded yeas and nays, 771; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 144 to Pass -- Yeas = 106, Nays = 38, 771; Rd 3rd t, 773; Rep. Harvey of Castleton demanded yeas and nays, 773; Rep. Harvey of Castleton wdrew demand for yeas and nays, 773; Passed, 773.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 343. An act relating to making State lands available for farming by citizens of State-recognized Native American Indian tribes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 222.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 344. An act relating to creating a good cause standard for termination of employment.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 222.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 345. An act relating to prohibiting the sale or distribution of glitter containing intentionally added synthetic polymers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 222.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 346. An act relating to charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles belonging to crime victims.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 223.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 347. An act relating to expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce complaints of employee misclassification.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 223.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and Logan of Burlington,

H. 348. An act relating to protecting workers from extreme temperatures in the workplace.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 223.

By Representative Howard of Rutland City,

H. 349. An act relating to the creation of the Vermont State Building Security Board.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 223.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H. 350. An act relating to automatic opening knives.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 223.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 351. An act relating to operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 227.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 352. An act relating to the Renewable Energy for Communities Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 227.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 353. An act relating to updates to the State energy policy.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 228.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 354. An act relating to a thermal efficiency benefits charge.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 228.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 355. An act relating to review of orders placing the Vermont National Guard in federal active duty status.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 228.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Burrows of West Windsor, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, and Pouech of Hinesburg,

H. 356. An act relating to the creation of the Unemployment Compensation Benefit Modernization Advisory Committee.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 228.

By Representative Burrows of West Windsor,

H. 357. An act relating to the Office of Racial Equity.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 228.

By Representative Boutin of Barre City,

H. 358. An act relating to motor vehicle inspections.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 229.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 359. An act relating to privatization contracts.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 229.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, and White of Bethel,

H. 360. An act relating to privacy protections for mobile identification.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 229.

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

H. 361. An act relating to creating municipal and regional civilian oversight of law enforcement.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 229.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 362. An act relating to State recognition of Native American tribes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 229.

By Representatives Hooper of Burlington and Nugent of South Burlington,

H. 363. An act relating to town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 230.

By Representatives Walker of Swanton and Oliver of Sheldon,

H. 364. (No. M003) An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 230; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1129; Rd 2nd t, 1166; Rep. Hango of Berkshire rptd for the C on GO&MA, 1166; Rep. Higley of Lowell recomd for the C on W&M, 1166; 3rd rdg ord, 1167; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1174; S msg: pass in con, 1538; Delv to the Gov on May 21, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 27, 2025, 2196.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston and Graning of Jericho,

H. 365. An act relating to the regulation of social media platforms and artificial intelligence systems.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 230.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Logan of Burlington, and McGill of Bridport,

H. 366. An act relating to neurological rights.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 230.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Burtt of Cabot, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Page of Newport City, and White of Waitsfield,

H. 367. An act relating to creating the Vermont Olympics Task Force.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 230.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Harrison of Chittenden, Arsenault of Williston, and Black of Essex,

H. 368. An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms in government buildings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 231.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 369. An act relating to parental rights and responsibilities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 231.

By Representative Greer of Bennington,

H. 370. An act relating to cryptocurrency and protecting the public welfare.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 231.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, and Sibilia of Dover,

H. 371. An act relating to the use of dynamic pricing by retail establishments.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 231.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 372. An act relating to application of neonicotinoid pesticides to nursery starts and herbaceous plants.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 231.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, and Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 373. An act relating to pilot projects expanding democratic practices in State and local government.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 232.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 374. An act relating to repealing the Commissioner of Labor's authority to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with a disability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 232.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex and Stone of Burlington,

H. 375. An act relating to creating the Office of New Americans Study Committee.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 232.

By Representatives Nugent of South Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 376. An act relating to the creation of the Treatment and Recovery Fund and the labeling and taxation of alcoholic beverages.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 232.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 377. An act relating to the local media advertising tax credit.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 232.

By Representatives Bartley of Fairfax, Canfield of Fair Haven, Bosch of Clarendon, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Krasnow of South Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Micklus of Milton, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H. 378. An act relating to tax increment financing for housing infrastructure.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 233.

By Representatives Maguire of Rutland City and Burditt of West Rutland,

H. 379. An act relating to second look sentencing.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 233.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 380. An act relating to creating a felony penalty for a violation of conditions of release and to staff the pretrial supervision program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 233.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Rachelson of Burlington, and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 381. An act relating to prohibiting the manufacture and transfer of gas-operated semiautomatic firearms.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 233.

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

H. 382. An act relating to data collection in the criminal justice system.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 233.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 383. An act relating to a voluntary license to purchase firearms.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 234.

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

H. 384. An act relating to minimum reimbursement rates for labor related to automobile insurance claims.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 234.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Bluemle of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Burke of Brattleboro, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Duke of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington,

Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, Sweeney of Shelburne, and White of Bethel,

H. 385. An act relating to remedies and protections for victims of coerced debt.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 234.

By Representative Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 386. An act relating to establishing an Agricultural Land Transfer Assistance Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 234.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 387. An act relating to the creation of a property right for an individual's personal characteristics.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 235.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 388. An act relating to the protection of an individual's digital replica.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 235.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 389. An act relating to restricting the use of artificial intelligence to affect rental housing pricing and availability.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 235.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 390. An act relating to restrictions on digital advertising brokers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 235.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 391. An act relating to the disclosure of transactions involving personally identifiable information.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 235.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 392. An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in State buildings and on State land.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 236.

By Representatives Burtt of Cabot, Bosch of Clarendon, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, Powers of Waterford, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 393. An act relating to the prohibition of requiring face masks in schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 236.

By Representative Sheldon of Middlebury,

H. 394. An act relating to renewable energy generation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 236.

By Representative Greer of Bennington,

H. 395. An act relating to creating the Municipal Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 236.

By Representatives Logan of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Chapin of East Montpelier, Labor of Morgan, Morris of Springfield, North of Ferrisburgh, Pritchard of Pawlet, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 396. (No. 0036) An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 236; Rd 2nd t, 443; Rep. Lipsky of Stowe rptd for the C on AFR&F, 443; 3rd rdg ord, 443; Rd 3rd t and pass, 588; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1538; S pro of amend con in, 1551; Delv to the Gov on May 21, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 27, 2025, 2197.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City, Galfetti of Barre Town, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Cooper of Pownal, Cordes of Bristol, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Eastes of Guilford, Feltus of Lyndon, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hunter of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Lalley of Shelburne, LaMont of Morristown, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Torre of Moretown, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H. 397. (No. 0057) An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 237; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 428; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 445; Rd 2nd t, 712; Rep. Birong of Vergennes rptd for the C on GO&MA, 712; Rep. Waszazak of Barre City recomd for the C on W&M, 720; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden recomd for the C on Appr, 724; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, which was agrd to, 725; Rpt of the C on GO&MA amend as recomd by the C on W&M, as amend, 725; Rpt of the C on GO&MA, as amend, amend as recomd by the C on Appr, 725; Rpt of C on GO&MA, as amend, agrd to, 725; 3rd rdg ord, 725; Rep. Parsons of Newbury moved to amend the bill, 752; Rep. Parsons of Newbury asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 752; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro and Waszazak of Barre City moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 752; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 754; Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 754; Rd 3rd t and pass, 754; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2250; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2330; S pro of amend con in, 2341; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Graning of Jericho, and Priestley of Bradford,

H. 398. (No. 0026) An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 237; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 383; Rd 2nd t, 612; Rep. Carris-Duncan of Whitingham rptd for the C on C&EcD, 612; Rep. Stevens of Waterbury recomd for the C on Appr, 631; Rpt of the C on C&EcD amend as recomd by the C on Appr, 631; Rpt of C on C&EcD, as amend, agrd to, 631; 3rd rdg ord, 631; Rd 3rd t and pass, 643; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1152; Rep. Carris-Duncan of Whitingham moved to postp act until 4/28/2025, which was agrd to, 1167; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Marcotte of Coventry and Graning of Jericho, 1182; S msg: H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 1441; S pro of amend to H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in, 1500; Delv to the Gov on May 15, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 21, 2025, 1884.

By Representatives Tomlinson of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, and McGill of Bridport,

H. 399. An act relating to tenant rights.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 238.

By Representatives Galfetti of Barre Town and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 400. An act relating to housing appeals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 238.

By Representatives Cooper of Pownal, Bartley of Fairfax, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Burtt of Cabot, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester,

Keyser of Rutland City, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Wells of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

H. 401. (No. 0042) An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 288; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 428; Rd 2nd t, 699; Rep. Burtt of Cabot rptd for the C on AFR&F, 699; Rep. Masland of Thetford recomd for the C on W&M, 701; Rpt of C on AFR&F agrd to, 701; 3rd rdg ord, 701; Rd 3rd t and pass, 709; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1548; S pro of amend con in, 1822; Delv to the Gov on May 27, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 2, 2025, 2557.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 402. An act relating to the Vermont Municipal Labor Relations Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 288.

By Representative Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 403. An act relating to fair labor standards and housing standards for agricultural workers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 289.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, and Morrissey of Bennington,

H. 404. An act relating to authority over the highways of the Village of Old Bennington.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 289.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 405. An act relating to competency to stand trial.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 289.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 406. An act relating to naming State buildings and facilities after individuals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 289.

By Representatives Nelson of Derby, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Cooper of Pownal, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Feltus of Lyndon, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Sibilia of Dover,

Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 407. An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 289.

By Representative Surprenant of Barnard,

H. 408. An act relating to State purchasing of local food.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 290.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 409. An act relating to the procedures for bail revocation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 290.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 410. An act relating to the calculation of recidivism and other related criminology measures.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 290; Rep. Emmons of Springfield moved that the C on C&I be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on Judic, which was agrd to, 383.

By Representatives McCoy of Poultney, Burditt of West Rutland, Goslant of Northfield, Harvey of Castleton, Malay of Pittsford, and Oliver of Sheldon,

H. 411. An act relating to public safety.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 290.

By Representatives McCoy of Poultney, Bartley of Fairfax, Charlton of Chester, and Dolgin of St. Johnsbury,

H. 412. An act relating to land use and housing development.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 291.

By Representative Kimbell of Woodstock,

H. 413. An act relating to use of illuminating lights and visibility of taillights.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 291.

By Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Bishop of Colchester, and Eastes of Guilford,

H. 414. An act relating to the Vermont Commission on Aging.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 291.

By Representatives Walker of Swanton, Bartley of Fairfax, Branagan of Georgia, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Oliver of Sheldon, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

H. 415. An act relating to Franklin County Field Days.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 291.

By Representatives Headrick of Burlington and Gregoire of Fairfield,

H. 416. An act relating to the regulation of kratom products.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 291.

By Representatives Cole of Hartford, Priestley of Bradford, Bishop of Colchester, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Eastes of Guilford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pouech of Hinesburg, Surprenant of Barnard, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 417. An act relating to prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 292.

By Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Lalley of Shelburne, McGill of Bridport, Pouech of Hinesburg, Stone of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and White of Waitsfield,

H. 418. An act relating to an excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 292.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 419. An act relating to the City of Barre tax increment financing district.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 292.

By Representatives Boutin of Barre City, Bosch of Clarendon, Casey of Montpelier, Galfetti of Barre Town, and Micklus of Milton,

H. 420. An act relating to tax increment financing for flood-impacted communities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 292; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved that the C on W&M be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on C&EcD, which was agrd to, 319.

By Representative Masland of Thetford,

H. 421. An act relating to the authority to create a regional council of governments.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 293.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford, Branagan of Georgia, Holcombe of Norwich, and Olson of Starksboro,

H. 422. An act relating to testing of groundwater samples from contaminated sites at the State Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 293.

By Representative Cina of Burlington,

H. 423. An act relating to implementing the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 293.

By Representative Sheldon of Middlebury,

H. 424. An act relating to the donation to the State of managed forestland enrolled in current use.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 293.

By Representatives Morris of Springfield, Casey of Montpelier, Emmons of Springfield, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 425. An act relating to the regional management of the disposition of septage, sludge, and biosolids.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 293.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Lalley of Shelburne, Pouech of Hinesburg, Tomlinson of Winooski, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Holcombe of Norwich, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, and White of Waitsfield,

H. 426. An act relating to transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 295.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 427. An act relating to medical malpractice actions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 295.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington and Logan of Burlington,

H. 428. An act relating to training requirements for guardians.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 295.

By Representatives Burrows of West Windsor, Berbeco of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, and Mrowicki of Putney,

H. 429. An act relating to the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 295.

By Representatives Galfetti of Barre Town and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 430. An act relating to allowing health insurance premiums to vary based on age and tobacco usage.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 296.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 431. An act relating to expanding access to catastrophic health plans.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 296.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Cina of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, Morgan, L. of Milton, and Ode of Burlington,

H. 432. An act relating to health insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 296.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Christie of Hartford, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

H. 433. An act relating to incremental implementation of Green Mountain Care.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 296.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Coffin of Cavendish, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 434. An act relating to requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 297.

By Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury,

H. 435. An act relating to establishing penalties for keeping or maintaining a common nuisance.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 297.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 436. An act relating to establishing reentry facilities for persons under the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 297.

By Representative Burrows of West Windsor,

H. 437. An act relating to establishing a study committee to examine universal design standards for residential buildings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 297.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 438. An act relating to exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax for priority housing projects.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 297.

By Representative Logan of Burlington,

H. 439. An act relating to the creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 298.

By Representatives LaMont of Morristown, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 440. An act relating to providing protections against no-cause eviction.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 298.

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

H. 441. An act relating to amending the prohibitions against harassment in schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 298.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 442. An act relating to the expedited issuance of professional licenses for practicing, qualified out-of-state applicants.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 298.

By Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Waszazak of Barre City, and Holcombe of Norwich,

H. 443. An act relating to a tax on vacant properties.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 298.

By Representative Marcotte of Coventry,

H. 444. An act relating to unemployment compensation and workers' compensation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 299.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, LaMont of Morristown, and Logan of Burlington,

H. 445. An act relating to creating the Land Access and Opportunity Revolving Fund.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 299.

By Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury,

H. 446. An act relating to requiring municipal corporations to set equalized water and sewer rates throughout the service area.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 299.

By Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury,

H. 447. An act relating to rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 299.

By Representatives Morris of Springfield, Cina of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Hooper of Randolph, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Oliver of Sheldon,

H. 448. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 299.

By Representative Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 449. An act relating to setting the date of biennial party caucuses.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 300.

By Representatives Emmons of Springfield and Morris of Springfield,

H. 450. An act relating to prohibiting the appointment of interested parties to a recount committee.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 300.

By Representative Burrows of West Windsor,

H. 451. An act relating to promoting racial and economic justice.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 300.

By Representative Cina of Burlington,

H. 452. An act relating to decriminalization of psilocybin-containing mushrooms and the establishment of the Psilocybin Therapeutic Consultation Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 300.

By Representative Lalley of Shelburne,

H. 453. An act relating to amending stormwater management to facilitate high-density development.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 300.

By Representatives Toof of St. Albans Town, McCoy of Poultney, Taylor of Milton, Dobrovich of Williamstown, and Quimby of Lyndon,

H. 454. (No. 0073) An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 301; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 783; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 812; Rd 2nd t, 830; Rep. Conlon of Cornwall rptd for the C on Edu, 830; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro recomd for the C on W&M, 859; Rep. Mrowicki of Putney recomd for the C on Appr, 948; Rep. Conlon of Cornwall, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Harple of Glover, Hunter of Manchester, Long of Newfane, and McCann of Montpelier moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, which was agrd to, 948; Rep. Yacovone of Morristown and Olson of Starksboro moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, as amend, 949; Rep. Yacovone of Morristown asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 950; Rep. Olson of Starksboro and Yacovone of Morristown moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, as amend, 950; Rep. Olson of Starksboro asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 952; Rpt of the C on Edu amend as recomd by the C on W&M, as amend, 952; Rpt of C on Edu, as amend, agrd to, 952; 3rd rdg ord, 952; Rep. Greer of Bennington moved to amend the bill, 956; Rep. Greer of Bennington asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 958; Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town and Houghton of Essex Junction moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 958; Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town moved to amend the bill, 961; Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 1068; Rep. Wood of Waterbury, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Bishop of Colchester, Cole of Hartford, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Maguire of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, and Noyes of Wolcott moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 1068; Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the bill, 1075; Rep. McCoy of Poultney demanded yeas and nays, 1076; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 72 of 143 to Pass -- Yeas = 60, Nays = 83, 1076; Rd 3rd t, 1078; Rep. Cina of Burlington demanded yeas and nays, 1078; Passed, 1078; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 71 of 142 to Pass -- Yeas = 87, Nays = 55, 1078; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2049; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2113; S pro of amend not con in and C of C req/d upon mo of Rep. Conlon of Cornwall, 2196; Speaker apptd Reps. Conlon of Cornwall, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Taylor of Milton as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2196; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2196; S msg: C of C members apptd, 2197; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2584; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2584; C of C rpt ruled out of ord on pt of o raised by Rep. McCann of Montpelier, 2673; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved to susp/d R to permit cons of an objectionable C of C rpt, 2673; Divid demanded, 2673; Divid results Yes, 113; No, 26, 2674; Which was agrd to, 2674; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 2674; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to delv the bill to the Gov f/w, 2674; Rep. Headrick of Burlington demanded yeas and nays, 2674; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 71 of 141 to Pass -- Yeas = 96, Nays = 45, 2674; Delv to the Gov on June 25, 2025; Signed by Gov on July 1, 2025, 2702.

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

H. 455. An act relating to State observance of Juneteenth.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 301.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Christie of Hartford, and Cole of Hartford,

H. 456. An act relating to establishing a State-funded and community-based continuum of care for justice-involved individuals.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 307.

By Representative Dolgin of St. Johnsbury,

H. 457. An act relating to justifiable homicide.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 307.

By the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure,

H. 458. (No. 0048) An act relating to the Agency of Digital Services.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/12/2025, 307; Rd 2nd t, 384; Rep. Campbell of St. Johnsbury spoke for the C on E&DI, 384; 3rd rdg ord, 384; Rd 3rd t and pass, 400; S msg: pass in con, 2262; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Casey of Montpelier,

H. 459. An act relating to the Parental and Family Leave Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 307.

By Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland, Burke of Brattleboro, Chapin of East Montpelier, Dodge of Essex, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Springfield, Pouech of Hinesburg, Satcowitz of Randolph, and Torre of Moretown,

H. 460. An act relating to the development and construction of a bicycle path that runs adjacent U.S. Route 5.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 307.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 461. (No. 0032) An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 308; Rd 2nd t, 632; Rep. Bartley of Fairfax rptd for the C on G&H, 632; Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the rpt of the C on G&H, 640; Rep. Donahue of Northfield asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 640; Rpt of C on G&H agrd to, 640; 3rd rdg ord, 640; Rd 3rd t and pass, 643; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1538; S pro of amend con in, 1552; Delv to the Gov on May 16, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 22, 2025, 1902.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 462. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington concerning just cause eviction.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 314.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

H. 463. (No. 0018) An act relating to technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/13/2025, 314; Rd 2nd t, 400; Rep. Hooper of Burlington spoke for the C on GO&MA, 400; 3rd rdg ord, 400; Rd 3rd t and pass, 430; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1155; Rep. Hooper of Burlington moved to postp act until 4/30/2025, which was agrd to, 1183; S pro of amend con in, 1191; Delv to the Gov on May 7, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 13, 2025, 1539.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 464. An act relating to flood response and the duties of the Division of Emergency Management.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 315.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 465. An act relating to flood response and financial assistance for municipalities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 315.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 466. An act relating to flood response and the creation of a voluntary buy-out program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 315.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 467. An act relating to flood response and the duties of the Agency of Transportation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 315.

By Representatives Galfetti of Barre Town and Waszazak of Barre City,

H. 468. An act relating to flood response and assistance programs for flood resilient infrastructure improvements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 315.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 469. An act relating to flood response and the duties of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 316.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 470. An act relating to flood response and flood alert systems for municipalities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 316.

By Representatives Waszazak of Barre City and Galfetti of Barre Town,

H. 471. An act relating to the transfer of State-owned property in the Town of Waterbury.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 316.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

H. 472. (No. 0058) An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 316; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 445; Rd 2nd t, 733; Rep. Nugent of South Burlington spoke for the C on GO&MA, 733; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 733; Rep. Mrowicki of Putney recomd for the C on Appr, 733; 3rd rdg ord, 733; Rd 3rd t and pass, 755; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2049; Rep. Birong of Vergennes, Coffin of Cavendish, Hango of Berkshire, Hooper of Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nugent of South Burlington, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Stone of Burlington moved to con in the S pro of amend w a further amend thereto, 2314; Rep. James of Manchester and Sibilia of Dover moved to amend the amend, 2330; Which was agrd to, 2330; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as amend, 2330; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2330; S msg: H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in, 2509; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representative Austin of Colchester,

H. 473. An act relating to the reintroduction of catamounts to the State of Vermont.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 382.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

H. 474. (No. 0070) An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/18/2025, 397; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to postp act until 3/20/2025, which was agrd to, 588; Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved to postp act until 3/25/2025, which was agrd to, 608; Rd 2nd t, 690; Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte spoke for the C on GO&MA, 690; Rep. Sibilia of Dover, Donahue of Northfield, Headrick of Burlington, and Lipsky of Stowe moved to amend the bill, 690; Divid demanded, 690; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction demanded yeas and nays, 690; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 72 of 143 to Pass -- Yeas = 36, Nays = 107, 690; Rep. McCoy of Poultney, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Higley of Lowell moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 692; 3rd rdg ord, 697; Rd 3rd t and pass, 709; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2566; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2566; S pro of amend con in, 2583; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to delv the bill to the Gov f/w, which was agrd to, 2583; Delv to the Gov on June 19, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 25, 2025, 2701.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 475. An act relating to establishing an equitable pricing system for the milk production.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 398.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 476. An act relating to establishing a Mechanized Logging and Trucking Training Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 398.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 477. An act relating to forest management harvests on State Forest lands.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 398.

By Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge,

H. 478. An act relating to requiring price look-up stickers on produce be compostable.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 398.

By the Committee on General and Housing,

H. 479. An act relating to housing.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 398; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 445; Rd 2nd t, 726; Rep. Mihaly of Calais spoke for the C on G&H, 726; Rep. Waszazak of Barre City recomd for the C on W&M, 726; Rep. Bluemle of Burlington recomd for the C on Appr, 729; Rpt of C on W&M subst/d by rpt of C on Appr, 730; Rpt of C on W&M agrd to, as subst/d, 730; 3rd rdg ord, 730; Rd 3rd t and pass, 755; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1903; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved to postp act until 5/30/2025, which was agrd to, 2092; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved to commit the bill to the C on G&H, which was agrd to, 2554.

By the Committee on Education,

H. 480. (No. 0072) An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/19/2025, 426; Rd 2nd t, 609; Rep. Conlon of Cornwall spoke for the C on Edu, 609; Rep. Boutin of Barre City moved to amend the bill, 609; Rep. Boutin of Barre City demanded yeas and nays, 610; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 70 of 140 to Pass -- Yeas = 49, Nays = 91, 610; 3rd rdg ord, 612; Rd 3rd t and pass, 643; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2112; Rep. Brady of Williston moved to postp act until 5/30/2025, which was agrd to, 2409; Rep. McCann of Montpelier and Waszazak of Barre City moved to con in the S pro of amend w a further amend thereto, 2678; Rep. McCann of Montpelier asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 2698; S pro of amend con in, 2698; Rep. McCoy of Poultney moved to delv the bill to the Gov f/w, which was agrd to, 2698; Delv to the Gov on June 23, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 27, 2025, 2702.

By the Committee on Environment,

H. 481. (No. 0037) An act relating to stormwater management.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 426; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 606; Rd 2nd t, 701; Rep. Logan of Burlington spoke for the C on Enviro, 701; Rep. Ode of Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 701; Rep. Squirrell of Underhill recomd for the C on Appr, 701; Rpt of C on Appr agrd to, 701; 3rd rdg ord, 701; Rd 3rd t and pass, 709; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1538; Rep. Logan of Burlington moved to postp act until 5/16/2025, which was agrd to, 1559; S pro of amend con in, 1728; Delv to the Gov on May 21, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 27, 2025, 2197.

By the Committee on Health Care,

H. 482. (No. 0049) An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/19/2025, 426; Rd 2nd t, 612; Rep. Black of Essex spoke for the C on HC, 612; 3rd rdg ord, 612; Rd 3rd t and pass, 643; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 644; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1855; S pro of amend con in, 2045; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

H. 483. An act relating to the expansion of existing income tax credits.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/19/2025, 427; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock moved to postp act until 3/25/2025, which was agrd to, 612; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock moved that the bill be cmtd to the C on W&M, which was agrd to, 697.

By the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry,

H. 484. (No. 0059) An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 427; Rd 2nd t, 675; Rep. Nelson of Derby spoke for the C on AFR&F, 675; Rep. Masland of Thetford recomd for the C on W&M, 675; 3rd rdg ord, 675; Rd 3rd t and pass, 698; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 2262; S pro of amend con in w further amend thereto, as offd by Rep. Nelson of Derby, 2414; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2453; S msg: H pro of amend to S pro of amend con in, 2511; Delv to the Gov on June 5, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 11, 2025, 2561.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 485. An act relating to granting State employees in the Executive Branch and Judiciary the right to strike.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 427.

By Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury,

H. 486. An act relating to homestead declarations and the property tax credit.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 444.

By Representatives Walker of Swanton and Oliver of Sheldon,

H. 487. An act relating to local option tax revenue sharing between a town and village.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 444.

By the Committee on Transportation,

H. 488. (No. 0043) An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 444; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 606; Rd 2nd t, 730; Rep. Walker of Swanton spoke for the C on Trans, 730; Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven recomd for the C on W&M, 731; Rep. Kascenska of Burke recomd for the C on Appr, 731; Rpt of C on Appr agrd to, 731; Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the bill, 731; Rep. Donahue of Northfield asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 733; 3rd rdg ord, 733; Rd 3rd t and pass, 755; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1209; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town, 1380; S pro of amend not con in and C of C req/d upon mo of Rep. Walker of Swanton, 1408; Speaker apptd Reps. Walker of Swanton, Corcoran of Bennington, and Burke of Brattleboro as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 1408; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by

Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town, 1408; S msg: C of C members apptd, 1408; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 1548; Rep. Corcoran of Bennington moved to postp act until 5/21/2025, which was agrd to, 1740; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 1856; Delv to the Gov on May 27, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 2, 2025, 2557.

By the Committee on Appropriations,

H. 489. An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 445; Rd 2nd t, 675; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury spoke for the C on Appr, 675; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro recomd for the C on W&M, 675; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction demanded yeas and nays, 675; 3rd rdg ord, 675; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 73 of 146 to Pass -- Yeas = 91, Nays = 55, 675; Rd 3rd t and pass, 698; S msg: pass in con, 807; Delv to the Gov on April 3, 2025, 807; Vetoed by the Gov on April 4, 2025, 809; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury moved that the bill be cmtd to the C on Appr, which was agrd to, 822.

By Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Casey of Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Eastes of Guilford, Headrick of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Morrow of Weston, Rachelson of Burlington, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

H. 490. An act relating to incentivizing community service sentencing in certain cases.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 606.

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

H. 491. (No. 0024) An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate.

C bill rd the 1st t and pl on Notice cal on 3/26/2025, 683; Rd 2nd t, 755; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock spoke for the C on W&M, 755; 3rd rdg ord, 755; Rd 3rd t and pass, 777; S msg: pass in con, 1484; Delv to the Gov on May 13, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 19, 2025, 1812.

By Representative Krasnow of South Burlington,

H. 492. An act relating to animal cruelty crimes and penalties.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 683.

By the Committee on Appropriations,

H. 493. (No. 0027) An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 683; Rd 2nd t, 757; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury spoke for the C on Appr, 757; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro recomd for the C on W&M, 757; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 757; Rep. Nelson of Derby demanded yeas and nays, 758; 3rd rdg ord, 758; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 71 of 142 to Pass -- Yeas = 104, Nays = 38, 758; Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 777; Rd 3rd t and pass, 777; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1209; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town, which was agreed to, 1219; S pro of amend not con in and C of C req/d upon mo of Rep. Scheu of Middlebury, 1380; Speaker apptd Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Harrison of Chittenden, and Bluemle of Burlington as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 1380; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town, which

was agrd to, 1380; S msg: C of C members apptd, 1408; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 1510; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury demanded yeas and nays, 1560; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 1724; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 68 of 135 to Pass -- Yeas = 132, Nays = 3, 1724; Bill ord delv to the Gov f/w per Joint Rule 15 as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1726; Delv to the Gov on May 15, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 21, 2025, 1884.

By the Committee on Corrections and Institutions,

H. 494. (No. 0033) An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

C bill rd 1st t and ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 702; Rd 2nd t, 777; Rep. Emmons of Springfield spoke for the C on C&I, 777; Rep. Laroche of Franklin recomd for the C on Appr, 777; 3rd rdg ord, 777; Rd 3rd t and pass, 784; S msg: p/con w pro of amend, 1413; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1429; S pro of amend not con in and C of C req/d upon mo of Rep. Emmons of Springfield, 1435; Speaker apptd Reps. Emmons of Springfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, and Headrick of Burlington as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 1435; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1435; S msg: C of C members apptd, 1441; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 1548; C of C rpt adptd (H bill), 1740; Bill ord delv to the Gov f/w per Joint Rule 15 as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1759; Delv to the Gov on May 16, 2025; Signed by Gov on May 22, 2025, 1902.

By Representative Hooper of Randolph,

H. 495. An act relating to the consideration of consolidated school district boundaries using existing regional structures.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 762.

By Representatives Lalley of Shelburne, Austin of Colchester, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Logan of Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Pezzo of Colchester, Rachelson of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

H. 496. An act relating to continuing care retirement communities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 763.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H. 497. An act relating to student freedom of expression rights in school-sponsored media in approved independent schools and postsecondary schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 781.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 498. An act relating to prohibiting municipal regulation of homelessness and supporting municipal programs to address homelessness.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 781.

By Representative Headrick of Burlington,

H. 499. An act relating to establishing the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the Institution of Chattel Slavery.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 782.

By Representative Rachelson of Burlington,

H. 500. An act relating to automated license plate recognition systems.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 782.

By Representative Boutin of Barre City,

H. 501. An act relating to the deadline for public bodies to respond to an alleged Open Meeting Law violation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 819.

By Representatives Lipsky of Stowe, Hunter of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Powers of Waterford, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

H. 502. An act relating to charging for actual cost under Vermont's Public Records Act.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 819.

By Representatives Keyser of Rutland City, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bosch of Clarendon, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Hunter of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Lipsky of Stowe, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 503. An act relating to delaying the requirements of the Advanced Clean Truck rule.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 823.

By Representatives Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, and Maguire of Rutland City,

H. 504. (No. M005) An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 953; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1171; Rd 2nd t, 1419; Rep. Pinsonault of Dorset rptd for the C on GO&MA, 1419; Rep. Higley of Lowell recomd for the C on W&M, 1419; Rpt of C on W&M agrd to, 1419; 3rd rdg ord, 1419; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1436; S msg: pass in con, 1904; Delv to the Gov on May 30, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 5, 2025, 2558.

By Representatives Galfetti of Barre Town and McFaun of Barre Town,

H. 505. (No. M004) An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 953; Rd 2nd t, 1199; Rep. Pinsonault of Dorset rptd for the C on GO&MA, 1199; 3rd rdg ord, 1199; Rd 3rd t and pass, 1207; S msg: pass in con, 1853; Delv to the Gov on May 27, 2025; Signed by Gov on June 2, 2025, 2557.

By Representative Waters Evans of Charlotte,

H. 506. An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Charlotte.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 953.

By Representative Boutin of Barre City,

H. 507. An act relating to the regulation of development in wetlands.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 1107.

By Representative Hooper of Burlington,

H. 508. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1107.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H. 509. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Winooski.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1153.

By Representative Burtt of Cabot,

H. 510. An act relating to repealing the charter of the Town of Danville.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1153.

By Representative Greer of Bennington,

H. 511. An act relating to the admittance of federal immigration authorities into schools.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 1156.

By Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Bosch of Clarendon, Canfield of Fair Haven, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, McCoy of Poultney, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 512. An act relating to the regulation of the event ticketing market.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 1170.

By Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland and Burrows of West Windsor,

H. 513. An act relating to the Southeast State Correctional Facility natural areas.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&I, 1170.

By Representative LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 514. An act relating to the procedures governing the change of a minor's legal name.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1201.

By Representative White of Bethel,

H. 515. An act relating to in-state tuition for non-Vermont residents who do not have access to DEI programming in their home state public postsecondary institutions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Edu, 1435.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, and Garofano of Essex,

H. 516. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1540.

By Representatives Ode of Burlington, Hango of Berkshire, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

H. 517. An act relating to military protection orders.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 1549.

By Representatives Tagliavia of Corinth, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

H. 518. An act relating to repealing the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Enviro, 1812.

By Representative Satcowitz of Randolph,

H. 519. An act relating to authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1813.

By Representative Priestley of Bradford,

H. 520. An act relating to the right of users to control their social media data.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 1813.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol, Berbeco of Winooski, and Cole of Hartford,

H. 521. An act relating to health insurance coverage for donated human breast milk.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 1855.

SENATE BILLS

By Senator Hashim,

S. 3. (No. 0007) An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 308; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 800; Rd 2nd t, 828; Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro rptd for the C on Judic, 828; Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven recomd for the C on W&M, 828; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington demanded yeas and nays, 828; 3rd rdg ord, 828; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 144 to Pass -- Yeas = 143, Nays = 1, 828; Rd 3rd t and p/con, 954; S msg: Signed by Gov April 24, 2025, 1155.

By Senator Hashim,

S. 7. An act relating to automobile insurance.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 123.

By Senators Hardy, Gulick, Norris, Plunkett, Vyhovsky, and White,

S. 9. (No. 0012) An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 145; Rd 2nd t, 804; Rep. Oliver of Sheldon rptd for the C on Judic, 804; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 806; 3rd rdg ord, 806; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 808; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1136; S msg: Signed by Gov 5/1/2025, 1409.

By Senator Hashim,

S. 12. (No. 0060) An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 737; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1549; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1760; Rd 2nd t, 1760; Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction rptd for the C on Judic, 1760; Rep. Ode of Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 1782; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 1783; 3rd rdg ord, 1783; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1816; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1816; S msg: H pro of amend not con in and C of C apptd, 1936; Speaker apptd Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington, Burditt of West Rutland,

and Dolan of Essex Junction as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2048; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2262; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2285; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2285; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2552; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By Senators Gulick, Clarkson, Hardy, Harrison, Plunkett, Watson, Weeks, White, and Williams,

S. 18. (No. 0019) An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 763; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 807; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 824; Rd 2nd t, 1100; Rep. Goldman of Rockingham rptd for the C on HC, 1100; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 1106; Rep. Yacovone of Morristown recomd for the C on Appr, 1106; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 1106; 3rd rdg ord, 1106; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1128; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1167; S msg: Signed by Gov May 13, 2025, 1548.

By Senators Hardy, Clarkson, Collamore, Norris, Vyhovsky, Watson, and White,

S. 23. An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 684; Rd 2nd t, 2468; Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte rptd for the C on GO&MA, 2468; Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte moved to amend the rpt of the C on GO&MA, which was agrd to, 2473; Rpt of C on GO&MA, as amend, agrd to, 2473; 3rd rdg ord, 2473; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2565.

By Senators Lyons, Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Major, Norris, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Westman, and White,

S. 27. (No. 0021) An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 685; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 808; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1090; Rd 2nd t, 1131; Rep. Page of Newport City rptd for the C on HC, 1131; Rep. Nigro of Bennington recomd for the C on Appr, 1135; Rep. Feltus of Lyndon recomd for the C on W&M, 1135; Rep. Black of Essex, Berbeco of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and Powers of Waterford moved to amend the rpt of the C on HC, which was agrd to, 1135; Rep. Donahue of Northfield and Black of Essex moved to amend the rpt of the C on HC, as amend, which was agrd to, 1135; Rpt of C on HC, as amend, agrd to, 1136; 3rd rdg ord, 1136; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1145; S msg: H pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 1200; S pro of amend to H pro of amend con in, 1218; S msg: Signed by Gov May 15, 2025, 1809.

By Senators Hardy, Lyons, Clarkson, Gulick, Vyhovsky, and White,

S. 28. (No. 0020) An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 427; Rep. Berbeco of Winooski moved to postp act until 4/17/2025, which was agrd to, 1106; Rd 2nd t, 1110; Rep. Berbeco of Winooski rptd for the C on HC, 1110; Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction and LaLonde of South Burlington moved

to amend the rpt of the C on HC, which was agrd to, 1125; Rpt of C on HC, as amend, agrd to, 1125; Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction demanded yeas and nays, 1125; 3rd rdg ord, 1125; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 70 of 140 to Pass -- Yeas = 97, Nays = 43, 1125; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1131; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1183; S msg: Signed by Gov May 13, 2025, 1548.

By Senators Lyons and Cummings,

S. 30. (No. 0011) An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 156; Rd 2nd t, 816; Rep. Cina of Burlington rptd for the C on HC, 816; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 817; 3rd rdg ord, 817; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 822; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1136; S msg: Signed by Gov 5/1/2025, 1409.

By Senators Lyons and Gulick,

S. 36. (No. 0022) An act relating to the delivery and payment of certain services provided through the Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HS, 737; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1107; Rep. Bishop of Colchester moved to postp act until 4/25/2025, which was agrd to, 1155; Rd 2nd t, 1161; Rep. Bishop of Colchester rptd for the C on HS, 1161; Rep. Bluemle of Burlington recomd for the C on Appr, 1163; Rep. Bishop of Colchester, Cole of Hartford, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Maguire of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, Nielsen of Brandon, Noyes of Wolcott, Steady of Milton, and Wood of Waterbury moved to amend the rpt of the C on HS, which was agrd to, 1164; Rpt of C on HS, as amend, agrd to, 1164; Rep. Rachelson of Burlington moved to amend the H pro of amend, 1165; Rep. Headrick of Burlington asked that the qstn be divid, 1166; 1st divid of amend disagr/d to, 1166; 2nd divid of amend disagr/d to, 1166; 3rd rdg ord, 1166; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1174; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1441; S msg: Signed by Gov May 15, 2025, 1809.

By Senators White, Clarkson, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, and Major,

S. 44. (No. 0028) An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 445; Rd 2nd t, 1439; Rep. Arsenault of Williston rptd for the C on Judic, 1439; 3rd rdg ord, 1439; Rd 3rd t and p/con, 1461; S msg: Signed by Gov May 21, 2025, 1904.

By Senators Douglass, Beck, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Hart, Heffernan, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams,

S. 45. (No. 0061) An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 641; Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved that the C on Judic be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on AFR&F, which was agrd to, 1885; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2232; Rd 2nd t, 2232; Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury rptd for the C on AFR&F, 2232; Rpt of C on AFR&F agrd to, 2236; 3rd rdg ord, 2236; R susp/d and bill pl in all remaining stgs of pass as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2236; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2236; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2236; S msg: H pro of

amend not con in and C of C apptd, 2409; Speaker apptd Reps. Durfee of Shaftsbury, LaLonde of South Burlington, and Morgan, L. of Milton as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2410; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2552; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2553; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2553; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2554; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By Senators White, Beck, Brennan, Collamore, Douglass, Hart, Mattos, Perchlik, and Weeks,

S. 46. An act relating to the taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 782; Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved that the C on W&M be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on Trans, which was agrd to, 816.

By Senators Watson, Beck, Bongartz, Hardy, and Williams,

S. 50. (No. 0038) An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on E&DI, 427; Rd 2nd t, 1175; Rep. James of Manchester rptd for the C on E&DI, 1175; Rep. North of Ferrisburgh moved to amend the rpt of the C on E&DI, 1178; Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland raised a pt of o, 1179; Pt of o ruled well tkn, 1179; Rpt of C on E&DI agrd to, 1179; 3rd rdg ord, 1179; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden and McCoy of Poultney moved to amend the H pro of amend, 1191; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 1199; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1199; S msg: H pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 1484; S pro of amend to H pro of amend con in, 1516; S msg: Signed by Gov 5/28/2025, 2314.

By Senators Hardy, Clarkson, Gulick, Harrison, Major, Norris, Vyhovsky, Weeks, and White,

S. 51. (No. 0071) An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on W&M, 685; Rd 2nd t, 1420; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock rptd for the C on W&M, 1420; Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven demanded yeas and nays, 1426; Rpt of C on W&M agrd to, 1426; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 72 of 144 to Pass -- Yeas = 142, Nays = 2, 1426; 3rd rdg ord, 1428; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1436; S msg: H pro of amend not con in and C of C apptd, 1500; Speaker apptd Reps. Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Kimbell of Woodstock, and Canfield of Fair Haven as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 1504; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2554; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2555; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2555; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2565; S msg: Signed by Gov June 25, 2025, 2702.

By Senators Gulick, Clarkson, Hardy, Vyhovsky, Watson, and White,

S. 53. (No. 0050) An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 738; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1485; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1540; Rd 2nd t, 1739; Rep. Cordes of Bristol rptd for the C on HC, 1739; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 1739; Rep. Mrowicki of Putney recomd for the C on Appr, 1739; Rpt of C on HC agrd to,

1739; 3rd rdg ord, 1739; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1816; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 2049; S msg: Signed by Gov June 9, 2025, 2563.

By Senators Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Vyhovsky, Weeks, and White,

S. 56. (No. 0029) An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 738; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1185; Rd 2nd t, 1428; Rep. Stone of Burlington rptd for the C on GO&MA, 1428; Rep. Dickinson of St. Albans Town recomd for the C on Appr, 1428; Rep. Dickinson of St. Albans Town moved that the H pro to the S to amend the bill, which was agrd to, 1428; 3rd rdg ord, 1429; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1436; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1548; S msg: Signed by Gov May 21, 2025, 1904.

By Senator Hardy,

S. 59. (No. 0051) An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 685; Rd 2nd t, 1817; Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte rptd for the C on GO&MA, 1817; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 1821; 3rd rdg ord, 1821; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1881; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 2197; S msg: Signed by Gov June 9, 2025, 2563.

By Senators Hardy, Heffernan, Major, and Plunkett,

S. 60. An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 685; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1156.

By Senators Lyons, Cummings, and Gulick,

S. 63. (No. 0062) An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 738; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1412; Rd 2nd t, 1514; Rep. Critchlow of Colchester rptd for the C on HC, 1514; Rep. Branagan of Georgia recomd for the C on W&M, 1515; Rpt of C on HC agrd to, 1515; 3rd rdg ord, 1515; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1547; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1855; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By Senators White, Clarkson, Gulick, Major, and Watson,

S. 66. An act relating to motor vehicle noise, exhaust modifications, and engine compression brakes.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 641.

By Senators Harrison, Bongartz, Brennan, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Perchlik, Plunkett, Watson, Weeks, Westman, and White,

S. 69. (No. 0063) An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 428; Rd 2nd t, 1917; Rep. Micklus of Milton rptd for the C on C&EcD, 1917; Rep. Harvey of Castleton demanded yeas and nays, 1929; Rpt of C on C&EcD agrd to, 1929; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 71 of 142 to Pass -- Yeas = 133, Nays = 9, 1929; 3rd rdg ord, 1932; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2052; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2052; S msg: H pro of

amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 2313; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2342; S pro of amend to H pro of amend con in, 2342; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2342; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By Senators Clarkson, Harrison, Hashim, Major, Vyhovsky, and White,

S. 71. An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 782.

By Senator Hashim,

S. 87. (No. 0039) An act relating to extradition procedures.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 641; Rd 2nd t, 1436; Rep. Goslant of Northfield rptd for the C on Judic, 1436; Rpt of C on Judic agrd to, 1439; 3rd rdg ord, 1439; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1461; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1853; S msg: Signed by Gov May 28, 2025, 2314.

By Senator Hashim,

S. 109. (No. 0064) An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Judic, 685; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1412; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1442; Rd 2nd t, 1783; Rep. Rachelson of Burlington rptd for the C on Judic, 1783; Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 1804; Rep. Squirrell of Underhill recomd for the C on Appr, 1804; Rep. Rachelson of Burlington moved to amend the rpt of the C on Judic, which was agrd to, 1804; Rpt of C on Judic, as amend, agrd to, 1808; 3rd rdg ord, 1808; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1816; S msg: H pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 2314; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2391; S pro of amend to H pro of amend con in, 2408; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2408; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

S. 117. (No. 0040) An act relating to wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 738; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1185; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1201; Rd 2nd t, 1487; Rep. Bosch of Clarendon rptd for the C on C&EcD, 1487; Rep. Burkhardt of South Burlington recomd for the C on W&M, 1499; Rep. Nigro of Bennington recomd for the C on Appr, 1499; Rpt of C on C&EcD agrd to, 1499; 3rd rdg ord, 1499; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1510; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1853; S msg: Signed by Gov 5/28/2025, 2314.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

S. 122. (No. 0065) An act relating to economic and workforce development.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 763; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1904; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 2048; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2236; Rd 2nd t, 2236; Rep. Duke of Burlington rptd for the C on C&EcD, 2236; Rep. Waszazak of Barre City recomd for the C on W&M, 2248; Rep. Stevens of Waterbury recomd for the C on Appr, 2248; Rpt of the C on

C&EcD amend as recomd by the C on Appr, 2249; Rpt of C on C&EcD, as amend, agrd to, 2249; 3rd rdg ord, 2249; R susp/d and bill pl in all remaining stgs of pass as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2249; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2249; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2249; S msg: H pro of amend con in w further pro of amend thereto, 2509; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2510; S pro of amend to H pro of amend con in, 2510; R susp/d and act on the bill msg to the S f/w and the bill delv to the Gov f/w as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2510; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564.

By the Committee on Transportation,

S. 123. (No. 0066) An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on Trans, 763; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1813; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1856; Rd 2nd t, 2053; Rep. Walker of Swanton rptd for the C on Trans, 2053; Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven recomd for the C on W&M, 2087; Rep. Kascenska of Burke recomd for the C on Appr, 2087; Rep. Headrick of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Galfetti of Barre Town, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, Nelson of Derby, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Tomlinson of Winooski moved to amend the rpt of the C on Trans, 2087; Rep. Headrick of Burlington asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 2090; Rep. Noyes of Wolcott moved to amend the rpt of the C on Trans, 2091; Rep. Noyes of Wolcott asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 2091; Rpt of C on Trans agrd to, 2092; 3rd rdg ord, 2092; R susp/d and bill pl in all remaining stgs of pass as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2092; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2092; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2092; S msg: H pro of amend not con in and C of C apptd, 2231; Speaker apptd Reps. Walker of Swanton, Pouech of Hinesburg, and White of Waitsfield as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2250; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2474; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2509; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2509; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2564; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2552.

By the Committee on Agriculture,

S. 124. (No. 0067) An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on AFR&F, 1147; Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury moved to susp/d R to take up for imm cons and commit to C on Enviro, which was agrd to, 1486; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1884; Rd 2nd t, 2290; Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury rptd for the C on AFR&F, 2290; Rep. Logan of Burlington rptd for the C on Enviro, 2310; Rep. Masland of Thetford recomd for the C on W&M, 2313; Rpt of the C on AFR&F amend as recomd by the C on Enviro, 2313; Rpt of C on AFR&F, as amend, agrd to, 2313; 3rd rdg ord, 2313; R susp/d and bill pl in all remaining stgs of pass as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2313; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2313; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2313; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 2552; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2565.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

S. 125. An act relating to collective bargaining.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on C&EcD, 763; Rep. Marcotte of Coventry moved that the C on C&EcD be relv/d of the bill and that the same be cmtd to the C on G&H, which was agrd to, 804; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved to postp act until 5/13/2025, which was agrd to, 1499; Rd 2nd t, 1516; Rep. Dodge of Essex rptd for the C on G&H, 1516; Rep. Greer of Bennington moved to amend the rpt of the C on G&H, 1524; Rep. Greer of Bennington asked and was granted lv to wdr amend, 1524; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden demanded yeas and nays, 1524; Rpt of C on G&H agrd to, 1524; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 66 of 132 to Pass -- Yeas = 81, Nays = 51, 1524; 3rd rdg ord, 1526; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1547; S msg: H pro of amend con in, 1903; S msg: Vetoed by Gov June 9, 2025, 2563.

By the Committee on Health and Welfare,

S. 126. (No. 0068) An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on HC, 782; Ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1442; Rd 2nd t, 1826; Rep. Black of Essex rptd for the C on HC, 1826; Rep. Yacovone of Morristown recomd for the C on Appr, 1849; Rpt of the C on HC amend as recomd by the C on Appr, 1851; Rep. Donahue of Northfield, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Maguire of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Noyes of Wolcott, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, and Stevens of Waterbury moved to amend the rpt of the C on HC, as amend, which was agrd to, 1851; Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the rpt of the C on HC, as amend, 1852; Divid demanded, 1852; Divid results Yeas, 18; Nays, 115, 1852; Which was disagr/d to, 1852; Rpt of C on HC, as amend, agrd to, 1852; 3rd rdg ord, 1852; Rep. Black of Essex demanded yeas and nays, 1881; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 1882; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 1883; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 69 of 137 to Pass -- Yeas = 99, Nays = 38, 1882; S msg: H pro of amend not con in and C of C apptd, 1904; Speaker apptd Reps. Black of Essex, McFaun of Barre Town, and Berbeco of Winooski as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 1905; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2365; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2391; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2391; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2552; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2565.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

S. 127. (No. 0069) An act relating to housing and housing development.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on G&H, 800; Ref to C on W&M per Rule 35(a), 1412; Pndg entry on Notice cal, ref to C on Appr per Rule 35(a), 1540; Rep. Mihaly of Calais moved to postp act until 5/23/2025, which was agrd to, 1885; Rd 2nd t, 1937; Rep. Mihaly of Calais rptd for the C on G&H, 1937; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock recomd for the C on W&M, 1978; Rep. Scheu of Middlebury recomd for the C on Appr, 2020; Rep. North of Ferrisburgh moved to amend the rpt of the C on W&M, 2020; Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland raised a pt of o, 2022; Pt of o ruled well tkn, 2022; Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, Graning of Jericho, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Marcotte of Coventry, and Mihaly of Calais moved to amend the

rpt of the C on W&M, 2022; Rep. Sibilia of Dover, Hango of Berkshire, Priestley of Bradford, Boyden of Cambridge, Bartley of Fairfax, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Kleppner of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Morris of Springfield, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Parsons of Newbury, and Sweeney of Shelburne moved to amend the amend, 2037; Rep. Harrison of Chittenden demanded yeas and nays, 2039; Which was disagr/d to on a R C Failed -- Needed 70 of 139 to Pass -- Yeas = 53, Nays = 86, 2039; Rpt of the C on W&M amend as offd by Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, Graning of Jericho, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Marcotte of Coventry, and Mihaly of Calais, 2041; Rpt of the C on G&H amend as recomd by the C on W&M, as amend, 2041; Rep. McCoy of Poultney demanded yeas and nays, 2041; Rpt of C on G&H, as amend, agrd to, 2041; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 68 of 136 to Pass -- Yeas = 100, Nays = 36, 2041; 3rd rdg ord, 2045; Rd 3rd t and p/con w pro of amend, 2052; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2053; S msg: H pro of amend not con in and C of C apptd, 2231; Speaker apptd Reps. Mihaly of Calais, Kimbell of Woodstock, and Marcotte of Coventry as members of the C of C on the part of the H, 2249; R susp/d and tkn up for imm cons, pndg entry on Notice cal, as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2511; Rep. Mihaly of Calais demanded yeas and nays, 2547; C of C rpt adptd (S bill), 2547; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 70 of 139 to Pass -- Yeas = 137, Nays = 2, 2547; R susp/d and bill msg f/w to the S as moved by Rep. McCoy of Poultney, 2550; S msg: rpt of C of C adptd, 2552; S msg: Signed by Gov June 12, 2025, 2565.

By Senator Baruth,

S. 131. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the possession of firearms.

Rd 1st t and ref to the C on GO&MA, 1185.

JOINT HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

By Representatives Higley of Lowell, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Nielsen of Brandon, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

J.R.H. 1. Joint resolution constituting an application for a convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution.

Rd 1st t, treated as a bill, and ref to the C on GO&MA, 90.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Goldman of Rockingham, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Marcotte of Coventry, McFaun of Barre Town, Nelson of Derby, Sibilia of Dover, and Surprenant of Barnard,

J.R.H. 2. Joint resolution urging President Trump to refrain from imposing tariffs on goods and services imported from Canada.

Rd 1st t, treated as a bill, and ref to the C on C&EcD, 145.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry and Bos-Lun of Westminster,

J.R.H. 3. (No. R190) Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State and Green Mountain Girls State educational programs to use the State House facilities on June 26, 2025.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 429; Rd and adptd, 604; S msg: adptd in con, 726.

By Representatives Branagan of Georgia, Logan of Burlington, and Mrowicki of Putney,

J.R.H. 4. Joint resolution reaffirming support for the legislatively recognized Native American Indian tribes and bands of Vermont.

Rd 1st t, treated as a bill, and ref to the C on G&H, 1504.

By Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Dolan of Essex Junction, Houghton of Essex Junction, and McCoy of Poultney,

J.R.H. 5. (No. R189) Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025 .

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 1549; Adopted, 1760; S msg: adptd in con, 1904.

JOINT SENATE RESOLUTIONS

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 1. (No. R001) Joint resolution relating to joint rules.

Rd and adptd in con, 13.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 2. (No. R002) Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the report of the committee appointed to canvass votes for state officers.

Rd and adptd in con, 13.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 3. (No. R003) Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the inaugural message of the Governor.

Rd and adptd in con, 14.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 4. (No. R004) Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

Rd and adptd in con, 14.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 5. (No. R005) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 10, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 43.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 6. (No. R033) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 17, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 53.

By Senator Perchlik,

J.R.S. 7. (No. R034) Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Rd and adptd in con, 54.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 8. (No. R035) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 24, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 69.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 9. (No. R050) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 31, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 91.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 10. (No. R051) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 7, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 109.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 11. (No. R052) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 14, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 147.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 12. (No. R053) Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, and three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 148; Adptd in con, 158.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 13. (No. R054) Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2025.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 148; Adptd in con, 158.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 14. (No. R055) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 21, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 197.

By Senators Hardy, Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, White, and Williams,

J.R.S. 15. (No. R165) Joint resolution supporting Vermont's transgender and non-binary community and declaring Vermont's commitment to fighting discrimination and treating all citizens with respect and dignity.

Rd 1st t, treated as a bill, and ref to the C on Judic, 606; Rd 2nd t, 1207; Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction rptd for the C on Judic, 1207; 3rd rdg ord, 1207; Rd 3rd t, 1214; Adptd in con, 1214.

By Senator Collamore,

J.R.S. 16. (No. R069) Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of seven Superior Court Judges and one Magistrate.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 317; Adptd in con, 396.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 17. (No. R070) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 14, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 317.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 18. (No. R071) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 21, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 446.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 19. (No. R115) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 28, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 704.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 20. (No. R116) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 4, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 801.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 21. (No. R117) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 11, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 819.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 22. (No. R166) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 18, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 1097.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 23. (No. R167) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Rd and adptd in con, 1147.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 24. (No. R168) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 2, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 1186.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 25. (No. R169) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 9, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 1436.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 26. (No. R170) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 16, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 1540.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 27. (No. R186) Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 23, 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 1856.

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 28. (No. R188) Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2025.

Rd and adptd in con, 2699.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

By Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, McCoy of Poultney, and Logan of Burlington,

H.R. 1. House resolution relating to House Rules.

Rd and adptd, 12.

By Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, McCoy of Poultney, and Logan of Burlington,

H.R. 2. House resolution relating to the organization of the House and informing the Senate thereof.

Rd and adptd, 12.

By Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, McCoy of Poultney, and Logan of Burlington,

H.R. 3. House resolution relating to the organization of the House and informing the Governor thereof.

Rd and adptd, 12.

By Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, McCoy of Poultney, and Logan of Burlington,

H.R. 4. House resolution relating to standing committees.

Rd and adptd, 17.

By the Committee on Rules,

H.R. 5. House resolution authorizing limited remote committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 95; Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland spoke for the C on R, 95; Adopted, 99.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Ode of Burlington, and Taylor of Milton,

H.R. 6. House resolution amending House Rules relating to the House Ethics Panel.

Rd 1st t, treated as a bill, and ref to the C on R, 210; Rd 2nd t, 817; Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland rptd for the C on R, 817; 3rd rdg ord, 817; Rd and adptd, 822.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Brady of Williston, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Micklus of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wells of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

H.R. 7. House resolution reaffirming the friendship between the State of Vermont and Taiwan and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 703; Adopted, 739.

By Representatives Cole of Hartford, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester,

Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H.R. 8. House resolution strongly objecting to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocating that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention.

Rd and adptd, 1140.

By Representatives Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, LaMont of Morristown, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Pezzo of Colchester, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury,

H.R. 9. House resolution urging that all State agencies, departments, and offices protect the civil rights, medical confidentiality, and all aspects of personal privacy of Vermonters who have been diagnosed with autism in light of the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services' recently announced

plans to establish an autism research database and other databases related to autism.

Rd and pl on cal for act purs to Rule 52, 2198; Adopted, 2314.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Demar of Enosburgh, Gregoire of Fairfield, and Walker of Swanton,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 1. (No. R006) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Falcons Division IV championship boys' track and field team.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 58; Ceremonial Reading, 63.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Oliver of Sheldon, Walker of Swanton, and Gregoire of Fairfield,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 2. (No. R007) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Missisquoi Valley Union High School Thunderbirds Division I championship softball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59; Ceremonial Reading, 80.

By Representatives Demar of Enosburgh, Hango of Berkshire, Gregoire of Fairfield, Laroche of Franklin, Oliver of Sheldon, and Walker of Swanton,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 3. (No. R008) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Enosburg Falls High School Hornets Division II championship softball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59; Ceremonial Reading, 224.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Demar of Enosburgh, Gregoire of Fairfield, and Walker of Swanton,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 4. (No. R009) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Division IV championship girls' soccer team.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59; Ceremonial Reading, 64.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Demar of Enosburgh, Gregoire of Fairfield, and Walker of Swanton,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 5. (No. R010) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Rockets Division IV championship softball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59; Ceremonial Reading, 65.

By Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Steady of Milton, and Taylor of Milton,

By Senator Mattos,

H.C.R. 6. (No. R011) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Milton High School Yellowjackets girls' soccer team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 58; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59; Ceremonial Reading, 213.

By Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton,

By Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 7. (No. R012) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team.

S msg: adptd in con, 81; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 81; Ceremonial Reading, 1541.

By Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Morris of Springfield, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, and Stevens of Waterbury,

H.C.R. 8. (No. R013) House concurrent resolution designating January 29, 2025 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 81; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 81; Ceremonial Reading, 92.

By Representatives Chapin of East Montpelier, Birong of Vergennes, Casey of Montpelier, Cordes of Bristol, Donahue of Northfield, Goslant of Northfield, LaMont of Morristown, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, North of Ferrisburgh, and Yacovone of Morristown,

By Senators Hardy, Perchlik, and Watson,

H.C.R. 9. (No. R014) House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and the Vermont theatrical youth ensembles now staging exhilarating teen performances.

S msg: adptd in con, 81; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 82; Ceremonial Reading, 96.

By Representative McGill of Bridport,

H.C.R. 10. (No. R015) House concurrent resolution designating February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 99; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 100; Ceremonial Reading, 113.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 11. (No. R016) House concurrent resolution in memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie.

S msg: adptd in con, 99; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 100; Ceremonial Reading, 172.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

By All members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 12. (No. R017) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup).

S msg: adptd in con, 99; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 100; Ceremonial Reading, 123.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 13. (No. R018) House concurrent resolution in memory of the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher of Winooski.

S msg: adptd in con, 99; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 100; Ceremonial Reading, 446.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H.C.R. 14. (No. R019) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home.

S msg: adptd in con, 100; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 101.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 15. (No. R020) House concurrent resolution congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday.

S msg: adptd in con, 100; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 101.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 16. (No. R021) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin.

S msg: adptd in con, 100; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 101.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 17. (No. R022) House concurrent resolution honoring the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

S msg: adptd in con, 100; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 101.

By Representatives Sibilia of Dover, Cooper of Pownal, and Greer of Bennington,

H.C.R. 18. (No. R023) House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world class fiber optic service to rural communities.

S msg: adptd in con, 100; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 101; Ceremonial Reading, 105.

By Representatives Lipsky of Stowe, Morrow of Weston, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Hunter of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, L. of Milton, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Priestley of Bradford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Tagliavia of Corinth, Torre of Moretown, Wells of Brownington, and White of Waitsfield,

H.C.R. 19. (No. R024) House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermonter Noah Dines on establishing a new one-year world vertical skiing record of 3,590,097 feet.

S msg: adptd in con, 129; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 130; Ceremonial Reading, 160.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Casey of Montpelier, and Chapin of East Montpelier,

By Senators Watson, Cummings, and Perchlik,

H.C.R. 20. (No. R025) House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and Montpelier High School's role in the Washington County teen performances.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 21. (No. R026) House concurrent resolution expressing strong appreciation for the essential role of Vermont's school board members in the State's public education system and designating February as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 197.

By Representatives Cole of Hartford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bishop of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brady of Williston, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Burtt of Cabot, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Greer of Bennington, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Kimbell of Woodstock, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Waszazak of Barre City,

H.C.R. 22. (No. R027) House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 149.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H.C.R. 23. (No. R028) House concurrent resolution designating February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 156.

By Representative White of Waitsfield,

H.C.R. 24. (No. R029) House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 151.

By the Committee on Human Services,

H.C.R. 25. (No. R030) House concurrent resolution recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 137.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 26. (No. R031) House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 225.

By Representative Carris Duncan of Whitingham,

H.C.R. 27. (No. R032) House concurrent resolution honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program.

S msg: adptd in con, 130; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 131; Ceremonial Reading, 685.

By Representatives Bartley of Fairfax and Branagan of Georgia,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 28. (No. R037) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax High School Bullets Division III championship baseball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 162.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 29. (No. R038) House concurrent resolution congratulating Montgomery runner Elinor Purrier St. Pierre on her outstanding athletic achievement at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

By All members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 30. (No. R039) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative, House Republican Leader, and Milton Town Manager Donald H. Turner Jr.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163; Ceremonial Reading, 238.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho and Squirrell of Underhill,

H.C.R. 31. (No. R040) House concurrent resolution in memory of former University of Vermont associate professor, poet, and community leader Mary Jane Dickerson.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163; Ceremonial Reading, 399.

By Representative Harrison of Chittenden,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 32. (No. R041) House concurrent resolution honoring former Killington Town Clerk and Treasurer Lucrecia Wonsor for her insightful municipal government leadership.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford and Holcombe of Norwich,

H.C.R. 33. (No. R042) House concurrent resolution honoring criminal defense and personal injury attorney and Thetford Academy indoor track coach Charles Buttrey of Thetford.

S msg: adptd in con, 162; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163.

By Representatives Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Morrow of Weston, and Winter of Ludlow,

By Senators Clarkson, Major, and White,

H.C.R. 34. (No. R043) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Union High School Chieftains Division III championship boys soccer team.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226.

By Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burtt of Cabot, Charlton of Chester, Cooper of Pownal, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Masland of Thetford, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 35. (No. R044) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the March 13, 1775 Westminster Massacre.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226; Ceremonial Reading, 309.

By Representatives Waters Evans of Charlotte and Krasnow of South Burlington,

H.C.R. 36. (No. R045) House concurrent resolution honoring Charlotte Board of Civil Authority Chair, and Ski and Ride Program Coordinator Michael Krasnow.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226; Ceremonial Reading, 819.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 37. (No. R046) House concurrent resolution congratulating Meara Seery of Brattleboro on being named Miss Vermont 2024.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226; Ceremonial Reading, 1097.

By Representative Sibilia of Dover,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 38. (No. R047) House concurrent resolution honoring dedicated Jamaica community leader and volunteer Clara Robinson.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Maguire of Rutland City,

H.C.R. 39. (No. R048) House concurrent resolution designating February 19, 2025 as Recovery Day at the State House.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226.

By Representative Kascenska of Burke,

By Senators Beck, Douglass, and Ingalls,

H.C.R. 40. (No. R049) House concurrent resolution designating February 20, 2025 as NEK Day at the State House.

Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 214; S msg: adptd in con, 226.

By Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton, Harrison of Chittenden, Morgan, and L. of Milton,

By Senator Brennan,

H.C.R. 41. (No. R057) House concurrent resolution congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich, Masland of Thetford, Parsons of Newbury, and Priestley of Bradford,

H.C.R. 42. (No. R058) House concurrent resolution honoring Oxbow Union High School CoPrincipal and Gather author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford,

H.C.R. 43. (No. R059) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II boys' championship indoor track and field team.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305.

By Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington,

H.C.R. 44. (No. R060) House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 18, 2025 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305; Ceremonial Reading, 317.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Houghton of Essex Junction, and Steady of Milton,

H.C.R. 45. (No. R061) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Houghton of Essex Junction, and Steady of Milton,

H.C.R. 46. (No. R062) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball program on winning a fourth consecutive State championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H.C.R. 47. (No. R063) House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305; Ceremonial Reading, 318.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 48. (No. R064) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington.

S msg: adptd in con, 304; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 305; Ceremonial Reading, 301.

By Representative Greer of Bennington,

H.C.R. 49. (No. R065) House concurrent resolution recognizing March 21, 2025 as World Day for Glaciers in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 423; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 425; Ceremonial Reading, 642.

By Representative Cordes of Bristol,

H.C.R. 50. (No. R066) House concurrent resolution recognizing the unique role of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the Vermont health care system.

S msg: adptd in con, 423; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 425; Ceremonial Reading, 686.

By Representatives Austin of Colchester, Critchlow of Colchester, and Pezzo of Colchester,

H.C.R. 51. (No. R067) House concurrent resolution honoring Louis Lamphere on his receipt of the gubernatorial Rays of Kindness recognition.

S msg: adptd in con, 423; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 425.

By Representatives Howard of Rutland City, Bosch of Clarendon, Harrison of Chittenden, Howland of Rutland Town, and Pritchard of Pawlet,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 52. (No. R068) House concurrent resolution honoring Anthony P. Romeo on his 70th birthday.

S msg: adptd in con, 423; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 425.

By Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

H.C.R. 53. (No. R073) House concurrent resolution honoring Megan Humphrey for her outstanding leadership of HANDS.

S msg: adptd in con, 680; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 681; Ceremonial Reading, 812.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 54. (No. R074) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative, Governor, and Interim University of Vermont President Thomas Paul Salmon.

S msg: adptd in con, 680; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 681.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 55. (No. R075) House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 681; Ceremonial Reading, 813.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 56. (No. R076) House concurrent resolution designating April 18, 2025 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 1129.

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

By Senators Clarkson, Major, and White,

H.C.R. 57. (No. R077) House concurrent resolution recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 687.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

By Senator Westman,

H.C.R. 58. (No. R078) House concurrent resolution recognizing April 18, 2025 as Electric Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 1130.

By Representative Wood of Waterbury,

H.C.R. 59. (No. R079) House concurrent resolution honoring Linda E. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 783.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

By Senators Lyons and Gulick,

H.C.R. 60. (No. R080) House concurrent resolution designating March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 688.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Sibilia of Dover,

Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, and Wells of Brownington,

By Senators Collamore, Ingalls, Mattos, Norris, and Vyhovsky,

H.C.R. 61. (No. R081) House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Athletic Training Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 705.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Morrissey of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 62. (No. R082) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Music Division at Bennington College.

S msg: adptd in con, 681; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 682; Ceremonial Reading, 738.

By Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goodnow of Brattleboro,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 63. (No. R083) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Brattleboro Food Co-op on its 50th anniversary and extending best future wishes.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, and Waszazak of Barre City,

By Sens. Bongartz, Cummings, Gulick, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson, and Weeks,

H.C.R. 64. (No. R084) House concurrent resolution congratulating Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver of Winooski High School on her selection as the 2025 Vermont Teacher of the Year and Jeremy DeMink of Edmunds Middle School in Burlington and Sonya Shedd of Wolcott Elementary School on their recognition as Distinguished Finalists.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779; Ceremonial Reading, 1209.

By Representatives Demar of Enosburgh, Berbeco of Winooski, Burditt of West Rutland, Critchlow of Colchester, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

By Senator Ingalls,

H.C.R. 65. (No. R085) House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779; Ceremonial Reading, 821.

By Reps. Duke of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex Junction, James of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, Micklus of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Sens. Bongartz, Clarkson, Douglass, Harrison, Hart, Ingalls, Major, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams,

H.C.R. 66. (No. R086) House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of tourism in the Vermont economy and designating April 10, 2025 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779; Ceremonial Reading, 825.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 67. (No. R087) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779; Ceremonial Reading, 1141.

By Representatives Cooper of Pownal, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Corcoran of Bennington, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, Micklus of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Sens. Bongartz, Brennan, Clarkson, Douglass, Hart, Ingalls, Major, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams,

H.C.R. 68. (No. R088) House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designating April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 779; Ceremonial Reading, 801.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H.C.R. 69. (No. R089) House concurrent resolution designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 778; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 780; Ceremonial Reading, 802.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 70. (No. R090) House concurrent resolution designating April 10, 2025 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 808; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 810; Ceremonial Reading, 826.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 71. (No. R091) House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first class at Landmark College and extending best wishes for continued academic success.

S msg: adptd in con, 808; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 810; Ceremonial Reading, 1098.

By Representative Harvey of Castleton,

By Senators Weeks, Collamore, and Williams,

H.C.R. 72. (No. R092) House concurrent resolution commemorating May 9, 2025 as the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's arrival in Castleton in association with the War for Independence.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 810; Ceremonial Reading, 1143.

By Representative Burke of Brattleboro,

H.C.R. 73. (No. R093) House concurrent resolution designating April 10, 2025 as Museums and Libraries Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811; Ceremonial Reading, 827.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

H.C.R. 74. (No. R094) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Boys & Girls Clubs of Vermont Youth of the Year honorees.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811; Ceremonial Reading, 824.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Houghton of Essex Junction, and Steady of Milton,

H.C.R. 75. (No. R095) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets girls' gymnastics team on winning a second consecutive State championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, Black of Essex, and Scheu of Middlebury,

H.C.R. 76. (No. R096) House concurrent resolution honoring Robin Lunge for her dedicated public service in Vermont State government.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Stone of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

By Senators Clarkson, Bongartz, Brock, Gulick, Hardy, Mattos, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, and White,

H.C.R. 77. (No. R097) House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811; Ceremonial Reading, 814.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich, Masland of Thetford, and Ode of Burlington,

H.C.R. 78. (No. R098) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative and Secretary of Administration Kathleen C. Hoyt of Norwich.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Representatives Greer of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 79. (No. R099) House concurrent resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Arts Exchange and its collaborative artistic endeavors.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H.C.R. 80. (No. R100) House concurrent resolution honoring the Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto for his extraordinary creativity, collaborative artistic leadership, and nomination for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize.

S msg: adptd in con, 809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Corcoran of Bennington, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield,

Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hunter of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H.C.R. 81. (No. R101) House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bakersfield Select Board member Brenda Churchill.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1085; Ceremonial Reading, 1413.

By Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton,

By Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 82. (No. R102) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1085; Ceremonial Reading, 1542.

By All members of the House of Representatives,

By All members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 83. (No. R103) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1085; Ceremonial Reading, 1157.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 84. (No. R104) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School Patriot wrestling program on winning its 36th consecutive State championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086.

By Representatives Page of Newport City, Higley of Lowell, Labor of Morgan, Marcotte of Coventry, Nelson of Derby, and Wells of Brownington,

By Senators Douglass and Ingalls,

H.C.R. 85. (No. R105) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 North Country Union High School Falcons' exemplary snowboarding teams.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1107.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Casey of Montpelier, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Harple of Glover, Hooper of Randolph, Hunter of Manchester, Long of Newfane, Quimby of Lyndon, Satcowitz of Randolph, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Watson,

H.C.R. 86. (No. R106) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Montpelier High School Solons Division II girls' Nordic championship ski team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1171.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Casey of Montpelier, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Harple of Glover, Hooper of Randolph, Hunter of Manchester, Long of Newfane, Quimby of Lyndon, Satcowitz of Randolph, Taylor of Milton, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Watson,

H.C.R. 87. (No. R107) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Montpelier High School Solons boys' basketball program on winning a fifth consecutive Division II championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1172.

By Representatives Masland of Thetford and Holcombe of Norwich,

H.C.R. 88. (No. R108) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy inductees into the National Technical Honor Society.

S msg: adptd in con, 1084; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086.

By Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Harvey of Castleton, McCoy of Poultney, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

By Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 89. (No. R109) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1543.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

By Senators Gulick, Baruth, Chittenden, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Beck, Brennan, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams,

H.C.R. 90. (No. R110) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship girls' basketball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1087.

By Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

By Senators Gulick, Baruth, Chittenden, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Beck, Brennan, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams,

H.C.R. 91. (No. R111) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' basketball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1088.

By Representatives Quimby of Lyndon, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Harple of Glover, Higley of Lowell, Kascenska of Burke, Labor of Morgan, Marcotte of Coventry, Nelson of Derby, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Powers of Waterford, Southworth of Walden, and Wells of Brownington,

By Senators Beck, Douglass, and Ingalls,

H.C.R. 92. (No. R112) House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding achievements of the Federal TRIO Programs in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1158.

By Representatives Branagan of Georgia, Hooper of Burlington, and Ode of Burlington,

H.C.R. 93. (No. R113) House concurrent resolution congratulating Kathleen Lynch of Burlington on being named as the 2025 Vermont Mother of the Year.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1086; Ceremonial Reading, 1485.

By Representatives Lipsky of Stowe, Boyden of Cambridge, Gregoire of Fairfield, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bishop of Colchester, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Kascenska of Burke, Kleppner of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Priestley of Bradford, Southworth of Walden, Surprenant of Barnard, Tagliavia of Corinth, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, and Winter of Ludlow,

H.C.R. 94. (No. R114) House concurrent resolution congratulating Tyler Riggs of Fletcher on the Vermont Forest Products Association naming him Vermont's Outstanding Sawmill Operator 2024.

S msg: adptd in con, 1085; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1087; Ceremonial Reading, 1109.

By Representative Noyes of Wolcott,

H.C.R. 95. (No. R119) House concurrent resolution designating April 24, 2025 as Vermont Children's Alliance Day at the State House.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138; Ceremonial Reading, 1154.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford,

By Senator Hart,

H.C.R. 96. (No. R120) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Thetford Academy Panthers Division III boys' basketball team on their second consecutive championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138.

By the Committee on Corrections and Institutions,

H.C.R. 97. (No. R121) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Southern State Correctional Facility's debate team on its National Prison Debate League victory over Wake Forest University.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138.

By Representatives Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Houghton of Essex Junction, and Steady of Milton,

By Senators Gulick and Vyhovsky,

H.C.R. 98. (No. R122) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship girls' ice hockey team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 99. (No. R123) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars boys' Division I championship Nordic ski team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138; Ceremonial Reading, 2286.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 100. (No. R124) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' Nordic ski team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138; Ceremonial Reading, 2287.

By Representatives Campbell of St. Johnsbury and Dolgin of St. Johnsbury,

By Senator Ingalls,

H.C.R. 101. (No. R125) House concurrent resolution congratulating Phoenix Newell on winning two consecutive Vermont State Spelling Bees.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1138; Ceremonial Reading, 1159.

By Representatives Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Critchlow of Colchester, and Pezzo of Colchester,

By Senators Norris and Brennan,

H.C.R. 102. (No. R126) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 8–10 Colchester All-Star Vermont championship Little League Baseball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 1202.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 103. (No. R127) House concurrent resolution commemorating the establishment of the Austine School for the Deaf collection and exhibit at the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 1144.

By the Committee on Human Services,

H.C.R. 104. (No. R128) House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 1415.

By Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Harple of Glover,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 105. (No. R129) House concurrent resolution recognizing April 19, 2025 as World Circus Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 106. (No. R130) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars dance program on winning a 10th consecutive hip-hop State championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 2288.

By Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington,

By Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 107. (No. R131) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights boys' ice hockey team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1137; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 1442.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Black of Essex, Brown of Richmond, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

By Senators Chittenden, Lyons, and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 108. (No. R132) House concurrent resolution congratulating the remarkable four-time State high school individual girls' golf champion Namo Seibert.

S msg: adptd in con, 1138; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1139; Ceremonial Reading, 2289.

By Representatives Burkhardt of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington,

H.C.R. 109. (No. R133) House concurrent resolution congratulating the South Burlington Chapter of Rotary International on 40 years of exemplary community service and professional camaraderie.

S msg: adptd in con, 1167; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1168; Ceremonial Reading, 1173.

By Representatives LaMont of Morristown, Berbeco of Winooski, Arsenault of Williston, Burke of Brattleboro, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Christie of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Headrick of Burlington, James of Manchester, McCoy of Poultney, Minier of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Wells of Brownington,

H.C.R. 110. (No. R134) House concurrent resolution designating April 2025 as Black Maternal Care Awareness Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1167; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1168; Ceremonial Reading, 1505.

By Representative Boyden of Cambridge,

By Senator Westman,

H.C.R. 111. (No. R135) House concurrent resolution designating May 18, 2025 as Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1167; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169.

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and McCann of Montpelier,

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Watson,

H.C.R. 112. (No. R136) House concurrent resolution congratulating Capital City Concerts and Karen Kevra for a quarter century of delightful and informative classical music performances and related cultural endeavors in central Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169; Ceremonial Reading, 1444.

By Representatives Sibilia of Dover, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Stevens of Waterbury, Tomlinson of Winooski, Toof of St. Albans Town, Waszazak of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury,

H.C.R. 113. (No. R137) House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning teams at the 2025 Jr Iron Chef VT competition.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169; Ceremonial Reading, 1186.

By Representative Charlton of Chester,

By Senators Clarkson, Major, Vyhovsky, and White,

H.C.R. 114. (No. R138) House concurrent resolution honoring Deborah J. Aldrich for 42 years of extraordinary municipal public service in the Town of Chester.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169.

By Representative Burtt of Cabot,

By Senator Beck,

H.C.R. 115. (No. R139) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Danville High School Bears Division IV championship boys' basketball team.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169.

By Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Morgan, M. of Milton, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Branagan of Georgia, Brown of Richmond, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burtt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Casey of Hubbardton, Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Labor of Morgan,

Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pezzo of Colchester, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pouech of Hinesburg, Powers of Waterford, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Squirrell of Underhill, Steady of Milton, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Tomlinson of Winooski, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, Walker of Swanton, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

By Senators Collamore and Ram Hinsdale,

H.C.R. 116. (No. R140) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the Vietnam War.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169; Ceremonial Reading, 1187.

By Representatives McCann of Montpelier, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Conlon of Cornwall, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Harple of Glover, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hunter of Manchester, and Long of Newfane,

H.C.R. 117. (No. R141) House concurrent resolution congratulating Essex Middle School science teacher Andrew Kasprisin on his designation as the 2025 Vermont finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169; Ceremonial Reading, 1211.

By Representatives Burrows of West Windsor, Coffin of Cavendish, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bartley of Fairfax, Bishop of Colchester, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton,

Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, LaMont of Morristown, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Mihaly of Calais, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pezzo of Colchester, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, Winter of Ludlow, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H.C.R. 118. (No. R142) House concurrent resolution commending Team Trumie and Truman Compton for their advocacy, community engagement, and fostering of public awareness and acceptance of autism.

S msg: adptd in con, 1168; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1169; Ceremonial Reading, 1212.

By Representative Mrowicki of Putney,

H.C.R. 119. (No. R143) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Oak Meadow homeschool curriculum developer and distance learning school on its 50th anniversary and extending best wishes for the future.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410.

By Representatives Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Duke of Burlington, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Micklus of Milton, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Wells of Brownington,

By Senator Major,

H.C.R. 120. (No. R144) House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as National Tennis Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410; Ceremonial Reading, 1550.

By Representatives Howard of Rutland City, Bosch of Clarendon, Burditt of West Rutland, Casey of Montpelier, Harrison of Chittenden, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Nielsen of Brandon, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Pritchard of Pawlet,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 121. (No. R145) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rutland High School cheerleading program on winning a record 11th consecutive Division I championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410.

By Representatives Cordes of Bristol, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Brown of Richmond, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Donahue of Northfield, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaMont of Morristown, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pezzo of Colchester, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pouech of Hinesburg, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Tomlinson of Winooski, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H.C.R. 122. (No. R146) House concurrent resolution recognizing the week of May 6–12 as National Nurses Week in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410.

By Representatives Eastes of Guilford, Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Mrowicki of Putney,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 123. (No. R147) House concurrent resolution honoring Shaun Murphy of Guilford for his nearly quarter century of exemplary educational governance public service.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410; Ceremonial Reading, 1416.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 124. (No. R148) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Bennington Free Library on its 160th anniversary.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 125. (No. R149) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of Garlic Town U.S.A., a celebration of "flavor, community, and tradition".

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1410.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bishop of Colchester, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cole of Hartford, Cooper of Pownal, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Maguire of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, Micklus of Milton, Nielsen of Brandon, Noyes of Wolcott, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, White of Bethel, and Wood of Waterbury,

H.C.R. 126. (No. R150) House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Spirit of the ADA Award winners.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1411; Ceremonial Reading, 1439.

By Representative Emmons of Springfield,

By Senator Cummings,

H.C.R. 127. (No. R151) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of Act 91 of 2000, establishing Vermont as the first state to legalize civil unions.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1411.

By Representatives McGill of Bridport, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Donahue of Northfield, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown,

H.C.R. 128. (No. R152) House concurrent resolution designating May 6, 2025 as Homelessness Awareness Day in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 1409; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1411; Ceremonial Reading, 1417.

By Representative Malay of Pittsford,

H.C.R. 129. (No. R153) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society.

S msg: adptd in con, 1410; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1411.

By Representative Casey of Montpelier,

H.C.R. 130. (No. R154) House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502; Ceremonial Reading, 1905.

By Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goodnow of Brattleboro,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 131. (No. R155) House concurrent resolution congratulating Westgate Housing Inc. of Brattleboro on the nonprofit corporation's 25th anniversary.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502.

By Representatives Bosch of Clarendon and Burditt of West Rutland,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 132. (No. R156) House concurrent resolution congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502; Ceremonial Reading, 1906.

By Representatives Burditt of West Rutland and Bosch of Clarendon,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 133. (No. R157) House concurrent resolution congratulating West Rutland High School girls' basketball standout Peyton Guay and extending to her best wishes for every future success.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502; Ceremonial Reading, 1907.

By Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Lipsky of Stowe, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel,

H.C.R. 134. (No. R158) House concurrent resolution honoring Cassandra Polhemus for her exemplary leadership of the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502; Ceremonial Reading, 1508.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 135. (No. R159) House concurrent resolution honoring esteemed Bennington Rural Firefighter Timothy Burgess.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski,

H.C.R. 136. (No. R160) House concurrent resolution congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1502; Ceremonial Reading, 1544.

By Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

H.C.R. 137. (No. R161) House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1503; Ceremonial Reading, 1506.

By Representative Bluemle of Burlington,

H.C.R. 138. (No. R162) House concurrent resolution honoring Christine J. Brock for her 52 years of dedicated public service on the staff of the Vermont Judiciary.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1503.

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 139. (No. R163) House concurrent resolution congratulating the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market on its 50th anniversary.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1503.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 140. (No. R164) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and honoring the U.S. Army veterans in residence at the Vermont Veterans' Home.

S msg: adptd in con, 1501; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1503.

By Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford,

H.C.R. 141. (No. R172) House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810; Ceremonial Reading, 1908.

By Representatives Kimbell of Woodstock, Holcombe of Norwich, and Masland of Thetford,

By Senators Clarkson, Major, and White,

H.C.R. 142. (No. R173) House concurrent resolution honoring Steven D. Faccio of Strafford for his inspiring leadership as a conservation biologist.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810.

By Representatives Pritchard of Pawlet and McCoy of Poultney,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 143. (No. R174) House concurrent resolution honoring former Pawlet First Constable David Ricard Sr. for his outstanding municipal public service.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 144. (No. R175) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810.

By Representatives Emmons of Springfield, Casey of Montpelier, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Minier of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Winter of Ludlow,

H.C.R. 145. (No. R176) House concurrent resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810; Ceremonial Reading, 1813.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 146. (No. R177) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1810.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 147. (No. R178) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1811.

By Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Burditt of West Rutland, Christie of Hartford, Dolan of Essex Junction, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Oliver of Sheldon, and Rachelson of Burlington,

H.C.R. 148. (No. R179) House concurrent resolution in memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1811; Ceremonial Reading, 1815.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 149. (No. R180) House concurrent resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department.

S msg: adptd in con, 1809; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1811.

By Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 150. (No. R181) House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship.

S msg: adptd in con, 1810; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1811.

By Representatives Harvey of Castleton, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bartley of Fairfax, Bishop of Colchester, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Burtt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Hubbardton, Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Duke of Burlington, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Kascenska of Burke, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Steady of Milton, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Walker of Swanton, Wells of Brownington, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury,

H.C.R. 151. (No. R182) House concurrent resolution congratulating Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary.

S msg: adptd in con, 2049; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 2050; Ceremonial Reading, 2410.

By Representatives Harvey of Castleton and Canfield of Fair Haven,

By Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams,

H.C.R. 152. (No. R183) House concurrent resolution honoring Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable.

S msg: adptd in con, 2049; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 2050; Ceremonial Reading, 2051.

By Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury,

By Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 153. (No. R184) House concurrent resolution congratulating Ronald Loomis on his receipt of the 2025 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award.

S msg: adptd in con, 2049; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 2050.

By Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Cina of Burlington,

H.C.R. 154. (No. R185) House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont.

S msg: adptd in con, 2050; Adptd purs to Joint Rule 16b, 2050.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

By Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro,

S.C.R. 1. (No. R036) Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Brattleboro Memorial Hospital on its 120th anniversary.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 59.

By Senators Weeks, Collamore, Williams, Baruth, Bongartz, Chittenden, Clarkson, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Hashim, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Norris, Perchlik, and Watson,

By All members of the House of Representatives,

S.C.R. 2. (No. R056) Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Old Cemetery Association.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 163.

By Senators Lyons, Chittenden, and Ram Hinsdale,

S.C.R. 3. (No. R072) Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Liliane Gordon of Hinesburg on her receipt of the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 423.

By Senators Brennan, Beck, Collamore, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Weeks, Westman, and Williams,

By Representatives Austin of Colchester, Branagan of Georgia, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Goslant of Northfield, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Sibilia of Dover, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

S.C.R. 4. (No. R118) Senate concurrent resolution recognizing the success of the American System of Conservation Funding and commemorating the 75th anniversary of the enactment of federal sport fish restoration legislation.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 811.

By Senators Hardy and Heffernan,

By Representatives Birong of Vergennes, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Bristol, McGill of Bridport, North of Ferrisburgh, Olson of Starksboro, Scheu of Middlebury, and Sheldon of Middlebury,

S.C.R. 5. (No. R171) Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 1411.

By Senators Watson, Cummings, and Perchlik,

By Representatives Casey of Montpelier and McCann of Montpelier,

S.C.R. 6. (No. R187) Senate concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier City Manager William J. Fraser for three decades of distinguished municipal public service.

Adptd in con purs to Joint Rule 16b, 2556.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

H.E.O. 1. Executive Order Relating to the Creation of the Agency of Public Safety.

Ref to the C on GO&MA, 54. [Disapproved by S.R. 10; See Senate Journal.]

APPEAL OF ELECTION

A.E. 1. Contested election in District Bennington-1, Bruce Busa/Jonathan Cooper.

Ref to the C on GO&MA, 24; Rep. Birong of Vergennes rptd for the C on GO&MA, 126; Rep. Higley of Lowell demanded yeas and nays, 126; Rpt of C on GO&MA agrd to, 126; Which was agrd to on a R C pass -- Needed 67 of 133 to Pass -- Yeas = 91, Nays = 42, 126.

GENERAL INDEX

_____2025_____

The following is a list of abbreviations and their meanings:

A.E..... Appealed (Contested) House Election
H. .....House Bill
H.C.R..... House Concurrent Resolution
H.R..... House Resolution
J.R.H..... Joint Resolution of the House
J.R.S..... Joint Resolution of the Senate
Prop..... Proposed Amendment to the Vermont Constitution
S. .....Senate Bill
S.C.R..... Senate Concurrent Resolution

Introduced.....See Table for other bill sponsors
Offered.....See Table for other resolution sponsors
Table.....Appendix B

This General Index provides the topics of legislation that was subject to procedural action in the Vermont House of Representatives this session, and lists the titles of the legislation covered by that topic. After each legislation title, "*See table* [legislation number]" directs the reader to the page number of Appendix B that contains the abbreviated list of that legislation's procedural action in the House this session. Appendix B in turn provides the page numbers of this Journal that recorded that procedural action.

The General Index also provides references to House members and the page numbers of this Journal that recorded any information applicable to the members this session, such as their committee membership, legislation they sponsored (except for concurrent resolutions), motions they made, and their roll call vote explanations. In addition, the General Index references the legislation sponsored by House standing committees. Finally, the General Index cites the page numbers of this Journal that contain other miscellaneous recorded information regarding this year's House session.

The full text of each bill enacted into law and of each joint and concurrent resolution adopted by the House and Senate this year may be found in the publication entitled *Acts and Resolves Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, which the Secretary of State publishes for each annual session of the General Assembly.

A.

Abuse Prevention
Civil orders of protection. *See table* H. 222.....2761
Military protection orders. See table H. 517.....2806
Stalking through the use of tracking technology. *See table* H. 223.....2761
The Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group. *See table* H. 221.....2760

Accessibility
Establishing a study committee to examine universal design standards for residential buildings. *See table* H. 437.....2793
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127.....2814
Housing. *See table* H. 479.....2799
The creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program. *See table* H. 439.....2793

Act 250
Act 250 exemptions and delegation of stormwater permitting. *See table* H. 157.....2750
Events at accessory on-farm businesses. *See table* H. 94.....2738
Housing appeals. *See table* H. 400.....2788
Land use and housing development. *See table* H. 412.....2789

Adoption
Confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships. *See table* H. 98.....2739
Termination of parental rights in an adoption proceeding. *See table* H. 7.....2722

Advertising
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28.....2808
Restrictions on digital advertising brokers. *See table* H. 390.....2785
State contracting standards for advertising. *See table* H. 244.....2764
The local media advertising tax credit. *See table* H. 377.....2784

Affordable Housing
Calculating land use change tax and creating a new land use change tax exemption for developing affordable housing. *See table* H. 134.....2745
Creating the Land Access and Opportunity Revolving Fund. *See table* H. 445.....2794

Agriculture
Administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements in the State. *See table* H. 146.....2747
Application of neonicotinoid pesticides to nursery starts and herbaceous plants. *See table* H. 372.....2783
Collective bargaining for agricultural workers. *See table* H. 333.....2778
Establishing an Agricultural Land Transfer Assistance Program. *See table* H. 386.....2785
Establishing an equitable pricing system for the milk production. *See table* H. 475.....2799
Establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide grants for losses to farms and forestry operations due to weather conditions. *See table* H. 229.....2762

Agriculture, continued
Establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions. *See table* S. 60.....2811
Establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. *See table* H. 167.....2751
Events at accessory on-farm businesses. *See table* H. 94.....2738
Fair labor standards and housing standards for agricultural workers. *See table* H. 403.....2788
Franklin County Field Days. *See table* H. 415.....2790
Implementing the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan. *See table* H. 423.....2791
Making State lands available for farming by citizens of State-recognized Native American Indian tribes. *See table* H. 343.....2780
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484.....2800
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124.....2813
Protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities. *See table* H. 407.....2789
Protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities. *See table* S. 45.....2809
Requiring price look-up stickers on produce be compostable. *See table* H. 478.....2799
Standards for the care of egg-laying hens. *See table* H. 4.....2722
State purchasing of local food. *See table* H. 408.....2789
The regulation of the use of rodenticides. *See table* H. 326.....2777
The Use Value Appraisal Program. *See table* H. 273.....2769

Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry Committee
H. 484 Introduced.....427

Air Quality
Conducting a climate health study. *See table* H. 225.....2761
Delaying the requirements of the Advanced Clean Truck rule. *See table* H. 503.....2804
Prohibiting geoengineering. *See table* H. 217.....2759
Prohibiting the emission of excessive soot or smoke from certain motor vehicles. *See table* H. 48.....2729
Revoking Vermont's use of California's Clean Air Act waiver. *See table* H. 65.....2732

Alcoholic Beverages
A reciprocity requirement for out-of-state consumer shipping licenses. *See table* H. 110.....2741
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing alcoholic beverages. *See table* H. 51.....2729
Prohibiting possession of firearms on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served. *See table* H. 45.....2728
Removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230. *See table* H. 339.....2779
The creation of the Treatment and Recovery Fund and the labeling and taxation of alcoholic beverages. *See table* H. 376.....2784

Animal Welfare
Animal cruelty crimes and penalties. *See table* H. 492.....2802
Prohibiting the use of animals in product testing. *See table* H. 14.....2723
Standards for the care of egg-laying hens. *See table* H. 4.....2722

Appropriations
Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments. *See table* H. 141.....2746
Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments. *See table* H. 489.....2801
Fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. *See table* H. 218.....2760
Making appropriations for the support of the government. *See table* H. 493.....2802
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488.....2801

Appropriations Committee
H. 141 Introduced.....105
H. 489 Introduced.....445
H. 493 Introduced.....683

Arsenault, Angela
Member from Williston (District Chittenden-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary 23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Judicial Retention Committee, Chair.....62
Motions, etc.
H. 2 Introduced.....35
H. 5 Introduced.....36
H. 18 Introduced.....39
H. 25 Introduced.....40
H. 32 Introduced.....44
H. 40 Introduced.....56
H. 48 Introduced.....61
H. 53 Introduced.....66
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 58 Introduced.....68
H. 64 Introduced.....70
H. 81 Introduced.....76
H. 96 Introduced.....83
H. 97 Introduced.....83
H. 98 Introduced.....83
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 118 Introduced.....89
Reported for committee.....124
H. 123 Introduced.....90
H. 130 Introduced.....98
H. 164 Introduced.....120
H. 169 Introduced.....122
H. 170 Introduced.....122
H. 192 Introduced.....139
H. 208 Introduced.....143
H. 210 Introduced.....143
H. 211 Introduced.....144
H. 219 Introduced.....156
H. 221 Introduced.....159

Arsenault, Angela, continued
H. 222 Introduced....159
Moved to postpone action....433
Reported for committee....581
H. 223 Introduced....159
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 258 Introduced....190
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 312 Introduced....215
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 342 Explained vote....601
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 365 Introduced....230
H. 368 Introduced....231
H. 381 Introduced....233
H. 383 Introduced....234
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 418 Introduced....292
S. 28 Explained vote....1125
S. 44 Reported for committee....1439
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Artificial Intelligence
Creating oversight and safety standards for developers and deployers of inherently dangerous artificial intelligence systems. *See table* H. 341....2779
Regulating developers and deployers of certain automated decision systems. *See table* H. 340....2779
Restricting electronic monitoring of employees and the use of employment-related automated decision systems. *See table* H. 262....2767
Restricting the use of artificial intelligence to affect rental housing pricing and availability. *See table* H. 389....2785
The regulation of social media platforms and artificial intelligence systems. *See table* H. 365....2782

Athletics
Requiring licensed athletic trainers at secondary school athletic events and practices. *See table* H. 139....2746

Attorney General
Attorney General investigations into a law enforcement officer's use of a firearm. *See table* H. 171....2752
Expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce complaints of employee misclassification. *See table* H. 347....2780
The State Employees Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 290....2772

Austin, Sarah C. "Sarita"
Member from Colchester (District Chittenden-19)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment, Clerk....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 86 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 142 Introduced....107
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 248 Explained vote....1459
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 473 Introduced....382
H. 496 Introduced....763
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....818

Australian Ballot
The use of the Australian ballot system in local elections. *See table* H. 78....2735

B.

Bail
Public safety. *See table* H. 411....2789
The procedures for bail revocation. *See table* H. 409....2789

Bailey, Richard J.
Member from Hyde Park (District Lamoille-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure.... 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 152 Introduced.... 111
H. 159 Introduced.... 113
H. 236 Introduced....166
H. 240 Introduced....167
H. 289 Introduced....203
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Bartholomew, John L.
Member from Hartland (District Windsor-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment.... 22
Rules Committee....14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Trustee (2025 Jt. Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 86 Introduced....77
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 169 Introduced.... 122
H. 199 Introduced.... 141
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 460 Introduced....307
H. 513 Introduced.... 1170
S. 50 Raised a Point of Order.... 1179
S. 127 Raised a Point of Order.... 2022
H.R. 5 Spoke for committee 95
H.R. 6 Reported for committee 817
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise.... 818

Bartley, Ashley R.
Member from Fairfax (District Franklin-1)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing, Vice Chair.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families.....2707
Basic Needs Budget Technical Advisory Committee
Canvassing Committee.....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 32 Introduced.....44
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 64 Introduced.....70
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 130 Introduced.....98
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 249 Introduced.....169
H. 254 Introduced.....171
H. 282 Introduced.....196
H. 302 Introduced.....207
H. 308 Introduced.....209
H. 378 Introduced.....233
H. 401 Introduced.....288
H. 412 Introduced.....291
H. 415 Introduced.....291
H. 454 Explained vote.....1078
H. 461 Reported for committee.....632
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment.....2037
Explained vote.....2039
Explained vote.....2547
Devotional exercise.....737
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. M. Morgan of Milton.....1190

Berbeco, Daisy
Member from Winooski (District Chittenden-21)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care, Ranking Member.....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 126.....1905
House Discrimination Prevention Panel.....45
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced.....40
H. 29 Introduced.....44
H. 71 Introduced.....72
H. 80 Introduced.....76
Moved to amend committee report.....589
H. 81 Introduced.....76
H. 92 Introduced.....79

Berbeco, Daisy, continued
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 266 Reported for committee....419
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 323 Introduced....218
H. 325 Introduced....218
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 509 Introduced....1153
H. 521 Introduced....1855
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 28 Moved to postpone action....1106
Reported for committee....1110
Explained vote....1125
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Emmons of Springfield....447

Beverage Container Redemption
The beverage container redemption system. *See table* H. 119....2743

Bicycles
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123....2813
The development and construction of a bicycle path that runs adjacent U.S. Route 5. *See table* H. 460....2797
Transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions. *See table* H. 426....2792

Birong, Jr., Matthew J.
Member from Vergennes (District Addison-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs, Chair....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee, Co-Chair....15
County and Regional Governance Study Committee, Co-Chair ex officio....2704
Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee (Clerk)....1440
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 51 Introduced....62
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 78 Spoke for committee....88
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 122 Introduced....90
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 182 Introduced....135
Moved committee be relieved....1545
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 244 Moved to postpone action....596
Moved to postpone action....608
H. 269 Introduced....193
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 321 Introduced....217
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2453
Moved to suspend rules to permit immediate reconsideration....2550
Moved to concur in Senate prop with further amend....2551
H. 397 Reported for committee....712
Moved to amend bill....754
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 474 Moved to postpone action....588
Moved to postpone action....608
A.E. 1 Reported for committee....126
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Hango of Berkshire....128
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Black of Essex....55

Bishop, Doug
Member from Colchester (District Chittenden-20)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Recreational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee....2707

Bishop, Doug, continued
Oversight Commission on Children, Youths, and Families....2707
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 414 Introduced....291
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
S. 36 Moved to postpone action....1155
Reported for committee....1161
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Black, Alyssa
Member from Essex (District Chittenden-24)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care, Chair....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Conference on S. 126....1905
Health Reform Oversight Committee, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 31 Introduced....44
Reported for committee....99
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 71 Introduced....72
H. 80 Introduced....76
Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 95 Introduced....83
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 264 Introduced....192

Black, Alyssa, continued
H. 266 Introduced....192
Moved to postpone action....1853
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 323 Introduced....218
H. 368 Introduced....231
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 482 Spoke for committee....612
H. 516 Introduced....1540
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 51 Explained vote....1426
S. 126 Reported for committee....1826
Demanded Yeas and Nays....1881
S. 127 Recommended for committee....2020
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Birong of Vergennes....55

Bluemle, Tiffany "Tiff"
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-13)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations, Ranking Member....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 141....287
Conference on H. 493....1380
Motions, etc.
H. 12 Introduced....37
H. 30 Introduced....44
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 46 Recommended for committee....1513
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 71 Introduced....72
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 91 Recommended for committee....799
Explained vote....2362
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 193 Introduced....139
H. 214 Introduced....155
H. 218 Recommended for committee....746
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 385 Introduced....234

Bluemle, Tiffany "Tiff," continued
H. 479 Recommended for committee....729
S. 36 Recommended for committee....1163
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise....818

Boards and Commissions
Expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools. *See table* H. 130....2745
Human Services Board fair hearing proceedings. *See table* H. 92....2738
State recognition of Native American tribes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *See table* H. 362....2782
Survivor benefits for law enforcement officers. *See table* H. 57....2731
The creation of the Unemployment Compensation Benefit Modernization Advisory Committee. *See table* H. 356....2781
The creation of the Vermont State Building Security Board. *See table* H. 349....2781
The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. *See table* H. 27....2725
The Rare Disease Advisory Council. *See table* H. 46....2728
The reconstitution of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees. *See table* H. 198....2756
The Vermont Commission on Aging. *See table* H. 414....2790
The Vermont Labor Relations Board. *See table* H. 174....2753

Boating
Delegation of authority to regulate use of State waters. *See table* H. 283....2771
Requiring the use of personal flotation devices during cold weather. *See table* H. 187....2754

Bodily Autonomy
Bodily autonomy and health care decision making. *See table* H. 61....2731
Neurological rights. *See table* H. 366....2782
The creation of a property right for an individual's personal characteristics. *See table* H. 387....2785
The protection of an individual's digital replica. *See table* H. 388....2785

Bosch, David "Dave"
Member from Clarendon (District Rutland-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced....104

Bosch, David "Dave," continued
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 420 Introduced....292
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 117 Reported for committee....1487
H.R. 7 Offered 703

Bos-Lun, Michelle
Member from Westminster (District Windham-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 42 Introduced....57
H. 91 Explained vote....2362
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 132 Introduced....102
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 167 Introduced....121
Reported for committee....709
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 191 Introduced....139

Bos-Lun, Michelle, continued
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 229 Introduced....165
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 490 Introduced....606
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
J.R.H. 3 Offered....429
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Lipsky of Stowe....1486

Boutin, Michael
Member from Barre City (District Washington-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Motions, etc.
H. 10 Introduced....37
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 150 Introduced....110

Boutin, Michael, continued
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 159 Introduced.... 113
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 178 Introduced.... 134
H. 210 Introduced.... 143
H. 211 Introduced.... 144
H. 218 Explained vote.... 773
H. 247 Introduced.... 169
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 254 Introduced.... 171
H. 306 Introduced.... 208
H. 311 Introduced.... 215
H. 342 Explained vote.... 601
H. 358 Introduced.... 229
H. 385 Introduced.... 234
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 401 Introduced.... 288
H. 407 Introduced.... 289
H. 419 Introduced.... 292
H. 420 Introduced.... 292
H. 454 Explained vote.... 1078
H. 480 Moved to amend bill.... 609
Demanded Yeas and Nays.... 610
H. 501 Introduced.... 819
H. 507 Introduced.... 1107
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812
H.R. 7 Offered 703

Boyden, Lucy
Member from Cambridge (District Lamoille-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs, Clerk.... 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.... 16
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced.... 57
H. 51 Introduced.... 62
H. 63 Introduced.... 70
H. 67 Introduced.... 71
H. 68 Introduced.... 71
H. 74 Introduced.... 73
H. 87 Introduced.... 78
H. 93 Introduced.... 79
H. 94 Introduced.... 79
H. 110 Introduced.... 86
H. 180 Introduced.... 134
H. 182 Introduced.... 135
H. 208 Introduced.... 143
H. 210 Introduced.... 143
H. 211 Introduced.... 144

Boyden, Lucy, continued
H. 229 Introduced....165
H. 236 Introduced....166
H. 240 Introduced....167
H. 257 Introduced....190
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 321 Introduced....217
Reported for committee....662
H. 330 Introduced....219
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 339 Spoke for committee....294
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037

Brady, Erin
Member from Williston (District Chittenden-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Education, Ranking Member....21
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 129 Introduced....98
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
Explained vote....1076
H. 480 Moved to postpone action....2409
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Branagan, Carolyn Whitney
Member from Georgia (District Franklin-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel....45
Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future....190
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77

Branagan, Carolyn Whitney, continued
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 96 Recommended for committee....314
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 119 Introduced....89
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 207 Introduced....142
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 237 Recommended for committee....737
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 422 Introduced....293
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 472 Recommended for committee....733
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 18 Recommended for committee....1106
S. 53 Recommended for committee....1739
S. 63 Recommended for committee....1515
S. 127 Explained vote....2547
J.R.H. 4 Offered....1504

Broadband
Affordable broadband service. *See table* H. 121....2743
Consumer protections applicable to broadband and VoIP services.
See table H. 11....2722

Brown, Christopher "Chris"
Rep.-elect from Castleton (District Rutland-3)
Resignation letter....1

Brown, Jana
Member from Richmond (District Chittenden-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Education, Clerk....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144

Brown, Jana, continued
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
Explained vote....1078
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Budget
Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments. *See table* H. 141....2746
Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments. *See table* H. 489....2801
Making appropriations for the support of the government. *See table* H. 493....2802

Building Standards
Establishing a study committee to examine universal design standards for residential buildings. *See table* H. 437....2793
Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standards. *See table* H. 181....2754

Bullying
Expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools. *See table* H. 130....2745

Burditt, Thomas B. "Tom"
Member from West Rutland (District Rutland-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary, Vice Chair....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 12....2048
Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules....106
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 19 Introduced....39
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 41 Introduced....56
Reported for committee....152
Moved to postpone action....1487
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 44 Introduced....60
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 171 Introduced....123
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170

Burditt, Thomas B. "Tom," continued
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 324 Introduced....218
H. 379 Introduced....233
H. 411 Introduced....290
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
Seconded nomination of Rep. Jill Krowinski of Burlington as Speaker of the House....7

Burke, Mollie Sullivan
Member from Brattleboro (District Windham-8)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 488....1408
House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel, Chair....45
Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House....2706
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 107 Introduced....85
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 229 Introduced....165
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 284 Introduced....196
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 432 Introduced....296
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 460 Introduced....307
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Emmons of Springfield....302

Burkhardt, Bridget Marie
Member from South Burlington (District Chittenden-8)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means, Clerk....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council....2705
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 137 Recommended for committee....419
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 188 Introduced....136
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 243 Recommended for committee....519
Moved to amend committee report....580
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 371 Introduced....231
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
S. 109 Recommended for committee....1804
S. 117 Recommended for committee....1499
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Burrows, Elizabeth Leprestre Cornell
Member from West Windsor (District Windsor-1)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Basic Needs Budget Technical Advisory Committee
House Discrimination Prevention Panel, Chair....45
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 91 Explained vote....2362

Burrows, Elizabeth Leprestre Cornell, continued
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 184 Introduced....135
H. 199 Introduced....141
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 312 Introduced....215
H. 330 Introduced....219
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 357 Introduced....228
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 437 Introduced....297
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 451 Introduced....300
H. 513 Introduced....1170
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Nominated Rep. Laura Sibilia of Dover as Speaker of the House....8

Burtt, Gregory "Greg"
Member from Cabot (District Caledonia-Washington)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry....20
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 61 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 150 Introduced....110

Burtt, Gregory "Greg," continued
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 229 Introduced....165
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
Reported for committee....699
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 510 Introduced....1153
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Busa, Bruce
Contested election in District Bennington-1, Bruce Busa/Jonathan Cooper
See table A.E.1....
Report of Attorney General re: Busa petition to contest election....25
Special report of Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs..125

C.

Campaign Finance
Limiting campaign contributions for State Representatives and State Senators.
See table H. 116....2743
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474....2799

Campbell, R. Scott
Member from St. Johnsbury (District Caledonia-Essex)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure, Vice Chair....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Building Energy Code Working Group
Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee (Resigned 5/13/2025)....119
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 84 Introduced....77

Campbell, R. Scott, continued
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 458 Spoke for committee....384
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Candidates
A top-four nonpartisan primary election system. *See table* H. 314....2775
General election candidates. *See table* H. 117....2743
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474....2799
The number of votes required for a write-in candidate to win a primary election. *See table* H. 66....2732

Canfield, William P. "Bill"
Member from Fair Haven (District Rutland-10)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means, Vice Chair....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 51....1504
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 90 Introduced....78
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 135 Introduced....103
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 488 Recommended for committee....731
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Canfield, William P. "Bill," continued
S. 3 Recommended for committee....828
S. 51 Demanded Yeas and Nays....1426
S. 123 Recommended for committee....2087

Cannabis
Expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. *See table* H. 105....2741
Miscellaneous cannabis amendments. *See table* H. 321....2776

Capital Construction
Capital construction and State bonding. *See table* H. 494....2802
Franklin County Field Days. *See table* H. 415....2790

Career and Technical Education
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480....2800
The consolidation of Vermont's school districts to align with career and technical education service regions. *See table* H. 37....2726
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. *See table* H. 454....2795

Carris Duncan, Emily
Member from Whitingham (District Windham-6)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
County and Regional Governance Study Committee....2706
Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee....2708
Motions, etc.
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 91 Explained vote....2362
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced....104
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 163 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165

Carris Duncan, Emily, continued
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 294 Introduced....204
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 342 Moved to amend bill....764
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 398 Reported for committee....612
Moved to postpone action....1167
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 489 Explained vote....675
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
S. 127 Explained vote....2547
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. LaMont of Morristown....1509

Casey, Conor
Member from Montpelier (District Washington-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Joint Committee on Judicial Retention....62
Motions, etc.
H. 3 Introduced....36
H. 9 Introduced....37
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 50 Introduced....61
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 82 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 94 Introduced....79
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122

Casey, Conor, continued
H. 173 Introduced....133
H. 174 Introduced....133
H. 175 Introduced....133
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 234 Introduced....166
H. 235 Introduced....166
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 315 Introduced....216
H. 316 Introduced....216
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 342 Introduced....222
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 348 Introduced....223
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 420 Introduced....292
H. 425 Introduced....293
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 459 Introduced....307
H. 485 Introduced....427
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 490 Introduced....606
H. 497 Introduced....781
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Devotional exercise....1903
Presided 2558

Casey, James "Jim"
Member from Hubbardton (District Addison-Rutland)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Governor's Snowmobile Council....2706

Casey, James "Jim," continued
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 61 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices
Cell phone-free schools. *See table* H. 54....2730
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480....2800

Certificate of Need
Increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need. *See table* H. 96....2739
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* H. 40....2727
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* S. 18....2808
The Office of the Health Care Advocate. *See table* H. 80....2735

Chapin, Elanor "Ela"
Member from East Montpelier (District Washington-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 28 Introduced....42
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 86 Introduced....77
Moved to postpone action....1214
Moved to commit....1419
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144

Chapin, Elanor "Ela," continued
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 238 Introduced....167
Reported for committee....387
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 257 Introduced....190
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 294 Introduced....204
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 460 Introduced....307
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Yacovone of Morristown....2412

Charlton, Thomas F.
Member from Chester (District Windsor-Windham)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 308 Introduced....209
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 412 Introduced....291
H. 493 Explained vote....758
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 28 Explained vote....1125
Devotional exercise....94, 804

Chattel Slavery
Establishing the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the Institution of Chattel Slavery. *See table* H. 499....2803

Child Care
Prohibiting firearms and deadly weapons in schools, on school property, and at childcare centers. *See table* H. 97.....2739
Supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. *See table* H. 248.....2765

Child Welfare
A child and parent legal representation working group. *See table* H. 193.....2755
Amending the bases and process of child abuse and neglect investigations. *See table* H. 213.....2759

Children and Families
Establishing a task force to update Vermont's CHINS laws. *See table* H. 220.....2760
Establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program. *See table* H. 219.....2760
Prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program. *See table* H. 305.....2774
Prohibiting solitary confinement for children. *See table* H. 192.....2755
Reach Up grant calculation. *See table* H. 131.....2745
The use of seclusion and restraint on children and youth in the custody of the Department for Children and Families. *See table* H. 30.....2725
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51.....2810

Christie, Kevin B. "Coach"
Member from Hartford (District Windsor-6)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary, Ranking Member.....23
Motions, etc.
H. 38 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 98 Introduced.....83
H. 130 Introduced.....98
H. 139 Introduced.....104
H. 164 Introduced.....120
H. 169 Introduced.....122
H. 184 Introduced.....135
H. 193 Introduced.....139
H. 201 Introduced.....141
H. 205 Introduced.....142
H. 220 Introduced.....156
H. 221 Introduced.....159
H. 222 Introduced.....159
H. 227 Introduced.....164
H. 264 Introduced.....192
H. 361 Introduced.....229
H. 382 Introduced.....233
H. 383 Introduced.....234

Christie, Kevin B. "Coach," continued
H. 384 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 441 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 455 Introduced....301
H. 456 Introduced....307
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Cina, Brian J.
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-15)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House....13
House Ethics Panel.... 45
Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House....8
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 1 Introduced....35
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 71 Introduced....72
H. 80 Introduced....76
Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 184 Introduced....135
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 189 Introduced....136
H. 191 Introduced....139
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143

Cina, Brian J., continued
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 237 Introduced....166
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 322 Introduced....217
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 366 Introduced....230
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 373 Introduced....232
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 423 Introduced....293
H. 428 Introduced....295
H. 432 Introduced....296
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 452 Introduced....300
H. 454 Demanded Yeas and Nays....1078
H. 456 Introduced....307
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 30 Reported for committee....816
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 6 Offered....210
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....43, 110, 288

Civics
Pilot projects expanding democratic practices in State and local government. *See table* H. 373....2783

Clean Heat Standard
Authorizing the Clean Heat Standard rules. *See table* H. 216....2759
Conducting a Clean Heat Standard study. *See table* H. 226....2761

Clean Heat Standard, continued
Repealing the Affordable Heat Act. *See table* H. 16.....2723

Climate Change
Affordable climate initiatives. *See table* H. 289..... 2772
Changing the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements to goals. *See table* H. 52.....2729
Conducting a climate health study. *See table* H. 225..... 2761
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319.....2776
Repealing the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. *See table* H. 518..... 2806
Repealing the Global Warming Solutions Act. *See table* H. 62.....2732

Coffin, IV, Voranus Lothrop "VL"
Member from Cavendish (District Windsor-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs.....22
Motions, etc.
H. 10 Reported for committee.....644
Moved to postpone action.....1145
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 17 Reported for committee.....733
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 60 Introduced.....68
H. 61 Introduced.....68
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 69 Introduced.....71
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 84 Introduced.....77
H. 85 Introduced.....77
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 89 Introduced.....78
H. 92 Introduced.....79
H. 93 Introduced.....79
H. 103 Introduced.....84
H. 104 Introduced.....85
H. 107 Introduced.....85
H. 109 Introduced.....86
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 113 Introduced.....87
H. 116 Introduced.....89
H. 128 Introduced.....95
H. 139 Introduced.....104
H. 150 Introduced.....110
H. 153 Introduced.....111
H. 154 Introduced.....112

Coffin, IV, Voranus Lothrop "VL," continued
H. 159 Introduced.... 113
H. 199 Introduced.... 141
H. 217 Introduced.... 155
H. 218 Explained vote.... 773
H. 227 Introduced.... 164
H. 249 Introduced.... 169
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 260 Introduced.... 191
H. 270 Introduced.... 193
H. 275 Introduced.... 194
H. 287 Introduced.... 203
H. 288 Introduced.... 203
H. 295 Introduced.... 204
H. 302 Introduced.... 207
H. 310 Introduced.... 209
H. 342 Introduced.... 222
H. 367 Introduced.... 230
H. 371 Introduced.... 231
H. 393 Introduced.... 236
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 401 Introduced.... 288
H. 434 Introduced.... 297
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.... 2314
H. 503 Introduced.... 823
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812
S. 28 Explained vote.... 1125
J.R.H. 1 Offered.... 90
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
A.E. 1 Explained vote.... 126

Cole, Esme
Member from Hartford (District Windsor-6)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services.... 23
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote.... 1204
H. 4 Introduced.... 36
H. 32 Introduced.... 44
H. 38 Introduced.... 54
H. 42 Introduced.... 57
H. 55 Introduced.... 67
H. 56 Introduced.... 67
H. 91 Introduced.... 79
H. 97 Introduced.... 83
H. 112 Introduced.... 86
H. 136 Introduced.... 103
H. 151 Introduced.... 111
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 167 Introduced.... 121

Cole, Esme, continued
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 191 Introduced....139
H. 197 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 228 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 248 Moved to postpone action....1214
Reported for committee....1445
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
H. 456 Introduced....307
H. 490 Introduced....606
H. 521 Introduced....1855
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198

Collective Bargaining
Collective bargaining for agricultural workers. *See table* H. 333.....2778
Collective bargaining. *See table* S. 125.....2814
Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain. *See table* Prop 3.....2721
Determining the appropriateness of a collective bargaining unit for adjunct faculty. *See table* H. 234.....2762
Judiciary Employees Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 256.....2767
The State Employees Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 290.....2772

Commerce and Trade
Agreements not to compete. *See table* H. 205.....2757
Cancellation of motor vehicle purchases. *See table* H. 188.....2755
Creating incentives for AmeriCorps members. *See table* H. 212.....2759
Creating the Office of Entrepreneurship. *See table* H. 257.....2767
Credit card fees on taxes and gratuities. *See table* H. 317.....2776
Regulating earned wage access services. *See table* H. 99.....2740
Requiring retail businesses to accept cash. *See table* H. 24.....2724
Restrictions on digital advertising brokers. *See table* H. 390.....2785
The disclosure of transactions involving personally identifiable information. *See table* H. 391.....2786
The regulation of the event ticketing market. *See table* H. 512.....2805
The Uniform Commercial Code. *See table* H. 206.....2757

Commercial Vehicles
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123.....2813

Communications
The establishment of the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program. *See table* H. 307.....2774

Community Service
Incentivizing community service sentencing in certain cases. *See table* H. 490.....2802

Compacts
Vermont's adoption of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. *See table* H. 47.....2729
Vermont's adoption of the Dietician Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 296.....2773
Vermont's adoption of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 325.....2777

Competency
Competency to stand trial. *See table* H. 405.....2788
Establishing a competency restoration process. *See table* H. 251.....2766

Composting
Requiring price look-up stickers on produce be compostable. *See table* H. 478.....2799

Conlon, Peter C.
Member from Cornwall (District Addison-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Education, Chair....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont
Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont - Steering Group
Conference on H. 454....2196
New England Board of Higher Education
Motions, etc.
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to suspend rules to permit immediate reconsideration....1936
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 454 Reported for committee....830
Moved to amend committee report....948
Requested Committee of Conference....2196
H. 480 Spoke for committee....609
H. 493 Explained vote....758
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Presided....2563

Conservation and Development
Creating a Housing and Conservation Trust Fund checkoff on the Vermont personal income tax return. *See table* H. 309....2775
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814
Housing. *See table* H. 479....2799
Lakes in crisis and requirements for designation. *See table* H. 113....2742
Land use and housing development. *See table* H. 412....2789
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319....2776
Prohibiting geoengineering. *See table* H. 217....2759
Stormwater management. *See table* H. 481....2800
The creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award. *See table* H. 396....2786
The designation of State wildlands. *See table* H. 276....2770
The inclusion of use value appraisal land in the conserved land inventory. *See table* H. 70....2733
The permitting of pilot or demonstration projects to treat or destroy emerging contaminants. *See table* H. 152....2748
The regulation of development in wetlands. *See table* H. 507....2804
The siting of an expanded polystyrene foam densifier in the State. *See table* H. 280....2770
The use of septage, sludge, and biosolids. *See table* H. 303....2774
The zoning requirements for group homes. *See table* H. 73....2734

Constitutional Amendments
Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain. *See table* Prop 3....2721

Construction
Exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax for priority housing projects. *See table* H. 438.....2793
Exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax. *See table* H. 308.....2774
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127.....2814
Housing. *See table* H. 479.....2799

Consumer Products
Prohibiting the use of animals in product testing. *See table* H. 14.....2723
The phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *See table* H. 238.....2763

Consumer Protection
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28.....2808
Age verification in social media. *See table* H. 301.....2773
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210.....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69.....2811
Charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles belonging to crime victims. *See table* H. 346.....2780
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* H. 208.....2757
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* S. 71.....2812
Consumer protections applicable to broadband and VoIP services. *See table* H. 11.....2722
Consumer protections related to the towing and storage of vehicles. *See table* H. 268.....2768
Creating a right to repair for medical devices. *See table* H. 160.....2750
Creating oversight and safety standards for developers and deployers of inherently dangerous artificial intelligence systems. *See table* H. 341.....2779
Cryptocurrency and protecting the public welfare. *See table* H. 370.....2783
Data brokers and personal information. *See table* H. 211.....2759
Neurological rights. *See table* H. 366.....2782
Regulating developers and deployers of certain automated decision systems. *See table* H. 340.....2779
Regulating earned wage access services. *See table* H. 99.....2740
Restrictions on digital advertising brokers. *See table* H. 390.....2785
The creation of a property right for an individual's personal characteristics. *See table* H. 387.....2785
The protection of an individual's digital replica. *See table* H. 388.....2785
The regulation of social media platforms and artificial intelligence systems. *See table* H. 365.....2782
The regulation of the event ticketing market. *See table* H. 512.....2805
The towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles. *See table* H. 329.....2777
The use of dynamic pricing by retail establishments. *See table* H. 371.....2783
The Vermont Fair Repair Act. *See table* H. 161.....2750

Contested Election
District, Bennington-1, Bruce Busa/Jonathan Cooper. *See table* A.E.1.....2859
Report of the Attorney General re: Busa petition to contest election.....25
Special report of Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs..125

Cooper, Jonathan
Member from Pownal (District Bennington-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Motions, etc.
Contested election in District Bennington-1, Bruce Busa/Jonathan Cooper.
See table A.E.1.... 2859
Report of the Attorney General re: Busa petition to contest election.... 25
Special report of Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.. 125
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced....104
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 243 Reported for committee....448
Moved to amend committee report....580
Moved to postpone action....1128
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 493 Explained vote.... 758
H. 496 Introduced....763
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise....2051

Corcoran, II, Timothy R.
Member from Bennington (District Bennington-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation, Vice Chair.... 24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House....13
Conference on H. 488....1408
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 404 Introduced....289
H. 488 Moved to postpone action....1740

Cordes, Mari K.
Member from Bristol (District Addison-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care, Clerk.... 23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.... 15
Green Mountain Care Board Nominating.... 201
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote.... 1204
H. 40 Introduced.... 56
H. 53 Introduced.... 66
H. 56 Introduced.... 67
H. 71 Introduced.... 72
H. 75 Introduced.... 73
H. 77 Introduced.... 74
H. 79 Introduced.... 75
H. 80 Introduced.... 76
Moved to amend committee report.... 589
H. 91 Introduced.... 79
H. 96 Introduced.... 83
Reported for committee.... 310
H. 102 Introduced.... 84
H. 114 Introduced.... 87
H. 115 Introduced.... 88
H. 155 Introduced.... 112
H. 156 Introduced.... 112
H. 158 Introduced.... 113
H. 169 Introduced.... 122
H. 177 Introduced.... 133
H. 180 Introduced.... 134
H. 199 Introduced.... 141
H. 202 Introduced.... 141
H. 208 Introduced.... 143
H. 210 Introduced.... 143
H. 211 Introduced.... 144
H. 227 Introduced.... 164
H. 228 Introduced.... 164
H. 237 Introduced.... 166
H. 239 Introduced.... 167
H. 246 Introduced.... 168
H. 259 Introduced.... 191
Reported for committee.... 439
Moved to amend bill.... 587
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.... 1910
H. 271 Introduced.... 193
H. 281 Introduced.... 196
H. 333 Introduced.... 220
H. 334 Introduced.... 220
H. 335 Introduced.... 220
H. 336 Introduced.... 220
H. 337 Introduced.... 221

Cordes, Mari K., continued
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 521 Introduced....1855
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 28 Explained vote....1125
S. 53 Reported for committee....1739
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Explained vote....1882
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Devotional exercise....818
Resignation....2701

Corporations
The regulation of business organizations. *See table* H. 243....2764

Corrections
Commissary and telecommunications prices in State correctional facilities and fair compensation for incarcerated labor. *See table* H. 294....2772
Creating a felony penalty for a violation of conditions of release and to staff the pretrial supervision program. *See table* H. 380....2784
Developing the Department of Corrections' community restitution program. *See table* H. 176....2753
Establishing reentry facilities for persons under the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections. *See table* H. 436....2793
Establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program. *See table* H. 219....2760
Prohibiting earned time for second or subsequent felony convictions. *See table* H. 252....2766
Prohibiting the use of private and for-profit correctional facilities. *See table* H. 191....2755
Public safety. *See table* H. 411....2789
Restricting the Department of Corrections' cooperation with federal immigration authorities. *See table* H. 298....2773
Second look sentencing. *See table* H. 379....2784
The calculation of recidivism and other related criminology measures. *See table* H. 410....2789
Treatment for opioid use disorder in correctional facilities. *See table* H. 32....2726

Corrections and Institutions Committee
H. 494 Introduced....702
H.C.R. 97 Introduced....1138

Courts; Court Procedure
A victim's right to be heard at an appeal or postconviction remedy hearing. *See table* H. 331....2778
After-hours access to orders against sexual assault. *See table* H. 64....2732
After-hours access to orders against sexual assault. *See table* S. 9....2807
Competency to stand trial. *See table* H. 405....2788
Establishing penalties for keeping or maintaining a common nuisance. *See table* H. 435....2793
Guardianship proceedings. *See table* H. 26....2724
Housing appeals. *See table* H. 400....2788
Medical malpractice actions. *See table* H. 427....2792
Miscellaneous judiciary procedures. *See table* S. 109....2812
Orders permitting alternate service of process in civil proceedings. *See table* H. 254....2766
Prohibiting the transfer of Family Court cases to criminal court when the offender is a victim of human trafficking. *See table* H. 299....2773
Protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities. *See table* S. 45....2809
Public safety. *See table* H. 411....2789
Removal of court discretion in sentencing a defendant for selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting. *See table* H. 186....2754
Reports or complaints of sex offenses or sexual harassment. *See table* H. 107....2741
Service of writs of possession. *See table* H. 21....2724
Training requirements for guardians. *See table* H. 428....2792

Credit Reporting
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports. *See table* H. 112....2742
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports. *See table* S. 27....2808

Crimes; Criminal Procedure
A victim's right to be heard at an appeal or postconviction remedy hearing. *See table* H. 331....2778
Abuse of the dead body of a person. *See table* H. 41....2727
Amending the bases and process of child abuse and neglect investigations. *See table* H. 213....2759
Animal cruelty crimes and penalties. *See table* H. 492....2802
Automatic opening knives. *See table* H. 350....2781
Creating a felony penalty for a violation of conditions of release and to staff the pretrial supervision program. *See table* H. 380....2784
Data collection in the criminal justice system. *See table* H. 382....2784
Decriminalization of psilocybin-containing mushrooms and the establishment of the Psilocybin Therapeutic Consultation Program. *See table* H. 452....2795
Decriminalizing nonmoving DLS violations for third-time offenders. *See table* H. 18....2724
Establishing a competency restoration process. *See table* H. 251....2766
Establishing a State-funded and community-based continuum of care for justice-involved individuals. *See table* H. 456....2796
Establishing increased criminal penalties for an assault of a public transit worker. *See table* H. 255....2767

Crimes; Criminal Procedure, continued
Establishing reentry facilities for persons under the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections. *See table* H. 436....2793
Expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes. *See table* H. 118....2743
Extradition procedures. *See table* S. 87....2812
Filial support. *See table* H. 108....2741
Funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply. *See table* H. 189....2755
Grand larceny of a firearm. *See table* H. 19....2724
Incentivizing community service sentencing in certain cases. *See table* H. 490....2802
Increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings. *See table* H. 2....2721
Justifiable homicide. *See table* H. 457....2796
Miscellaneous judiciary procedures. *See table* S. 109....2812
Persons prohibited from possessing firearms. *See table* H. 200....2756
Prohibiting the manufacture and transfer of gas-operated semiautomatic firearms. *See table* H. 381....2784
Public safety. *See table* H. 411....2789
Safe storage of firearms. *See table* H. 264....2768
Sealing criminal history records. *See table* S. 12....2807
Second look sentencing. *See table* H. 379....2784
Stalking through the use of tracking technology. *See table* H. 223....2761
The calculation of recidivism and other related criminology measures. *See table* H. 410....2789
The procedures for bail revocation. *See table* H. 409....2789
Unlawful drug activity in a dwelling by a person who is not a legal tenant. *See table* H. 128....2744
Voluntary engagement in sex work. *See table* H. 190....2755

Critchlow, Wendy A.
Member from Colchester (District Chittenden-19)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 80 Introduced....76
Reported for committee....588
Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 305 Introduced....208

Critchlow, Wendy A., continued
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 63 Reported for committee....1514
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Current Use
See **Use Value Appraisal**

D.

Dairy Products
Establishing an equitable pricing system for the milk production.
See table H. 475....2799

Dams
Authorizing drawdown of dams during emergency flood events.
See table H. 240....2763
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397....2787
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319....2776

Data Security
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69....2811
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* H. 208....2757
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* S. 71....2812
Data brokers and personal information. *See table* H. 211....2759
Neurological rights. *See table* H. 366....2782
Privacy protections for mobile identification. *See table* H. 360....2782
Protecting the personal information of certain public servants. *See table* H. 342....2779
The right of users to control their social media data. *See table* H. 520....2806

DeafBlind
Establishing a support service program for individuals who are DeafBlind.
See table H. 143....2747

Debts and Obligations
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.
See table H. 112....2742
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.
See table S. 27....2808
Remedies and protections for victims of coerced debt. *See table* H. 385....2785
Tax debt forgiveness for victims of fraud. *See table* H. 115....2743

Demar, Allen R. "Penny"
Member from Enosburgh (District Franklin-7)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care....23
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 35 Reported for committee....93
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 41 Introduced....56
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 80 Introduced....76
Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 89 Introduced....78
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 237 Introduced....166
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145

Dentistry
Vermont's adoption of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.
See table H. 47....2729

Devotional Service
Vegan Aharonian, Executive Director, Karme Choling, Barnet....1107
Cameron Ainsworth, Pastor, Rock of Greater Burlington Church....426
Dr. Jolivette Anderson-Douoning of St. Michael's College of Colchester.... 66
Former Rep. Peter Anthony of Barre City.... 1435
Rep. Ashley Bartley of Fairfax....737
Kris Brown, voice actor and podcast host, Colchester....215
Rev. Dr. Walter Brownridge of Christ the Episcopal Church, Montpelier....202
Kenneth Cadow, Vermont Humanities....107
Rep. Thomas Charlton of Chester....94, 804
Rep. Brian Cina of Burlington....43, 110, 288
Rev. Aaron Clark, Crossroads Christian Church, East Montpelier 1185
Howard Coffin, author and historian, Montpelier.... 1727
Josh Compton of Windsor.... 1209
Rep. Jonathan Cooper of Pownal.... 2051
Rev. Scott Couper, Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro....1812
Harmony Devoe, Vermont's first Youth Poet Laureate, Warren.... 119
Rep. Anne Donahue of Northfield....1884
Laurie Emmerson, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness-VT, Williston 88
Rev. Rachel Field, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Northfield....60
Rep. Rey Garofano of Essex.... 606
Isaiah Gonzales, student leader at Vermont Law and Graduate School, South Royalton....1411
Rep. Will Greer of Bennington.... 294
Cassandra Grigware, The Safety Team, Burlington.... 1087
Jared Hamilton, Pastor, United Church of Hinesburg.... 641
Rep. Troy Headrick of Burlington....1201
Geof Hewitt, poet, Calais....56
Rev. Elissa Johnk, First Congregational Church UCC, Burlington.... 1
Carol Ann Jones, Alzheimer's Awareness.... 823
Rep. Bram Kleppner of Burlington....397, 1549
Rev. Earl KooperKamp, Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre City....53
Rep. Emilie Kornheiser of Brattleboro.... 1442
Rep. Saudia LaMont of Morristown....207
Rev. Christie Leary, Leaders of Faith Foundation, Windsor....1504
Rep. Jed Lipsky of Stowe.... 227
Former Rep. Jason Lorber of Burlington....812
Rep. Jim Masland of Thetford....82
Rep. Patricia McCoy of Poultney....42
Maddie Messier, sophomore at BFA St. Albans, violinist, and member of Vermont Youth Orchestra.... 138
Rep. Christopher Morrow of Weston....306
Rep. Mike Mrowicki and Amelia Struthers of Putney.... 953
Rep. Richard Nelson of Derby.... 1485
Rep. Rob North of Ferrisburgh....158
Rep. John O'Brien of Tunbridge....683
Rep. Woodman "Woody" Page of Newport City.... 800
Former Rep. Carolyn Partridge of Windham, and Ben Partridge, bagpipes, Windham1855
Former Rep. Avram Patt of Worcester, now of Montpelier.... 1153
Rev. Peter Plagge, Waterbury Congregational Church....46

Devotional Service, continued
Rep. Phil Pouech of Hinesburg....163
David Robinson, Army veteran with K-9 Unit, Brattleboro....132
Marjorie Ryerson, poet and former Representative, Randolph....314
Toussaint, St. Negritude, poet, Newark....75
State House Singers: 818
Reps. Sarita Austin, John Bartholomew, Tiff Bluemle, Mari Cordes, David Durfee, Leslie Goldman, Kathleen James, Charlie Kimbell, Rob North, Kate Nugent, Carol Ode, and Brenda Steady; Sen. Allison Clarkson; Brett Murphy, Doorkeeper; Annagrace Oblak, Committee Assistant; and David Schutz, State Curator.
Rep. Brenda Steady of Milton....154
Rep. Thomas Stevens of Waterbury....1147
Rep. Mary-Katherine Stone of Burlington....25, 1129
Major Eric Stuepfert, Chaplain, Vermont National Guard....98
Ethan Tapper, forester and author, Bolton....1140
Pastor Max Tardie, Bible Baptist Church, Berlin....382
Rev. Devon Thomas, Lutheran Church, Burlington....190
Former Rep. Chip Troiano of Stannard....762
Deborah Velto and the Kurn Hattin School singers of Westminster....702
Rev. Jay Voorhees of Trinity Methodist Church in Montpelier....69
Rev. Joe Welker, East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church....1170
Gretchen Wertlieb, student at South Burlington High School and 2025 Vermont Poetry Out Loud Contest runner-up....1540
Rep. Kevin Winter of Ludlow....807
Ed Sunday Winters, Pastor, Greensboro United Church....1097

Dickinson, Eileen G. "Lynn"
Member from St. Albans Town (District Franklin-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee....1440
Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (2024 Joint Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Dickinson, Eileen G. "Lynn," continued
S. 56 Recommended for committee....1428
Moved prop of amend....1428

Dieticians
Vermont's adoption of the Dietician Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 296....2773

Disaster Mitigation
Authorizing drawdown of dams during emergency flood events. *See table* H. 240..2763
Creating the Vermont Municipal Response and Recovery Special Fund. *See table* H. 232....2762
Establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions. *See table* S. 60....2811
Flood response and assistance programs for flood resilient infrastructure improvements. *See table* H. 468....2798
Flood response and flood alert systems for municipalities. *See table* H. 470....2798
Flood response and the creation of a voluntary buy-out program. *See table* H. 466....2797
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Natural Resources. *See table* H. 469....2798
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Transportation. *See table* H. 467...2797
Flood response and the duties of the Division of Emergency Management. *See table* H. 464....2797
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397....2787

Discrimination
Amending the prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations and housing. *See table* H. 169....2752
Amending the prohibitions against harassment in schools. *See table* H. 441....2794
Counteracting federal discriminatory mandates. *See table* H. 53....2729
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814
Nondiscrimination concerning a parent with a disability. *See table* H. 315....2776
Prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's criminal history. *See table* H. 201....2756
Prohibiting discrimination based on immunization status. *See table* H. 60....2731
Tenant rights. *See table* H. 399....2788
The jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 429....2792

Disorderly Conduct
Amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law. *See table* S. 59....2811

Ditmeyer, Christine
Appointed by the House Clerk (Clerk Associate)....11

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Counteracting federal discriminatory mandates. *See table* H. 53....2729
Funding inclusive schools. *See table* H. 165....2751
In-state tuition for non-Vermont residents who do not have access to DEI programming in their home state public postsecondary institutions. *See table* H. 515....2805

Dobrovich, Joshua
Member from Williamstown (District Orange-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Education....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 183 Introduced....135
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 454 Introduced....301
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Dodge, Leonora
Member from Essex (District Chittenden-23)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204

Dodge, Leonora, continued
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 127 Introduced....95
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 218 Explained vote....773
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 375 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 460 Introduced....307
H. 493 Explained vote....758
H. 496 Introduced....763
H. 516 Introduced....1540
S. 125 Reported for committee....1516
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
Explained vote....2547
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Dolan, Karen N.
Member from Essex Junction (District Chittenden-22)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary 23
Rules Committee, ex officio 14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Clerk-elect.... 11
Conference on S. 12....2048
Joint Legislative Management Committee....46
Joint Rules Committee....20
Special Committee on State House Improvements, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 2 Introduced....35
H. 18 Introduced....39
H. 21 Introduced....40
H. 25 Introduced....40
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 105 Introduced....85
H. 489 Explained vote.... 675
S. 12 Reported for committee....1760
S. 28 Moved to amend committee report.... 1125
J.R.H. 5 Offered....1549
J.R.S. 15 Reported for committee....1207
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Dolgin, Deborah Cordz "Debbie"
Member from St. Johnsbury (District Caledonia-Essex)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 106 Reported for committee....755
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 412 Introduced....291
H. 457 Introduced....307
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 127 Explained vote....2041

Domestic Pets
Rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure. *See table* H. 447....2794
Strict liability for damages caused by domestic dogs. *See table* H. 183....2754

Domestic Relations
Expanding family access to certified copies of birth and death certificates.
See table H. 153....2749
Filial support. *See table* H. 108....2741
Nondiscrimination concerning a parent with a disability. *See table* H. 315....2776
Parental rights and responsibilities. *See table* H. 369....2783
The procedures governing the change of a minor's legal name. *See table* H. 514....2805

Domestic Violence
After-hours access to orders against sexual assault. *See table* H. 64....2732
Civil orders of protection. *See table* H. 222....2761
Military protection orders. *See table* H. 517....2806
The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. *See table* H. 27....2725

Donahue, Anne de la Blanchetai
Member from Northfield (District Washington-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services, Ranking Member....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Discrimination Prevention Panel (Resigned 04/2025)....45
Green Mountain Care Board Nominating....46
State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee....2705
Motions, etc.
H. 15 Introduced....38
H. 19 Introduced....39
H. 24 Introduced....40
H. 26 Introduced....42
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 46 Introduced....61
H. 47 Introduced....61
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 160 Introduced....119
H. 161 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 184 Introduced....135
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 245 Introduced....168
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
Moved to amend bill....1075
Explained vote....1076

Donahue, Anne de la Blanchetai, continued
H. 461 Moved to amend committee report.... 640
Moved to withdraw amend.... 640
H. 474 Moved to amend bill....690
H. 488 Moved to amend bill....731
Moved to withdraw amend.... 733
H. 489 Explained vote.... 675
H. 493 Moved to amend bill....777
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report.... 1135
S. 125 Explained vote.... 1524
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report.... 1851
Moved to amend committee report.... 1852
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise....1884

Doulas
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services. *See table* S. 53....2810
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas. *See table* H. 79....2735

Drinking Water
Drinking water standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *See table* H. 286....2771
Testing of groundwater samples from contaminated sites at the State Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory. *See table* H. 422.... 2791

Duke, Abbey
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-17)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Convention Center and Performance Venue Task Force....2705
Vermont Economic Progress Council
Motions, etc.
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 117 Introduced.... 89
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced.... 104
H. 147 Introduced.... 108
H. 163 Introduced.... 120
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 169 Introduced.... 122
H. 185 Introduced.... 135

Duke, Abbey, continued
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 342 Moved to amend bill....764
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 474 Explained vote....690
S. 122 Reported for committee....2236
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Durfee, David K.
Member from Shaftsbury (District Bennington-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Chair....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Conference on S. 45....2410
Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (2022 Joint Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 401 Introduced....288
Moved to postpone action....1740
H. 435 Introduced....297
H. 446 Introduced....299
H. 447 Introduced....299
H. 486 Introduced....444
S. 45 Reported for committee....2232
S. 124 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration and to commit....1486
Reported for committee....2290
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Devotional exercise....818

E.

Early Childhood Education
The licensure of early childhood educators. *See table* H. 182....2754

Eastes, Zon
Member from Guilford (District Windham-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services.... 23
Motions, etc.
H. 112 Introduced.... 86
H. 114 Introduced.... 87
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 208 Introduced.... 143
H. 210 Introduced.... 143
H. 211 Introduced.... 144
H. 227 Introduced.... 164
H. 246 Introduced.... 168
H. 278 Introduced.... 195
H. 279 Introduced.... 195
H. 291 Introduced.... 203
H. 293 Reported for committee.... 954
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 401 Introduced.... 288
H. 414 Introduced.... 291
H. 417 Introduced.... 292
H. 454 Moved to amend bill.... 1068
H. 490 Introduced.... 606
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Economic Development
Creating the Office of Entrepreneurship. *See table* H. 257.... 2767
Creating the Vermont Olympics Task Force. *See table* H. 367.... 2783
Economic and workforce development. *See table* S. 122.... 2812
Promoting racial and economic justice. *See table* H. 451.... 2795
The creation of the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange.
See table H. 332.... 2778
The Vermont Economic Development Authority. *See table* H. 398.... 2787

Education Committee
H. 480 Introduced.... 426

Education Finance
Income-based education funding. *See table* H. 177.... 2753
Setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate.
See table H. 491.... 2802
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.
See table H. 454.... 2795

Education, generally
Cell phone-free schools. *See table* H. 54.... 2730
Counteracting federal discriminatory mandates. *See table* H. 53.... 2729
Creating a Department and Commissioner of Education. *See table* H. 100.... 2740
Creating a statewide school district. *See table* H. 148.... 2748

Education, generally, continued
Driver education for students participating in the home study program. *See table* H. 282....2771
Education on the evolving nature of antisemitism. *See table* H. 310....2775
Expanding the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program. *See table* H. 68....2733
Funding inclusive schools. *See table* H. 165....2751
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480....2800
Protecting academic freedom for prekindergarten through grade 12 educators. *See table* H. 168....2752
Requiring licensed athletic trainers at secondary school athletic events and practices. *See table* H. 139....2746
School choice for all Vermont students. *See table* H. 89....2737
The closure of an elementary school. *See table* H. 180....2753
The creation of the Free Degree Promise Grant Program for the Community College of Vermont. *See table* H. 297....2773
The prohibition of requiring face masks in schools. *See table* H. 393....2786
The retirement allowance for interim educators. *See table* H. 311....2775
The role and structure of the Agency of Education. *See table* H. 101....2740
The sustainable realignment of Vermont's school districts. *See table* H. 122....2744
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. *See table* H. 454....2795

Elections
A top-four nonpartisan primary election system. *See table* H. 314....2775
Appeal of Election. *See table* A.E. 1....2856
Authorizing the use of electronic and remote voting for annual meetings of municipal corporations. *See table* H. 330....2778
General election candidates. *See table* H. 117....2743
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474....2799
Prohibiting the appointment of interested parties to a recount committee. *See table* H. 450....2795
Ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections. *See table* H. 313....2775
Setting the date of biennial party caucuses. *See table* H. 449....2795
The number of votes required for a write-in candidate to win a primary election. *See table* H. 66....2732
The use of synthetic media in elections. *See table* S. 23....2808
The use of the Australian ballot system in local elections. *See table* H. 78....2735
Town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting. *See table* H. 363....2782

Electric Generation
Authorizing the use of State waters by hydroelectric generation facilities. *See table* H. 236....2763

Electric Vehicles
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123....2813
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488....2801
Transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions. *See table* H. 426....2792

Emergency Management
Authorizing drawdown of dams during emergency flood events.
See table H. 240.....2763
Flood response and financial assistance for municipalities. *See table* H. 465.....2797
Flood response and flood alert systems for municipalities. *See table* H. 470.....2798
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Transportation. *See table* H. 467... 2797
Flood response and the duties of the Division of Emergency Management.
See table H. 464.....2797
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397.....2787

Emergency Responders
An income tax credit for emergency first responders. *See table* H. 300..... 2773
Confidentiality for peer support counseling among emergency service providers.
See table H. 270.....2769

Emissions
Changing the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements to goals.
See table H. 52.....2729
Delaying the requirements of the Advanced Clean Truck rule. *See table* H. 503..... 2804
Prohibiting the emission of excessive soot or smoke from certain motor vehicles.
See table H. 48.....2729
Repealing the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. *See table* H. 518..... 2806
Repealing the Global Warming Solutions Act. *See table* H. 62.....2732
Revoking Vermont's use of California's Clean Air Act waiver. *See table* H. 65..... 2732

Emmons, Alice M.
Member from Springfield (District Windsor-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions, Chair.....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Access Board, ex officio 1484
Conference on H. 494.....1435
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee..... 1208
Lead Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House.....8
Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House..... 2706
Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery, ex officio
Special Committee on State House Improvements, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 50 Moved to commit..... 2250
H. 129 Introduced.....98
H. 219 Moved to commit..... 1821
H. 310 Introduced..... 209
H. 410 Moved committee be relieved.....383
H. 425 Introduced..... 293
H. 450 Introduced..... 300
H. 494 Spoke for committee.....777
Requested Committee of Conference.....1435
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Burke of Brattleboro..... 302

Emmons, Alice M., continued
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Berbeco of Winooski....447
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Wood of Waterbury.... 1160

Employee Safety
Protecting workers from extreme temperatures in the workplace. *See table* H. 348....2781

Employment Practices
Agreements not to compete. *See table* H. 205.... 2757
Creating a good cause standard for termination of employment. *See table* H. 344... 2780
Creating a right for employees to disconnect from work. *See table* H. 263.....2768
Enhancing enforcement of employment laws. *See table* H. 336.....2778
Establishing a 32-hour workweek. *See table* H. 261.....2767
Expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce complaints of employee misclassification. *See table* H. 347.....2780
Expanding employee access to unpaid leave. *See table* H. 33.....2726
Expanding employee access to unpaid leave. *See table* H. 461.....2797
Expanding equal pay protections. *See table* H. 149.....2748
Fair employment practices and legislative leave. *See table* H. 63.....2732
Limiting employer restrictions on individuals separating from employment. *See table* H. 334.....2778
Payment of vacation leave upon separation from employment. *See table* H. 295.....2772
Prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's criminal history. *See table* H. 201.....2756
Restricting electronic monitoring of employees and the use of employment-related automated decision systems. *See table* H. 262.....2767
The Parental and Family Leave Act. *See table* H. 459.....2796
The Vermont Labor Relations Board. *See table* H. 174.....2753
Wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation. *See table* S. 117.....2812

Energy
A consortium on nuclear power feasibility. *See table* H. 287.....2771
A plan on energy storage development. *See table* H. 278.....2770
A thermal efficiency benefits charge. *See table* H. 354.....2781
Affordable climate initiatives. *See table* H. 289.....2772
Authorizing the Clean Heat Standard rules. *See table* H. 216.....2759
Conducting a Clean Heat Standard study. *See table* H. 226.....2761
Deed restrictions and renewable energy devices. *See table* H. 127.....2744
Energy efficiency utility jurisdiction. *See table* H. 196.....2756
Establishing a thermal benefits charge. *See table* H. 224.....2761
Labor requirements for certain energy projects. *See table* H. 327.....2777
Renewable energy generation. *See table* H. 394.....2786
Repealing the Affordable Heat Act. *See table* H. 16.....2723
Repealing the Renewable Energy Standard. *See table* H. 159.....2750
Reporting on the energy transition. *See table* H. 125.....2744
Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standards. *See table* H. 181.....2754
The Renewable Energy for Communities Program. *See table* H. 352.....2781
Updates to the State energy policy. *See table* H. 353.....2781

Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee
H. 458 Introduced....307

Enforcement
Duties of the Commissioner of Labor. *See table* H. 337....2779
Enhancing enforcement of employment laws. *See table* H. 336....2778
Establishing penalties for keeping or maintaining a common nuisance. *See table* H. 435....2793
Expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce complaints of employee misclassification. *See table* H. 347....2780
The deadline for public bodies to respond to an alleged Open Meeting Law violation. *See table* H. 501....2803

Environment
Compliance with the environmental justice State policy. *See table* H. 328....2777
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Natural Resources. *See table* H. 469....2798
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484....2800
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124....2813
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319....2776

Environment Committee
H. 481 Introduced....426

Equal Pay
Expanding equal pay protections. *See table* H. 149....2748

Ethics
Accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission. *See table* H. 1....2721

Evictions
Approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington concerning just cause eviction. *See table* H. 462....2797
Providing protections against no-cause eviction. *See table* H. 440....2793

Executive Branch
Creating an Office of New Americans. *See table* S. 56....2811
Creating the Office of Entrepreneurship. *See table* H. 257....2767
Granting State employees in the Executive Branch and Judiciary the right to strike. *See table* H. 485....2801
Privatization contracts. *See table* H. 359....2782
Requirements for State-funded grants. *See table* H. 233....2762
The Agency of Digital Services. *See table* H. 458....2796
The Office of Racial Equity. *See table* H. 357....2781
The Vermont State and Judiciary Employees' Cost-Savings Incentive Program. *See table* H. 9....2722

Expungement
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789
Sealing criminal history records. *See table* S. 12.....2807

Extradition
Extradition procedures. *See table* S. 87.....2812
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789

F.

Fair Repair
Creating a right to repair for medical devices. *See table* H. 160.....2750
The Vermont Fair Repair Act. *See table* H. 161.....2750

Family Leave
Expanding employee access to unpaid leave. *See table* H. 33.....2726
Expanding employee access to unpaid leave. *See table* H. 461.....2797
The Parental and Family Leave Act. *See table* H. 459.....2796

Fees
Charging for actual cost under Vermont's Public Records Act. *See table* H. 502.....2803
Credit card fees on taxes and gratuities. *See table* H. 317.....2776
Exemptions for food manufacturing establishments. *See table* H. 401.....2788
Imposing Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees based on a person's ability to pay. *See table* H. 25.....2724
Marriage license fees. *See table* H. 6.....2722
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484.....2800
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123.....2813
Prohibiting the imposition of convenience fees on online municipal utility payments. *See table* H. 265.....2768
Reduced motor vehicle registration fees for veterans. *See table* H. 288.....2771
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488.....2801
Waived registration fees for volunteer firefighter motor vehicles. *See table* H. 111.....2741

Felonies
Abuse of the dead body of a person. *See table* H. 41.....2727
Creating a felony penalty for a violation of conditions of release and to staff the pretrial supervision program. *See table* H. 380.....2784
Grand larceny of a firearm. *See table* H. 19.....2724
Prohibiting earned time for second or subsequent felony convictions. *See table* H. 252.....2766

Feltus, Martha A. "Marty"
Member from Lyndon (District Caledonia-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means.....24
Rules Committee.....14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....15

Feltus, Martha A. "Marty," continued
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 27 Recommended for committee....1135
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Financial Regulation
Allowing health insurance premiums to vary based on age and tobacco usage. *See table* H. 430....2792
Annual reporting on health care sharing plans and arrangements. *See table* H. 102....2740
Cryptocurrency and protecting the public welfare. *See table* H. 370....2783
Minimum reimbursement rates for labor related to automobile insurance claims. *See table* H. 384....2785
Remedies and protections for victims of coerced debt. *See table* H. 385....2785
The Commissioner of Financial Regulation and an annual supervision and regulation report. *See table* H. 124....2744
The regulation of insurance products and services. *See table* H. 137....2746

Firearms
A voluntary license to purchase firearms. *See table* H. 383....2785
An excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition. *See table* H. 418....2790
Approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the possession of firearms. *See table* S. 131....2815
Establishing a voluntary firearms storage program for persons in crisis. *See table* H. 20....2724
Firearms storage. *See table* H. 83....2736
Grand larceny of a firearm. *See table* H. 19....2724
Persons prohibited from possessing firearms. *See table* H. 200....2756
Prohibiting firearms and deadly weapons in schools, on school property, and at childcare centers. *See table* H. 97....2739
Prohibiting possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in State buildings and on State land. *See table* H. 392....2786
Prohibiting possession of firearms in government buildings. *See table* H. 368....2783
Prohibiting possession of firearms on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served. *See table* H. 45....2728
Prohibiting the manufacture and transfer of gas-operated semiautomatic firearms. *See table* H. 381....2784
Reinstating the waiting period exemption for firearms transfers at gun shows. *See table* H. 150....2748
Safe storage of firearms. *See table* H. 264....2768

Firearms, continued
The Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group. *See table* H. 221.....2760

Firefighting
Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting personal protective equipment and station wear. *See table* H. 250.....2765
Waived registration fees for volunteer firefighter motor vehicles. *See table* H. 111.....2741

Fish and Wildlife
Establishing requirements for hunting with dogs. *See table* H. 166.....2751
Technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes. *See table* H. 231.....2762
The management of fish and wildlife. *See table* H. 230.....2762
The reintroduction of catamounts to the State of Vermont. *See table* H. 473.....2798
The Southeast State Correctional Facility natural areas. *See table* H. 513.....2805
The taking of furbearers. *See table* H. 132.....2745

Flooding
Administrative and policy changes to Vermont tax laws and extending reimbursement to municipalities for tax abatement due to flooding. *See table* H. 135.....2745
Authorizing drawdown of dams during emergency flood events. *See table* H. 240.....2763
Creating the Vermont Municipal Response and Recovery Special Fund. *See table* H. 232.....2762
Flood response and assistance programs for flood resilient infrastructure improvements. *See table* H. 468.....2798
Flood response and financial assistance for municipalities. *See table* H. 465.....2797
Flood response and flood alert systems for municipalities. *See table* H. 470.....2798
Flood response and the creation of a voluntary buy-out program. *See table* H. 466.....2797
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Natural Resources. *See table* H. 469.....2798
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Transportation. *See table* H. 467.....2797
Flood response and the duties of the Division of Emergency Management. *See table* H. 464.....2797
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397.....2787
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319.....2776
Selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area. *See table* H. 106.....2741
Tax increment financing for flood-impacted communities. *See table* H. 420.....2791

Food Manufacturing Establishments
Exemptions for food manufacturing establishments. *See table* H. 401.....2788

Food Safety
Enhancing food allergen awareness in food service establishments. *See table* H. 144.....2747
Prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school. *See table* H. 417.....2790

Food Safety, continued
Prohibiting certain substances in food manufactured, sold, or distributed in Vermont. *See table* H. 260.....2767

Food Security
Establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. *See table* H. 167.....2751
Implementing the Restaurant Meals Program. *See table* H. 151.....2748
Implementing the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan. *See table* H. 423.....2791

Food Service Establishments
Enhancing food allergen awareness in food service establishments. *See table* H. 144.....2747

Forensics
Family forensic evaluators. *See table* H. 36.....2726

Forestry and Forest Products
Establishing a Mechanized Logging and Trucking Training Program. *See table* H. 476.....2799
Establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide grants for losses to farms and forestry operations due to weather conditions. *See table* H. 229.....2762
The taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations. *See table* H. 85.....2736
The taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations. *See table* S. 46.....2810

Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Forest management harvests on State Forest lands. *See table* H. 477.....2799
The creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award. *See table* H. 396.....2786
The donation to the State of managed forestland enrolled in current use. *See table* H. 424.....2791

Foster Care
Assistance for room and board at a Vermont postsecondary school for students served by foster or kinship care. *See table* H. 15.....2723
Supports to help students experiencing homelessness and students exiting the foster care system succeed in postsecondary educational institutions. *See table* H. 246.....2765
The federal benefits of youth in State custody. *See table* H. 269.....2768
Universal basic income payments for youth exiting foster care. *See table* H. 126....2744

Fraud
Tax debt forgiveness for victims of fraud. *See table* H. 115.....2743

G.

Galfetti, Gina M.
Member from Barre Town (District Washington-Orange)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House....13
House Discrimination Prevention Panel....45
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 125 Explained vote....431
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 237 Introduced....166
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 244 Moved to amend bill....751
Moved to withdraw amend....752
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 342 Explained vote....601
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 400 Introduced....238

Galfetti, Gina M., continued
H. 402 Introduced....288
H. 419 Introduced....292
H. 420 Introduced....292
H. 427 Introduced....295
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 430 Introduced....296
H. 431 Introduced....296
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 438 Introduced....297
H. 442 Introduced....298
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 449 Introduced....300
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....961
Moved to withdraw amend....1068
Explained vote....1078
H. 464 Introduced....315
H. 465 Introduced....315
H. 466 Introduced....315
H. 467 Introduced....315
H. 468 Introduced....315
H. 469 Introduced....316
H. 470 Introduced....316
H. 471 Introduced....316
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 505 Introduced....953
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851

Garofano, Golrang "Rey"
Member from Essex (District Chittenden-23)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services, Vice Chair....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Building Bright Futures Council....2707
Judicial Nominating Board....58
Motions, etc.
H. 30 Introduced....44
H. 46 Reported for committee....1511
H. 67 Introduced....71
H. 91 Introduced....79
Explained vote....2362
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 131 Introduced....98
H. 187 Introduced....136
H. 193 Introduced....139
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068

Garofano, Golrang "Rey," continued
H. 516 Introduced..... 1540
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise..... 606

Gender Identity
Amending a death certificate to reflect gender identity. *See table* H. 281..... 2770

Gender-Affirming Health Care
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28..... 2808
Coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services.
See table H. 55..... 2730
Establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and
gender-affirming care. *See table* H. 56..... 2730
Establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to
reproductive and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 214..... 2759

General Assembly
See **Legislature**

General and Housing Committee
H. 479 Introduced..... 398

General Provisions
Designating November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran. *See table* H. 154..... 2749

Goldman, Leslie
Member from Rockingham (District Windham-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care..... 23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Green Mountain Care Board Nominating Committee (Resigned 2/14/2025)..... 46
Motions, etc.
H. 12 Introduced..... 37
H. 40 Introduced..... 56
H. 54 Introduced..... 66
H. 71 Introduced..... 72
H. 77 Introduced..... 74
H. 80 Introduced..... 76
Moved to amend committee report..... 589
H. 96 Introduced..... 83
H. 112 Introduced..... 86
H. 114 Introduced..... 87
H. 115 Introduced..... 88
H. 126 Introduced..... 95
H. 155 Introduced..... 112
H. 166 Introduced..... 121
H. 181 Introduced..... 134
H. 208 Introduced..... 143

Goldman, Leslie, continued
H. 209 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 237 Introduced....166
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 269 Introduced....193
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 493 Explained vote....758
S. 18 Reported for committee....1100
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 28 Explained vote....1125
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....818

Goodnow, Ian
Member from Brattleboro (District Windham-9)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules....106
Motions, etc.
H. 36 Introduced....52
H. 44 Reported for committee....176
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 98 Introduced....83
H. 105 Reported for committee....374
H. 138 Introduced....104
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 490 Introduced....606
S. 3 Reported for committee....828
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Goslant, Kenneth W.
Member from Northfield (District Washington-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary, Clerk....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Judicial Nominating Board....58
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38

Goslant, Kenneth W., continued
H. 19 Introduced....39
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 222 Introduced....159
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 411 Introduced....290
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 87 Reported for committee....1436

Governance
Creating municipal and regional civilian oversight of law enforcement. *See table* H. 361....2782
The consideration of consolidated school district boundaries using existing regional structures. *See table* H. 495....2803
The governance of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and the University of Vermont. *See table* H. 316....2776
The membership of the State Board of Education and the reestablishment of the Vermont Department of Education. *See table* H. 179....2753
The reconstitution of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees. *See table* H. 198....2756

Government Operations
Access to information concerning benefit extension agreements for employees of public agencies. *See table* H. 22....2724
Duties of the Commissioner of Labor. *See table* H. 337....2779
Human Services Board fair hearing proceedings. *See table* H. 92....2738
Legislative operations and government accountability. *See table* H. 67....2732
Prohibiting the use of private and for-profit correctional facilities. *See table* H. 191....2755
The appointment of members of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education. *See table* H. 312....2775

Government Operations, continued
The disruption of proceedings governed by Vermont's Open Meeting Law.
See table H. 145.....2747

Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee
H. 78 Introduced.....74
H. 339 Introduced.....221
H. 463 Introduced.....314
H. 472 Introduced.....316
H. 474 Introduced.....397
H.C.R. 57 Introduced.....682

Governor
Authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements. *See table* S. 44.....2809
Review of orders placing the Vermont National Guard in federal active duty status.
See table H. 355.....2781
The compensation of members of the General Assembly and the Governor.
See table H. 215.....2759

Graning, Edye
Member from Jericho (District Chittenden-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development, Vice Chair.....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Regional Economic Development Grant Advisory Committee 1854
School District Redistricting Task Force.....2705
Vermont Sister State Program Working Group
Motions, etc.
H. 30 Introduced.....44
H. 32 Introduced.....44
H. 34 Introduced.....52
Reported for committee.....109
H. 40 Introduced.....56
H. 48 Introduced.....61
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 81 Introduced.....76
H. 97 Introduced.....83
H. 99 Introduced.....84
H. 100 Introduced.....84
H. 101 Introduced.....84
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 122 Introduced.....90
H. 124 Introduced.....94
H. 137 Introduced.....104
H. 147 Introduced.....108
H. 152 Introduced.....111
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 185 Introduced.....135
H. 203 Introduced.....142
H. 205 Introduced.....142

Graning, Edye, continued
H. 206 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 243 Introduced....168
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 312 Introduced....215
H. 342 Explained vote....601
Moved to amend bill....764
Explained vote....771
H. 365 Introduced....230
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 398 Introduced....237
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1182
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
S. 127 Moved to amend committee report....2022
Moved to amend committee report....2041
Explained vote....2041
Explained vote....2547
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Grants
Establishing a State-funded and community-based continuum of care for justice-involved individuals. *See table* H. 456....2796
Establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide grants for losses to farms and forestry operations due to weather conditions. *See table* H. 229....2762
Establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions. *See table* S. 60....2811
Establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. *See table* H. 167....2751
Franklin County Field Days. *See table* H. 415....2790
Funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply. *See table* H. 189....2755
Implementing the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan. *See table* H. 423....2791
Requirements for State-funded grants. *See table* H. 233....2762
Supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. *See table* H. 248....2765

Grants, continued
The creation of the Free Degree Promise Grant Program for the Community College of Vermont. *See table* H. 297....2773
The creation of the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange. *See table* H. 332....2778
The creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program. *See table* H. 439....2793
The establishment of the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program. *See table* H. 307....2774
The provision of grants for community nurses and community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities. *See table* H. 140....2746

Green Mountain Care Board
Developing and implementing a universal primary care program. *See table* H. 185....2754
Establishing the Division of Planning and Evaluation and strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Green Mountain Care Board. *See tabl*e H. 82....2736
Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer. *See table* H. 482....2800
Health care entity transaction oversight and clinical decision making. *See table* H. 71....2733
Health care payment and delivery system reform. *See table* S. 126....2814
Hospital and health network budgets. *See table* H. 245....2764
Hospital employee compensation and administrative staffing ratios. *See table* H. 228....2761
Increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need. *See table* H. 96....2739
Incremental implementation of Green Mountain Care. *See table* H. 433....2793
Modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board. *See table* S. 63....2811
Stabilizing Vermont's rural hospitals. *See table* H. 320....2776

Greer, William "Will"
Member from Bennington (District Bennington-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Motions, etc.
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144

Greer, William "Will," continued
H. 218 Explained vote.... 773
H. 219 Introduced.... 156
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 273 Introduced.... 194
H. 275 Introduced.... 194
H. 295 Introduced.... 204
H. 310 Introduced.... 209
H. 311 Introduced.... 215
H. 317 Introduced.... 216
H. 370 Introduced.... 231
H. 371 Introduced.... 231
H. 395 Introduced.... 236
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 401 Introduced.... 288
H. 404 Introduced.... 289
H. 407 Introduced.... 289
H. 434 Introduced.... 297
H. 448 Introduced.... 299
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....956
Moved to withdraw amend....958
Explained vote.... 1078
H. 511 Introduced....1156
S. 125 Moved to amend committee report.... 1524
Moved to withdraw amend.... 1524
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Devotional exercise.... 294

Gregoire, James A.R.
Member from Fairfield (District Franklin-6)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions, Vice Chair.... 21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 494....1435
Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House.... 2706
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 50 Reported for committee....320
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78

Gregoire, James A.R., continued
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 248 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 416 Introduced....291
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 474 Explained vote....690
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
Explained vote....1882
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
Explained vote....2039
H.R. 7 Offered....703

Groundwater
Testing of groundwater samples from contaminated sites at the State Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory. *See table* H. 422....2791

Guardianships
Confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships. *See table* H. 98....2739
Guardianship proceedings. *See table* H. 26....2724
Training requirements for guardians. *See table* H. 428....2792

H.

Hango, Lisa A.
Member from Berkshire (District Franklin-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs, Vice Chair....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House....8
Motions, etc.
A.E.1 Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Birong of Vergennes....128
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67

Hango, Lisa A., continued
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 91 Explained vote....2362
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 111 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 342 Explained vote....601
Explained vote....771
H. 364 Reported for committee....1166
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 474 Explained vote....690
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 517 Introduced....1549
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
Explained vote....2039
H.R. 7 Offered....703

Harassment
Amending the prohibitions against harassment in schools. *See table* H. 441....2794
Education on the evolving nature of antisemitism. *See table* H. 310....2775
Expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools. *See table* H. 130....2745

Harple, Leanne
Member from Glover (District Orleans-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Education....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16

Harple, Leanne, continued
Motions, etc.
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 204 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 209 Reported for committee....590
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
Explained vote....2674
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198

Harrison, James F. "Jim"
Member from Chittenden (District Rutland-11)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations, Vice Chair....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 493....1380
Joint Fiscal Committee....45
Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 37 Introduced....53
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 49 Introduced....61
H. 52 Introduced....62
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 94 Introduced....79
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 145 Introduced....108

Harrison, James F. "Jim," continued
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 157 Introduced.... 113
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 245 Introduced.... 168
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 287 Introduced.... 203
H. 289 Introduced.... 203
H. 310 Introduced.... 209
H. 311 Introduced.... 215
H. 321 Moved to amend amendment.... 2551
Moved to concur in Senate prop with further amend.... 2551
H. 368 Introduced.... 231
H. 397 Recommended for committee.... 724
H. 503 Introduced.... 823
H. 512 Introduced.... 1170
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812
S. 50 Moved to amend House prop of amend.... 1191
Moved to withdraw amend.... 1199
S. 125 Demanded Yeas and Nays.... 1524
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment.... 2037
Demanded Yeas and Nays.... 2039
J.R.H. 2 Offered.... 145
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Harvey, Zachary J. "Zak"
Member from Castleton (District Rutland-3)
Governors Appointment Letter.... 2
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary 23
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced.... 57
H. 64 Introduced.... 70
H. 74 Introduced.... 73
H. 85 Introduced.... 77
H. 128 Introduced.... 95
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 159 Introduced.... 113
H. 217 Introduced.... 155
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 273 Introduced.... 194
H. 303 Introduced.... 208
H. 310 Introduced.... 209
H. 342 Demanded Yeas and Nays.... 771
Demanded Yeas and Nays.... 773
Withdrew demand for yeas and nays.... 773

Harvey, Zachary J. "Zak," continued
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 411 Introduced....290
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 69 Demanded Yeas and Nays....1929
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. M. Morgan of Milton....1909
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Nelson of Derby....2413

Hate Crimes
Education on the evolving nature of antisemitism. *See table* H. 310....2775
Expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes. *See table* H. 118....2743

Hazardous Materials
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484....2800
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319....2776
Testing of groundwater samples from contaminated sites at the State Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory. *See table* H. 422....2791
The permitting of pilot or demonstration projects to treat or destroy emerging contaminants. *See table* H. 152....2748

Headrick, Troy
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-15)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions, Ranking Member....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Art in State Buildings Advisory, Designee....1484
Committee to wait upon the Clerk-elect....11
Conference on H. 494....1435
House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel....45
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 98 Introduced....83
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 107 Introduced....85

Headrick, Troy, continued
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 132 Introduced....102
H. 133 Introduced....103
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 165 Introduced....121
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 168 Introduced....122
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 173 Introduced....133
H. 174 Introduced....133
H. 175 Introduced....133
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 189 Introduced....136
H. 190 Introduced....136
H. 191 Introduced....139
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 201 Introduced....141
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 265 Introduced....192
H. 294 Introduced....204
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 342 Introduced....222
Demanded Yeas and Nays....601
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 351 Introduced....227
H. 355 Introduced....228
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 362 Introduced....229
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 406 Introduced....289

Headrick, Troy, continued
H. 416 Introduced....291
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 436 Introduced....297
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Demanded Yeas and Nays....2674
Explained vote....2674
H. 474 Moved to amend bill....690
H. 490 Introduced....606
H. 496 Introduced....763
H. 498 Introduced....781
H. 499 Introduced....782
S. 36 Asked to divide question....1166
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
Moved to withdraw amend....2090
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Seconded the nomination of Rep. Laura Sibilia of Dover as Speaker of the House....8
Devotional exercise....1201

Health Care
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28....2808
Addressing barriers to blenderized tube feeding. *See table* H. 12....2722
Amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists. *See table* H. 241....2764
Annual reporting on health care sharing plans and arrangements. *See table* H. 102....2740
Bodily autonomy and health care decision making. *See table* H. 61....2731
Cardiac emergency response plans in schools. *See table* H. 247....2765
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services. *See table* S. 53....2810
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas. *See table* H. 79....2735
Claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements. *See table* H. 31....2725
Clinician participation in patient choice at end of life and DNR/COLST orders. *See table* H. 75....2734
Coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 55....2730
Establishing a community health center pilot program. *See table* H. 184....2754
Establishing a residential peer respite facility in southern Vermont. *See table* H. 227....2761
Establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and gender-affirming care. *See table* H. 56....2730
Establishing the Division of Planning and Evaluation and strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Green Mountain Care Board. *See table* H. 82....2736
Establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 214....2759
Expanding access to catastrophic health plans. *See table* H. 431....2792

Health Care, continued
Expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations. *See table* H. 114.....2742
Expanding options for association health plans. *See table* H. 203.....2756
Health care entity transaction oversight and clinical decision making. *See table* H. 71.....2733
Health care payment and delivery system reform. *See table* S. 126.....2814
Health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements. *See table* H. 293.....2772
Health insurance coverage for diabetes treatment. *See table* H. 207.....2757
Health insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices. *See table* H. 432.....2792
Hospital and health network budgets. *See table* H. 245.....2764
Incremental implementation of Green Mountain Care. *See table* H. 433.....2793
Intranasal epinephrine in schools. *See table* H. 209.....2758
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* H. 40.....2727
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* S. 18.....2808
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports. *See table* H. 112.....2742
Medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports. *See table* S. 27.....2808
Modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board. *See table* S. 63.....2811
Reporting on adverse reactions related to immunizations. *See table* H. 69.....2733
Stabilizing Vermont's rural hospitals. *See table* H. 320.....2776
The 340B prescription drug pricing program. *See table* H. 266.....2768
The Office of the Health Care Advocate. *See table* H. 80.....2735
The provision of grants for community nurses and community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities. *See table* H. 140.....2746

Health Care Committee
H. 482 Introduced.....426

Health Insurance
Allowing health insurance premiums to vary based on age and tobacco usage. *See table* H. 430.....2792
Claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements. *See table* H. 31.....2725
Coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 55.....2730
Enrollment in Medicare supplement insurance policies. *See table* H. 275.....2770
Expanding access to catastrophic health plans. *See table* H. 431.....2792
Expanding options for association health plans. *See table* H. 203.....2756
Health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility care. *See table* H. 302.....2774
Health insurance and Medicaid coverage for physical therapy services. *See table* H. 271.....2769
Health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. *See table* H. 136.....2746
Health insurance coverage for diabetes treatment. *See table* H. 207.....2757
Health insurance coverage for donated human breast milk. *See table* H. 521.....2807
Health insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices. *See table* H. 432.....2792
Increasing the transparency of prescription drug costs and spending. *See table* H. 202.....2756
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* S. 18.....2808

Health Insurance, continued
Unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets.
See table H. 35.....2726
Updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.
See table H. 95.....2739
Updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.
See table S. 30.....2809

Health, generally
The Rare Disease Advisory Council. *See table* H. 46.....2728

Hicks-Tibbles, Nigel
Appointed by the House Clerk (First Assistant Clerk).....11

Highways
Authority over the highways of the Village of Old Bennington. *See table* H. 404....2788
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488.....2801

Higley, Mark A.
Member from Lowell (District Orleans-Lamoille)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means.....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
County and Regional Governance Study Committee.....2706
Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR).....62
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 58 Introduced.....68
H. 60 Introduced.....68
H. 61 Introduced.....68
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 69 Introduced.....71
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 84 Introduced.....77
H. 85 Introduced.....77
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 92 Introduced.....79
H. 93 Introduced.....79
H. 113 Introduced.....87
H. 150 Introduced.....110
H. 152 Introduced.....111

Higley, Mark A., continued
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 157 Introduced....113
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 280 Introduced....195
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 321 Recommended for committee....673
Moved to amend committee report....674
H. 364 Recommended for committee....1166
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 474 Moved to amend bill....692
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 504 Recommended for committee....1419
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90
A.E. 1 Demanded Yeas and Nays....126
Seconded the nomination of Rep. Laura Sibilia of Dover as Speaker of the House....8

Holcombe, Rebecca
Member from Norwich (District Windsor-Orange-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
School District Redistricting Task Force....2705
Motions, etc.
H. 82 Introduced....76
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 140 Introduced....104
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 248 Moved to amend committee report....1448
H. 253 Introduced....171
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 422 Introduced....293
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 443 Introduced....298

Holcombe, Rebecca, continued
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Home Study
An income tax deduction for home study programs. *See table* H. 249..... 2765
Driver education for students participating in the home study program. *See table* H. 282..... 2771

Homelessness
Establishing peer support positions for housing stability. *See table* H. 197..... 2756
Prohibiting municipal regulation of homelessness and supporting municipal programs to address homelessness. *See table* H. 498..... 2803
Supports to help students experiencing homelessness and students exiting the foster care system succeed in postsecondary educational institutions. *See table* H. 246..... 2765
The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program. *See table* H. 91..... 2738
Universal basic income payments for homeless and runaway youth. *See table* H. 195..... 2755

Homicide
Justifiable homicide. *See table* H. 457..... 2796

Hooper, Philip Jay
Member from Randolph (District Orange-Washington-Addison)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs..... 22
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced..... 57
H. 54 Introduced..... 66
H. 112 Introduced..... 86
H. 154 Introduced..... 112
H. 169 Introduced..... 122
H. 191 Introduced..... 139
H. 241 Introduced..... 167
H. 287 Introduced..... 203
H. 288 Introduced..... 203
H. 310 Introduced..... 209
H. 317 Introduced..... 216
H. 335 Introduced..... 220
H. 336 Introduced..... 220
H. 397 Introduced..... 237
H. 407 Introduced..... 289
H. 433 Introduced..... 296
H. 448 Introduced..... 299
H. 495 Introduced..... 762
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Hooper, Robert J. "Bob"
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-18)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs....23
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 59 Introduced....68
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
Reported for committee....201
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 261 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 263 Introduced....191
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 307 Introduced....209
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 359 Introduced....229
H. 363 Introduced....230
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 392 Introduced....236
H. 462 Introduced....314

Hooper, Robert J. "Bob," continued
H. 463 Spoke for committee....400
Moved to postpone action....1183
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 508 Introduced....1107
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Hospitals
A hospital patient's right not to be denied care based on vaccination status. *See table* H. 274....2769
Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer. *See table* H. 482....2800
Health care payment and delivery system reform. *See table* S. 126....2814
Hospital and health network budgets. *See table* H. 245....2764
Hospital employee compensation and administrative staffing ratios. *See table* H. 228....2761
Modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board. *See table* S. 63....2811
Preventing workplace violence in hospitals. *See table* H. 259....2767
Stabilizing Vermont's rural hospitals. *See table* H. 320....2776
The Vermont Hospital Security Plan. *See table* H. 267....2768

Houghton, Lori
Member from Essex Junction (District Chittenden-22)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care....23
Rules Committee, ex officio (Vice Chair and Ranking Member)....14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect....8
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session....2700
Joint Rules Committee....20
Motions, etc.
H. 35 Introduced....52
H. 80 Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 125 Demanded Yeas and Nays....431
H. 141 Moved to postpone action....604
Moved to postpone action....643
Moved to commit....697
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....958
Moved to suspend rules to permit consideration of an objectionable committee of conference report....2673
H. 474 Demanded Yeas and Nays....690
H. 489 Demanded Yeas and Nays....675
Explained vote....675
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
S. 28 Demanded Yeas and Nays....1125
S. 126 Explained vote....1882
J.R.H. 5 Offered....1549

Houghton, Lori, continued
H.R. 1 Offered 12
H.R. 2 Offered 12
H.R. 3 Offered 12
H.R. 4 Offered 17
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
A.E. 1 Explained vote 126
Nominated BetsyAnn Wrask of Barre Town as Clerk of the House 10
Moved the nominations of the Canvassing Committee by the Speaker 16
Presided 439, 698, 701, 726, 757, 828, 1470

Housing
A tax credit for home modifications for safety and livability. *See table* H. 8 2722
Amending the prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations and housing. *See table* H. 169 2752
Establishing a Common Interest Community Resource Center. *See table* H. 172 2752
Establishing peer support positions for housing stability. *See table* H. 197 2756
Exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax for priority housing projects. *See table* H. 438 2793
Flood response and the creation of a voluntary buy-out program. *See table* H. 466 2797
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127 2814
Housing appeals. *See table* H. 400 2788
Housing. *See table* H. 479 2799
Identifying underutilized State buildings and land. *See table* H. 50 2729
Land use and housing development. *See table* H. 412 2789
Tax increment financing for housing infrastructure. *See table* H. 378 2784
The creation of the Housing Board of Appeals. *See table* H. 42 2727
The creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program. *See table* H. 439 2793
The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program. *See table* H. 91 2738
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College residential living space. *See table* H. 170 2752
Workforce housing zones. *See table* H. 253 2766

Howard, Mary E.
Member from Rutland City (District Rutland-6)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing, Clerk 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee 16
Motions, etc.
H. 26 Introduced 42
H. 32 Introduced 44
H. 38 Introduced 54
H. 43 Introduced 57
H. 74 Introduced 73
H. 81 Introduced 76
H. 83 Introduced 76
H. 84 Introduced 77

Howard, Mary E., continued
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 342 Introduced....222
H. 349 Introduced....223
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 432 Introduced....296
H. 504 Introduced....953
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Howland, Christopher "Chris"
Member from Rutland Town (District Rutland-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure....22
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 289 Introduced....203
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 504 Introduced....953
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Hoyt, Michael N.
Member from Hartford (District Windsor-4)
Appointment communication by the Governor.....2704

Human Rights Commission
Adding new positions to the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 38.....2726
The jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 429.....2792

Human Services
Continuing care retirement communities. *See table* H. 496..... 2803
Establishing a State-funded and community-based continuum of care for justice-involved individuals. *See table* H. 456.....2796
Establishing a support service program for individuals who are DeafBlind. *See table* H. 143.....2747
Expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations. *See table* H. 114.....2742
Health insurance coverage for donated human breast milk. *See table* H. 521.....2807
Human Services Board fair hearing proceedings. *See table* H. 92.....2738
Implementing the Restaurant Meals Program. *See table* H. 151.....2748
Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers. *See table* H. 13... 2723
Prohibiting solitary confinement for children. *See table* H. 192.....2755
The delivery and payment of certain services provided through the Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings. *See table* S. 36..... 2809
The licensure of early childhood educators. *See table* H. 182.....2754
The study and design of a long-term care trust fund. *See table* H. 120.....2743
The use of seclusion and restraint on children and youth in the custody of the Department for Children and Families. *See table* H. 30..... 2725

Human Services Committee
H.C.R. 25 Introduced.....131
H.C.R. 104 Introduced..... 1139

Human Trafficking
Prohibiting the transfer of Family Court cases to criminal court when the offender is a victim of human trafficking. *See table* H. 299..... 2773

Hunter, Robert "Rob"
Member from Manchester (District Bennington-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Education.....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families.....2707
Canvassing Committee.....15
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 58 Introduced.....68
H. 112 Introduced..... 86
H. 154 Introduced..... 112
H. 155 Introduced..... 112

Hunter, Robert "Rob," continued
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping
Enrollment of posted land in the Use Value Appraisal Program. *See table* H. 291....2772
Establishing requirements for hunting with dogs. *See table* H. 166....2751
Requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. *See table* H. 434....2793
The management of fish and wildlife. *See table* H. 230....2762
The taking of furbearers. *See table* H. 132....2745

I.

Identification
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123....2813
Operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards. *See table* H. 351....2781

Immigration
Authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements. *See table* S. 44....2809
Confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships. *See table* H. 98....2739
Requiring legislative approval prior to entering into certain immigration agreements. *See table* H. 81....2736
Restricting the Department of Corrections' cooperation with federal immigration authorities. *See table* H. 298....2773
The admittance of federal immigration authorities into schools. *See table* H. 511....2805

Immunizations
A hospital patient's right not to be denied care based on vaccination status. *See table* H. 274....2769
Prohibiting discrimination based on immunization status. *See table* H. 60....2731
Reporting on adverse reactions related to immunizations. *See table* H. 69....2733

Impaired Driving
Driving while ability impaired. *See table* H. 123....2744
Expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. *See table* H. 105....2741
Imposing Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees based on a person's ability to pay. *See table* H. 25....2724
Miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving. *See table* H. 44....2728

Income Taxes
An income tax credit for emergency first responders. *See table* H. 300....2773

Income Taxes, continued
An income tax deduction for home study programs. *See table* H. 249..... 2765
An income tax exemption for National Guard active duty subsistence and quarters allowance. *See table* H. 76.....2735
Creating a Housing and Conservation Trust Fund checkoff on the Vermont personal income tax return. *See table* H. 309.....2775
Creating a new income tax bracket. *See table* H. 77.....2735
Exempting Social Security benefits from Vermont income tax. *See table* H. 74.....2734
The expansion of existing income tax credits. *See table* H. 483.....2800
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51..... 2810

Information Technology
The Agency of Digital Services. *See table* H. 458.....2796
The implementation of an electronic roll-call system in the Vermont House of Representatives. *See table* H. 49.....2729

Inspections
Making motor vehicle inspections more affordable. *See table* H. 285.....2771
Motor vehicle inspections. *See table* H. 358.....2782
Requiring inspection of wastewater systems. *See table* H. 142..... 2747

Insurance
Automobile insurance. *See table* S. 7..... 2807
Minimum reimbursement rates for labor related to automobile insurance claims. *See table* H. 384.....2785
The regulation of insurance products and services. *See table* H. 137..... 2746

J.

James, Kathleen C.
Member from Manchester (District Bennington-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure, Chair.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Clean Energy Development Board.....2705
Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee.....1547
Vermont Web Portal Board.....1547
Motions, etc.
H. 125 Explained vote..... 431
H. 164 Introduced..... 120
H. 472 Moved to amend amendment.....2330
S. 50 Reported for committee.....1175
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise..... 818

Judiciary
Collective bargaining. *See table* S. 125.....2814
Family forensic evaluators. *See table* H. 36.....2726
Granting State employees in the Executive Branch and Judiciary the right to strike. *See table* H. 485.....2801
Housing appeals. *See table* H. 400..... 2788

Judiciary, continued
Judiciary Employees Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 256.....2767
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789
The Vermont State and Judiciary Employees' Cost-Savings Incentive Program. *See table* H. 9.....2722

Justice-Involved Youth
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789
The federal benefits of youth in State custody. *See table* H. 269.....2768

Juveniles
A hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age. *See table* H. 5.....2722
Expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. *See table* H. 105.....2741
Increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings. *See table* H. 2.....2721
Law enforcement interrogation policies. *See table* H. 258.....2767
Prohibiting solitary confinement for children. *See table* H. 192.....2755
Prohibiting the transfer of Family Court cases to criminal court when the offender is a victim of human trafficking. *See table* H. 299.....2773

K.

Kascenska, John
Member from Burke (District Essex-Caledonia)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations.....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....16
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House.....13
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session.....2700
Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee.....2708
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 104 Introduced.....85
H. 109 Introduced.....86
H. 113 Introduced.....87
H. 139 Introduced.....104
H. 147 Introduced.....108
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 157 Introduced.....113
H. 162 Introduced.....120
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 252 Introduced.....170
H. 310 Introduced.....209
H. 488 Recommended for committee.....731

Kascenska, John, continued
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 123 Recommended for committee....2087

Keyser, Chris
Member from Rutland City (District Rutland-7)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation....24
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 89 Introduced....78
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 496 Introduced....763
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 504 Introduced....953
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145

Kimbell, Charles A.
Member from Woodstock (District Windsor-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means, Ranking Member.... 24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session.... 2700
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect.... 8
Conference on S. 51.... 1504
Conference on S. 127.... 2249
Joint Fiscal Committee....45
Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 134 Introduced.... 103
H. 152 Introduced.... 111
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 291 Introduced.... 203
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 413 Introduced.... 291
H. 483 Moved to postpone action....612
Moved to commit.... 697
H. 491 Spoke for committee....755
S. 51 Reported for committee....1420
S. 127 Recommended for committee.... 1978
Moved to amend committee report.... 2022
Moved to amend committee report.... 2041
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise.... 818

Kleppner, Bram
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-13)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure.... 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 112 Introduced.... 86
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 177 Introduced.... 133
H. 181 Introduced.... 134
H. 185 Introduced.... 135
H. 198 Introduced.... 140
H. 227 Introduced.... 164
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 245 Introduced.... 168
H. 255 Introduced.... 171
H. 270 Introduced.... 193

Kleppner, Bram, continued
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 342 Explained vote....601
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Devotional exercise....397, 1549

Kornheiser, Emilie K.
Member from Brattleboro (District Windham-7)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means, Chair....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 454....2196
Conference on S. 51....1504
Emergency Board, ex officio
Health Reform Oversight Committee, ex officio
Joint Fiscal Committee, ex officio, Chair....45
Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee (Chair)....1440
Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, ex officio
Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 134 Moved committee be relieved....115
H. 141 Recommended for committee....115
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 397 Moved to amend committee report....725
Moved to amend bill....752
H. 420 Moved committee be relieved....319
H. 454 Recommended for committee....859
Moved to amend bill....1068
H. 480 Explained vote....610
H. 489 Recommended for committee....675
H. 493 Recommended for committee....757
S. 46 Moved committee be relieved....816
S. 127 Moved to amend committee report....2022
Moved to amend committee report....2041
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....1442
Presided....2560

Krasnow, Emilie
Member from South Burlington (District Chittenden-9)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing, Ranking Member....22
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Reported for committee....1203
Demanded Yeas and Nays....1204
H. 14 Introduced....38

Krasnow, Emilie, continued
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 188 Introduced....136
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 256 Introduced....171
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 271 Introduced....193
H. 290 Introduced....203
H. 308 Introduced....209
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 315 Introduced....216
H. 374 Introduced....232
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 461 Introduced....308
H. 492 Introduced....683
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
Explained vote....2547
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198

Krowinski, Jill L.
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-16)
Speaker of the House....8
Committee, House Standing:
Rules Committee, Chair ex officio....14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Joint Legislative Management Committee, ex officio, Vice Chair....46
Joint Rules Committee, ex officio, Chair....20
Special Committee on State House Improvements, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
J.R.H. 5 Offered....1549
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance....45, 1812, 2051, 2565
Nominated members to the Canvassing Committee....15
Nominated members to the Judicial Nominating Board....58

L.

Labor
Clarifying the right of adjunct faculty to receive unemployment insurance benefits. *See table* H. 175....2753
Collective bargaining. *See table* S. 125....2814
Creating a good cause standard for termination of employment. *See table* H. 344....2780
Creating a right for employees to disconnect from work. *See table* H. 263....2768
Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain. *See table* Prop 3....2721
Duties of the Commissioner of Labor. *See table* H. 337....2779
Enhancing enforcement of employment laws. *See table* H. 336....2778
Establishing a 32-hour workweek. *See table* H. 261....2767
Fair labor standards and housing standards for agricultural workers. *See table* H. 403....2788
Granting public higher education employees the right to strike. *See table* H. 173....2753
Granting State employees in the Executive Branch and Judiciary the right to strike. *See table* H. 485....2801
Limiting employer restrictions on individuals separating from employment. *See table* H. 334....2778
Payment of vacation leave upon separation from employment. *See table* H. 295....2772
Payroll records of workers on State construction projects. *See table* H. 335....2778
Protecting workers from extreme temperatures in the workplace. *See table* H. 348....2781
Repealing the Commissioner of Labor's authority to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with a disability. *See table* H. 374....2783
Restricting electronic monitoring of employees and the use of employment-related automated decision systems. *See table* H. 262....2767
Temporary State employees. *See table* H. 239....2763
The creation of the Unemployment Compensation Benefit Modernization Advisory Committee. *See table* H. 356....2781
The minimum qualifications required for State employment. *See table* H. 3....2721
The Vermont Labor Relations Board. *See table* H. 174....2753
The Vermont Municipal Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 402....2788

Labor, continued
Unemployment compensation. *See table* H. 338.....2779
Unemployment insurance eligibility and benefits. *See table* H. 235..... 2762
Wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation.
See table S. 117.....2812
Workers' compensation. *See table* H. 163.....2750

Labor, Larry
Member from Morgan (District Essex-Orleans)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment, Vice Chair.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 32 Introduced.....44
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 64 Introduced.....70
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 89 Introduced.....78
H. 92 Introduced.....79
H. 103 Introduced.....84
H. 113 Introduced.....87
H. 116 Introduced.....89
H. 136 Introduced.....103
H. 152 Introduced..... 111
H. 159 Introduced..... 113
H. 231 Moved to amend bill.....587
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 252 Introduced.....170
H. 255 Introduced.....171
H. 270 Introduced.....193
H. 273 Introduced.....194
H. 283 Introduced.....196
H. 295 Introduced.....204
H. 320 Introduced.....217
H. 396 Introduced.....236
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 407 Introduced.....289
H. 434 Introduced.....297
H. 518 Introduced.....1812
J.R.H. 2 Offered.....145
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Lakes in Crisis
Lakes in crisis and requirements for designation. *See table* H. 113.....2742

Lalley, Kate
Member from Shelburne (District Chittenden-6)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation.....24
Motions, etc.
H. 147 Introduced.....108
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 155 Introduced.....112
H. 164 Introduced.....120
H. 181 Introduced.....134
H. 210 Introduced.....143
H. 211 Introduced.....144
H. 233 Introduced.....165
H. 253 Introduced.....171
H. 255 Introduced.....171
H. 283 Introduced.....196
H. 296 Introduced.....205
H. 385 Introduced.....234
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 401 Introduced.....288
H. 418 Introduced.....292
H. 426 Introduced.....295
H. 432 Introduced.....296
H. 453 Introduced.....300
H. 460 Introduced.....307
H. 496 Introduced.....763
S. 125 Explained vote.....1524
S. 127 Explained vote.....2547
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

LaLonde, Martin J.
Member from South Burlington (District Chittenden-12)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary, Chair.....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 12.....2048
Conference on S. 45.....2410
House Ethics Panel, Chair.....45
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee.....1208
Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules.....106
Vermont Sentencing Commission, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 1 Introduced.....35
H. 2 Introduced.....35
Reported for committee.....367
H. 5 Introduced.....36
H. 6 Introduced.....36

LaLonde, Martin J., continued
H. 7 Introduced....36
H. 23 Introduced....40
H. 27 Introduced....42
H. 28 Introduced....42
H. 36 Introduced....52
H. 41 Moved to postpone action....1471
Moved to postpone action....1526
H. 44 Introduced....60
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 98 Introduced....83
Moved to postpone action....157
Moved to postpone action....173
Reported for committee....198
Moved to amend bill....206
Moved to postpone action....1499
H. 118 Introduced....89
H. 138 Introduced....104
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 188 Introduced....136
H. 200 Introduced....141
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 220 Introduced....156
H. 221 Introduced....159
H. 222 Introduced....159
H. 251 Introduced....170
H. 342 Moved committee be relieved....319
H. 346 Introduced....223
H. 368 Introduced....231
H. 383 Introduced....234
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 405 Introduced....289
H. 409 Introduced....290
H. 410 Introduced....290
H. 514 Introduced....1201
H. 517 Introduced....1549
S. 3 Demanded Yeas and Nays....828
S. 28 Moved to amend committee report....1125
Explained vote....1125
S. 45 Moved committee be relieved....1885
H.R. 6 Offered 210
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Presided 1503

LaMont, Saudia
Member from Morristown (District Lamoille-Washington)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 17 Introduced....39
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 42 Introduced....57
H. 91 Explained vote....2362
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 184 Introduced....135
H. 236 Introduced....166
H. 240 Introduced....167
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 489 Explained vote....675
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Devotional exercise....207
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Carris Duncan of Whitingham....1509

Land Management
Establishing an Agricultural Land Transfer Assistance Program.
See table H. 386....2785

Land Use
Amending stormwater management to facilitate high-density development.
See table H. 453....2795
Development on slopes. *See table* H. 272....2769
Land use and housing development. *See table* H. 412....2789
Prohibiting deed restrictions or covenants that prohibit use of property for commercial or industrial purposes. *See table* H. 306....2774
The regulation of development in wetlands. *See table* H. 507....2804
Workforce housing zones. *See table* H. 253....2766

Landlord and Tenant
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814
Providing protections against no-cause eviction. *See table* H. 440....2793
Tenant rights. *See table* H. 399....2788

Laroche, Wayne A.
Member from Franklin (District Franklin-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations....20
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 494 Recommended for committee....777
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Law Enforcement
Attorney General investigations into a law enforcement officer's use of a firearm.
See table H. 171....2752
Authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.
See table H. 519....2806
Creating municipal and regional civilian oversight of law enforcement.
See table H. 361....2782
Creating the Municipal Law Enforcement Assistance Program. *See table* H. 395....2786
Law enforcement interrogation policies. *See table* H. 258....2767
Mandatory retirement age of the Vermont State Retirement System.
See table H. 324....2777
Orders permitting alternate service of process in civil proceedings.
See table H. 254....2766
Service of writs of possession. *See table* H. 21....2724
Survivor benefits for law enforcement officers. *See table* H. 57....2731

Legislature
Appeal of Election. *See table* A.E. 1....2856
Fair employment practices and legislative leave. *See table* H. 63....2732
Legislative operations and government accountability. *See table* H. 67....2732
Limiting campaign contributions for State Representatives and State Senators.
See table H. 116....2743
Requiring legislative approval prior to entering into certain immigration agreements. *See table* H. 81....2736
The compensation of members of the General Assembly and the Governor.
See table H. 215....2759

Legislature, continued
The implementation of an electronic roll-call system in the Vermont House of Representatives. *See table* H. 49.....2729
The jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 429.....2792

Liability
Maximum liability of municipalities for tort claims. *See table* H. 138.....2746
Strict liability for damages caused by domestic dogs. *See table* H. 183.....2754

License Plates
Automated license plate recognition systems. *See table* H. 500.....2803

Lipsky, Jed
Member from Stowe (District Lamoille-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Clerk.....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....16
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House.....13
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session.....2700
Motions, etc.
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 52 Introduced.....62
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 85 Introduced.....77
H. 104 Introduced.....85
H. 139 Introduced.....104
H. 147 Introduced.....108
H. 152 Introduced.....111
H. 153 Introduced.....111
H. 164 Introduced.....120
H. 167 Introduced.....121
H. 208 Introduced.....143
H. 210 Introduced.....143
H. 211 Introduced.....144
H. 217 Introduced.....155
H. 227 Introduced.....164
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 252 Introduced.....170
H. 295 Introduced.....204
H. 303 Introduced.....208
H. 396 Reported for committee.....443
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 401 Introduced.....288
H. 407 Introduced.....289
H. 434 Introduced.....297
H. 474 Moved to amend bill.....690
H. 502 Introduced.....819
H. 503 Introduced.....823

Lipsky, Jed, continued
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....227
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster....1486

Liquor Control
A reciprocity requirement for out-of-state consumer shipping licenses. *See table* H. 110....2741
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing alcoholic beverages. *See table* H. 51....2729

Loans; Mortgages
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814

Local Elections
Authorizing the use of electronic and remote voting for annual meetings of municipal corporations. *See table* H. 330....2778
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474....2799
Town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting. See table H. 363....2782

Local Option Taxes
Local option tax revenue sharing between a town and village. *See table* H. 487....2801
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397....2787
The distribution of local option tax revenue and the PILOT Special Fund. *See table* H. 164....2751

Logan, Kate
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-16)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect....8
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session....2700
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 77 Introduced....74

Logan, Kate, continued
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 86 Introduced....77
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 94 Introduced....79
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 107 Introduced....85
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 132 Introduced....102
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 155 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 190 Introduced....136
H. 191 Introduced....139
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 196 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 218 Explained vote....773
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 242 Introduced....168
H. 245 Introduced....168
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 294 Introduced....204
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 309 Introduced....209
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 313 Introduced....216
H. 314 Introduced....216
H. 327 Introduced....218
H. 328 Introduced....219
H. 332 Introduced....219

Logan, Kate, continued
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 348 Introduced....223
H. 352 Introduced....227
H. 353 Introduced....228
H. 354 Introduced....228
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 366 Introduced....230
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 371 Introduced....231
H. 373 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 425 Introduced....293
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 428 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 439 Introduced....298
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 445 Introduced....299
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 481 Spoke for committee....701
Moved to postpone action....1559
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 496 Introduced....763
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 124 Reported for committee....2310
J.R.H. 4 Offered....1504
H.R. 1 Offered....12
H.R. 2 Offered....12
H.R. 3 Offered....12
H.R. 4 Offered....17
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Long, Emily J.
Member from Newfane (District Windham-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Education....21
Motions, etc.
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Long-term Care
The study and design of a long-term care trust fund. *See table* H. 120....2743

Lottery
Repealing the statutes that authorize the State Lottery and sports wagering.
See table H. 133....2745

Lowell, Jeannie
Appointed by the House Clerk (Interim Clerk Associate)....11

Lueders, Karen
Member from Lincoln (District Addison-4)
Appointment communication by the Governor....2703

Luneau, Joseph "Joe"
Member from St. Albans City (District Franklin-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 270 Introduced....193

Luneau, Joseph "Joe," continued
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145

M.

Maguire, Eric
Member from Rutland City (District Rutland-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Conference on H. 91....2112
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee....287
Motions, etc.
H. 2 Moved to amend committee report....371
Demanded Yeas and Nays....372
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 197 Introduced....140
H. 218 Reported for committee....740
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 293 Introduced....204
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 379 Introduced....233
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
H. 504 Introduced....953
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851

Maguire, Eric, continued
A.E. 1 Explained vote....126

Malay, Alicia
Member from Pittsford (District Rutland-8)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary 23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Joint Committee on Judicial Retention....62
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 21 Reported for committee....373
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 153 Introduced.... 111
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 254 Introduced.... 171
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 411 Introduced.... 290
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced.... 1170
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812

Marcotte, Michael J.
Member from Coventry (District Orleans-Lamoille)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development, Chair.... 21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty, ex officio
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect.... 8
Conference on S. 127.... 2249
Petroleum Clean-Up Fund Advisory Committee....1441
Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development
State Workforce Development Board
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 124 Introduced....94

Marcotte, Michael J., continued
H. 137 Introduced....104
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 160 Introduced....119
H. 161 Introduced....120
H. 163 Introduced....120
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 206 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 243 Introduced....168
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 342 Moved to postpone action....609
Moved to postpone action....643
Moved to postpone action....689
Moved to postpone action....761
Moved to amend bill....764
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 398 Introduced....237
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1182
H. 444 Introduced....299
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 503 Introduced....823
S. 125 Moved committee be relieved....804
S. 127 Moved to amend committee report....2022
Moved to amend committee report....2041
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
J.R.H. 3 Offered....429
H.R. 7 Offered....703

Marriage
Marriage license fees. *See table* H. 6....2722

Masland, James W. "Jim"
Member from Thetford (District Windsor-Orange-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (2022 Joint Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 140 Introduced....104

Masland, James W. "Jim," continued
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 155 Introduced....112
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 189 Introduced....136
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 230 Recommended for committee....1470
H. 245 Introduced....168
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 277 Introduced....195
H. 278 Introduced....195
H. 279 Introduced....195
H. 280 Introduced....195
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 286 Introduced....202
H. 291 Introduced....203
H. 292 Introduced....204
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 369 Introduced....231
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Recommended for committee....701
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 421 Introduced....293
H. 422 Introduced....293
H. 425 Introduced....293
H. 432 Introduced....296
H. 460 Introduced....307
H. 484 Recommended for committee....675
S. 124 Recommended for committee....2313
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise....82

McCann, Kate
Member from Montpelier (District Washington-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Education....21
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52

McCann, Kate, continued
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 42 Introduced....57
H. 50 Introduced....61
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 94 Introduced....79
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 107 Introduced....85
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 168 Introduced....122
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 179 Introduced....134
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 245 Introduced....168
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 261 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 263 Introduced....191
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 294 Introduced....204
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220

McCann, Kate, continued
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 425 Introduced....293
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....948
Raised a Point of Order....2673
Explained vote....2674
H. 480 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2678
Moved to withdraw amend....2698
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198
Raised a Point of Order....2673

McCoy, Patricia A.
Member from Poultney (District Rutland-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation....24
Rules Committee, ex officio 14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect....8
Committee to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the first half of the 2025 Biennial Session....2700
Joint Rules Committee....20
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 50 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2250
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 78 Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....93
H. 91 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2092
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2112
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2342
H. 105 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2251
H. 106 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2260
H. 141 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....241
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....287
Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....367
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 218 Explained vote....773

McCoy, Patricia A., continued
H. 266 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2473
Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....2474
H. 289 Introduced....203
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 321 Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2551
H. 342 Explained vote....771
H. 397 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2330
H. 411 Introduced....290
H. 412 Introduced....291
H. 454 Introduced....301
Demanded Yeas and Nays....1076
Explained vote....1076
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2113
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2196
Explained vote....1078
H.454, continued
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2584
Moved to deliver to the Governor forthwith....2674
H. 472 Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2330
H. 474 Moved to amend bill....692
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2566
Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....2583
H. 480 Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....2698
H. 482 Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....644
H. 484 Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2453
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 493 Explained vote....1724
Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....1726
H. 494 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....1429
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....1435
Moved to deliver to Governor forthwith....1759
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 12 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....1760
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....1816
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2262
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2285
S. 45 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2232
Moved to suspend rules to place in all remaining stages of passage....2236
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2236
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2552
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2553
S. 50 Moved to amend House prop of amend....1191
S. 51 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2554
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2555

McCoy, Patricia A., continued
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2052
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2342
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2342
S. 109 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2391
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2408
S. 122 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2236
Moved to suspend rules to place in all remaining stages of passage....2249
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2249
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2510
Moved to suspend rules to forthwith message to Senate and deliver to Governor....2510
S. 123 Moved to suspend rules to place in all remaining stages of passage....2092
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2092
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2474
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2509
S. 124 Moved to suspend rules to place in all remaining stages of passage....2313
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2313
S. 126 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2365
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....1883
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2391
S. 127 Demanded Yeas and Nays....2041
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2053
Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....2511
Explained vote....2547
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....2550
J.R.H. 5 Offered....1549
H.R. 1 Offered....12
H.R. 2 Offered....12
H.R. 3 Offered....12
H.R. 4 Offered....17
Devotional exercise....42
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. M. Morgan of Milton....239
Seconded the nomination of BetsyAnn Wrask as Clerk of the House....10

McFaun, Francis M. "Topper"
Member from Barre Town (District Washington-Orange)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care, Vice Chair....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 126....1905
House Discrimination Prevention Panel....45
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee....1208
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69

McFaun, Francis M. "Topper," continued
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 80 Introduced....76
Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 237 Introduced....166
Moved to postpone action....698
Reported for committee....733
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 267 Introduced....192
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 323 Introduced....218
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 505 Introduced....953
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145

McGill, Jubilee
Member from Bridport (District Addison-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families, Chair....2707
Conference on H. 91....2112
General Assistance Emergency Housing Task Force
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 53 Introduced....66

McGill, Jubilee, continued
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 91 Introduced....79
Reported for committee....784
Demanded Yeas and Nays....2362
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 131 Introduced....98
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 195 Introduced....140
H. 197 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 199 Introduced....141
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 218 Explained vote....773
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 261 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 263 Introduced....191
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 269 Introduced....193
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 333 Introduced....220

McGill, Jubilee, continued
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 366 Introduced....230
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 371 Introduced....231
H. 373 Introduced....232
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
Explained vote....2674
H. 490 Introduced....606
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Presided....2557

Media
The use of synthetic media in elections. *See table* S. 23....2808

Medicaid
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services. *See table* S. 53....2810
Expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations. *See table* H. 114....2742
Health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility care. *See table* H. 302....2774
Health insurance and Medicaid coverage for physical therapy services. *See table* H. 271....2769
Health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. *See table* H. 136....2746
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* H. 40....2727
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* S. 18....2808
Medicaid coverage for play therapy. *See table* H. 58....2731
Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers. *See table* H. 13....2723
The delivery and payment of certain services provided through the

Medicaid, continued
Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings. *See table* S. 36.....2809

Medical Leave
Expanding employee access to unpaid leave. *See table* H. 33.....2726

Medical Malpractice
Medical malpractice actions. *See table* H. 427.....2792

Medicare
Enrollment in Medicare supplement insurance policies. *See table* H. 275.....2770

Memorial Service
Rep. Kenneth "Ken" Atkins of Winooski.....56
Rep. Sandra L. Baird of Burlington.....158
Rep. James Colvin of Bennington.....41
Rep. Richard Howrigan of Fairfield.....75
Rep. Kathleen "Kathy" Hoyt of Norwich.....397
Rep. Mark Huntley of Cavendish.....119
Rep. William "Bill" Keogh of Burlington.....41
Rep. John V. LaBarge of Grand Isle.....42
Rep. William "Bill" Mares of Burlington.....41
Rep. Richard T. "Dick" Mazza of Colchester.....41
Rep. Curt McCormack of Rutland City and of Burlington.....41
Rep. Thomas P. Salmon of Rockingham.....56
Rep. Donald H. "Don" Turner, Jr. of Milton.....42
Rep. Gloria Ann Wing of Morristown.....42
Rep. Edward R. Zuccaro of St. Johnsbury.....75

Mental Health
Confidentiality for peer support counseling among emergency service providers. *See table* H. 270.....2769
Establishing a competency restoration process. *See table* H. 251.....2766
Establishing a residential peer respite facility in southern Vermont. *See table* H. 227.....2761
Establishing a voluntary firearms storage program for persons in crisis. *See table* H. 20.....2724
Medicaid coverage for play therapy. *See table* H. 58.....2731
Mental health programming funded by the Mental Health Innovation Special Fund. *See table* H. 323.....2777
Prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program. *See table* H. 305.....2774
Replacing statutory references to Vermont Psychiatric Survivors with MadFreedom, Inc.. *See table* H. 29.....2725
The delivery and payment of certain services provided through the Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings. *See table* S. 36.....2809

Micklus, Anthony "Tony"
Member from Milton (District Chittenden-Franklin)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced....104
H. 178 Introduced....134
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 218 Explained vote....773
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 257 Introduced....190
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 342 Explained vote....601
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 420 Introduced....292
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 69 Reported for committee....1917
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
H.R. 7 Offered 703

Mihaly, Marc B.
Member from Calais (District Washington-6)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing, Chair....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 127....2249
Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (2024 Joint Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 50 Moved committee be relieved....74
H. 175 Moved committee be relieved....198
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 253 Moved committee be relieved....1100

Mihaly, Marc B., continued
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 479 Spoke for committee....726
Moved to postpone action....2092
Moved to commit....2554
S. 125 Moved to postpone action....1499
S. 127 Moved to postpone action....1885
Reported for committee....1937
Moved to amend committee report....2022
Moved to amend committee report....2041
Demanded Yeas and Nays....2547
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Military
Exempting military retirement and survivor benefit income from Vermont income tax. *See table* H. 43....2728
Military protection orders. *See table* H. 517....2806
Raising awareness of military-related postsecondary opportunities. *See table* H. 87....2737
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51....2810

Minier, Brian
Member from South Burlington (District Chittenden-11)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Vermont State Council on Interstate Adult Offender Supervision....2707
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 144 Introduced....107
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 191 Introduced....139
H. 194 Introduced....140
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 263 Introduced....191
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 295 Introduced....204

Minier, Brian, continued
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 448 Introduced....299
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Minimum Wage
Commissary and telecommunications prices in State correctional facilities and fair compensation for incarcerated labor. *See table* H. 294....2772
Expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce complaints of employee misclassification. *See table* H. 347....2780
Repealing the Commissioner of Labor's authority to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with a disability. *See table* H. 374....2783

Minors
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69....2811
The procedures governing the change of a minor's legal name. *See table* H. 514....2805

Miscellaneous Provisions
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814
Housing. *See table* H. 479....2799
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484....2800
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124....2813
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480....2800
Miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving. *See table* H. 44....2728
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing alcoholic beverages. *See table* H. 51....2729
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397....2787
Miscellaneous amendments to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 448....2794
Miscellaneous cannabis amendments. *See table* H. 321....2776
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474....2799
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123....2813
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319....2776
Miscellaneous judiciary procedures. *See table* S. 109....2812
Public safety. *See table* H. 411....2789
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488....2801
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51....2810

Morgan, Leland J.
Member from Milton (District Grand Isle-Chittenden)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Ranking Member....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 45....2410
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 178 Introduced....134
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 272 Introduced....194
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 304 Introduced....208
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 432 Introduced....296
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823

Morgan, Leland J., continued
H. 518 Introduced.... 1812

Morgan, Michael R.
Member from Milton (District Grand Isle-Chittenden)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Ethics Panel.... 45
Motions, etc.
H. 1 Reported for committee....384
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 89 Introduced....78
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 103 Introduced....84
H. 117 Introduced.... 89
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 139 Introduced.... 104
H. 150 Introduced.... 110
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 159 Introduced.... 113
H. 164 Introduced.... 120
H. 178 Introduced.... 134
H. 241 Introduced.... 167
H. 247 Introduced.... 169
H. 249 Introduced.... 169
H. 252 Introduced.... 170
H. 254 Introduced.... 171
H. 282 Introduced.... 196
H. 287 Introduced.... 203
H. 288 Introduced.... 203
H. 296 Introduced.... 205
H. 300 Introduced.... 206
H. 304 Introduced.... 208
H. 310 Introduced.... 209
H. 311 Introduced.... 215
H. 407 Introduced.... 289

Morgan, Michael R., continued
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.....2314
H. 518 Introduced.....1812
S. 51 Explained vote.....1426
H.R. 6 Offered 210
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. McCoy of Poultney.....239
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Bartley of Fairfax.....1190
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Harvey of Castleton.....1909

Morris, Kristi C.
Member from Springfield (District Windsor-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee.....2706
Canvassing Committee.....16
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 52 Introduced.....62
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 86 Introduced.....77
H. 231 Moved to amend bill.....587
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 250 Introduced.....170
H. 252 Introduced.....170
H. 310 Introduced.....209
H. 311 Introduced.....215
H. 317 Introduced.....216
H. 396 Introduced.....236
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 407 Introduced.....289
H. 425 Introduced.....293
H. 426 Introduced.....295
H. 433 Introduced.....296
H. 448 Introduced.....299
H. 450 Introduced.....300
H. 460 Introduced.....307
H. 518 Introduced.....1812
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment.....2037
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Morrissey, Mary A.
Member from Bennington (District Bennington-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions.....21
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 32 Introduced.....44
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57

Morrissey, Mary A., continued
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 404 Introduced....289
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
A.E. 1 Explained vote....126

Morrow, Christopher
Member from Weston (District Windham-Windsor-Bennington)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure....22
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 121 Introduced....90
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 155 Introduced....112
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 295 Introduced....204

Morrow, Christopher, continued
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 490 Introduced....606
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Devotional exercise....306

Motor Vehicles
Automated license plate recognition systems. *See table* H. 500....2803
Automobile insurance. *See table* S. 7....2807
Cancellation of motor vehicle purchases. *See table* H. 188....2755
Charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles belonging to crime victims. *See table* H. 346....2780
Consumer protections related to the towing and storage of vehicles. *See table* H. 268....2768
Decriminalizing nonmoving DLS violations for third-time offenders. *See table* H. 18....2724
Delaying the requirements of the Advanced Clean Truck rule. *See table* H. 503....2804
Driver education for students participating in the home study program. *See table* H. 282....2771
Driving while ability impaired. *See table* H. 123....2744
Imposing Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees based on a person's ability to pay. *See table* H. 25....2724
Making motor vehicle inspections more affordable. *See table* H. 285....2771
Miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving. *See table* H. 44....2728
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123....2813
Motor vehicle inspections. *See table* H. 358....2782
Motor vehicle noise, exhaust modifications, and engine compression brakes. *See table* S. 66....2811
Operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards. *See table* H. 351....2781
Privacy protections for mobile identification. *See table* H. 360....2782
Prohibiting the emission of excessive soot or smoke from certain motor vehicles. *See table* H. 48....2729
Reduced motor vehicle registration fees for veterans. *See table* H. 288....2771
Revoking Vermont's use of California's Clean Air Act waiver. *See table* H. 65....2732
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488....2801
The taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations. *See table* S. 46....2810
The towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles. *See table* H. 329....2777
Traffic cameras and traffic violations for illegally passing a school bus. *See table* H. 304....2774
Use of illuminating lights and visibility of taillights. *See table* H. 413....2790
Waived registration fees for volunteer firefighter motor vehicles. *See table* H. 111....2741

Mrowicki, Michael "Mike"
Member from Putney (District Windham-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel....45
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 30 Introduced....44
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 49 Introduced....61
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 117 Introduced....89
H. 133 Introduced....103
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 216 Introduced....155
H. 224 Introduced....160
H. 225 Introduced....160
H. 226 Introduced....160
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 248 Recommended for committee....1447
H. 277 Introduced....195
H. 278 Introduced....195
H. 279 Introduced....195
H. 280 Introduced....195
H. 286 Introduced....202
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 291 Introduced....203
H. 292 Introduced....204
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 301 Introduced....207
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 342 Introduced....222
H. 369 Introduced....231
H. 381 Introduced....233

Mrowicki, Michael "Mike," continued
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 429 Introduced....295
H. 454 Recommended for committee....948
H. 472 Recommended for committee....733
S. 53 Recommended for committee....1739
J.R.H. 4 Offered....1504
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Devotional exercise....953

Municipal and County Government
Authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 519....2806
Creating municipal and regional civilian oversight of law enforcement. *See table* H. 361....2782
Creating the Municipal Law Enforcement Assistance Program. *See table* H. 395....2786
Flood response and financial assistance for municipalities. *See table* H. 465....2797
Flood response and flood alert systems for municipalities. *See table* H. 470....2798
Local option tax revenue sharing between a town and village. *See table* H. 487....2801
Maximum liability of municipalities for tort claims. *See table* H. 138....2746
Miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response. *See table* H. 397....2787
Municipal ordinances governing nuisance properties containing salvage and scrap. *See table* H. 72....2734
Municipal ordinances governing the maintenance of properties within downtown districts. *See table* H. 109....2741
Pilot projects expanding democratic practices in State and local government. *See table* H. 373....2783
Prohibiting municipal regulation of homelessness and supporting municipal programs to address homelessness. *See table* H. 498....2803
Prohibiting municipal regulation of the use of hygienic face masks. *See table* H. 158....2750
Prohibiting the imposition of convenience fees on online municipal utility payments. *See table* H. 265....2768
Rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure. *See table* H. 447....2794
Refunding property tax overpayments to the City of Barre and to the Town of Milton. *See table* H. 178....2753
Regulating short-term rentals. *See table* H. 242....2764
Requiring municipal corporations to set equalized water and sewer rates throughout the service area. *See table* H. 446....2794
Tax increment financing for flood-impacted communities. *See table* H. 420....2791
Tax increment financing for housing infrastructure. *See table* H. 378....2784
The authority to create a regional council of governments. *See table* H. 421....2791
The City of Barre tax increment financing district. *See table* H. 419....2790
The distribution of local option tax revenue and the PILOT Special Fund. *See table* H. 164....2751

Municipal and County Government, continued
The provision of grants for community nurses and community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities. *See table* H. 140.....2746
The transfer of State-owned property in the Town of Waterbury. *See table* H. 471.....2798
The Vermont Municipal Labor Relations Act. *See table* H. 402.....2788

Municipal Bylaws
Delegation of authority to regulate use of State waters. *See table* H. 283.....2771
Housing. *See table* H. 479.....2799
Municipal ordinances governing the maintenance of properties within downtown districts. *See table* H. 109.....2741

Municipal Charters
Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre. *See table* H. 10.....2722
Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington. *See table* H. 508.....2805
Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington. *See table* H. 59.....2731
Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland. *See table* H. 504.... 2804
Approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre. *See table* H. 505..... 2804
Approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex. *See table* H. 516.....2806
Approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington concerning just cause eviction. *See table* H. 462..... 2797
Approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the possession of firearms. *See table* S. 131.....2815
Approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Winooski. *See table* H. 509.....2805
Approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Charlotte. *See table* H. 506.....2804
Approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Morristown. *See table* H. 17.....2723
Approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton. *See table* H. 364.....2782
Authority over the highways of the Village of Old Bennington. *See table* H. 404....2788
Repealing the charter of the Town of Danville. *See table* H. 510.....2805

Municipal Planning and Development
Development on slopes. *See table* H. 272.....2769

N.

National Guard
An income tax exemption for National Guard active duty subsistence and quarters allowance. *See table* H. 76.....2735
Expanding the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program. *See table* H. 68.....2733
Review of orders placing the Vermont National Guard in federal active duty status. *See table* H. 355.....2781

Native American Affairs
Making State lands available for farming by citizens of State-recognized Native American Indian tribes. *See table* H. 343.....2780
State recognition of Native American tribes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *See table* H. 362.....2782

Natural Resources
Establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources. *See table* H. 86.....2737
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124.....2813
The reintroduction of catamounts to the State of Vermont. *See table* H. 473.....2798

Nelson, Richard M.
Member from Derby (District Orleans-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.....20
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote.....1204
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 85 Introduced.....77
H. 91 Explained vote.....2362
H. 134 Introduced.....103
H. 136 Introduced.....103
H. 150 Introduced.....110
H. 152 Introduced.....111
H. 153 Introduced.....111
H. 159 Introduced.....113
H. 167 Introduced.....121
H. 217 Introduced.....155
H. 229 Introduced.....165
H. 241 Introduced.....167
H. 273 Introduced.....194
H. 274 Introduced.....194
H. 283 Introduced.....196
H. 295 Introduced.....204
H. 303 Introduced.....208
H. 311 Introduced.....215
H. 320 Introduced.....217
H. 371 Introduced.....231
H. 393 Introduced.....236
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 401 Introduced.....288
H. 407 Introduced.....289
H. 426 Introduced.....295
H. 484 Spoke for committee.....675
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.....2414

Nelson, Richard M., continued
H. 493 Demanded Yeas and Nays....758
Explained vote....758
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Moved to journalize the remarks of Rep. Harvey of Castleton....2413
Devotional exercise....1485

Net Metering
Increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration. *See table* S. 50....2810

New Americans
Creating an Office of New Americans. *See table* S. 56....2811
Creating the Office of New Americans Study Committee. *See table* H. 375....2784

Nielsen, Todd
Member from Brandon (District Rutland-9)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services....23
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 61 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 128 Introduced....95
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 247 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 311 Introduced....215

Nielsen, Todd, continued
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Nigro, Michael
Member from Bennington (District Bennington-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House....8
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 295 Introduced....204
H. 321 Recommended for committee....674
H. 371 Introduced....231
H. 401 Introduced....288
S. 27 Recommended for committee....1135
S. 117 Recommended for committee....1499
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

North, Robert "Rob"
Member from Ferrisburgh (District Addison-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 157 Introduced....113
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 260 Introduced....191

North, Robert "Rob," continued
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 342 Explained vote....601
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 493 Explained vote....758
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 50 Moved to amend committee report....1178
S. 127 Moved to amend committee report....2020
Explained vote....2041
Devotional exercise....158, 818

Noyes, Daniel A.
Member from Wolcott (District Lamoille-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services, Clerk....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders....2708
Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant Advisory Committee....2706
Motions, etc.
H. 13 Introduced....38
Reported for committee....173
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 46 Introduced....61
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 120 Introduced....89
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 182 Introduced....135
H. 212 Introduced....144
H. 213 Introduced....145
H. 236 Introduced....166
H. 240 Introduced....167
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 248 Introduced....169

Noyes, Daniel A., continued
H. 269 Introduced....193
H. 285 Introduced....197
H. 350 Introduced....223
H. 380 Introduced....233
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 414 Introduced....291
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
H. 502 Introduced....819
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2091
Moved to withdraw amend....2091
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Nuclear Power
A consortium on nuclear power feasibility. *See table* H. 287....2771

Nugent, Kate
Member from South Burlington (District Chittenden-10)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs....23
Motions, etc.
H. 27 Introduced....42
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 182 Introduced....135
H. 188 Introduced....136
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 215 Introduced....155
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 342 Introduced....222
H. 363 Introduced....230
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 472 Spoke for committee....733
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 496 Introduced....763
Devotional exercise....818

Nuisance
Establishing penalties for keeping or maintaining a common nuisance.
See table H. 435.....2793
Motor vehicle noise, exhaust modifications, and engine compression brakes.
See table S. 66.....2811
Protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities. *See table* H. 407.....2789
Protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities. *See table* S. 45.....2809

Nutrition
Addressing barriers to blenderized tube feeding. *See table* H. 12.....2722

O.

O'Brien, John K.
Member from Tunbridge (District Windsor-Orange-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Vermont Milk Commission.....2705
Motions, etc.
H. 94 Introduced.....79
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 115 Introduced.....88
H. 134 Introduced.....103
H. 208 Introduced.....143
H. 210 Introduced.....143
H. 211 Introduced.....144
H. 217 Introduced.....155
H. 229 Introduced.....165
H. 273 Introduced.....194
H. 303 Introduced.....208
H. 343 Introduced.....222
H. 345 Introduced.....222
H. 372 Introduced.....231
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 401 Introduced.....288
H. 417 Introduced.....292
H. 475 Introduced.....398
H. 476 Introduced.....398
H. 477 Introduced.....398
H. 478 Introduced.....398
H. 502 Introduced.....819
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment.....2037
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise.....683

Ode, Carol
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-18)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means..... 24
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Ethics Panel..... 45
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)..... 62
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Trustee (2025 Jt. Assembly)
Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future..... 190
Motions, etc.
H. 1 Introduced..... 35
H. 43 Introduced..... 57
H. 74 Introduced..... 73
H. 93 Introduced..... 79
H. 112 Introduced..... 86
H. 113 Introduced..... 87
H. 147 Introduced..... 108
H. 164 Introduced..... 120
H. 181 Introduced..... 134
H. 208 Introduced..... 143
H. 210 Introduced..... 143
H. 211 Introduced..... 144
H. 288 Introduced..... 203
H. 303 Introduced..... 208
H. 317 Introduced..... 216
H. 319 Recommended for committee..... 662
H. 376 Introduced..... 232
H. 397 Introduced..... 237
H. 426 Introduced..... 295
H. 432 Introduced..... 296
H. 454 Explained vote..... 1078
H. 481 Recommended for committee..... 701
H. 517 Introduced..... 1549
S. 12 Recommended for committee..... 1782
H.R. 6 Offered 210
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise..... 818

Older Vermonters
Continuing care retirement communities. *See table* H. 496..... 2803
Requirements for older drivers to renew operator's licenses and for the operation of motor homes. *See table* H. 284..... 2771
The Vermont Commission on Aging. *See table* H. 414..... 2790

Oliver, Jr., Thomas "Tom"
Member from Sheldon (District Franklin-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary 23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee..... 15
Joint Committee on Judicial Retention, Clerk..... 62

Oliver, Jr., Thomas "Tom," continued
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 364 Introduced....230
H. 411 Introduced....290
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 448 Introduced....299
H. 487 Introduced....444
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 9 Reported for committee....804

Olson, Herb
Member from Starksboro (District Addison-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development....21
Motions, etc.
Prop 3 Explained vote....1204
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 137 Introduced....104
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 163 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 185 Introduced....135

Olson, Herb, continued
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 206 Reported for committee....386
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 245 Introduced....168
H. 246 Introduced....168
H. 248 Explained vote....1459
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 277 Introduced....195
H. 278 Introduced....195
H. 279 Introduced....195
H. 280 Introduced....195
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 291 Introduced....203
H. 292 Introduced....204
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 306 Introduced....208
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 342 Moved to amend bill....764
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 422 Introduced....293
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report....949
Moved to amend committee report....950
Moved to withdraw amend....952
Explained vote....1078
Explained vote....2674
S. 127 Explained vote....2039
Explained vote....2041
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
A.E. 1 Explained vote....126

Open Meetings
Amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law. *See table* S. 59....2811
State recognition of Native American tribes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *See table* H. 362....2782
The deadline for public bodies to respond to an alleged Open Meeting Law violation. *See table* H. 501....2803
The disruption of proceedings governed by Vermont's Open Meeting Law. *See table* H. 145....2747

Operator's License
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123.....2813
Operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards.
See table H. 351.....2781
Requirements for older drivers to renew operator's licenses and for the operation of motor homes. *See table* H. 284.....2771

Optometry
Amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists. *See table* H. 241.....2764

P.

Page, Woodman H. "Woody"
Member from Newport City (District Orleans-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care.....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....15
Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board.....818
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 64 Introduced.....70
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 71 Introduced.....72
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 76 Introduced.....74
H. 80 Introduced.....76
Moved to amend committee report.....589
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 89 Introduced.....78
H. 92 Introduced.....79
H. 93 Introduced.....79
H. 96 Introduced.....83
H. 103 Introduced.....84
H. 104 Introduced.....85
H. 109 Introduced.....86
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 113 Introduced.....87
H. 116 Introduced.....89
H. 139 Introduced.....104
H. 152 Introduced.....111
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 180 Introduced.....134
H. 237 Introduced.....166
H. 241 Introduced.....167

Page, Woodman H. "Woody," continued
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 367 Introduced....230
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 27 Reported for committee....1131
Moved to amend committee report....1135
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 7 Offered....703
Devotional exercise....800

Parental Rights
Nondiscrimination concerning a parent with a disability. *See table* H. 315....2776
Parental rights and responsibilities. *See table* H. 369....2783
Termination of parental rights in an adoption proceeding. *See table* H. 7....2722

Pages Honored
Peter Burkholder of Barnard....159
Salvador Doyle of Montpelier
Lucy Hakim of Shelburne
Daphne Krohn of South Burlington
Dean Roy of Stowe
Hayley Sherman of East Montpelier
Henry Smith of Shelburne
Skyler Barnard of Montpelier....807
Molly Despathy of Danville
Cecilia Huling of Thetford
Elliot Olstad of Lincoln
Mary Rogerson of Cabot
Heidi Thompson of Reading
Emanuel Van Fleet of Worcester
Austen N. Boulanger of South Burlington....1727
Eleanor Brady of Williston
Atticus Lawler of East Montpelier
Braeden Schuren Burns of Montpelier
Naomi Isla Segal of Woodstock
Oscar Vulte of Brattleboro
Alex Young-Springer of Burlington

Parsons, Joseph
Member from Newbury (District Orange-Caledonia)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 73 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 308 Introduced....209
H. 397 Moved to amend bill....752
Moved to withdraw amend....752
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037

Patient Choice at End of Life
Clinician participation in patient choice at end of life and DNR/COLST orders.
See table H. 75....2734

Pesticides
Application of neonicotinoid pesticides to nursery starts and herbaceous plants.
See table H. 372....2783
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* H. 484....2800
The regulation of the use of rodenticides. *See table* H. 326....2777

Pezzo, Gayle
Member from Colchester (District Chittenden-20)
Committee, House Standing:
General and Housing....22
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143

Pezzo, Gayle, continued
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 496 Introduced....763
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198

PFAS
Drinking water standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *See table* H. 286....2771
Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting personal protective equipment and station wear. *See table* H. 250....2765
The land application and sale of biosolids containing PFAS. *See table* H. 292....2772
The phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *See table* H. 238....2763

Pharmacies
Prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers from owning or operating a pharmacy in Vermont. *See table* H. 156....2749

Physical Therapy
Health insurance and Medicaid coverage for physical therapy services. *See table* H. 271....2769

Pilot Programs
Establishing a community health center pilot program. *See table* H. 184....2754
Pilot projects expanding democratic practices in State and local government. *See table* H. 373....2783
The permitting of pilot or demonstration projects to treat or destroy emerging contaminants. *See table* H. 152....2748

Pinsonault, Sandra H. "Sandy"
Member from Dorset (District Bennington-Rutland)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 93 Introduced....79

Pinsonault, Sandra "Sandy," continued
H. 139 Introduced....104
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 504 Reported for committee....1419
H. 505 Reported for committee....1199
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Pledge of Allegiance
Page Skyler Barnard of Montpelier....426
Page Austen N. Boulanger of South Burlington....812
Page Eleanor Brady of Williston....1087
Page Peter Burkholder of Barnard....82
Page Braeden Schuren Burns of Montpelier....1412
Page Molly Despathy of Danville....306
Page Salvador Doyle of Montpelier....82
Page Lucy Hakim of Shelburne....60
Page Cecilia Huling of Thetford....163
Page Daphne Krohn of South Burlington....102
Page Atticus Lawler of East Montpelier....1087
Page Elliot Olstad of Lincoln....781
Page Mary Rogerson of Cabot....163
Page Dean Roy of Stowe....132
Page Naomi Isla Segal of Woodstock....1140
Page Hayley Sherman of East Montpelier....102
Page Henry Smith of Shelburne....60
Page Heidi S. Thompson of Reading....683
Page Manny Van Fleet of Worcester....215
Page Oscar Vulte of Brattleboro....1504
Page Alex Young-Springer of Burlington....1170
Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas....1
Speaker Jill Krowinski of Burlington....45, 1812, 2051, 2565

Points of Order

H. 454 An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems
Rep. McCann of Montpelier objection that committee of conference report was unconfined (*Mason's* Sec. 771-2) ruled well-taken by the Speaker.....2662

S.50 An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration
Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland objection that amendment repealing Clean Heat Standard was not germane to the bill (*Mason's* Sec. 402) ruled well-taken by the Speaker.....1179

S.127 An act relating to housing and housing development
Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland objection that amendment regulating land use was not germane to the bill (*Mason's* Sec. 402) ruled well-taken by the Speaker..... 2022

Political Parties
Setting the date of biennial party caucuses. *See table* H. 449..... 2795

Postsecondary Education
Assistance for room and board at a Vermont postsecondary school for students served by foster or kinship care. *See table* H. 15..... 2723
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480.....2800
Raising awareness of military-related postsecondary opportunities. *See table* H. 87.....2737
Student freedom of expression rights in school-sponsored media in approved independent schools and postsecondary schools. *See table* H. 497.....2803
Supports to help students experiencing homelessness and students exiting the foster care system succeed in postsecondary educational institutions. *See table* H. 246.....2765
The creation of the Free Degree Promise Grant Program for the Community College of Vermont. *See table* H. 297.....2773

Pouech, Phil
Member from Hinesburg (District Chittenden-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation, Ranking Member.....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 123..... 2250
Motions, etc.
H. 40 Introduced.....56
H. 42 Introduced.....57
H. 53 Introduced.....66
H. 54 Introduced.....66
H. 77 Introduced.....74
H. 97 Introduced.....83
H. 107 Introduced.....85
H. 112 Introduced..... 86
H. 132 Introduced..... 102
H. 136 Introduced..... 103
H. 151 Introduced..... 111
H. 153 Introduced..... 111

Pouech, Phil, continued
H. 154 Introduced.... 112
H. 155 Introduced.... 112
H. 169 Introduced.... 122
H. 180 Introduced.... 134
H. 181 Introduced.... 134
H. 191 Introduced.... 139
H. 208 Introduced.... 143
H. 210 Introduced.... 143
H. 211 Introduced.... 144
H. 227 Introduced.... 164
H. 233 Introduced.... 165
H. 239 Introduced.... 167
H. 255 Introduced.... 171
H. 270 Introduced.... 193
H. 281 Introduced.... 196
H. 283 Introduced.... 196
H. 284 Introduced.... 196
H. 295 Introduced.... 204
H. 296 Introduced.... 205
H. 356 Introduced.... 228
H. 371 Introduced.... 231
H. 376 Introduced.... 232
H. 397 Introduced.... 237
H. 417 Introduced.... 292
H. 418 Introduced.... 292
H. 425 Introduced.... 293
H. 426 Introduced.... 295
H. 433 Introduced.... 296
H. 440 Introduced.... 298
H. 460 Introduced.... 307
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise.... 163

Powers, Debra Lynn "Debbie"
Member from Waterford (District Caledonia-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Health Care.... 23
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.... 38
H. 32 Introduced.... 44
H. 39 Introduced.... 54
H. 43 Introduced.... 57
H. 57 Introduced.... 67
H. 60 Introduced.... 68
H. 61 Introduced.... 68
H. 62 Introduced.... 69
H. 65 Introduced.... 70
H. 69 Introduced.... 71

Powers, Debra Lynn "Debbie," continued
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 80 Moved to amend committee report....589
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 89 Introduced....78
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 266 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1910
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
S. 27 Moved to amend committee report....1135
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Prescription Drugs
Establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and gender-affirming care. *See table* H. 56....2730
Increasing the transparency of prescription drug costs and spending. *See table* H. 202....2756
Prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists. *See table* H. 237....2763
Prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program. *See table* H. 305....2774
The 340B prescription drug pricing program. *See table* H. 266....2768

Prevailing Wages
Labor requirements for certain energy projects. *See table* H. 327....2777

Priestley, Monique
Member from Bradford (District Orange-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development, Clerk....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee, Vice Chair....119
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Trustee (2023 Jt. Assembly)
Motions, etc.
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 34 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 40 Introduced....56
H. 42 Introduced....57
H. 43 Introduced....57

Priestley, Monique, continued
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 63 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 96 Introduced....83
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 99 Introduced....84
H. 102 Introduced....84
H. 107 Introduced....85
H. 124 Introduced....94
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 160 Introduced....119
H. 161 Introduced....120
H. 163 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 190 Introduced....136
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 223 Introduced....159
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 239 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 257 Introduced....190
H. 260 Introduced....191
H. 261 Introduced....191
H. 262 Introduced....191
H. 263 Introduced....191
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 281 Introduced....196
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 302 Introduced....207
H. 318 Introduced....217
H. 332 Introduced....219
H. 333 Introduced....220

Priestley, Monique, continued
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 340 Introduced....221
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 342 Introduced....222
Reported for committee....596
Explained vote....601
Moved to amend bill....764
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 356 Introduced....228
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 366 Introduced....230
H. 371 Introduced....231
H. 376 Introduced....232
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 387 Introduced....235
H. 388 Introduced....235
H. 389 Introduced....235
H. 390 Introduced....235
H. 391 Introduced....235
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 398 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 443 Introduced....298
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
H. 520 Introduced....1813
S. 69 Explained vote....1929
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
Explained vote....2039
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Pritchard, Christopher A. "Chris"
Member from Pawlet (District Rutland-Bennington)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment....22
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 64 Introduced....70

Pritchard, Christopher A. "Chris," continued
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Privacy
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28....2808
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69....2811
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* H. 208....2757
Consumer data privacy and online surveillance. *See table* S. 71....2812
Data brokers and personal information. *See table* H. 211....2759
Neurological rights. *See table* H. 366....2782
Privacy protections for mobile identification. *See table* H. 360....2782
Protecting the personal information of certain public servants. *See table* H. 342....2779
The disclosure of transactions involving personally identifiable information. *See table* H. 391....2786

Professions and Occupations
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28....2808
Amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists. *See table* H. 241....2764
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services. *See table* S. 53....2810
Certification of community-based perinatal doulas. *See table* H. 79....2735
Professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation. *See table* H. 472....2798
Social worker licensure requirements. *See table* H. 322....2777

Professions and Occupations, continued
The expedited issuance of professional licenses for practicing, qualified out-of-state applicants. *See table* H. 442.....2794
The licensure of early childhood educators. *See table* H. 182.....2754
Vermont's adoption of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. *See table* H. 47.....2729
Vermont's adoption of the Dietician Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 296.....2773
Vermont's adoption of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 325.....2777

Prohibited Products
Prohibiting certain substances in food manufactured, sold, or distributed in Vermont. *See table* H. 260.....2767
Prohibiting the manufacture and transfer of gas-operated semiautomatic firearms. *See table* H. 381.....2784
Prohibiting the sale or distribution of glitter containing intentionally added synthetic polymers. *See table* H. 345.....2780
The regulation of kratom products. *See table* H. 416.....2790

Property
Deed restrictions and renewable energy devices. *See table* H. 127.....2744
Municipal ordinances governing the maintenance of properties within downtown districts. *See table* H. 109.....2741
Prohibiting deed restrictions or covenants that prohibit use of property for commercial or industrial purposes. *See table* H. 306.....2774
The transfer of property to a trust. *See table* H. 23.....2724
The transfer of property to a trust. *See table* S. 3.....2807

Property Taxes
A tax on vacant properties. *See table* H. 443.....2794
Homestead declarations and the property tax credit. *See table* H. 486.....2801
Refunding property tax overpayments to the City of Barre and to the Town of Milton. *See table* H. 178.....2753
Setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate. *See table* H. 491.....2802

Prostitution
Voluntary engagement in sex work. *See table* H. 190.....2755

Psychology
Prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists. *See table* H. 237.....2763
Vermont's adoption of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. *See table* H. 325.....2777

Public Accommodations
Amending the prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations and housing. *See table* H. 169.....2752
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127.....2814

Public Assistance
Establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 214.....2759
Excluding veterans' disability benefits from income-based eligibility determinations for public assistance programs or benefits. *See table* H. 104.....2740
Expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations. *See table* H. 114.....2742
Prohibited practices for services involving veterans' benefits. *See table* H. 103.....2740
Supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. *See table* H. 248.....2765
Universal basic income payments for homeless and runaway youth. *See table* H. 195.....2755
Universal basic income payments for youth exiting foster care. *See table* H. 126....2744

Public Buildings
Prohibiting possession of firearms in government buildings. *See table* H. 368.....2783

Public Property
Approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton. *See table* H. 364.....2782
Naming State buildings and facilities after individuals. *See table* H. 406.....2789
The Southeast State Correctional Facility natural areas. *See table* H. 513.....2805

Public Records
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28.....2808
Access to information concerning benefit extension agreements for employees of public agencies. *See table* H. 22.....2724
Charging for actual cost under Vermont's Public Records Act. *See table* H. 502.....2803
Payroll records of workers on State construction projects. *See table* H. 335.....2778

Public Safety
A voluntary license to purchase firearms. *See table* H. 383.....2785
Automated license plate recognition systems. *See table* H. 500.....2803
Firearms storage. *See table* H. 83.....2736
Flood response and assistance programs for flood resilient infrastructure improvements. *See table* H. 468.....2798
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789
Reinstating the waiting period exemption for firearms transfers at gun shows. *See table* H. 150.....2748
Requiring the use of personal flotation devices during cold weather. *See table* H. 187.....2754
The establishment of the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program. *See table* H. 307.....2774

Public Schools
Computer science in Vermont's public schools. *See table* H. 318.....2776
Counteracting federal discriminatory mandates. *See table* H. 53.....2729
Tuition charged by public schools. *See table* H. 199.....2756

Public Servants
Protecting the personal information of certain public servants. *See table* H. 342..... 2779

Public Service
A thermal efficiency benefits charge. *See table* H. 354.....2781
Renewable energy generation. *See table* H. 394.....2786
Updates to the State energy policy. *See table* H. 353.....2781

Public Service Department
Affordable broadband service. *See table* H. 121.....2743
Repealing the Affordable Heat Act. *See table* H. 16.....2723
Repealing the Renewable Energy Standard. *See table* H. 159.....2750

Public Transportation
Establishing increased criminal penalties for an assault of a public transit worker. *See table* H. 255.....2767
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488.....2801
Transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions. *See table* H. 426..... 2792

Public Utility Commission
A prohibition on utility disconnections during periods of extreme heat. *See table* H. 88.....2737
A thermal efficiency benefits charge. *See table* H. 354.....2781
Affordable broadband service. *See table* H. 121.....2743
Energy efficiency utility jurisdiction. *See table* H. 196.....2756
Establishing a thermal benefits charge. *See table* H. 224.....2761
Increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration. *See table* S. 50.....2810
Labor requirements for certain energy projects. *See table* H. 327.....2777
Repealing the Affordable Heat Act. *See table* H. 16.....2723
Repealing the Renewable Energy Standard. *See table* H. 159.....2750
Sharing the costs of electric grid upgrades. *See table* H. 279.....2770
The Renewable Energy for Communities Program. *See table* H. 352.....2781
The Standard Offer Program. *See table* H. 155.....2749

Q.

Quimby, Beth M.
Member from Lyndon (District Caledonia-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Education.....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel.....45
School District Redistricting Task Force.....2705
Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House.....8
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 62 Introduced.....69

Quimby, Beth M., continued
H. 64 Introduced....70
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 454 Introduced....301
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
H.R. 7 Offered....703

R.

Rachelson, Barbara
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-14)
Committee, House Standing:
Judiciary....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Judicial Nominating Board....58
Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules, Chair....106
Motions, etc.
H. 2 Introduced....35
H. 4 Introduced....36
H. 18 Introduced....39
H. 25 Introduced....40
H. 27 Reported for committee....93
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 98 Introduced....83
H. 108 Introduced....86
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 148 Introduced....108
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 176 Introduced....133
H. 181 Introduced....134
H. 189 Introduced....136
H. 190 Introduced....136
H. 191 Introduced....139

Rachelson, Barbara, continued
H. 192 Introduced....139
H. 193 Introduced....139
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 201 Introduced....141
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 218 Explained vote....749
H. 221 Introduced....159
H. 222 Introduced....159
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 244 Introduced....168
H. 258 Introduced....190
H. 268 Introduced....193
H. 270 Introduced....193
H. 299 Introduced....206
H. 322 Introduced....217
H. 329 Introduced....219
H. 331 Introduced....219
H. 346 Introduced....223
H. 377 Introduced....232
H. 381 Introduced....233
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 490 Introduced....606
H. 496 Introduced....763
H. 500 Introduced....782
S. 36 Moved to amend House prop of amend....1165
S. 109 Reported for committee....1783
Moved to amend committee report....1804
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Racial and Social Equity
Promoting racial and economic justice. *See table* H. 451....2795
The Office of Racial Equity. *See table* H. 357....2781

Railroads and Rail Trails
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488....2801

Ranked-Choice Voting
Ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections. *See table* H. 313....2775
Town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting. *See table* H. 363....2782

Rare Diseases
The Rare Disease Advisory Council. *See table* H. 46....2728

Reach Up
Reach Up grant calculation. *See table* H. 131.....2745

Real Property
Establishing the Recreational Trails Compensation Study Committee. *See table* H. 147.....2747
Selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area. *See table* H. 106..2741

Reckord, Courtney
Appointed by the House Clerk (Second Assistant Clerk).....11

Records
Allowing telehealth appointments to be recorded with patient and provider consent. *See table* H. 84.....2736
Sealing criminal history records. *See table* S. 12.....2807
The creation and maintenance of a database of veterans in Vermont. *See table* H. 93.....2738

Recount of Election
Prohibiting the appointment of interested parties to a recount committee. *See table* H. 450.....2795

Recycling
The beverage container redemption system. *See table* H. 119.....2743
The collection and recycling of waste motor vehicle tires. *See table* H. 204.....2757

Regional Planning
Compliance with the environmental justice State policy. *See table* H. 328.....2777
The authority to create a regional council of governments. *See table* H. 421.....2791

Regulated Drugs
Decriminalization of psilocybin-containing mushrooms and the establishment of the Psilocybin Therapeutic Consultation Program. *See table* H. 452.....2795
Funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply. *See table* H. 189.....2755
Removal of court discretion in sentencing a defendant for selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting. *See table* H. 186.....2754
Repeal of authorization of overdose prevention centers. *See table* H. 39.....2727
The regulation of kratom products. *See table* H. 416.....2790
Unlawful drug activity in a dwelling by a person who is not a legal tenant. *See table* H. 128.....2744

Regulatory Provisions
Prohibiting municipal regulation of the use of hygienic face masks. *See table* H. 158.....2750
Prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers from owning or operating a pharmacy in Vermont. *See table* H. 156.....2749
Repealing the three-acre stormwater permit. *See table* H. 162.....2750

Regulatory Provisions, continued
The Commissioner of Financial Regulation and an annual supervision and regulation report. *See table* H. 124.....2744
The regulation of business organizations. *See table* H. 243.....2764

Reimbursement Rates
Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer. *See table* H. 482.....2800
Minimum reimbursement rates for labor related to automobile insurance claims. *See table* H. 384.....2785

Relief from Abuse Orders
Stalking through the use of tracking technology. *See table* H. 223.....2761

Renewable Generation
Affordable climate initiatives. *See table* H. 289.....2772
Renewable energy generation. *See table* H. 394.....2786
The Renewable Energy for Communities Program. *See table* H. 352.....2781
The Standard Offer Program. *See table* H. 155.....2749

Rental Housing
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127.....2814
Housing. *See table* H. 479.....2799
Providing protections against no-cause eviction. *See table* H. 440.....2793
Restricting the use of artificial intelligence to affect rental housing pricing and availability. *See table* H. 389.....2785
Tenant rights. *See table* H. 399.....2788

Reporting
A plan on energy storage development. *See table* H. 278.....2770
Annual reporting on health care sharing plans and arrangements. *See table* H. 102.....2740
Data collection in the criminal justice system. *See table* H. 382.....2784
Health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements. *See table* H. 293.....2772
Reporting on adverse reactions related to immunizations. *See table* H. 69.....2733
Reporting on the energy transition. *See table* H. 125.....2744
Reports or complaints of sex offenses or sexual harassment. *See table* H. 107.....2741
The Commissioner of Financial Regulation and an annual supervision and regulation report. *See table* H. 124.....2744

Reproductive Health Care
Access to certain legally protected health care services. *See table* S. 28.....2808
Coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 55.....2730
Establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and gender-affirming care. *See table* H. 56.....2730
Establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services. *See table* H. 214.....2759
Expanding Dr. Dynasaur income eligibility for pregnant individuals and exploring eligibility expansions for other populations. *See table* H. 114.....2742

Reproductive Health Care, continued
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* H. 40.....2727
Licensure of freestanding birth centers. *See table* S. 18.....2808

Resolutions—Concurrent

Celebrating
Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Arts Exchange and its collaborative artistic endeavors. *See table* H.C.R. 79.....2837
Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the first piece of art for the Art in State Buildings Program. *See table* H.C.R. 145.....2853
Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End. *See table* H.C.R. 137.....2851
Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first class at Landmark College and extending best wishes for continued academic success. *See table* H.C.R. 71. 2835
Celebrating the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designating April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 68.....2835
Celebrating the role of tourism in the Vermont economy and designating April 10, 2025 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 66.....2834

Commemorating
Commemorating May 9, 2025 as the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's arrival in Castleton in association with the War for Independence. *See table* H.C.R. 72.....2835
Commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department. *See table* H.C.R. 149.....2853
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga. *See table* H.C.R. 67.....2834
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy. *See table* H.C.R. 147.....2853
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the March 13, 1775 Westminster Massacre. *See table* H.C.R. 35.....2828
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and honoring the U.S. Army veterans in residence at the Vermont Veterans' Home. *See table* H.C.R. 140.....2852
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps. *See table* H.C.R. 144.....2852
Commemorating the 25th anniversary of Act 91 of 2000, establishing Vermont as the first state to legalize civil unions. *See table* H.C.R. 127.....2849
Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. *See table* H.C.R. 129.....2850
Commemorating the 30th anniversary of Garlic Town U.S.A., a celebration of "flavor, community, and tradition". *See table* H.C.R. 125.....2849
Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Music Division at Bennington College. *See table* H.C.R. 62.....2832

Resolutions—Concurrent; Commemorating, continued
Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the Vietnam War. *See table* H.C.R. 116.....2846
Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities. *See table* H.C.R. 146.....2853
Commemorating the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette. *See table* H.C.R. 130.....2850
Commemorating the establishment of the Austine School for the Deaf collection and exhibit at the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre. *See table* H.C.R. 103.....2842

Congratulating and Honoring
Congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship. *See table* H.C.R. 150.....2853
Congratulating Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver of Winooski High School on her selection as the 2025 Vermont Teacher of the Year and Jeremy DeMink of Edmunds Middle School in Burlington and Sonya Shedd of Wolcott Elementary School on their recognition as Distinguished Finalists. *See table* H.C.R. 64.....2833
Congratulating Capital City Concerts and Karen Kevra for a quarter century of delightful and informative classical music performances and related cultural endeavors in central Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 112.....2844
Congratulating Casella Waste Systems, Inc. on the company's 50th anniversary. *See table* H.C.R. 151.....2854
Congratulating Essex Middle School science teacher Andrew Kasprisin on his designation as the 2025 Vermont finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. *See table* H.C.R. 117.....2846
Congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday. *See table* H.C.R. 15.....2825
Congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal. *See table* H.C.R. 26.....2827
Congratulating Kathleen Lynch of Burlington on being named as the 2025 Vermont Mother of the Year. *See table* H.C.R. 93.....2840
Congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership. *See table* H.C.R. 41.....2829
Congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud. *See table* H.C.R. 136.....2851
Congratulating Meara Seery of Brattleboro on being named Miss Vermont 2024. *See table* H.C.R. 37.....2828
Congratulating Montgomery runner Elinor Purrier St. Pierre on her outstanding athletic achievement at the 2024 Paris Olympics. *See table* H.C.R. 29.....2827
Congratulating Phoenix Newell on winning two consecutive Vermont State Spelling Bees. *See table* H.C.R. 101.....2842
Congratulating Ronald Loomis on his receipt of the 2025 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award. *See table* H.C.R. 153.....2854
Congratulating the 2024 8–10 Colchester All-Star Vermont championship Little League Baseball team. *See table* H.C.R. 102.....2842

Resolutions—Concurrent; Congratulating and Honoring, continued
Congratulating the 2024 Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax High School Bullets Division III championship baseball team. *See table* H.C.R. 28..... 2827
Congratulating the 2024 Enosburg Falls High School Hornets Division II championship softball team. *See table* H.C.R. 3..... 2822
Congratulating the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team. *See table* H.C.R. 7..... 2823
Congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts. *See table* H.C.R. 83..... 2838
Congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Union High School Chieftains Division III championship boys soccer team. *See table* H.C.R. 34..... 2828
Congratulating the 2024 Milton High School Yellowjackets girls' soccer team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship. *See table* H.C.R. 6..... 2823
Congratulating the 2024 Missisquoi Valley Union High School Thunderbirds Division I championship softball team. *See table* H.C.R. 2..... 2822
Congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Division IV championship girls' soccer team. *See table* H.C.R. 4..... 2822
Congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Falcons Division IV championship boys' track and field team. *See table* H.C.R. 1..... 2822
Congratulating the 2024 Richford Junior-Senior High School Rockets Division IV championship softball team. *See table* H.C.R. 5..... 2823
Congratulating the 2024 Spirit of the ADA Award winners. *See table* H.C.R. 126..... 2849
Congratulating the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup). *See table* H.C.R. 12..... 2824
Congratulating the 2025 Boys & Girls Clubs of Vermont Youth of the Year honorees. *See table* H.C.R. 74..... 2836
Congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' basketball team. *See table* H.C.R. 91..... 2840
Congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship girls' basketball team. *See table* H.C.R. 90..... 2839
Congratulating the 2025 Danville High School Bears Division IV championship boys' basketball team. *See table* H.C.R. 115..... 2844
Congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship. *See table* H.C.R. 45..... 2830
Congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship girls' ice hockey team. *See table* H.C.R. 98..... 2841
Congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets girls' gymnastics team on winning a second consecutive State championship. *See table* H.C.R. 75..... 2836
Congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship. *See table* H.C.R. 89..... 2839
Congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team. *See table* H.C.R. 82..... 2838
Congratulating the 2025 Montpelier High School Solons Division II girls' Nordic championship ski team. *See table* H.C.R. 86..... 2838

Resolutions—Concurrent; Congratulating and Honoring, continued
Congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars boys' Division I championship Nordic ski team. *See table* H.C.R. 99..... 2841
Congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars dance program on winning a 10th consecutive hip-hop State championship. *See table* H.C.R. 106.....2843
Congratulating the 2025 Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division I championship girls' Nordic ski team. *See table* H.C.R. 100.....2841
Congratulating the 2025 North Country Union High School Falcons' exemplary snowboarding teams. *See table* H.C.R. 85..... 2838
Congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy inductees into the National Technical Honor Society. *See table* H.C.R. 88.....2839
Congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II boys' championship indoor track and field team. *See table* H.C.R. 43.....2829
Congratulating the Bennington Free Library on its 160th anniversary. *See table* H.C.R. 124.....2849
Congratulating the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market on its 50th anniversary. *See table* H.C.R. 139.....2852
Congratulating the Brattleboro Food Co-op on its 50th anniversary and extending best future wishes. *See table* H.C.R. 63.....2832
Congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball program on winning a fourth consecutive State championship. *See table* H.C.R. 46.....2830
Congratulating the Montpelier High School Solons boys' basketball program on winning a fifth consecutive Division II championship. *See table* H.C.R. 87.....2839
Congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School Patriot wrestling program on winning its 36th consecutive State championship. *See table* H.C.R. 84.....2838
Congratulating the Oak Meadow homeschool curriculum developer and distance learning school on its 50th anniversary and extending best wishes for the future. *See table* H.C.R. 119.....2847
Congratulating the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home. *See table* H.C.R. 14.....2824
Congratulating the remarkable four-time State high school individual girls' golf champion Namo Seibert. *See table* H.C.R. 108..... 2843
Congratulating the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights boys' ice hockey team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship. *See table* H.C.R. 107.....2843
Congratulating the Rutland High School cheerleading program on winning a record 11th consecutive Division I championship. *See table* H.C.R. 121..... 2847
Congratulating the South Burlington Chapter of Rotary International on 40 years of exemplary community service and professional camaraderie. *See table* H.C.R. 109.....2843
Congratulating the Southern State Correctional Facility's debate team on its National Prison Debate League victory over Wake Forest University. *See table* H.C.R. 97.....2841
Congratulating the Thetford Academy Panthers Division III boys' basketball team on their second consecutive championship. *See table* H.C.R. 96..... 2841
Congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship. *See table* H.C.R. 132.....2850

Resolutions—Concurrent; Congratulating and Honoring, continued
Congratulating the winning teams at the 2025 Jr Iron Chef VT competition. *See table* H.C.R. 113 2844
Congratulating Tyler Riggs of Fletcher on the Vermont Forest Products Association naming him Vermont's Outstanding Sawmill Operator 2024. *See table* H.C.R. 94 2840
Congratulating Vermonter Noah Dines on establishing a new one-year world vertical skiing record of 3,590,097 feet. *See table* H.C.R. 19 2825
Congratulating West Rutland High School girls' basketball standout Peyton Guay and extending to her best wishes for every future success. *See table* H.C.R. 133 2850
Congratulating Westgate Housing Inc. of Brattleboro on the nonprofit corporation's 25th anniversary. *See table* H.C.R. 131 2850
Honoring Anthony P. Romeo on his 70th birthday. *See table* H.C.R. 52 2831
Honoring Cassandra Polhemus for her exemplary leadership of the Vermont Economic Development Authority. *See table* H.C.R. 134 2851
Honoring Charlotte Board of Civil Authority Chair, and Ski and Ride Program Coordinator Michael Krasnow. *See table* H.C.R. 36 2828
Honoring Christine J. Brock for her 52 years of dedicated public service on the staff of the Vermont Judiciary. *See table* H.C.R. 138 2851
Honoring criminal defense and personal injury attorney and Thetford Academy indoor track coach Charles Buttrey of Thetford. *See table* H.C.R. 33 2828
Honoring Deborah J. Aldrich for 42 years of extraordinary municipal public service in the Town of Chester. *See table* H.C.R. 114 2844
Honoring dedicated Jamaica community leader and volunteer Clara Robinson. *See table* H.C.R. 38 2829
Honoring esteemed Bennington Rural Firefighter Timothy Burgess. *See table* H.C.R. 135 2851
Honoring former Killington Town Clerk and Treasurer Lucrecia Wonsor for her insightful municipal government leadership. *See table* H.C.R. 32 2828
Honoring former Pawlet First Constable David Ricard Sr. for his outstanding municipal public service. *See table* H.C.R. 143 2852
Honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program. *See table* H.C.R. 27 2827
Honoring Linda E. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse. *See table* H.C.R. 59 2832
Honoring Louis Lamphere on his receipt of the gubernatorial Rays of Kindness recognition. *See table* H.C.R. 51 2830
Honoring Megan Humphrey for her outstanding leadership of HANDS. *See table* H.C.R. 53 2831
Honoring Oxbow Union High School CoPrincipal and Gather author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich. *See table* H.C.R. 42 2829
Honoring Robin Lunge for her dedicated public service in Vermont State government. *See table* H.C.R. 76 2836
Honoring Shaun Murphy of Guilford for his nearly quarter century of exemplary educational governance public service. *See table* H.C.R. 123 2848
Honoring Silas R. Loomis for his more than half century of extraordinary municipal public service as the esteemed Castleton First Constable. *See table* H.C.R. 152 2854

Resolutions—Concurrent; Congratulating and Honoring, continued
Honoring Steven D. Faccio of Strafford for his inspiring leadership as a conservation biologist. *See table* H.C.R. 142.....2852
Honoring the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces. *See table* H.C.R. 17.....2825
Honoring the Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto for his extraordinary creativity, collaborative artistic leadership, and nomination for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. *See table* H.C.R. 80.....2837
Honoring the outstanding achievements of the Federal TRIO Programs in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 92.....2840
Honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and the Vermont theatrical youth ensembles now staging exhilarating teen performances. *See table* H.C.R. 9.....2824
Honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and Montpelier High School's role in the Washington County teen performances. *See table* H.C.R. 20.....2826
Honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world class fiber optic service to rural communities. *See table* H.C.R. 18.....2825

Designating
Designating April 10, 2025 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 70.....2835
Designating April 10, 2025 as Museums and Libraries Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 73.....2836
Designating April 18, 2025 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 56.....2831
Designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 69.....2835
Designating April 2025 as Black Maternal Care Awareness Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 110.....2843
Designating April 24, 2025 as Vermont Children's Alliance Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 95.....2841
Designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 22.....2826
Designating February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 24.....2826
Designating February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 23.....2826
Designating February 19, 2025 as Recovery Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 39.....2829
Designating February 20, 2025 as NEK Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 40.....2829
Designating February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 10.....2824
Designating January 29, 2025 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 8.....2823
Designating March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House. *See table* H.C.R. 60.....2832
Designating May 18, 2025 as Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 111.....2844

Resolutions—Concurrent; Designating, continued
Designating May 6, 2025 as Homelessness Awareness Day in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 128.....2850

In Memory of
In memory of distinguished Vermont attorney Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington.
See table H.C.R. 148.....2853
In memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie.
See table H.C.R. 11.....2824
In memory of former Bakersfield Select Board member Brenda Churchill.
See table H.C.R. 81.....2837
In memory of former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin. *See table* H.C.R. 16.....2825
In memory of former Representative and Secretary of Administration Kathleen C. Hoyt of Norwich. *See table* H.C.R. 78.....2836
In memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington.
See table H.C.R. 48.....2830
In memory of former Representative, Governor, and Interim University of Vermont President Thomas Paul Salmon. *See table* H.C.R. 54.....2831
In memory of former Representative, House Republican Leader, and Milton Town Manager Donald H. Turner Jr.. *See table* H.C.R. 30.....2827
In memory of former University of Vermont associate professor, poet, and community leader Mary Jane Dickerson. *See table* H.C.R. 31.....2827
In memory of the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher of Winooski. *See table* H.C.R. 13.....2824
In memory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer Edward M. Hathaway. *See table* H.C.R. 141.....2852

Recognizing
Commending Team Trumie and Truman Compton for their advocacy, community engagement, and fostering of public awareness and acceptance of autism.
See table H.C.R. 118.....2847
Expressing strong appreciation for the essential role of Vermont's school board members in the State's public education system and designating February as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 21.....2826
Recognizing April 18, 2025 as Electric Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 58.....2831
Recognizing April 19, 2025 as World Circus Day in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 105.....2842
Recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 77.....2836
Recognizing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 55.....2831
Recognizing July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 18, 2025 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 44.....2829
Recognizing March 2025 as National Athletic Training Month in Vermont.
See table H.C.R. 61.....2832

Resolutions—Concurrent; Recognizing, continued
Recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 47 2830
Recognizing March 21, 2025 as World Day for Glaciers in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 49 2830
Recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 57 2831
Recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 154 2855
Recognizing May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 104 2842
Recognizing May 2025 as National Tennis Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 120 2847
Recognizing May 2025 as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 65 2833
Recognizing the unique role of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the Vermont health care system. *See table* H.C.R. 50 2830
Recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 25 2827
Recognizing the week of May 6–12 as National Nurses Week in Vermont. *See table* H.C.R. 122 2848

Resolutions—House and Joint

Legislative Procedure—Organizing
Relating to House Rules. *See table* H.R. 1 2819
Relating to the organization of the House and informing the Governor thereof. *See table* H.R. 3 2819
Relating to the organization of the House and informing the Senate thereof. *See table* H.R. 2 2819

Legislative Procedure—Rules
Amending House Rules relating to the House Ethics Panel. *See table* H.R. 6 2820
Authorizing limited remote committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025. *See table* H.R. 5 2820
Relating to House Rules. *See table* H.R. 1 2819
Relating to standing committees. *See table* H.R. 4 2820
Authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2025. *See table* J.R.H. 5 2816

Legislative Procedure—Use of State House
Authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State and Green Mountain Girls State educational programs to use the State House facilities on June 26, 2025. *See table* J.R.H. 3 2816

Legislative Policy
Reaffirming the friendship between the State of Vermont and Taiwan and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations. *See table* H.R. 7 2820

Resolutions—House and Joint; Legislative Policy, continued
Strongly objecting to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocating that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention. See table H.R. 8.....2821
Urging that all State agencies, departments, and offices protect the civil rights, medical confidentiality, and all aspects of personal privacy of Vermonters who have been diagnosed with autism in light of the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services' recently announced plans to establish an autism research database and other databases related to autism. *See table* H.R. 9.....2822
Constituting an application for a convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution. *See table* J.R.H. 1.....2815
Reaffirming support for the legislatively recognized Native American Indian tribes and bands of Vermont. *See table* J.R.H. 4.....2816
Urging President Trump to refrain from imposing tariffs on goods and services imported from Canada. *See table* J.R.H. 2.....2815

Restitution
Developing the Department of Corrections' community restitution program. *See table* H. 176.....2753

Retail Establishments
Requiring retail businesses to accept cash. *See table* H. 24.....2724
The use of dynamic pricing by retail establishments. *See table* H. 371.....2783

Retail Licenses and Permits
Removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230. *See table* H. 339.....2779

Retirement
Authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 519.....2806
Mandatory retirement age of the Vermont State Retirement System. *See table* H. 324.....2777
Miscellaneous amendments to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 448.....2794
The retirement allowance for interim educators. *See table* H. 311.....2775
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51.....2810

Roll Calls

Prop 3 Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain
Shall the House adopt the constitutional proposal in concurrence?.....1204

H. 2 An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings
Shall the report of the Committee on Judiciary be amended as offered by Rep. Maguire of Rutland City?.....372

Roll Calls, continued

H. 91 An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program
Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?..... 2362

H. 125 An act relating to reporting on the energy transition
Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure?.....431

H. 141 An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments
Shall the bill be read a third time? 115

H. 218 An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund
Shall the report of the Committee on Human Services be amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations in Section 1(a)(5) of the Appropriations Report?..... 749
Shall the bill pass?..... 773

H. 248 An act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program
Shall the report of the Committee on Human Services, as amended, be further amended as offered by Rep. Holcombe of Norwich?..... 1459

H. 342 An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants
Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development?..... 601
Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Marcotte of Coventry and others?.....771

H. 454 An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems
Shall the bill be amended as offered by Representative Donahue of Northfield?..... 1076
Shall the bill pass?..... 1078
Shall the bill be delivered to the Governor forthwith?..... 2674

H. 474 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law
Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Sibilia of Dover and others? 690

H. 480 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law
Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Boutin of Barre City?..... 610

H. 489 An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments
Shall the bill be read a third time? 675

H. 493 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government
Shall the bill be read a third time?.....758
Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?..... 1724

Roll Calls, continued

S. 3 An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust
Shall the bill be read a third time? 828

S. 28 An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services
Shall the bill be read a third time? 1125

S. 51 An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits
Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means?....1426

S. 69 An act relating to an age-appropriate design code
Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development?....1929

S. 125 An act relating to collective bargaining
Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on General and Housing?.... 1524

S. 126 An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform
Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?.... 1882

S. 127 An act relating to housing and housing development
Shall the amendment offered by Rep. Kimbell Woodstock and others be amended as offered by the Rep. Sibilia Dover and others?....2039
Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on General and Housing, as amended?.... 2041
Shall the House adopt the report of the Committee of Conference on its part?..... 2547

A.E. 1 Contested election in District Bennington-1, Bruce Busa/Jonathan Cooper
Shall the House accept the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs on the House District Bennington-1 Contested Election?....126

Rules Committee
H.R. 5 Introduced.... 95

S.

Satcowitz, Lawrence "Larry"
Member from Randolph (District Orange-Washington-Addison)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment, Ranking Member.... 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)....62
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66

Satcowitz, Lawrence "Larry," continued
H. 72 Introduced....72
H. 84 Introduced....77
H. 86 Introduced....77
H. 93 Introduced....79
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 132 Introduced....102
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 230 Introduced....165
Reported for committee....1461
H. 231 Introduced....165
Reported for committee....433
Moved to amend bill....587
H. 242 Introduced....168
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 319 Reported for committee....644
Moved to amend bill....698
H. 326 Introduced....218
H. 373 Introduced....232
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 460 Introduced....307
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 519 Introduced....1813
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Scheu, Robin P.
Member from Middlebury (District Addison-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations, Chair....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Speaker-elect....8
Conference on H. 141....287
Conference on H. 493....1380
Emergency Board, ex officio
Health Reform Oversight Committee, ex officio
Joint Fiscal Committee, ex officio....45
Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, ex officio
Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery, ex officio
Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board
Motions, etc.
H. 66 Introduced....71
H. 67 Moved committee be relieved....784
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 141 Spoke for committee....115
Requested committee of conference....287
H. 154 Introduced....112

Scheu, Robin P., continued
H. 264 Introduced....192
H. 489 Spoke for committee....675
Moved to commit....822
H. 493 Spoke for committee....757
Moved to amend bill....757
Requested Committee of Conference....1380
Demanded Yeas and Nays....1560
Demanded Yeas and Nays....1724
S. 127 Recommended for committee....2020
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Presided....1170

School Choice
School choice for all Vermont students. *See table* H. 89....2737

School Construction
High-capacity, gender-neutral restrooms in schools. *See table* H. 194....2755
The State Aid for School Construction Program. *See table* H. 129....2744
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. *See table* H. 454....2795

School Districts
Creating a statewide school district. *See table* H. 148....2748
The consideration of consolidated school district boundaries using existing regional structures. *See table* H. 495....2803
The consolidation of Vermont's school districts to align with career and technical education service regions. *See table* H. 37....2726
The sustainable realignment of Vermont's school districts. *See table* H. 122....2744
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. *See table* H. 454....2795

Schools
Amending the prohibitions against harassment in schools. *See table* H. 441....2794
Cardiac emergency response plans in schools. *See table* H. 247....2765
Expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools. *See table* H. 130....2745
High-capacity, gender-neutral restrooms in schools. *See table* H. 194....2755
Intranasal epinephrine in schools. *See table* H. 209....2758
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480....2800
Prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school. *See table* H. 417....2790
Prohibiting firearms and deadly weapons in schools, on school property, and at childcare centers. *See table* H. 97....2739
Student freedom of expression rights in school-sponsored media in approved independent schools and postsecondary schools. *See table* H. 497....2803
The admittance of federal immigration authorities into schools. *See table* H. 511....2805
The closure of an elementary school. *See table* H. 180....2753
The prohibition of requiring face masks in schools. *See table* H. 393....2786

Secretary of State
Traffic cameras and traffic violations for illegally passing a school bus.
See table H. 304.....2774
Establishing a Common Interest Community Resource Center. *See table* H. 172.....2752
Professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.
See table H. 472.....2798

Security
Preventing workplace violence in hospitals. *See table* H. 259.....2767
The creation of the Vermont State Building Security Board. *See table* H. 349.....2781
The Vermont Hospital Security Plan. *See table* H. 267.....2768

Sex Offenders
Public safety. *See table* H. 411.....2789

Sexual Assault and Misconduct
After-hours access to orders against sexual assault. *See table* H. 64.....2732
After-hours access to orders against sexual assault. *See table* S. 9.....2807
Civil orders of protection. *See table* H. 222.....2761
Reports or complaints of sex offenses or sexual harassment. *See table* H. 107.....2741

Sheldon, Amy D.
Member from Middlebury (District Addison-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment, Chair.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Land Use Review Board Nominating Committee, Chair
Motions, etc.
H. 86 Introduced.....77
H. 132 Introduced.....102
H. 146 Introduced.....108
H. 231 Moved to amend bill.....587
H. 238 Introduced.....167
H. 242 Introduced.....168
H. 250 Introduced.....170
H. 276 Introduced.....195
H. 319 Introduced.....217
H. 394 Introduced.....236
H. 396 Introduced.....236
H. 424 Introduced.....293
H. 426 Introduced.....295
H. 433 Introduced.....296
H. 454 Explained vote.....1078
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Short-term Rentals
Regulating short-term rentals. *See table* H. 242.....2764

Sibilia, Laura H.
Member from Dover (District Windham-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure, Ranking Member..... 22
Committee, Joint and Other:
House Discrimination Prevention Panel.....1155
Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee.....119
Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel..... 1547
Motions, etc.
H. 1 Introduced.....35
H. 11 Introduced.....37
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 53 Introduced.....66
H. 56 Introduced.....67
H. 87 Introduced.....78
H. 94 Introduced.....79
H. 97 Introduced.....83
H. 125 Introduced.....94
Reported for committee.....430
H. 144 Introduced..... 107
H. 164 Introduced..... 120
H. 169 Introduced..... 122
H. 208 Introduced..... 143
H. 210 Introduced..... 143
H. 211 Introduced..... 144
H. 241 Introduced..... 167
H. 248 Demanded Yeas and Nays.....1459
H. 257 Introduced..... 190
H. 312 Introduced..... 215
H. 313 Introduced..... 216
H. 314 Introduced..... 216
H. 317 Introduced..... 216
H. 332 Introduced..... 219
H. 340 Introduced..... 221
H. 341 Introduced..... 221
H. 371 Introduced..... 231
H. 385 Introduced..... 234
H. 401 Introduced..... 288
H. 407 Introduced..... 289
H. 454 Explained vote.....1078
H. 472 Moved to amend amendment.....2330
H. 474 Moved to amend bill.....690
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report..... 2087
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report..... 1851
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment.....2037
Explained vote..... 2547
J.R.H. 2 Offered.....145
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Nominated for Speaker of the House.....8

Social Media
Age verification in social media. *See table* H. 301.....2773
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210.....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69.....2811
Miscellaneous amendments to education law. *See table* H. 480.....2800
The regulation of social media platforms and artificial intelligence systems. *See table* H. 365.....2782
The right of users to control their social media data. *See table* H. 520.....2806

Social Security
Exempting Social Security benefits from Vermont income tax. *See table* H. 74.....2734
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51.....2810

Social Workers
Social worker licensure requirements. *See table* H. 322.....2777

Solar Generation
Increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration. *See table* S. 50.....2810
The Standard Offer Program. *See table* H. 155.....2749

Solid Waste
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319.....2776
Prohibiting the sale or distribution of glitter containing intentionally added synthetic polymers. *See table* H. 345.....2780
The collection and recycling of waste motor vehicle tires. *See table* H. 204.....2757
The land application and sale of biosolids containing PFAS. *See table* H. 292.....2772
The regional management of the disposition of septage, sludge, and biosolids. *See table* H. 425.....2791
The siting of an expanded polystyrene foam densifier in the State. *See table* H. 280.....2770
The use of septage, sludge, and biosolids. *See table* H. 303.....2774

Southworth, Michael "Mike"
Member from Walden (District Caledonia-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure.....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 57 Introduced.....67
H. 60 Introduced.....68
H. 61 Introduced.....68
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 68 Introduced.....71
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 74 Introduced.....73

Southworth, Michael "Mike," continued
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 283 Introduced....196
H. 289 Introduced....203
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Sports Wagering
Repealing the statutes that authorize the State Lottery and sports wagering.
See table H. 133....2745

Squirrell, Trevor J.
Member from Underhill (District Chittenden-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations, Clerk....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 141....287
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee....1208
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR), Chair....62
Motions, etc.
H. 44 Recommended for committee....189
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 219 Recommended for committee....595
H. 230 Recommended for committee....1470
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 481 Recommended for committee....701
S. 109 Recommended for committee....1804
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Stalking
Stalking through the use of tracking technology. *See table* H. 223....2761

State Aid
The State Aid for School Construction Program. *See table* H. 129....2744

State Board of Education
The appointment of members of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education. *See table* H. 312....2775
The membership of the State Board of Education and the reestablishment of the Vermont Department of Education. *See table* H. 179....2753
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems.
See table H. 454....2795

State Bonding
Capital construction and State bonding. *See table* H. 494.....2802

State Buildings
Naming State buildings and facilities after individuals. *See table* H. 406..... 2789
Prohibiting possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in State buildings and on State land. *See table* H. 392..... 2786
The creation of the Vermont State Building Security Board. *See table* H. 349.....2781

State Contractors
Commissary and telecommunications prices in State correctional facilities and fair compensation for incarcerated labor. *See table* H. 294..... 2772
Payroll records of workers on State construction projects. *See table* H. 335..... 2778
Privatization contracts. *See table* H. 359..... 2782
State contracting standards for advertising. *See table* H. 244.....2764

State Employees
Temporary State employees. *See table* H. 239.....2763
The minimum qualifications required for State employment. *See table* H. 3.....2721

State Employees' Retirement System
Authorizing officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 519.....2806
Mandatory retirement age of the Vermont State Retirement System. *See table* H. 324.....2777
Miscellaneous amendments to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. *See table* H. 448.....2794

State Government
Accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission. *See table* H. 1.....2721
Adding new positions to the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 38.....2726
Creating a Department and Commissioner of Education. *See table* H. 100..... 2740
Duties of the Commissioner of Labor. *See table* H. 337..... 2779
Including an affirmation option in oath requirements in Titles 1–10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. *See table* H. 28.....2725
Legislative operations and government accountability. *See table* H. 67.....2732
Pilot projects expanding democratic practices in State and local government. *See table* H. 373.....2783
Promoting racial and economic justice. *See table* H. 451..... 2795
Requirements for State-funded grants. *See table* H. 233.....2762
State observance of Juneteenth. See table H. 455.....2796
The appointment of members of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education. *See table* H. 312.....2775
The jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. *See table* H. 429.....2792
The membership of the State Board of Education and the reestablishment of the Vermont Department of Education. *See table* H. 179.....2753
The role and structure of the Agency of Education. *See table* H. 101.....2740
Workforce leadership in Vermont. *See table* H. 34..... 2726

State Holidays
State observance of Juneteenth. *See table* H. 455.....2796

State Procurement
State purchasing of local food. *See tabl*e H. 408.....2789

State Property
Forest management harvests on State Forest lands. *See table* H. 477.....2799
Identifying underutilized State buildings and land. *See table* H. 50.....2729
Making State lands available for farming by citizens of
State-recognized Native American Indian tribes. *See table* H. 343.....2780
Prohibiting possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in State buildings
and on State land. *See table* H. 392.....2786
The designation of State wildlands. *See table* H. 276.....2770
The transfer of State-owned property in the Town of Waterbury.
See table H. 471.....2798

State Teachers' Retirement System
The retirement allowance for interim educators. *See table* H. 311.....2775

Steady, Brenda
Member from Milton (District Chittenden-25)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services.....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee.....15
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 91 Explained vote.....2362
H. 150 Introduced.....110
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 159 Introduced.....113
H. 178 Introduced.....134
H. 218 Asked to divide question.....749
Demanded Yeas and Nays.....749
Demanded Yeas and Nays.....773
Explained vote.....773
H. 247 Introduced.....169
H. 407 Introduced.....289
H. 493 Explained vote.....1724
H. 503 Introduced.....823
H. 518 Introduced.....1812
S. 51 Explained vote.....1426
S. 127 Explained vote.....2041
Devotional exercise.....154, 818

Stevens, Thomas S. "Tom"
Member from Waterbury (District Washington-Chittenden)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations....21
Motions, etc.
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 38 Introduced....54
H. 42 Introduced....57
H. 106 Introduced....85
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 133 Introduced....103
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 149 Introduced....109
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 167 Recommended for committee....711
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 398 Recommended for committee....631
H. 489 Explained vote....675
S. 122 Recommended for committee....2248
S. 126 Moved to amend committee report....1851
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Devotional exercise....1147

Stone, Mary-Katherine Abdel-Ghany
Member from Burlington (District Chittenden-14)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the House....13
Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) Board of Directors....2707
Motions, etc.
H. 8 Introduced....37
H. 30 Introduced....44
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 45 Introduced....60
H. 46 Introduced....61
H. 47 Introduced....61
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 136 Introduced....103
H. 296 Introduced....205
H. 375 Introduced....232
H. 418 Introduced....292

Stone, Mary-Katherine Abdel-Ghany, continued
H. 454 Explained vote....1078
H. 472 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2314
H. 489 Explained vote....675
S. 56 Reported for committee....1428
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Devotional exercise....25, 1129

Stormwater
Act 250 exemptions and delegation of stormwater permitting. *See table* H. 157....2750
Amending stormwater management to facilitate high-density development. *See table* H. 453....2795
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124....2813
Repealing the three-acre stormwater permit. *See table* H. 162....2750
Stormwater management. *See table* H. 481....2800

Study Committee
Creating the Office of New Americans Study Committee. *See table* H. 375....2784
Establishing a study committee to examine universal design standards for residential buildings. *See table* H. 437....2793
Establishing the Recreational Trails Compensation Study Committee. *See table* H. 147....2747
Stormwater management. *See table* H. 481....2800

Substance Awareness
Expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. *See table* H. 105....2741

Substance Use Disorders and Treatment
Fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. *See table* H. 218....2760
Funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply. *See table* H. 189....2755
Repeal of authorization of overdose prevention centers. *See table* H. 39....2727
The delivery and payment of certain services provided through the Agency of Human Services, services for persons who are incapacitated, and Human Services Board proceedings. *See table* S. 36....2809
Treatment for opioid use disorder in correctional facilities. *See table* H. 32....2726

Surprenant, Heather
Member from Barnard (District Windsor-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Vice Chair....20
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Clerk-elect....11
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67

Surprenant, Heather, continued
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 94 Introduced....79
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 227 Introduced....164
H. 229 Introduced....165
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 386 Introduced....234
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 403 Introduced....289
H. 408 Introduced....290
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
H. 489 Explained vote....675
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
J.R.H. 2 Offered....145
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Presided....1078
Resignation....2702

Sweeney, Shawn
Member from Shelburne (District Chittenden-7)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions, Clerk....21
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 157 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 180 Introduced....134
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 219 Introduced....156
Reported for committee....593
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 255 Introduced....171
H. 297 Introduced....205
H. 308 Introduced....209

Sweeney, Shawn, continued
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 489 Explained vote....675
H. 490 Introduced....606
H. 503 Introduced....823
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
S. 127 Moved to amend amendment....2037
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

T.

Tagliavia, Michael "Mike"
Member from Corinth (District Orange-1)
Committee, House Standing:
Environment....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 57 Introduced....67
H. 60 Introduced....68
H. 61 Introduced....68
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 68 Introduced....71
H. 69 Introduced....71
H. 70 Introduced....72
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 76 Introduced....74
H. 87 Introduced....78
H. 89 Introduced....78
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 162 Introduced....120
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 231 Moved to amend bill....587
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196

Tagliavia, Michael "Mike," continued
H. 303 Introduced....208
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 320 Introduced....217
H. 393 Introduced....236
H. 396 Introduced....236
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 434 Introduced....297
H. 502 Introduced....819
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
J.R.H. 1 Offered....90

Task Force
Creating the Vermont Olympics Task Force. *See table* H. 367....2783
Establishing a task force to update Vermont's CHINS laws. *See table* H. 220....2760
Establishing the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the Institution of Chattel Slavery. *See table* H. 499....2803
State recognition of Native American tribes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *See table* H. 362....2782

Tax Credits
A tax credit for home modifications for safety and livability. *See table* H. 8....2722
Homestead declarations and the property tax credit. *See table* H. 486....2801
The expansion of existing income tax credits. *See table* H. 483....2800
The local media advertising tax credit. *See table* H. 377....2784
The Vermont earned income tax credit and the Vermont child tax credit. *See table* H. 90....2737
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51....2810

Tax Increment Financing
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127....2814
Tax increment financing for flood-impacted communities. *See table* H. 420....2791
Tax increment financing for housing infrastructure. *See table* H. 378....2784
The City of Barre tax increment financing district. *See table* H. 419....2790

Taxation and Finance
A tax on vacant properties. *See table* H. 443....2794
Administrative and policy changes to Vermont tax laws and extending reimbursement to municipalities for tax abatement due to flooding. *See table* H. 135....2745
An excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition. *See table* H. 418....2790
Creating a new income tax bracket. *See table* H. 77....2735
Creating the Land Access and Opportunity Revolving Fund. *See table* H. 445....2794
Exempting military retirement and survivor benefit income from Vermont income tax. *See table* H. 43....2728
Exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax for priority housing projects. *See table* H. 438....2793
Exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax. *See table* H. 308....2774

Taxation and Finance, continued
Homestead declarations and the property tax credit. *See table* H. 486.....2801
Housing and housing development. *See table* S. 127.....2814
Income-based education funding. *See table* H. 177.....2753
Miscellaneous cannabis amendments. *See table* H. 321.....2776
Setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate. *See table* H. 491.....2802
The creation of the Treatment and Recovery Fund and the labeling and taxation of alcoholic beverages. *See table* H. 376.....2784
The taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations. *See table* H. 85.....2736
The taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations. *See table* S. 46.....2810
The Vermont earned income tax credit and the Vermont child tax credit. *See table* H. 90.....2737
Transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. *See table* H. 454.....2795
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51.....2810

Taylor, Christopher "Chris"
Member from Milton (District Chittenden-Franklin)
Committee, House Standing:
Education, Vice Chair.....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 454.....2196
House Ethics Panel.....45
Teller, Election of the Speaker of the House.....8
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 39 Introduced.....54
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 58 Introduced.....68
H. 62 Introduced.....69
H. 65 Introduced.....70
H. 70 Introduced.....72
H. 74 Introduced.....73
H. 129 Introduced.....98
H. 136 Introduced.....103
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 178 Introduced.....134
H. 186 Introduced (By Request).....135
H. 204 Introduced.....142
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend.....1936
H. 218 Explained vote.....773
H. 247 Introduced.....169
H. 249 Introduced.....169
H. 254 Introduced.....171
H. 282 Introduced.....196
H. 311 Introduced.....215
H. 454 Introduced.....301
H. 489 Explained vote.....675

Taylor, Christopher "Chris," continued
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812
H.R. 6 Offered....210

Teachers
Protecting academic freedom for prekindergarten through grade 12 educators. See table H. 168....2752

Technical Corrections
Technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session. *See table* H. 463....2797
Technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes. *See table* H. 231....2762
Updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107. *See table* S. 30....2809

Telecommunications
Consumer protections applicable to broadband and VoIP services. *See table* H. 11....2722

Telemedicine
Allowing telehealth appointments to be recorded with patient and provider consent. *See table* H. 84....2736

Tomlinson, Chloe
Member from Winooski (District Chittenden-21)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation, Clerk....24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 53 Introduced....66
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 56 Introduced....67
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 83 Introduced....76
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 160 Introduced....119
H. 161 Introduced....120
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 170 Introduced....122
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 246 Introduced....168

Tomlinson, Chloe, continued
H. 298 Introduced....205
H. 333 Introduced....220
H. 334 Introduced....220
H. 335 Introduced....220
H. 336 Introduced....220
H. 337 Introduced....221
H. 338 Introduced....221
H. 344 Introduced....222
H. 347 Introduced....223
H. 399 Introduced....238
H. 426 Introduced....295
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 440 Introduced....298
H. 454 Explained vote....2674
H. 496 Introduced....763
H. 509 Introduced....1153
S. 123 Moved to amend committee report....2087
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
H.R. 9 Offered 2198

Toof, Casey J.
Member from St. Albans Town (District Franklin-8)
Committee, House Standing:
Education....21
Rules Committee, ex officio 14
Committee, Joint and Other:
Committee to wait upon the Clerk-elect....11
Joint Legislative Management Committee....46
Special Committee on State House Improvements, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 39 Introduced....54
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 62 Introduced....69
H. 65 Introduced....70
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 111 Introduced....86
H. 141 Demanded Yeas and Nays....115
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 209 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1932
Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....1936
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 249 Introduced....169
H. 254 Introduced....171
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 275 Introduced....194
H. 282 Introduced....196
H. 303 Introduced....208

Toof, Casey J., continued
H. 308 Introduced....209
H. 310 Introduced....209
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 415 Introduced....291
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 454 Introduced....301
Moved to amend bill....958
H. 474 Moved to amend bill....692
H. 488 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....1380
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....1408
H. 493 Moved to suspend rules for immediate consideration....1219
Moved to suspend rules to message to Senate forthwith....1380
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 518 Introduced....1812

Torre, Dara
Member from Moretown (District Washington-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Energy and Digital Infrastructure, Clerk....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Clean Energy Development Board....2705
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 132 Introduced....102
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 155 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 166 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 172 Introduced....132
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 433 Introduced....296
H. 460 Introduced....307
H. 496 Introduced....763
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198

Tourism and Marketing
Creating the Vermont Olympics Task Force. *See table* H. 367....2783

Toxic Substances
Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting personal protective equipment and station wear. *See table* H. 250..... 2765
The phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *See table* H. 238.....2763

Traffic Safety
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123.....2813
Traffic cameras and traffic violations for illegally passing a school bus. *See table* H. 304.....2774
Use of illuminating lights and visibility of taillights. *See table* H. 413..... 2790

Trails
Establishing the Recreational Trails Compensation Study Committee. *See table* H. 147.....2747
Miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles. *See table* S. 123.....2813
Requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. *See table* H. 434.....2793

Training
Establishing a Mechanized Logging and Trucking Training Program. *See table* H. 476.....2799

Transportation
Flood response and the duties of the Agency of Transportation. *See table* H. 467... 2797
The development and construction of a bicycle path that runs adjacent U.S. Route 5. *See table* H. 460.....2797
The fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation. *See table* H. 488.....2801
Transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions. *See table* H. 426..... 2792

Transportation Committee
H. 488 Introduced..... 444

Trusts
The transfer of property to a trust. *See table* H. 23.....2724
The transfer of property to a trust. *See table* S. 3.....2807

Tuition
In-state tuition for non-Vermont residents who do not have access to DEI programming in their home state public postsecondary institutions. *See table* H. 515.....2805
Tuition charged by public schools. See table H. 199..... 2756

U.

Unemployment Insurance and Compensation
Clarifying the right of adjunct faculty to receive unemployment insurance benefits. *See table* H. 175.....2753

Unemployment Insurance and Compensation, continued
The creation of the Unemployment Compensation Benefit Modernization Advisory Committee. *See table* H. 356.....2781
Unemployment compensation and workers' compensation. *See table* H. 444..... 2794
Unemployment compensation. *See table* H. 338.....2779
Unemployment insurance eligibility and benefits. *See table* H. 235..... 2762
Wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation. *See table* S. 117.....2812

Uniform Commercial Code
The Uniform Commercial Code. See table H. 206.....2757

Unions
Labor requirements for certain energy projects. *See table* H. 327.....2777

Universal Health Care
Developing and implementing a universal primary care program. *See table* H. 185.....2754
Incremental implementation of Green Mountain Care. *See table* H. 433.....2793

University of Vermont
Determining the appropriateness of a collective bargaining unit for adjunct faculty. *See table* H. 234.....2762
Granting public higher education employees the right to strike. *See table* H. 173....2753
In-state tuition for non-Vermont residents who do not have access to DEI programming in their home state public postsecondary institutions. *See table* H. 515.....2805
The governance of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and the University of Vermont. *See table* H. 316.....2776
The reconstitution of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees. *See table* H. 198.....2756
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College residential living space. *See table* H. 170.....2752

Use Value Appraisal
Calculating land use change tax and creating a new land use change tax exemption for developing affordable housing. *See table* H. 134.....2745
Enrollment of posted land in the Use Value Appraisal Program. *See table* H. 291... 2772
The donation to the State of managed forestland enrolled in current use. *See table* H. 424.....2791
The inclusion of use value appraisal land in the conserved land inventory. *See table* H. 70.....2733
The Use Value Appraisal Program. *See table* H. 273..... 2769

Utilities
A plan on energy storage development. *See table* H. 278..... 2770
A prohibition on utility disconnections during periods of extreme heat. *See table* H. 88.....2737
Prohibiting the imposition of convenience fees on online municipal utility payments. *See table* H. 265..... 2768

Utilities, continued
Requiring municipal corporations to set equalized water and sewer rates throughout the service area. *See table* H. 446.....2794
Sharing the costs of electric grid upgrades. *See table* H. 279.....2770

Utton-Jerman, Theresa
Appointed by the House Clerk (Journal Clerk).....11

V.

Vaccinations
See **Immunizations**

Vermont Economic Development Authority
The Vermont Economic Development Authority. *See table* H. 398.....2787

Vermont Health Benefit Exchange
Unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets. *See table* H. 35.....2726

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. *See table* H. 434.....2793

Vermont Rules of Evidence
A hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age. *See table* H. 5.....2722

Vermont State Colleges
Determining the appropriateness of a collective bargaining unit for adjunct faculty. *See table* H. 234.....2762
Granting public higher education employees the right to strike. *See table* H. 173....2753
In-state tuition for non-Vermont residents who do not have access to DEI programming in their home state public postsecondary institutions. *See table* H. 515.....2805
The governance of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and the University of Vermont. *See table* H. 316.....2776

Vermont Statutes
Including an affirmation option in oath requirements in Titles 1–10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. *See table* H. 28.....2725
Replacing statutory references to Vermont Psychiatric Survivors with MadFreedom, Inc.. *See table* H. 29.....2725
Technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session. *See table* H. 463.....2797
Updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107. *See table* H. 95.....2739
Updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107. *See table* S. 30.....2809

Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission
Economic and workforce development. *See table* S. 122.....2812

Veterans
Designating November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran. *See table* H. 154..... 2749
Excluding veterans' disability benefits from income-based eligibility determinations for public assistance programs or benefits. *See table* H. 104..... 2740
Prohibited practices for services involving veterans' benefits. *See table* H. 103..... 2740
Reduced motor vehicle registration fees for veterans. *See table* H. 288..... 2771
The creation and maintenance of a database of veterans in Vermont. *See table* H. 93..... 2738
Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits. *See table* S. 51..... 2810

Vital Records
Amending a death certificate to reflect gender identity. *See table* H. 281..... 2770
Expanding family access to certified copies of birth and death certificates. *See table* H. 153..... 2749
The procedures governing the change of a minor's legal name. *See table* H. 514.... 2805

Volunteers
Waived registration fees for volunteer firefighter motor vehicles. *See table* H. 111..... 2741

Voting
Authorizing the use of electronic and remote voting for annual meetings of municipal corporations. *See table* H. 330..... 2778
Miscellaneous changes to election law. *See table* H. 474.....2799
Ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections. *See table* H. 313.....2775
Town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting. *See table* H. 363..... 2782

W.

Walker, Matthew E. "Matt"
Member from Swanton (District Franklin-4)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation, Chair..... 24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 488.....1408
Conference on S. 123..... 2250
Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, ex officio
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced.....38
H. 43 Introduced.....57
H. 139 Introduced..... 104
H. 150 Introduced..... 110
H. 252 Introduced..... 170
H. 254 Introduced..... 171
H. 364 Introduced.....230
H. 407 Introduced..... 289
H. 415 Introduced..... 291
H. 454 Explained vote.....2674
H. 487 Introduced..... 444

Walker, Matthew E. "Matt," continued
H. 488 Spoke for committee....730
Requested Committee of Conference....1408
S. 123 Reported for committee....2053

Waste Management
Municipal ordinances governing nuisance properties containing salvage and scrap. *See table* H. 72....2734
The regional management of the disposition of septage, sludge, and biosolids. *See table* H. 425....2791

Wastewater
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124....2813
Requiring inspection of wastewater systems. *See table* H. 142....2747

Waszazak, Edward "Teddy"
Member from Barre City (District Washington-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Ways and Means....24
Motions, etc.
H. 10 Introduced....37
H. 22 Introduced....40
H. 32 Introduced....44
H. 33 Introduced....52
H. 55 Introduced....67
H. 58 Introduced....68
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 77 Introduced....74
H. 81 Introduced....76
H. 88 Introduced....78
H. 90 Introduced....78
H. 91 Explained vote....2362
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 115 Introduced....88
H. 134 Introduced....103
H. 141 Explained vote....115
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 151 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 167 Introduced....121
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 178 Introduced....134
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 232 Introduced....165

Waszazak, Edward "Teddy," continued
H. 233 Introduced....165
H. 250 Introduced....170
H. 311 Introduced....215
H. 317 Introduced....216
H. 397 Introduced....237
Recommended for committee....720
Moved to amend bill....752
H. 400 Introduced....238
H. 417 Introduced....292
H. 425 Introduced....293
H. 430 Introduced....296
H. 443 Introduced....298
H. 459 Introduced....307
H. 464 Introduced....315
H. 465 Introduced....315
H. 466 Introduced....315
H. 467 Introduced....315
H. 468 Introduced....315
H. 469 Introduced....316
H. 470 Introduced....316
H. 471 Introduced....316
H. 479 Recommended for committee....726
H. 480 Moved to concur in Senate prop w/ further amend....2678
S. 51 Explained vote....1426
S. 122 Recommended for committee....2248
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
Presided....2560

Water Quality
Administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements in the State. *See table* H. 146....2747
Establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources. *See table* H. 86....2737
Lakes in crisis and requirements for designation. *See table* H. 113....2742
Miscellaneous agricultural subjects. *See table* S. 124....2813
Stormwater management. *See table* H. 481....2800

Water Resources
Authorizing the use of State waters by hydroelectric generation facilities. *See table* H. 236....2763
Delegation of authority to regulate use of State waters. *See table* H. 283....2771

Waters Evans, Chea
Member from Charlotte (District Chittenden-5)
Committee, House Standing:
Government Operations and Military Affairs, Ranking Member....22
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....15
Motions, etc.
H. 54 Introduced....66

Waters Evans, Chea, continued
H. 67 Introduced....71
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 130 Introduced....98
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 169 Introduced....122
H. 244 Introduced....168
Reported for committee....706
H. 300 Introduced....206
H. 377 Introduced....232
H. 418 Introduced....292
H. 474 Spoke for committee....690
H. 506 Introduced....953
S. 23 Reported for committee....2468
Moved to amend committee report....2473
S. 59 Reported for committee....1817
H.R. 7 Offered 703
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

Ways and Means Committee
H. 483 Introduced....427
H. 491 Introduced....683

Weapons
Automatic opening knives. *See table* H. 350....2781
Prohibiting firearms and deadly weapons in schools, on school property, and at childcare centers. *See table* H. 97....2739
Prohibiting possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in State buildings and on State land. *See table* H. 392....2786

Weatherization
The creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program. *See table* H. 439....2793
Weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment. *See table* H. 277....2770

Wells, Kenneth Lance "Ken"
Member from Brownington (District Orleans-3)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation....24
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 103 Introduced....84
H. 104 Introduced....85
H. 109 Introduced....86
H. 113 Introduced....87
H. 116 Introduced....89
H. 139 Introduced....104

Wells, Kenneth Lance "Ken," continued
H. 152 Introduced..... 111
H. 185 Introduced..... 135
H. 217 Introduced..... 155
H. 241 Introduced..... 167
H. 252 Introduced..... 170
H. 255 Introduced..... 171
H. 270 Introduced..... 193
H. 273 Introduced..... 194
H. 283 Introduced..... 196
H. 397 Introduced..... 237
H. 401 Introduced..... 288
H. 407 Introduced..... 289
H. 518 Introduced..... 1812
H.R. 7 Offered 703

Wetlands
Miscellaneous environmental subjects. *See table* H. 319..... 2776
The regulation of development in wetlands. *See table* H. 507..... 2804

White, Candice
Member from Waitsfield (District Washington-2)
Committee, House Standing:
Transportation..... 24
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on S. 123..... 2250
Motions, etc.
H. 43 Introduced..... 57
H. 54 Introduced..... 66
H. 97 Introduced..... 83
H. 297 Introduced..... 205
H. 340 Introduced..... 221
H. 367 Introduced..... 230
H. 397 Introduced..... 237
H. 418 Introduced..... 292
H. 426 Introduced..... 295
S. 28 Explained vote..... 1125
H.R. 8 Offered 1140

White, Kirk
Member from Bethel (District Windsor-Addison)
Committee, House Standing:
Commerce and Economic Development, Ranking Member..... 21
Motions, etc.
H. 33 Introduced..... 52
H. 34 Introduced..... 52
H. 74 Introduced..... 73
H. 99 Introduced..... 84
H. 107 Introduced..... 85
H. 124 Introduced..... 94

White, Kirk, continued
H. 137 Introduced....104
Reported for committee....401
H. 147 Introduced....108
H. 152 Introduced....111
H. 154 Introduced....112
H. 163 Introduced....120
H. 185 Introduced....135
H. 205 Introduced....142
H. 206 Introduced....142
H. 208 Introduced....143
H. 210 Introduced....143
H. 211 Introduced....144
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 243 Introduced....168
H. 305 Introduced....208
H. 341 Introduced....221
H. 342 Introduced....222
Moved to amend bill....764
H. 360 Introduced....229
H. 378 Introduced....233
H. 385 Introduced....234
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 401 Introduced....288
H. 515 Introduced (By Request)....1435
H.R. 7 Offered....703
H.R. 8 Offered....1140

Winter, Kevin C.
Member from Ludlow (District Rutland-Windsor)
Committee, House Standing:
Corrections and Institutions....21
Committee, Joint and Other:
Canvassing Committee....16
Motions, etc.
H. 16 Introduced....38
H. 43 Introduced....57
H. 54 Introduced....66
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 85 Introduced....77
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 150 Introduced....110
H. 153 Introduced....111
H. 159 Introduced....113
H. 198 Introduced....140
H. 217 Introduced....155
H. 219 Introduced....156
H. 241 Introduced....167
H. 252 Introduced....170
H. 254 Introduced....171

Winter, Kevin C., continued
H. 273 Introduced....194
H. 274 Introduced....194
H. 287 Introduced....203
H. 288 Introduced....203
H. 397 Introduced....237
H. 407 Introduced....289
H. 503 Introduced....823
H. 512 Introduced....1170
H. 518 Introduced....1812
Devotional exercise....807

Wood, Theresa A.
Member from Waterbury (District Washington-Chittenden)
Committee, House Standing:
Human Services, Chair....23
Committee, Joint and Other:
Conference on H. 91....2112
Health Reform Oversight Committee, ex officio
Joint Fiscal Committee....45
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee....1208
Joint Legislative Management Committee....46
Special Committee on State House Improvements, ex officio....2885
Motions, etc.
H. 13 Introduced....38
H. 74 Introduced....73
H. 91 Introduced....79
Requested Committee of Conference....2112
H. 92 Introduced....79
H. 97 Introduced....83
H. 112 Introduced....86
H. 114 Introduced....87
H. 143 Introduced....107
H. 164 Introduced....120
H. 197 Introduced....140
H. 218 Introduced....155
Moved to postpone action....712
H. 227 Moved committee be relieved....241
H. 270 Moved committee be relieved....241
H. 323 Moved committee be relieved....241
H. 397 Introduced....237
Moved to amend bill....754
H. 454 Moved to amend bill....1068
S. 127 Explained vote....2041
Explained vote....2547
H.R. 8 Offered....1140
H.R. 9 Offered....2198
Nominated Rep. Jill Krowinski of Burlington as Speaker of the House....7
Moved to journalize the remarks by Rep. Emmons of Springfield....1160
Presided....1811, 2560

Workers' Compensation
Unemployment compensation and workers' compensation. *See table* H. 444..... 2794
Wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation.
See table S. 117.....2812
Workers' compensation. *See table* H. 163.....2750

Workforce Development
Computer science in Vermont's public schools. *See table* H. 318..... 2776
Creating incentives for AmeriCorps members. *See table* H. 212.....2759
Economic and workforce development. *See table* S. 122.....2812
The expedited issuance of professional licenses for practicing, qualified
out-of-state applicants. *See table* H. 442.....2794
Weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment.
See table H. 277.....2770
Workforce housing zones. *See table* H. 253.....2766
Workforce leadership in Vermont. *See table* H. 34..... 2726

Working Group
A child and parent legal representation working group. *See table* H. 193.....2755
Charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles belonging to crime victims.
See table H. 346.....2780
The Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group. *See table* H. 221.....2760

Wrask, BetsyAnn
Clerk of the House.....10
Staff appointment letter.....11
Certification of Journal.....2709

Y.

Yacovone, David W.
Member from Morristown (District Lamoille-Washington)
Committee, House Standing:
Appropriations.....21
Motions, etc.
H. 13 Recommended for committee.....176
H. 17 Introduced.....39
H. 20 Introduced.....39
H. 112 Introduced.....86
H. 120 Introduced.....89
H. 154 Introduced.....112
H. 236 Introduced.....166
H. 240 Introduced.....167
H. 317 Introduced.....216
H. 380 Introduced.....233
H. 397 Introduced.....237
H. 454 Moved to amend committee report.....949
Moved to withdraw amend.....950
Moved to amend committee report.....950
S. 18 Recommended for committee.....1106

Yacovone, David W., continued
S. 126 Recommended for committee....1849
S. 127 Explained vote....2039
H.R. 8 Offered 1140
Remarks journalized on motion by Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier....2412

Young Vermonters
Age verification in social media. *See table* H. 301....2773
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* H. 210....2758
An age-appropriate design code. *See table* S. 69....2811
Increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings. *See table* H. 2....2721
Mental health programming funded by the Mental Health Innovation Special Fund. *See table* H. 323....2777
Prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program. *See table* H. 305....2774
The federal benefits of youth in State custody. *See table* H. 269....2768
The use of seclusion and restraint on children and youth in the custody of the Department for Children and Families. *See table* H. 30....2725
Universal basic income payments for homeless and runaway youth. *See table* H. 195....2755
Universal basic income payments for youth exiting foster care. *See table* H. 126....2744

Z.

Zoning
The creation of the Housing Board of Appeals. *See table* H. 42....2727
The zoning requirements for group homes. *See table* H. 73....2734