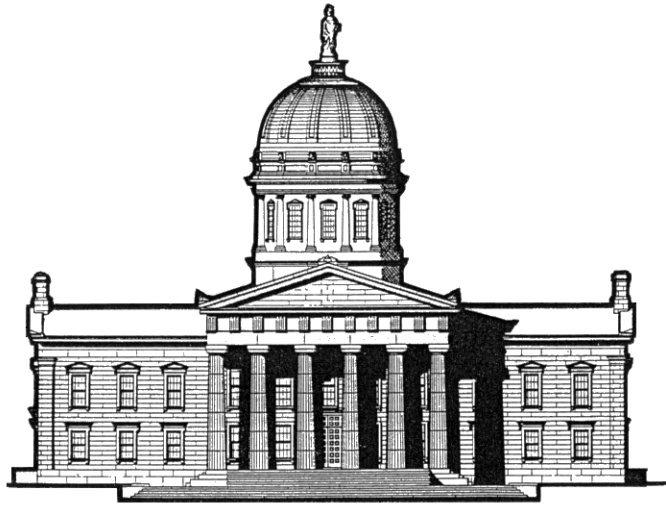


# STATE OF VERMONT



## SUMMARY OF THE ACTS of the 2025 VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Prepared by the  
Office of Legislative Counsel

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These act summaries are provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. They are intended to provide a general summary of the acts and may not be exhaustive. They have been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. They are not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 1 (H.78). An act relating to the use of the Australian ballot system in local elections**

**Subjects: Elections; local elections; local elections using the Australian ballot system; use of Australian ballot for the election of any or all offices**

This act amends 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b) to authorize municipalities to vote to elect any or all officers by Australian ballot. This act also establishes the language that a municipality must use for the question of whether to elect any or all officers by Australian ballot. Finally, this act provides that any votes taken to authorize the election of some, but not all, officers by Australian ballot prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject to challenge for failure to comply with the current or prior provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b).

Effective Date: February 13, 2025

**Act No. 2 (H.35). An act relating to unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets**

**Subjects: Health; health insurance; Vermont Health Benefit Exchange; unmerged markets**

This act permanently unmerges the individual and small group health insurance markets, which had been temporarily unmerged on a one- or two-year basis since 2022. The act also repeals outdated language regarding implementation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

**Act No. 3 (H.31). An act relating to claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements**

**Subjects: Health; health insurance; prior authorization; health care providers; primary care providers; claim edits; place of service**

This act exempts claims for health care services delivered outside Vermont from standards that health insurers are required to follow when editing health care claims unless the insurer and out-of-state health care provider agree that one or more of the edit standards will apply. The act also specifies that the definition of “primary care,” for purposes of an exemption from health insurance prior authorization requirements for most services ordered by a primary care provider, means a health care provider who is contracted and enrolled with the health plan as a primary care provider.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on March 5, 2025

**Act No. 4 (H.2). An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings**

**Subjects: Delinquency proceedings; minimum age**

This act increases from 10 to 12 the minimum age for a child to be subject to delinquency proceedings. The act extends the implementation date for the Raise the Age juvenile justice initiative from April 1, 2025 to July 1, 2027. This program, which has been ongoing for several years, increases the age at which children who engage in criminal conduct are charged as juveniles in the Family Division rather than as adults in the Criminal Division. The act also requires the Department for Children and Families to provide the Legislature with two status reports on the program's implementation.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on March 31, 2025

**Act No. 5 (H.154). An act relating to designating November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran**

**Subjects: General provisions; commemorative days; Vermont Month of the Veteran**

This act designates the month of November as the "Vermont Month of the Veteran."

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 6 (H.80). An act relating to the Office of the Health Care Advocate**

**Subjects: Health; health insurance; Office of the Health Care Advocate; certificates of need**

This act modifies the role and duties of the Office of the Health Care Advocate as they relate to health care regulatory activities, access to information, and providing assistance to Vermonters. The act expands the Office's ability to ask questions about health insurance rate filings and requires the Green Mountain Care Board to make the entire record of a health insurance rate review available to the public after redacting confidential information. It enlarges the roles of the Office of the Health Care Advocate and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office when they intervene in a certificate of need application. The act allows the Office of the Health Care Advocate to be administered by more than one director and expands the scope of the Office's duties beyond health insurance to include affordability and access to health care for all Vermonters. The act requires State agencies to seek input from the Office when developing policies affecting health care access and affordability and to allow the Office access to confidential or proprietary information when appropriate, as long as the Office does not further disclose that information. The act also specifies that the conflict-of-interest policy for the Office would permit an employee to serve as a volunteer on the board of a nonprofit health care entity whose primary regulator is not the State of Vermont.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 7 (S.3). An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust**

**Subjects: Trusts; transfer of property to trust; creditor's claims**

This act provides that when property owned by spouses as tenants by the entirety is transferred into a trust, each spouse retains the same creditor protections from claims against the property that the spouses had before they transferred the property into the trust.

Effective Date: April 24, 2025

**Act No. 8 (H.118). An act relating to expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes**

**Subjects: Crimes and criminal procedure; hate-motivated crimes**

This act expands the scope of the State's hate crime statute to cover conduct directed at third parties and groups of people based on their actual or perceived membership in a protected category.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 9 (H.259). An act relating to preventing workplace violence in hospitals**

**Subjects: Health; hospitals; workplace violence prevention; security plan**

This act requires licensed hospitals to develop and implement a workplace violence security plan based on the results of an assessment addressing all high-risk areas of the hospital. The act specifies that a security plan development team must be composed of hospital employees providing direct patient care, representatives from the designated agency in the region where the hospital is located, and representatives of relevant law enforcement agencies. Elements of the security plan must include options for employee name tags to omit employees' last name; ensuring a hospital employee trained in de-escalation strategies be present in the emergency department and other patient care areas at all times; and requiring a hospital employee trained in trauma-informed care and victim support to serve as a liaison to law enforcement and victims. The security plan must further include training for appropriate hospital employees on a variety of topics, such as response to the presence of weapons and de-escalation techniques. It also specifies that the security plan contain guidelines describing when a law enforcement officer should remain with a patient demonstrating violence. This act requires that each licensed hospital review its security plan annually; revise the plan when necessary; and distribute it to all hospital employees, volunteers, board of directors, relevant law enforcement agencies, and any other identified partners.

This act requires each licensed hospital to establish and utilize a workplace violence incident reporting system to track and analyze incidents of workplace violence at the hospital, including data on the number of reported incidents and the number of incidents reported to law enforcement. It prohibits discrimination or retaliation for reporting workplace violence or participating or failing to participate in an investigation of workplace violence. This act also requires hospitals to post a notice indicating that hospital employees do not tolerate an unsafe work environment. It specifies that the

provisions in the act do not require a hospital to make capital investments to implement its security plan.

This act excludes from certificate of need requirements expenditures necessary to implement a hospital's workplace violence security plan. It requires that as part of a hospital's budget review process, a hospital files information pertaining to costs associated with implementing its security plan, including any capital investments, program operation, and staff. Lastly, as part of each hospital's proposed budget review, this act requires the Green Mountain Care Board to take into consideration the costs of implementing its security plan.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 10 (H.243). An act relating to the regulation of business organizations**

**Subjects: Corporations; partnerships and associations**

This act makes several changes to the State's laws affecting business organizations. While the act mostly makes technical changes, new sections were added to give the Office of the Secretary of State the authority to reject a business filing it believes is fraudulent. The act also clarifies the requirements for a business to designate an agent for service of process. Other changes made in the act are to harmonize terms across Titles 11, 11A, 11B, and 11C in the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Finally, the Secretary of State is required to conduct a study to address issues related to the business filing system and to review the need for additional statutory revisions, including any adjustments to the amount of fees assessed for various business filings. A final report is due on or before December 1, 2026.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 11 (S.30). An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107**

**Subjects: Health; health insurance; Vermont Statutes Annotated**

This act updates and reorganizes the health insurance chapter, 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, including using consistent language and terminology throughout the chapter. It also updates cross-references in other statutes as appropriate.

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

**Act No. 12 (S.9). An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault**

**Subjects: Court procedure; orders against stalking and sexual assault**

This act allows a person to obtain an emergency protection order against sexual assault outside of regular court hours in the same manner that emergency domestic violence orders are obtained and directs the Court Administrator to establish procedures for obtaining such orders on nights, weekends, and holidays. Additionally, the act provides

that when a defendant who is present in court at the time an order is issued and is, therefore, considered served, a copy of the order shall be mailed to the defendant and need not be delivered by a law enforcement officer.

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

**Act No. 13 (H.21). An act relating to service of writs of possession**

**Subjects: Court procedure; writs of possession; service**

This act permits a sheriff of any Vermont county to serve a writ of possession, regardless of where the property subject to the writ is located. The act replaces current law, under which a writ of possession can only be served by the sheriff of the county where the property is located.

Effective Date: May 5, 2025

**Act No. 14 (H.13). An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers**

**Subjects: Medicaid; human services; community-based service providers; designated and specialized service agencies**

This act requires the Secretary of Human Services to calculate payment rates for providers of community-based services in Vermont's Medicaid program, including designated and specialized service agencies, that are reasonable and adequate to achieve the required outcomes for the populations they serve. It requires the Secretary to take certain factors into account when calculating the rates and to establish a calculating methodology that includes a schedule for conducting Medicaid rate studies, sets forth a predictable timeline for redetermining base rates, and includes a process for calculating an annual inflationary rate adjustment. The act directs the Secretary to recalculate the payment rates for providers of community-based services at least annually and report those rates and the cost of funding them to the General Assembly annually as part of the Agency of Human Services' budget presentation. It also directs the Secretary to establish a process for providers to request provider stabilization from the Agency if they are at imminent risk of closure. The act requires the Agency to provide an update on its implementation of the act to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2026.

Effective Date: May 13, 2025

**Act No. 15 (H.96). An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need**

**Subjects: Health; Green Mountain Care Board; health care facilities; certificates of need**

This act increases the monetary thresholds at which a certificate of need (CON) is required for a new health care project, purchase, or service and aligns the CON jurisdictional triggers for hospitals with those for other health care facilities. The act also

adds new exclusions from CON requirements for fully depreciated medical equipment, for ground ambulance services and emergency medical equipment and supplies, and for new services or construction projects for facilities owned or operated by the State of Vermont or funded by a contract or grant from the State of Vermont, although notice of a new State-owned, -operated, or -funded service or project must be provided to the Green Mountain Care Board.

Effective Date: May 13, 2025

**Act No. 16 (H.218). An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund**

**Subjects: Human services; expenditures; Opioid Abatement Special Fund; opioid use disorder**

This act makes various fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. It also requires the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee to base its annual recommendations for expenditures from the Special Fund on previously reported outcomes and measurements and to include with its recommendations the corresponding citation for authorized use of the Special Fund. Lastly, this act requires the Advisory Committee to elect a vice chair from among its nongovernmental members.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 17 (H.206). An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code**

**Subjects: Uniform Commercial Code**

This act makes changes the Uniform Commercial Code, codified in Title 9A of the V.S.A. The Uniform Law Commission, which oversees the model language of the Uniform Commercial Code, adopted a set of new recommendations for states to adopt in 2022. The Uniform Commercial Code is most effective when all states have the same language, so this act adopts all of the 2022 recommendations from the Uniform Law Commission. Besides various technical updates, notable in these amendments is the adoption of a new Article 12, which provides commercial law rules for transactions involving controllable electronic records. These records include emerging technologies, such as virtual currencies and electronic chattel paper.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

**Act No. 18 (H.463). An act relating to technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session**

**Subjects: Technical corrections; legislature; Vermont Statutes Annotated**

This act makes technical corrections to numerous sections of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, including statutes related to the Executive Branch, labor and employment, and motor vehicles.

Effective Date: May 13, 2025

**Act No. 19 (S.18). An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers**

**Subjects: Health; health care facilities; birth centers; health insurance; Medicaid; certificate of need**

This act establishes licensure requirements for freestanding birth centers, which are facilities that provide midwifery care, low-risk deliveries, and newborn care immediately after delivery, and that are not part of a hospital. The act directs the Department of Health to adopt rules for birth centers based on national birth center standards published by the American Association of Birth Centers that include requirements for operating a birth center, the scope of services that may be provided at a birth center, and requirements for written practice guidelines and policies that include procedures for transferring a patient to a hospital when necessary and for collaborating with other health care providers to deliver appropriate care to patients. The act exempts birth centers from certificate of need requirements and requires health insurance plans that cover maternity services to cover them when they are provided at a birth center. It also requires the Agency of Human Services to seek federal approval for Vermont Medicaid to cover prenatal, maternity, postpartum, and newborn services provided at a birth center.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 13, 2025

**Act No. 20 (S.28). An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services**

**Subjects: Health; health care professionals; legally protected health care activity; Consumer Protection Act; limited-services pregnancy centers; unprofessional conduct; medication abortions; fetal death reports**

This act creates reciprocity with other states that also safeguard access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care services, which Vermont law refers to as “legally protected health care activity.” It establishes a new exemption from the Public Records Act for records held by a State professional licensing entity if the records contain the telephone number, email address, or physical or mailing address of an applicant or licensee, other than an address that the applicant or licensee has designated as a public address. The act amends laws describing unprofessional conduct for professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation and the Board of Medical Practice to include advertising that is intended or has a tendency to mislead as well as to deceive and permitting one’s name or license to be used when not actively overseeing the services provided, in addition to when not actually in charge of or responsible for those services. The act also creates an exception to the prohibition on using a questionnaire for the initial evaluation of a patient to allow prescribing medication to a patient to terminate pregnancy based on an adaptive questionnaire that allows the provider to get additional medical history and ask follow-up questions as needed.

The act expands the scope of health-related conduct that violates the Consumer Protection Act from advertising of services by limited-services pregnancy centers to untrue or misleading advertising by any person regarding health care services performed in this State. It adds federal investigations and proceedings to an existing prohibition on public agencies and officials cooperating in an interstate investigation or proceeding that



seeks to impose civil or criminal liability on anyone who has engaged in legally protected health care activity in Vermont, with a corresponding exemption for compliance with federal court orders in addition to Vermont court orders. The act modifies limitations on disclosure of protected health information related to a legally protected health care activity and requires that reports of fetal deaths, which are already excluded from the Public Records Act, be kept confidential, prevents them from being discoverable in legal proceedings, and reduces the time after which the records must be destroyed from five years to two years. The act also allows prescribers and pharmacists to request their names be removed from fulfilled prescriptions for medications for gender-affirming or reproductive health care services and provides immunity for licensed members of a pharmacy's staff who fail to remove a prescriber's or pharmacist's name as long as the staff member's acts or omissions did not constitute gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Effective Date: May 13, 2025

**Act No. 21 (S.27). An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports**

**Subjects: Consumer protection; health; medical debt; credit reporting**

This act appropriates \$1 million to the State Treasurer in fiscal year 2026 for a contract with a nonprofit entity to acquire and repay certain medical debts incurred by Vermonters. To be eligible for medical debt repayment, the act requires that the debtor be a Vermont resident who either has a household income at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or owes a medical debt in an amount that is five percent or more of the debtor's household income and whose patient account still has an outstanding balance even after the health care provider has completed its routine efforts to collect the amounts due. The act adds a definition of "behavioral health" to the Vermont Statutes Annotated for limited purposes and allows a nonprofit organization to request a consumer's credit report without the consumer's permission in order to determine the consumer's eligibility for abolition of medical debt. The act also prohibits credit reporting agencies from reporting medical debt information or maintaining medical debt information in a consumer's file and forbids large health care facilities and medical debt collectors from reporting medical debts to consumer reporting agencies.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 22 (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**

**Subjects: Medicaid; human services; mental health; substance use disorder; long-term residential treatment**

This act requires the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to provide coverage for medically necessary high-intensity, medically monitored residential treatment episodes and medically necessary low-intensity, clinically managed residential treatment episodes

when prescribed by a health care professional employed by a residential program who is practicing within the scope of the health care professional's license and the residential treatment program is participating in Vermont's Medicaid program. It further requires that coverage of these residential treatment episodes be for the entire length of stay prescribed by the health care professional.

This act requires AHS to conduct a review of the Medicaid payment model for residential substance use disorder treatment services and submit the results of the review to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2025.

This act eliminates a repeal that would have prohibited individuals who are incapacitated due to use of alcohol or other drugs from being held at a Department of Corrections' facility. It requires the Departments of Health and of Mental Health's existing plan to expand services and programming for individuals incapacitated due to use of alcohol or other drugs to prioritize Chittenden County. It also requires the submission of two presentations to the General Assembly on or before February 15, 2026. The first is a joint presentation from the Departments of Health and of Mental Health on efforts to expand services and programming for individuals who are incapacitated due to use of alcohol or other drugs. The second is a presentation from the Department of Corrections on efforts to reinstate the practice of connecting individuals who are in a correctional facility due to incapacitation from alcohol or other drug use with appropriate community-based substance use recovery providers.

This act requires AHS, in consultation with the Human Services Board, the Office of the Attorney General, each of the Agency's departments with cases before the Human Services Board, community partners, and individuals with lived experience as appellants before the Board, to submit a report by December 15, 2025, with various recommendations on Board proceedings. Some of the reporting requirements include a proposal for attorney training and a proposal on resolving potential appeals prior to reaching the Board. It also requires the Board, in consultation with AHS, each of the Agency's departments with cases before the Human Services Board, the Office of Attorney General, community partners, and individuals with lived experience as appellants before the Board, to submit a report by December 15, 2025, with various recommendations on Board proceedings. Some of the reporting requirements include a proposal to improve understanding of Board processes and accessibility to appellants and a proposal for the exchange of periodic feedback as part of a continual quality improvement process.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 23 (H.137). An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services**

**Subjects: Insurance; captive insurance; property and casualty insurance; money transmission licenses; interest rate caps; banking transaction holds; coerced debt; genetic privacy; Medigap rates; virtual-currency kiosks; mutual savings bank governance**

This act makes numerous amendments to Vermont law as it pertains to insurance, banking, and money transmission. In addition to numerous housekeeping amendments, the insurance provisions concern the following subjects: property and casualty rate regulation in competitive markets; unfair insurance trade practices related to affordable housing; capitalization, formation, merger, reinsurance, and governance requirements applicable to captive insurance companies and risk retention groups; and regulatory requirements applicable to Medicare supplement insurance rates.

In addition, the act exempts certain payroll processors from having to obtain a money transmission license; expands the scope of “permitted charges” not subject to statutory interest rate caps to include “discount points,” (i.e., prepaid interest), and requires enhanced protections for depositors of mutual savings banks, particularly with respect to governance and the fiduciary duties of corporators.

Regarding the regulation of virtual-currency kiosks, the act extends by one additional year the moratorium on new virtual-currency kiosks in Vermont, which was set to expire on July 1, 2025. It also imposes additional consumer protections applicable to the existing virtual-currency kiosks currently operating in Vermont. These consumer protections include the following: enhanced consumer disclosures and warnings; customer identification requirements; live customer support; mandatory live screenings for certain customers; blockchain analytics to detect and prevent fraudulent transactions; and full refunds for new customers and fee refunds for existing customers in the event of fraudulent activity. Also, the act increases the daily transaction limits for new customers and existing customers and increases the statutory transaction fee cap that a virtual-currency kiosk operator may impose.

Finally, the act requires the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to conduct three in-house studies related to the following topics: enhanced authority for banks to protect account holders from suspected fraudulent activity by imposing transaction holds; protections for victims of coerce debt; and genetic privacy in the insurance context, particularly regarding genetic data obtained by direct-to-consumer companies, such as those that conduct ancestry DNA testing.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2025

**Act No. 24 (H.491). An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate**

**Subjects: Taxation; education property tax; nonhomestead rate; homestead yields**

This act sets the property dollar equivalent yield at \$8,596.00 and the income dollar equivalent yield at \$12,172.00 for the purpose of setting homestead property tax rates in fiscal year 2026. This act sets the nonhomestead property tax rate in fiscal year 2026 at \$1.703 per \$100.00 of equalized education property value. This act additionally makes a technical fix to the application of the statewide adjustment.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 25 (H.27). An act relating to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission**

**Subjects: Domestic relations; Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission**

This act makes changes to the charge and the membership of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. The act directs the Commission to include near-fatal instances of domestic violence in its examination of trends and patterns of domestic violence in Vermont. The act also adds six members to the Commission for a total membership of 23 and encourages appointing authorities to strive to appoint persons from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, persons with a disability, and persons who identify as LGBTQ+ in an effort to reflect communities throughout Vermont.

Effective Date: May 20, 2025

**Act No. 26 (H.398). An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority**

**Subjects: Economic development; conservation and development**

This act makes numerous technical and substantive amendments to the statutes governing the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA or Authority).

The act expands the definition of “eligible facility” or “eligible project,” removes the requirement for additional members when the Authority establishes nonprofit corporations, extends the maximum duration for repayment of loans to local development corporations, authorizes the electronic signature for bonds, authorizes the Authority to pledge security and other forms of credit enhancement and to purchase bonds issued by the Authority, ensures that Authority staff are not personally liable for bonds or contracts entered into by the Authority unless the staff member engaged in intentional misconduct, and expands the Authority’s powers to engage in secured loans.

The act also statutorily defines the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Strategy, which authorizes VEDA to fund projects that meet the criteria outlined in the Strategy.

Lastly, the act creates the Disaster Recovery Loan Fund within the Authority. The fund provides loans and other forms of financial assistance to businesses, including agricultural and forest products businesses, following a disaster event.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 27 (H.493). An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government**

**Subjects: Appropriations; Big Bill; fiscal year 2026 budget**

This act is the budget bill. For more information, please see the website of the Joint Fiscal Office at: <https://ljfo.vermont.gov/subjects/appropriations-and-budget/fy-2026>

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2024

**Act No. 28 (S.44). An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements**

**Subjects: Internal security and public safety; protection of personally identifying information; immigration agreements**

This act amends 20 V.S.A. § 4652, which requires the Governor to approve any immigration agreements pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or 19 U.S.C. § 1401(i). An exception that previously allowed a State or local law enforcement agency to enter into one of these agreements without the Governor's approval during a State or national emergency was removed.

Effective Date: May 21, 2025

**Act No. 29 (S.56). An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans**

**Subjects: Executive; report; Office of New Americans**

This act creates the Office of New Americans Study Committee to make recommendations for creating an Office of New Americans. The Study Committee consists of nine members who shall begin meeting on or before September 1, 2025 and submit a report to the General Assembly on or before September 1, 2026.

Effective Date: May 21, 2025

**Act No. 30 (H.41). An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person**

**Subjects: Crimes; homicide; abuse of a corpse**

This act creates a new criminal law for abusing the dead body of a person, codified in 13 V.S.A. § 3761a, and modifies the law governing the unauthorized burial or removal of a dead body of a person under 18 V.S.A. § 5211 by making it a civil penalty.

Specifically, Sec. 1 of the act creates 13 V.S.A. § 3761a, which prohibits a person from, knowingly without legal authorization, intentionally burning, mutilating, disfiguring, dismembering, or destroying the dead body of a person. A person who violates this law commits a felony offense carrying a penalty of imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

This act also creates an enhanced felony penalty for those that violate subsection (a) of 13 V.S.A. § 3761a for the purpose of concealing a crime or avoiding apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime. Additionally, the bill creates an enhanced penalty for committing sexual conduct upon the dead body of a person. Both of these violations carry an enhanced felony penalty of a maximum term of imprisonment of not more than 15 years, a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

Sec. 2 of the act amends 18 V.S.A. § 5211, which prohibits the unauthorized burial, removal, transportation, or entombment of a dead body of a person without a burial-transit permit. This act modifies the penalty for a violation of this statute by eliminating the criminal penalties from the law, including the penalties carrying a term of

imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both, and replacing it with only a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 31 (H.98). An act relating to confirmatory adoptions and standby guardianships**

**Subjects: Adoption; confirmatory adoption**

This act establishes an expedited confirmatory adoption process for parents who conceived a child through assisted reproduction and who are already legally recognized parents under Vermont law and creates a court process for establishing “standby guardianships” for minors in cases where a child’s parents are unavailable to care for the child because of an adverse immigration action.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 22, 2025

**Act No. 32 (H.461). An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave**

**Subjects: Labor; employment practices; Parental and Family Leave Act**

This act expands the definition of a family member in Vermont’s Parental and Family Leave Act to provide individuals in nontraditional family structures with equal access to caregiving leave. The act also extends coverage to airline flight crew who meet the special eligibility requirements for coverage under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. The act expands the definition of parental leave to include an employee’s recovery from childbirth or miscarriage, or to care for a foster child. The act permits eligible employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave annually for safe leave if an employee or an employee’s family member is the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The act also permits eligible employees to use up to two weeks for bereavement leave, with no more than five workdays to be taken consecutively. Finally, the act permits covered employees to take qualifying exigency leave related to active duty service by a family member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 33 (H.494). An act relating to capital construction and State bonding**

**Subjects: Capital construction; capital appropriations; State bonding**

This act sets out the State’s fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 capital budget and authorizes the State to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$106,890,350.00, including \$6,890,350.00 in general obligation bonds that were previously appropriated but unissued under the capital bill for the preceding biennium. This act reallocates \$6,774,938.48 from prior capital appropriations, including \$5,074,938.48 in bonded dollars and \$1,700,000.00 in cash. This act also authorizes spending in fiscal year 2026 from the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments in the amount of \$27,936,099.00, including \$13,436,099.00 from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount and \$14,500,000.00 from the Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves

subaccount. It additionally provides that there will be a budget adjustment process in the second year of the biennium and that fiscal year 2026 appropriations are subject to budget adjustment unless otherwise specified.

Appropriations (General Obligation Bonding). This act appropriates capital funds in the amount of \$111,965,288.44 over the biennium for capital construction projects, including the following:

- \$29,651,680.44 for State Buildings
- \$13,025,000.00 for Human Services
- \$1,667,000.00 for Commerce and Community Development
- \$4,200,000.00 for Grant Programs
- \$1,050,000.00 for Veterans' Home
- \$3,000,000.00 for University of Vermont
- \$8,000,000.00 for Vermont State Colleges
- \$11,124,360.00 for Natural Resources
- \$20,000,000.00 for Clean Water Initiatives
- \$3,926,338.00 for Military
- \$6,500,000.00 for Agriculture, Food and Markets
- \$3,795,000.00 for Public Safety
- \$5,075,910.00 for Judiciary
- \$250,000.00 for Vermont Rural Fire Protection
- \$700,000.00 for Vermont Historical Society

Capital Budgeting Process. This act aligns the deadline for presentation of the capital construction budget with the deadline for presentation of the budget report to the General Assembly. It requires that the 10-year capital program plan include greater historical detail in a concise format. This act additionally delays by one year the claw-back of spending authority from the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments and requires the Joint Fiscal Office to report by December 15, 2025, on the Cash Fund.

Buildings and General Services; Human Services. This act authorizes the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to transfer the Randall Meadow property to the Town of Waterbury once certain conditions have been met. It requires the Commissioner to provide timely notification to the City of Montpelier and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience of updates to plans for the Capitol Complex flood recovery. This act additionally repeals the requirement for the Commissioner to conduct a feasibility study of the use of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility as a reentry facility for eligible justice-involved men following the construction of replacement facilities for justice-involved women.

Sergeant at Arms. This act provides that a fiscal year 2025 capital appropriation of \$100,000.00 to the Sergeant at Arms may additionally be used for the purchase and installation at the State House of an X-ray machine designed to screen baggage.

Effective Date: May 22, 2025

**Act No. 34 (H.167). An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**

**Subjects: Agriculture; food security; local foods; Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant Program**

This act establishes within the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant Program to provide grants to Vermont Foodbank to purchase local food to distribute through the Vermont Foodbank's distribution channels, and for Vermont Foodbank to offer subgrants to Vermont Foodbank community partners to buy directly from local farms and to buy directly from local farms with a focus on providing culturally preferred foods or local relationships. The Vermont Foodbank shall report annually to the General Assembly regarding implementation and administration of the Grant Program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 35 (H.339). An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230**

**Subjects: Alcoholic beverages; licensing; repeal; retail licenses; sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption**

This act amends 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 70, Sec. 7, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 67, Sec. 8, to remove the prospective repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230 (sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption).

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

**Act No. 36 (H.396). An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award**

**Subjects: Conservation and development; Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award**

This act creates the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award that the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation will present annually 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.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 37 (H.481). An act relating to stormwater management**

**Subjects: Conservation and development; water quality; stormwater; three-acre permit**

This act amends requirements related to the permitting of stormwater systems in the State. The act allows municipalities that assume full legal responsibility for a stormwater system to assess municipal special assessment fees on users of the stormwater system.



The act extends the deadline by which owners of impervious surface subject to the three-acre impervious surface permit must complete permitting. In the Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, and stormwater impaired watersheds, the deadline for permit compliance is extended to October 1, 2028. In all other watersheds, the permit deadline is extended to October 1, 2038, or not later than five years after a binding stormwater-specific waste-load allocation has been established for that watershed, whichever occurs first.

The act also repeals the sunset of the clean water surcharge on the property transfer tax and makes several conforming changes to legislation related to use of the clean water surcharge. The act amends the eligibility criteria for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program and the Developed Lands Implementation Program and clarifies that both Programs are available to provide financial assistance for compliance with the three-acre stormwater permit. The act also provides that the Clean Water Board shall recommend at least \$1,000,000.00 annually for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program until October 1, 2032, and the act requires the Clean Water Board to recommend \$5,000,000.00 for the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program in fiscal year 2027.

The act requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to publish a Public Resource Guide to Stormwater Management that provides to persons subject to stormwater operation permits information and resources related to compliance with permit requirements. The act also creates the Study Committee on Stormwater Management and 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.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2025

**Act No. 38 (S.50). An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration**

**Subjects: Energy; public service; net metering; renewable energy; solar energy**

This act allows ground mounted photovoltaic net metering systems of 25 kilowatts and less to qualify for expedited registration. Previously, only systems 15 kW or less could use expedited registration. It requires net metering systems 25 kW and less to comply with a 10-foot setback. It also eliminates the requirement for customers recording their net metering system in the land records to report that record to the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

The act directs the PUC to update to the net metering rules to allow customers to change their decision to retain or transfer their renewable energy credits for their net metering system once within 120 days after the system is commissioned. The act also allows customers who own a net metering system that was commissioned between January 1, 2023, and July 1, 2025, to change the customer's decision to retain the attributes once by submitting a request to the Public Utility Commission by September 2, 2025.

The act requires the PUC to meet with stakeholders to evaluate the definition of “plant” that is used in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(18) and recommend changes to it by November 1, 2025.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 39 (S.87). An act relating to extradition procedures**

**Subjects: Crimes and criminal procedure; extradition**

This act makes changes to the amount of time a person may be held by Vermont while awaiting the warrant from the Governor of the demanding state and recognizes a waiver of extradition previously signed by the accused as a term of the person’s current probation, parole, bail, or other release in the demanding state.

The act extends the amount of time a person may be held by the holding state while awaiting the warrant from the Governor of the demanding state from 30 to 90 days and shortens the amount of time the holding state may request as an extension to the time provided from 60 to 30 days. Current law allows for a maximum time in custody of the holding state of 90 days and the act extends it to 120 days.

The act also recognizes a waiver of extradition previously signed by the accused as valid in Vermont and directs that the waiver should be treated as if the fugitive had signed the waiver in accordance with current procedures. While the waiver is presumed valid, the fugitive may challenge the validity of the waiver, but if the court finds that the waiver is valid, it may proceed as if the person had consented to return to the demanding state.

Effective Date: May 28, 2025 and applies prospectively and does not affect extraditions in process at the time of enactment

**Act No. 40 (S.117). An act relating to wage and hour, unemployment compensation, and workers’ compensation**

**Subjects: Labor; employment practices; unemployment compensation; wage and hour; workers’ compensation**

This act makes technical corrections to: the distribution of penalties for the willful withholding of wages by an employer; the annual calculation of the minimum wage; the definition of the highest benefit cost rate used in computing the unemployment insurance tax rate schedule; and the calculation of disregarded earnings. This act removes the authority of the Commissioner of Labor to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with disabilities, learners, and apprentices. This act provides claimants and employers with the option to receive communications about unemployment insurance claims electronically. This act mandates that if, upon the acquisition of a Vermont employer, a successor entity divides the operations of the business, the successor shall designate one of the corporate entities as the filing successor for unemployment insurance purposes. This act updates deadlines set in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183 regarding the implementation of a modernized information technology system for the

unemployment insurance program and provides for the resumption of the Short-Term Compensation Program. This act allows workers' compensation claimants to request medical case management services and, for claimants who do not speak English fluently, to receive translation services. This act provides enhanced penalties for the late payment of weekly benefits to workers' compensation claimants and, finally, the act requires employers to report late payments to the Department of Labor and for the Department to compile the data and submit a written report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2027.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 41 (H.44). An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving**

**Subjects: Motor vehicles; Judiciary; reporting; impaired driving**

This act makes a variety of changes to the impaired driving laws, including technical corrections, closing loopholes to ensure that the DMV is notified of license suspensions, and creating proportionate accountability for noncompliance with warrant-based blood draws, among other changes.

Sec. 1 of the act amends 4 V.S.A. § 33, concerning the jurisdiction of the Family Division of the Superior Court. Specifically, this section makes technical corrections by striking out the term “juvenile” and adding a reference to 33 V.S.A. chapter 52A—the youthful offender chapter—to proceedings within the jurisdiction of the family court. Additional changes to this statute are made to comply with federal “masking” regulations for commercial drivers, ensuring that Vermont law does not permit a CDL holder who is convicted of a qualifying traffic violation to have that violation be differed, dismissed, or go unreported. Finally, this statute is further amended to make technical changes by clarifying terms, ensuring that felony motor vehicle offenses can be heard in the Family Division, and to ensure that Family Division court decisions are reported to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Sec. 2 of the act amends various parts of 23 V.S.A. chapter 13, subchapter 13. First, the term “serious bodily injury” is added to the definitions section of the subchapter. Amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1201 make gender neutral updates to the statute but also add a new subsection (j) mandating a person’s compliance with the collection of an evidentiary blood sample issued through a warrant. A person who knowingly hinders the collection of an evidentiary blood sample could face a charge of criminal refusal. However, subsection (f) ensures that a person cannot be convicted of both a DUI violation and a criminal refusal. An amendment to 23 V.S.A. § 1202(d)(6) requires that a DUI suspect is made aware that the suspect could be charged with a criminal refusal.

Sec. 2 also amends 23 V.S.A. § 1205 by resolving a statutory gap in the law between 23 V.S.A. §§ 1201 and 1205. 23 V.S.A. § 1201 creates a criminal offense if someone possesses a BAC of .08 or higher. The act amends 23 V.S.A. § 1205 so that it is consistent with 23 V.S.A. § 1201. Additionally, 23 V.S.A. § 1205(c) is amended to ensure that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles receives a police officer’s affidavit of

probable cause when someone is provided a DUI notice of violation. Finally, 23 V.S.A. § 1210 is amended to ensure that a separate DUI violation can be charged for each person who dies or is seriously injured in the same DUI-related car crash, in addition to several technical corrections to the statute.

Secs. 3 and 4 of the act amend 33 V.S.A. §§ 5202 and 5229 to ensure that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles receives any merits adjudication orders concerning the potential license suspension of a person subject to a family court proceeding.

Sec. 5 of the act creates the Impaired Driving Processing Task Force. The Task Force is created to study the concept of implied consent during DUI investigations with the dual goals to recommend constitutional approaches that:

- (1) minimize the length of a law enforcement encounter for a suspect; and
- (2) minimize the processing and paperwork requirements for the law enforcement officer.

The Task Force is composed of the Chief Judge of the Superior Court, the Commissioners of Public Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Defender General, the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the President of the Vermont Sheriff's Association, and a representative from the Vermont Police Association. A report in the form of proposed legislation is due to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary by November 15, 2025.

Sec. 6 states that the act goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 42 (H.401). An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments**

**Subjects: Health; exemptions; licensing fees; food manufacturing establishments**

This act creates a new category of food manufacturing establishments, cottage food operations, which refers to the home kitchen or auxiliary kitchen on a person's private property where cottage food products are produced. This act further defines "cottage food products" to mean items sold by a cottage food operator that do not require refrigeration or time or temperature controls for safety. It exempts cottage food operations with annual gross receipts of \$30,000.00 or less from the existing requirement to obtain a license and pay a licensure fee. This act continues to require food manufacturing establishments otherwise exempt from the licensure and licensing fee requirements to submit a licensing exemption filing with the additional requirement that as part of the licensing exemption filing a food service establishment attest to completion of training required by the Department of Health in rule.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 43 (H.488). An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation**

**Subjects: Transportation; electric vehicle supply equipment; annual Transportation Program; town highways; Transportation Board; Vermont Route 36; locally managed projects; rail trails; mileage-based user fee; EV infrastructure fee**

This act:

- Transportation Program. Adopts the Agency of Transportation's (Agency or AOT) Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program except as amended in the act and defines terms used throughout the act.
- Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Investments Intended to Reduce Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Reduce Fossil Fuel Use, and Save Vermont Households Money. Summarizes certain transportation investments.
- Rail Program. Removes the \$260,000.00 subsidy for the Barre-Berlin-Montpelier Washington County Railroad (WACR) rail line and authorizes \$260,000.00 for repairs to the White River Junction Depot.
- Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters. Replaces the \$1,150,000.00 in Transportation Fund monies authorized to provide grants for town highway repairs following non-federal disasters for \$1,150,000.00 in PILOT Special Fund monies.
- State and Federal Funding; Mileage-Based User Fee; Updates. Requires the Secretary of Transportation to provide two briefings to update the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee regarding federal funding for the Fiscal Year 2026 State Transportation Program, including any changes to federal funding that will require modifications to the Transportation Program or legislative action, and work to design a mileage-based user fee program.
- Relinquishment of Vermont Route 36 in the Town of St. Albans. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to relinquish a portion of Vermont Route 36 to the Town of St. Albans.
- State-Owned Railroads; Rail Trails. Establishes a list of activities that are prohibited on State-owned rail trails and permits the Agency of Transportation to adopt rules governing activities on State-owned rail trails.
- Transportation Board. Permits the Transportation Board to appoint officers other than the Chair, who is appointed by the Governor, and clarifies the Board's authority to hear appeals related to certain contract disputes.
- Green Mountain Transit Authority. Amends the Green Mountain Transit Authority's charter to change its required area of operation and to repeal obsolete language related to the initial appointment of commissioners.

- Town Highways. Provides that the appropriations and approved grant amounts for State aid for town highway structures and the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program will annually increase by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index or the percentage increase in Agency of Transportation appropriations funded by the Transportation Fund, whichever is less. Requires the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with stakeholders, to examine and report on requirements related to the recovery of funding for canceled locally managed projects and potential changes related to those requirements. Requires the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a framework for assessing the current condition of municipal highways and prioritizing State funding based on need and the highway's role in the State's road network. Requires the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with stakeholders, to identify potential efficiencies and improvements related to the administration of Town Highway Aid and municipal grant programs.
- Mileage-Based User Fee. Updates provisions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 62 to reflect developments since the adoption of that act and to provide additional guidance for the design of a mileage-based user fee during State fiscal year 2026.
- Authorization to Transfer Monies in State Fiscal Year 2026. Permits the Secretary of Transportation to use up to \$325,000.00 in 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.
- Consideration of Vehicle Miles Traveled in Project Planning. Provides that the Agency of Transportation shall consider opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions as factors in various parts of the transportation planning process.
- Medical Transports. Authorizes the Agency of Transportation to provide up to \$600,000.00 in grants to public transit agencies to hire coordinators to be responsible for the identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers providing transportation services for the State's demand response transportation programs. Requires the Department of Vermont Health Access to provide the Joint Fiscal Committee with analysis of certain anticipated impacts on transportation services of a new contract for Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation services. Also requires an examination of certain opportunities to expand the pool of volunteer drivers for the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation program, and additional outreach and publicity related to opportunities to volunteer as a driver for the State's demand response transportation programs. Creates a working group to examine potential ways to improve the coordination of health care and transportation services for individual enrolled in the State's demand response transportation programs.

- Vehicle Identification Numbers for Certain Vehicles. Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to examine options to facilitate registration and inspection of ultra-low volume manufactured and home-built vehicles.
- Railroad Rights-of-Way. Requires an annual report to the General Assembly regarding the lease of State-owned railroad rights-of-way for communications infrastructure and other purposes that do not relate to the operation of a railroad in the right-of-way and requires the State to provide information to communications companies regarding the availability of State-owned railroad rights-of-way for lease.
- Dig Safe. Amends timeline for marking of underground utilities to require that they be marked by a utility company within 72 hours after receiving notice.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 2, 2025

See budget chart on following page.

TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS OVERVIEW FY 2026 Budget By Fund							
	All Funds	T-Fund	Federal	Local/Other	InterDept	TIB	Int Svc Fund
<b>DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	49,518,301	46,709,524	2,687,081		121,696		
<b>FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	26,545,463	25,152,473	1,392,990				
<b>PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Paving	102,907,857	22,386,726	80,519,688	1,443			
Interstate Bridge	45,544,891		42,215,402			3,329,489	
State Highway Bridge	77,872,921		61,832,165	1,125,203	4,630,106	10,285,447	
Roadway	67,669,113	6,959,316	52,193,961	925,834	6,091,921	1,488,081	
Traffic & Safety	45,634,796	331,082	43,420,917	2,062,797			
Park & Ride	2,435,740	189,207	2,236,731	9,802			
Bike & Pedestrian Facilities	21,879,965	1,169,905	16,628,728	4,081,332			
Transportation Alternatives	6,471,054		5,176,843	1,294,211			
Multi-Modal Facilities	0						
Program Development Administration	40,704,263	30,969,198	4,455,065	280,000	5,000,000		
Total Program Development	411,310,600	62,005,434	308,679,500	9,800,622	15,722,027	15,103,017	0
<b>REST AREAS</b>	1,190,246	119,025	1,071,221				
<b>POLICY &amp; PLANNING</b>	15,047,615	3,742,314	11,223,301		82,000		
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>	9,514,007	389,377	8,150,226	952,544	21,860		
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>	117,227,043	110,349,507	932,014		5,945,522		
<b>PUBLIC TRANSIT PROGRAM</b>	52,695,234	10,007,534	42,547,700		140,000		
<b>AVIATION</b>	13,417,465	7,474,433	5,943,032				
<b>RAIL</b>	61,867,348	15,067,669	31,894,435	6,696,861	8,228,363		
<b>CENTRAL GARAGE</b>	25,654,553						25,654,553
<b>TRANSPORTATION BUILDINGS</b>	2,500,000	2,200,000				300,000	
Total "VTrans" Programs	786,507,875	283,217,290	414,521,500	17,450,047	30,261,468	15,403,017	25,654,553
<b>TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGES</b>	37,793,406		31,716,311	2,480,112		3,596,983	
<b>TH STRUCTURES</b>	7,200,000	7,200,000					
<b>TH CLASS 2 ROADWAY PROGRAM</b>	8,600,000	8,600,000					
<b>TH - NONFEDERAL DISASTERS - PILOT FUNDS</b>	1,150,000			1,150,000			
<b>TH - FEDERAL DISASTERS</b>	4,000,000		4,000,000				
<b>TH AID PROGRAM</b>	30,418,736	30,418,736					
<b>TH CLASS 1 SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS</b>	128,750	128,750					
<b>TH VERMONT LOCAL ROADS</b>	461,452	121,452	360,000				
<b>MUNICIPAL MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	6,893,000	715,000	1,428,000	4,750,000			
<b>TH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANTS</b>	0						
Total "Town Highway" Programs	96,665,344	47,183,938	37,504,311	8,380,112	0	3,596,983	0
<b>TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>	204,171	204,171					
<b>TOTAL AOT PROGRAMS</b>	883,377,390	330,605,399	452,025,811	25,830,159	30,261,468	19,000,000	25,654,553
<b>One-Time Appropriations</b>	<b>All Funds</b>	<b>T-Fund</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Local/Other</b>	<b>InterDept</b>	<b>TIB</b>	<b>Int Svc Fund</b>
ACCD EVSE Funding	1,400,000	1,400,000					
Demand Response Volunteer Coordinators	600,000	600,000					
<b>Transportation Fund Appropriations Not in AOT Budget or T-Bill</b>							
BGS for Info Center Operations	4,420,913						
JTOC Appropriation to DPS	0						
Pay Act	3,000,000						
<b>TOTAL OTHER TF APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>7,420,913</b>						
<b>TOTAL T-FUND APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>340,026,312</b>						
<b>Other Transfers and Adjustments to Transportation Fund</b>							
Revenue (Into) TF							
From Other Funds to TF	(12,640,000)						
Transfers from TF							
Transfer from TF for transp-related debt service	305,825						
Transfer from TF to Downtown Fund	523,966						
Transfer from TF to Rec Trails Fund (10 VSA 446)	370,000						
Transfer from TF to Central Garage (19 VSA 13)	1,650,731						
Transfer from TF to Stabilization Reserve	1,866,970						
<b>TOTAL NET TRANSFERS</b>	<b>(7,902,508)</b>						

Logan Mosher 03/26/2025 JFO



**Act No. 44 (H.1). An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission**

**Subjects: Executive; governmental ethics; State Ethics Commission; procedure for accepting and referring ethics complaints**

This act amends statutes related to the State Ethics Commission. The act amends the requirement that the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches consult with the State Ethics Commission after the Commission refers a complaint to a respective branch. Instead of the previously required consultation after referral, the act requires the Commission at the time of referral of the complaint to specify any application of the State Code of Ethics to the alleged complaint and provide a recommended action. The act clarifies that the advice the Commission provided to a referred entity is confidential and nonbinding on the receiving entity. In addition, the act delays until September 1, 2027 the effective date of the Commission's enforcement authority, at which time the Commission may have the staff and funding to fully implement enforcement.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 5, 2025

**Act No. 45 (H.105). An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program**

**Subjects: Youth; juveniles; impaired driving; alcohol possession; Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program**

This act expands the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program (YSASP) to include underage violations for cannabis possession and impaired driving, along with technical statutory changes to account for these inclusions.

Specifically, the statutes governing underage cannabis possession and impaired driving violations are repealed and the violations are no longer delinquencies adjudicated in the Family Division of the Vermont Superior Court. Instead, these violations are referred to YSASP for appropriate remedial programming, including automatic license suspensions for impaired driving violations and automatic license reinstatements for successful completion of YSASP. If the participant fails to meet certain statutory and YSASP requirements, then the infractions are treated as civil violations to be adjudicated by the Judicial Bureau.

The act also creates reporting requirements on various data points related to underage impaired driving violations and suspensions, along with a Public Records Act exemption for information disclosed during the YSASP process.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 46 (H.222). An act relating to civil orders of protection**

**Subjects: Domestic relations; abuse prevention**

This act makes a number of changes to the statutes concerning civil orders of protection.

Vermont law provides a process whereby a person who is alleged to have been subjected to stalking or sexual assault can obtain a civil order of protection if the person is not eligible to obtain a domestic violence order because the alleged perpetrator was not a family or household member. This act amends the definition of stalking by specifically including behavior that is conducted through the use of technology. This definition would also apply to domestic violence civil orders of protection through the cross-reference provided in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

The act amends the law regarding final domestic violence civil orders of protection by authorizing the court, after a hearing, to award possession of a vehicle to the plaintiff for a set period of time. In cases of temporary emergency domestic violence civil orders of protection, the court may award temporary possession of a vehicle to a plaintiff upon a finding that the plaintiff's possession of a vehicle is necessary to escape abuse or prevent further abuse. The additional requirement of the finding in cases of emergency orders are because the orders are issued ex parte.

The act also authorizes the court to order a defendant in a final domestic violence order to complete a domestic violence accountability program approved by the Council on Domestic Violence. Unlike other conditions of a final order, a violation of this condition would not be a crime under 13 V.S.A. § 1030 but may subject the defendant to civil contempt proceedings pursuant to Rule 16 of the Vermont Rules of Family Proceedings. The act requires the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission to include in its biennial report the number of defendants ordered to complete a domestic violence accountability program approved by the Council on Domestic Violence and the number of those defendants who completed the program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 47 (H.231). An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes**

**Subjects: Fish and wildlife; technical corrections; definitions; uniform points; taking of amphibians and reptiles; transporting a crossbow in a motor vehicle**

This act makes multiple changes to laws related to the management of fish and wildlife. The act amends the existing ban on the willful destruction of nests or birds' eggs except when necessary to protect a building to clarify a person cannot remove a nest to protect a building when eggs or chicks are in the nest. The act authorizes the enforcement of the Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR's) Use of Public Waters Rules as a civil violation in the Judicial Bureau.

The act provides that a Vermont resident with developmental disabilities may receive a free permanent fishing license upon submission to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) of a statement signed by a treating health care provider certifying that the person meets the definition of a person with development disabilities. The act also authorizes the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife to designate Labor Day weekend each year as "free mentored fishing weekend," when up to four unlicensed anglers can fish with a licensed angler over the weekend. The act requires the DFW to maintain an accounting

of lost revenue due to the issuance of free licenses, and DFW annually shall report to the General Assembly an accounting of lost revenue due to free licenses.

The act amends the permitting requirements for fishing tournaments in the State. The act clarifies that tournaments held on the Connecticut River, excluding Moore and Comerford Reservoirs, that do not utilize a Vermont access area do not need to obtain a permit. The act provides that a fishing tournament may run multiple days, but the days must be consecutive for that contest to be considered a single event. The act amends the fees for fishing tournaments. Tournaments with up to 25 participants pay a fee of \$10.00. Tournaments with 26 to 50 participants pay a fee of \$30.00. Tournaments with more than 50 participants pay a fee of \$100.00.

The act amends the definition of a big game violation and increases the fines for big game violations. The act defines a “big game violation” to mean violations relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game; violations related to threatened and endangered species; violations relating to taking fish or game while under a criminal suspension; violations relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products; interference with hunting, fishing, or trapping; or illegal commercial importation or possession of wild animals. The act also clarifies that a person cannot carry an air rifle, arrow rifle, pre-charged pneumatic rifle, or crossbow in a motor vehicle while the weapon is loaded.

The act provides that the Criminal Division of the Superior Court generally shall have exclusive jurisdiction over fish and wildlife violations except that a fish and wildlife violation shall be charged as a minor violation subject to a civil penalty in the Judicial Bureau, provided that the offender has no prior history of fish and wildlife violations, there is no need to seize evidence in order to further investigate the violation, there is no need for a criminal warrant to further investigate the violation, and there is no possibility of forfeiture. If a violation is not eligible to be a minor violation, the violation shall be treated as criminal.

The act prohibits the intentional taking of reptiles or amphibians in the State beginning on January 1, 2027 unless the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife allows for taking under DFW rules. The act authorizes the Commissioner to adopt rules that establish requirements for the collection or possession for commercial use, export, or sale of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the Commissioner adopting rules, the act prohibits a person from importing, possessing, or selling a pond slider turtle in the State unless legally acquired as a pet before July 1, 2025 or legally acquired by a person with a pet dealer permit or commercial collection permit. The prohibitions related to sale of pond sliders shall be repealed when the Commissioner adopts rules regulating the import, possession, or sale of the pond slider.

The act clarifies the requirements for a person to obtain a permit from the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife in order to import, transport into, transport within, or possess wild animals in the State. The act also authorizes the Secretary of Natural Resources to maintain the confidentiality of the location and type of a threatened and endangered species during regulatory planning or similar events. The act also repeals the

statute requiring DFW to reimburse farmers for damage to farm crops by deer or black bear.

The act also amends requirements under the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. The act authorizes ANR to adopt the Resilience Implementation Strategy as a report instead of by rule. The act also clarifies the definition of covered greenhouse gas emissions. Last, the act extends the deadline for ANR rules under the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program and the deadline for the State Treasurer's report on the cost to Vermont of covered greenhouse gas emissions.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 5, 2025

**Act No. 48 (H.458). An act relating to the Agency of Digital Services**

**Subjects: Executive; Agency of Digital Services**

This act requires the Agency of Digital Services to provide more information to the General Assembly and the public about the large information technology projects it is managing.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 49 (H.482). An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer**

**Subjects: Health; Green Mountain Care Board; hospitals; health insurers; hospital observer**

This act allows the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to reduce a domestic health insurer's reimbursement rates to one or more Vermont hospitals if the insurer is facing an acute and immediate threat of insolvency. The GMCB may only reduce rates to a hospital that meets certain fiscal criteria and only to the extent necessary to address the threat to the insurer's insolvency. The act directs the GMCB, in setting hospital budgets, to account for any significant deviation in a hospital's revenue during the prior fiscal year in excess of the budget approved by GMCB and allows the GMCB to adjust a hospital's commercial health insurance reimbursement rates at any time during the year to ensure that a hospital stays within its approved budget. The act also allows the GMCB, upon finding that a hospital has made a material misrepresentation in information or documents it provided to GMCB, or is materially noncompliant with its approved budget, to appoint an independent observer for the hospital. The observer may monitor the hospital's operations, obtain information from the hospital, and report findings and recommendations to the GMCB, and the GMCB may order a hospital to pay for all or a portion of the costs of the observer. The GMCB's authority to appoint a hospital observer is repealed on January 1, 2030.

Effective Date: June 5, 2025

**Act No. 50 (S.53). An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services**

**Subjects: Medicaid; certification; professions and occupations; Office of Professional Regulation; community-based perinatal doulas**

This act creates a voluntary certification process for community-based perinatal doulas through the Office of Professional Regulation and establishes a \$75.00 application fee for certification, with a \$120.00 biennial renewal fee. The act requires the Department of Vermont Health Access to reimburse certified community-based perinatal doulas for providing direct emotional and physical support and educational and informational services to Medicaid beneficiaries during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period. The act expresses legislative intent that the reimbursement rates should be reasonable and adequate for the services provided and be consistent with the rates set by other states' Medicaid programs and it directs the Department to seek a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by July 1, 2026, to allow Vermont Medicaid to cover doula services.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 9, 2025

**Act No. 51 (S.59). An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law**

**Subjects: Open Meeting Law; general provisions; common law; general rights; public information**

This act amends various sections of Vermont's Open Meeting Law to provide a field visit and site inspection exception to the hybrid meeting requirement for State public bodies, provide a field visit and site inspection exception to the recording requirement for meetings of local public bodies, authorize municipal public bodies to post agendas and notices of special meetings in neighboring municipalities, require that all public bodies include sufficient detail within meeting agendas and list "proposed executive session" on a meeting agenda for any planned executive sessions, require certain State committees to receive Open Meeting Law training, require all public bodies to vote to conclude an executive session, and to provide a new basis for a motion to enter executive session to discuss confidential business information relating to the interest rates for publicly financed loans. This act also amends 13 V.S.A. § 1026 (disorderly conduct) to define "disturbs any lawful assembly or meeting of persons" and "meeting" in order to conform 13 V.S.A. § 1026(a)(4) to a relevant Supreme Court of Vermont decision and expressly state that the subdivision also applies to meetings of a public body under the Open Meeting Law.

Effective Date: June 9, 2025

**Act No. 52 (H.106). An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area**

**Subjects: Property; conveyance of real estate; floodplain disclosure**

This act amends existing statute so that it will no longer require that a seller of real property notify a buyer whether the real property is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapped special or moderate flood hazard area. Instead, the statute will require that a seller of real property provide the buyer with a physical or electronic copy or a digital link of the official flood insurance rate map of the property as published by FEMA. A seller is required to notify a buyer if a map is unavailable.

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

**Act No. 53 (H.209). An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools**

**Subjects: Education; health; schools; intranasal epinephrine; prescribing and dispensing authority**

This act expands the definition of epinephrine from epinephrine auto-injectors to any U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved single-dose epinephrine delivery system, including intranasal epinephrine. As a result, this act allows a health care professional to prescribe and issue standing orders for the use of any U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved single-dose epinephrine delivery system in schools. It allows a school to maintain a stock supply of epinephrine, including intranasal epinephrine. It further allows a school administrator to authorize school nurses or other designated personnel to administer or have a student self-administer epinephrine in accordance with a student's plan of action for managing the student's life-threatening allergy, which may include intranasal epinephrine.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 54 (H.238). An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances**

**Subjects: Conservation and development; toxic substances; consumer products; perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances**

This act amends the State's prohibitions on the sale of consumer goods containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to include three additional types of consumer products of which the sale or distribution of the product would be banned if the product contained intentionally added PFAS. The additional products are cleaning products, dental floss, and fluorine treated containers. The prohibition on dental floss and cleaning products containing intentionally added PFAS takes effect on July 1, 2027. The prohibition on the sale or distribution of fluorine treated containers with intentionally added PFAS also goes into effect on July 1, 2027, for consumer products regulated under the chapter that do not contain intentionally added PFAS. Beginning on January 1, 2032, a manufacturer shall not manufacture, sell, or distribute for use in the State a fluorine treated container or any consumer product in a fluorine treated container. In addition, the act extends the effective date of the prohibition on the sale and distribution of cookware containing intentionally added PFAS to July 1, 2028. The act also restructures the statute for the regulation of PFAS in consumer products and incorporates requirements from previous acts under this act.

The act requires the Secretary of Natural Resources on or before January 15, 2027, to submit to the General Assembly a report regarding the regulation by other states of PFAS in consumer products. The report shall include 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. The act also requires the Secretary of Natural Resources on or before January 15, 2033, to provide a recommendation to the General Assembly on how to address PFAS in complex durable goods. In addition, the act requires the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to submit to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2033, a recommendation on how to address PFAS in food.

The act also bans the sale or distribution of firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) containing intentionally added PFAS beginning July 1, 2029, provided that the initial prohibition shall not apply to the sale or distribution of respirators or respirator equipment. On July 1, 2032, the act bans the sale of respirators and respirator equipment containing intentionally added PFAS. In addition, the act requires that the manufacturer of firefighting station wear provide notice of intentionally added PFAS to buyers until July 1, 2026, when the requirements for the sale or distribution of apparel containing intentionally added PFAS go into effect. The act also requires the Agency of Natural Resources to report to the General Assembly on the availability and cost of PPE that does not include PFAS.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2025

**Act No. 55 (H.266). An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program**

**Subjects: Health; prescription drugs; Green Mountain Care Board; hospitals; 340B drug pricing program; 340B covered entities; 340B contract pharmacies**

This act prohibits prescription drug manufacturers from interfering with a 340B contract pharmacy's acquisition of a 340B drug or with its dispensing of a 340B drug to eligible patients of a 340B covered entity. The act also prohibits prescription drug manufacturers from requiring a 340B covered entity to submit specific information as a condition for permitting acquisition of a 340B drug by the covered entity's contracted pharmacy and requires that manufacturers provide 340B drug pricing to a 340B covered entity or 340B contract pharmacy in the form of a discount at the time of purchase rather than as a rebate. The act creates a private right of action for a 340B covered entity, 340B contract pharmacy, or other person injured by a manufacturer's violation of these prohibitions and requirements. The act also requires each hospital to report specific information to the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) annually about the hospital's participation in the 340B drug pricing program, including about the hospital's acquisition costs, payment amounts, and use of contract pharmacies, and the GMCB will post the reports on its website. This annual reporting requirement is repealed on January 1, 2031.

For each prescription drug administered in an outpatient setting for which a hospital charged any health insurer more than 120 percent of the average sales price (ASP) as of April 1, 2025, the act limits the amount that the hospital can charge a health insurer for

that drug going forward to not more than 120 percent of the ASP. For any drug for which a hospital charged less than 120 percent of the ASP as of April 1, 2025, the act limits the amount that the hospital can charge a health insurer for that drug going forward to not more than the percentage of the ASP that the hospital charged the insurer as of that date. The act directs hospitals to 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. The act prohibits hospitals from charging or collecting any additional amount for the drugs from the patient or health insurer or from increasing other charges in an effort to offset the resulting reductions in their revenue. The act allows a hospital to request approval from the GMCB to increase the reimbursement rates for other service lines if the hospital believes that the price caps are negatively affecting access to care, quality of care, or the sustainability of rural health care services. The act states that the price caps will remain in effect unless and until the GMCB establishes different reference-based prices that are applicable to prescription drugs administered in an outpatient setting. The act also specifies that the price caps do not apply to independent, critical access hospitals that are not affiliated with another hospital or hospital network.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 11, 2025

**Act No. 56 (H.321). An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments**

**Subjects: Cannabis; cannabis establishments**

This act is the annual Cannabis Control Board (CCB) housekeeping bill and makes a number of changes related to the licensing and regulation of cannabis establishments.

Highlights include:

- Clarification that law enforcement may seize cannabis that is illegal pursuant to administrative rule duly adopted by the CCB, such as products containing synthetic cannabinoids (Delta-8 THC).
- Small amendments to the language authorizing the CCB to obtain fingerprint-supported criminal history records from the FBI database for persons licensed by the CCB.
- Authority for the CCB to 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, in cases of incapacity of a principal, dysfunction, operating distress, interruption in licensure, abrupt closure, or judicial intervention including receivership.
- Permission for cannabis propagation licensees to test, transport, and sell cannabis clones and immature cannabis plants to licensed retailers.
- Removal of a requirement in previous legislation for the State Auditor to report to the General Assembly on the structure of the CCB.

The act also requires the CCB to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding current and projected fees and 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. The report shall also 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.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 57 (H.397). An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response**

**Subjects: Internal security and public safety; emergency management; miscellaneous amendments relating to flood response and resilience**

This act amends the statutes relating to public safety, municipal government, and emergency response to all-hazards events to:

- require the Division of Emergency Management to annually report to the General Assembly concerning all action items in the all-hazards mitigation plan and to consult with relevant stakeholders before adopting the State Emergency Management Plan;
- authorize the Division to provide grants from the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund for voluntary buyouts of flood-impacted or -prone properties;
- require the Division to assist municipalities with access to certain all-hazard and weather alert systems;
- require the Division to submit a needs assessment to the General Assembly on or before November 15, 2025;
- authorize municipalities to transfer unexpended dedicated funds to an unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year;
- authorize municipal legislative bodies to borrow funds in the name of the municipal corporation to respond to an all-hazard event, provided that the duration of the indebtedness shall not exceed five years or the reasonably anticipated useful life of the improvements or assets funded by the debt;
- authorize municipal legislative bodies to choose to repay bonded debt in substantially level payments;
- authorize the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, to waive applicable permits related to the drawdown of a dam with an approved drawdown plan, provided that the Director of the Division of Emergency Management has reason to believe that authorizing an advance drawdown will decrease the risk of substantial damage to persons or property within the State;

- amend the local option tax statute to increase the municipal share of revenue to 75 percent and decrease the amount dedicated to the PILOT Fund to 25 percent;
- make minor amendments to the statutes related to the Division of Emergency Management to align the official title of the Division throughout Vermont statute;
- add a section to the Administrative Procedures Act to ensure that federal regulations that are incorporated by reference in Vermont State agency rules shall continue in effect until January 31, 2029, or an earlier date that the rules are amended;
- provide education property tax overpayment refunds to the City of Barre and the Town of Milton; and
- extend the expiration of the City of Barre authority to incur debt for the City's TIF district to March 31, 2028.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 11, 2025

**Act No. 58 (H.472). An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation**

**Subjects: Miscellaneous amendments; professional and occupations**

This act makes miscellaneous changes to laws pertaining to various regulated professions and occupations. Specifically, this act authorizes the Secretary of State to collect revenues generated from the sale of data and requires the Secretary to submit a written report by December 15, 2025, providing details on generated revenues and categories of data sold. It creates and increases various fees, penalties, and surcharges. The act specifies curriculum components for schools of cosmetology regarding the care and cultural significance of textured hair. It requires licensed nursing assistants seeking to renew an expired or lapsed license to pass certain competency examinations. The act repeals all regulations regarding motor vehicle racing and the requirement for prepaid funeral funds to have appointed escrow agents. It creates the new position of Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions in the Office of Professional Regulation. It directs the Office of Professional Regulation to propose legislation for the regulation of massage therapy establishments. This act also allows names of victims of professional misconduct to be withheld from public complaint records.

Effective Date: June 11, 2025

**Act No. 59 (H.484). An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects**

**Subjects: Agriculture; fertilizer; beneficial substances; waste pesticide collection; covered house hazardous products; paint products; miscellaneous subjects**

This act amends multiple laws related to agricultural or environmental subjects. The act amends current statute related to regulation of fertilizers, plant amendments, and soil amendments to conform State law to national standards for beneficial substances. The act also increases the annual pesticide product registration fee by \$50.00. The revenue

from the increased fee will be used to pay the costs of a collection program for obsolete and unwanted pesticides. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is required to study options for sustainable funding sources to reimburse solid waste management entities for all costs associated with collection and disposal of unwanted or obsolete pesticides and shall recommend to the General Assembly a funding mechanism to cover all costs associated with collecting unwanted pesticides through municipal collection programs.

The act provides that the Rutland County Agricultural Society, Inc. (State Fair) shall continue to be required to obtain the three-acre stormwater operating permit, but the State Fair shall not be required to pay a stormwater impact fee or complete an offset for those reductions it cannot complete because of site constraints. The act also provides that 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, despite not being published in the Vermont Code of Rules as of July 1, 2018.

The act amends the Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Program to clarify that it does not include paint products. The act amends the Program to allow the stewardship organization additional time to implement a collection plan that meets the minimum requirements. The act provides that if the stewardship organization does not submit an approvable plan, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) may issue a plan and charge the manufacturers of covered household hazardous products for the cost of the program, plus a penalty. The act also extends the date of the landfill disposal ban on covered household hazardous products by a year and provides ANR with authority to grant variances to the requirements for municipal household hazardous waste collection events.

The act amends the existing extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for architectural paint to expand its scope to include paint products, which includes aerosol coating products, coating related products, and nonindustrial coatings. The scope of the program was expanded to clarify that the EPR program for paint and not the EPR program for covered household hazardous products is responsible for the collection and management of the expanded list of paint products. The act also repeals the authority of ANR to review and approve the paint assessment fee on paint products sold at retail and instead establishes the paint assessment fees in statute.

The act also extends the deadlines by one year for the required construction of an efficiency project at the baseload power plant.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 11, 2025

#### **Act No. 60 (S.12). An act relating to sealing criminal history records**

##### **Subjects: Crimes and criminal procedure; criminal history records; sealing**

This act amends the chapter adopted by the General Assembly in 2012 that sets forth the process for a person to petition to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged. In general, this section moves from a system of sealing and expungement to one of

sealing in most instances, with an expanded list of qualifying crimes, and limited access to sealed records for certain entities that require such records.

The act also requires automatic expungement of records relating to municipal violations two years from the date of satisfaction of the judgment and amends the previously adopted statute requiring expungement of motor vehicle violations to clarify that the statute applies to motor vehicle violations that occur on and after July 1, 2021.

Finally, the act requires that on or before December 15, 2025, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council 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.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 61 (S.45). An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities**

**Subjects: Court procedure; agriculture; right-to-farm; nuisance suits; agricultural activities**

This act amends the right-to-farm protection from nuisance suits provided to farmers. The act adds a new definition of “generally accepted agricultural practices” to which nuisance protection would apply. “Generally accepted agricultural practices” are defined to mean the State water quality requirements for farms, if applicable; the requirements of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permits, if applicable; the requirements of the State’s Rule for Control of Pesticides; and practices conducted in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards followed by similar operators of agricultural activities in the State.

The act amends the standards that provide farms with protection from nuisance suits. The act provides that no agricultural activity shall be or become a nuisance when the activity is conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. However, the act provides that a farmer must be in good standing with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Agency of Natural Resources in order to assert nuisance protection. Good standing can be shown by letters from the Secretaries of the agencies.

The act also clearly states that the plaintiff shall have the burden of proof by the preponderance of the evidence to show that a farmer is not entitled to nuisance protection and is a nuisance. In addition, a farmer shall not receive nuisance protection if the nuisance violation results from the negligent operation of an agricultural activity; 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; or 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.

The act provides that the right to farm law protection from nuisance is to be liberally construed by courts to effectuate its purpose of protecting reasonable agricultural activities from lawsuits. The act also provides that a person shall not bring a court action based on a claim of nuisance arising from an agricultural activity unless the person and the farmer, at least once, attempt to resolve the issue through mediation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 62 (S.63). An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board**

**Subjects: Health; Green Mountain Care Board; accountable care organizations; hospital budgets; health information technology**

This act eliminates certain regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB), including duties to review and approve the statewide Health Information Technology Plan, the criteria for health care providers to create or maintain connectivity to the State's health information exchange network, and the annual budget of the Vermont Information Technology Leaders. The act modifies the GMCB billback formula to eliminate the eight percent allocation for accountable care organizations (ACOs) and to increase the allocations for hospitals and health insurers accordingly. The act expands the scope of ACOs that must be certified in order to operate in Vermont from only those that receive payments from Medicaid or commercial insurance through a payment reform program to any ACO that operates in Vermont. It modifies and simplifies the criteria that must be met for the GMCB to certify an ACO and allows the GMCB to adopt rules creating a streamlined certification process for Medicare-only ACOs. The act also eliminates existing ACO budget review provisions, creates new budget review criteria for ACOs that accept payments from Medicaid or commercial insurance, or both, and establishes fees for ACO certification and budget review.

The act allows private psychiatric hospitals to operate on a fiscal year that aligns with the calendar year, rather than the October 1 to September 30 fiscal year that applies to other hospitals. The act specifies that the GMCB's review, establishment, and enforcement of hospital budgets should not be construed to be a contested case under the Administrative Procedures Act, but that anyone aggrieved by a final GMCB action, order, or determination, including an enforcement decision, may appeal pursuant to the GMCB's existing appeal statute. The act also modifies the scope of requirements regarding meetings of an ACO's governing body to apply only to an ACO that contracts with Vermont Medicaid and it eliminates a requirement that the GMCB annually review any all-inclusive population-based payment arrangement between the Department of Vermont Health Access and an ACO and issue an advisory opinion.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 63 (S.69). An act relating to an age-appropriate design code**

**Subjects: Commerce and trade; protection of personal information; privacy of minors**

This act creates the Vermont age-appropriate design code, which requires covered businesses to protect minors from certain harms when processing the data of minors and when its digital products are used by minors. The act requires covered businesses to have the default privacy setting of its digital products set to the highest level of privacy when used by a minor. The act prohibits the collection or sharing of the personal data of a minor unless otherwise necessary to provide a certain service to the minor. It also restricts the ability of a covered business to permit an individual to monitor the activity or location of a minor on its digital product without providing a conspicuous signal to the minor.

Finally, the Attorney General is granted rulemaking authority to further define what design practices might lead to compulsive use of a digital product and to provide covered businesses with privacy-minded methods to estimate the age of its users.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2025

**Act No. 64 (S.109). An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures**

**Subjects: Criminal procedure; court procedure; miscellaneous amendments**

This act makes a number of changes to court and Judiciary procedures, including clarifying that the Court Diversion Program is available in all counties and that a Judicial Bureau complaint can only be voided by a law enforcement officer if doing so would not otherwise be prohibited by law; requiring the Court to provide licensed Vermont attorneys in good standing with remote access to nonconfidential criminal, family, and probate court case records; requiring a hearing on a request for attorney's fees in a mortgage foreclosure action only if the amount of attorney's fees requested is less than two percent of the total judgment; repealing the statute that prohibits possession and sale of switchblade knives and expunging all existing convictions of the crime; making clear that an intervenor must suffer physical harm while assisting a victim in order to obtain compensation from the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and providing that compensation may be available when a person intervenes to assist a law enforcement officer, firefighter, health care worker, Department for Children and Families employee, or emergency medical personnel member; requiring of a guardianship petition that is withdrawn before the final hearing; making clear that a State's Attorney may refer a case to pre-charge diversion instead of filing a charge in a juvenile proceeding; validating a deed, mortgage, lease, or other instrument that transfers an interest in real property and purports to be executed by a person acting under a power of attorney if the document creating the power of attorney is not also recorded, provided that the instrument has been recorded in the land records for 15 years without being legally challenged; repealing the Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council, which had been scheduled to be repealed in 2028; establishing a Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court orders to surrender firearms;

reinstating the ability of a court in an adoption proceeding to consider whether a person asserting parental rights has made reasonable and consistent payments to support the minor child when determining whether termination of parental rights is in the best interests of the child; repealing the criminal penalty for failure of an adult child to support the adult child's parent if that parent is destitute and unable to support themselves; permitting a crime victim to opt in to the earned time notification system and receive notice of an offender's earned time sentence reduction at the same time the offender does; establishing the Victim Notification Task Force to review and improve the responsiveness of Vermont's victim notification system; expanding the list of factors the Court Administrator must consider when evaluating capital funding requests by Assistant Judges for county courthouses, effective on July 1, 2026; reducing the minimum amount of community service a defendant can opt to perform for a second or subsequent DUI offense from 200 hours to 80 hours; and creating gender parity for purposes of accessing family support programs and services at the State's correctional facilities.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 65 (S.122). An act relating to economic and workforce development**

**Subjects: Conservation and development; economic and workforce development; small business**

This act allocates already-appropriated monies to various entities to promote economic development in the State. This act creates a task force to study the feasibility of constructing a convention center and performance venue in the State. This act also creates the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission, which will work to advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and Ireland.

This act amends 10 V.S.A. § 540, which sets forth the leadership and responsibilities of workforce education, employment, and training in the State. These amendments were made to account for the creation of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Development.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 66 (S.123). An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles**

**Subjects: Motor vehicles; fees; veterans; taxes; Department of Motor Vehicles; number plates; drunken driving; tinted windows; nondriver identification cards; plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs); documentation of anatomical gift; disability placards; registration certificates; learner's permits; licensing examinations; commercial driving instructors; non-Real ID; odometer alteration; convictions; bulk electronic record fees; truck registration fees; operator's licenses and privilege cards; excessive speed**

This act amends the definition of a pleasure car to include plug-in electric, battery electric, and plug-in hybrid vehicles and updates the definition of all-terrain vehicle to include wider vehicles. This act makes various technical changes to provisions related to

convictions for certain traffic offenses, prohibited alteration of odometers, speeding, and operating a vehicle under the influence. This act also provides that a notice of intent to suspend an operator's license for operating a vehicle under the influence shall not serve as a temporary license.

This act clarifies the documents that need to be provided when renewing an enhanced driver's license and permits individuals applying for a nondriver identification card to elect to be an organ donor. This act repeals the requirement that placards for volunteers who transport individuals with a disability be marked "volunteer driver." This act provides that operator's privilege cards shall bear the phrase "non-Real ID." This act permits individuals to renew an operator's license, operator's privilege card, or nondriver identification card early and provides for prorated fees for early renewals.

This act waives certain fees related to learner's permits, operator's licenses, and nondriver identification cards for individuals under 23 years of age who are transitioning out of the State foster care system and provides reduced fees for operator's licenses for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income. This act also waives the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and emissions fees for veterans who received financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to purchase an adaptive vehicle and waives the EV infrastructure fee for EVs owned by the State, municipalities, and volunteer fire and rescue organizations. This act also makes technical changes to the schedule of fees for the registration of trucks. This act permits the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to accept proof other than a returned registration or plates as proof of a cancelled registration for purposes of refunding the registration fee for a destroyed vehicle.

This act requires commercial driver's license (CDL) learner's permits to include a photo of the permit holder. This act also prohibits deferred sentence for CDL learner's permit holders who commit certain traffic violations and amends the violations for which a deferred sentence could be granted to an individual with a CDL or CDL learner's permit or who is operating a commercial vehicle. This act also establishes experience requirements for commercial motor vehicle behind the wheel and theory instructors.

This act permits the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to waive the examination requirement for holders of a junior operator's license in another state who are applying for a license in Vermont for the first time. This act also requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to begin charging a \$29.00 scheduling fee for each operator's license road test on or before July 1, 2026 and permits the fee to be waived if the road test is canceled more than 48 hours in advance or for good cause. This act also amends the experience requirements for motorcycle instructors.

This act updates the reference used to determine the clean trade-in value of a used vehicle for purposes of the purchase and use tax and permits the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to develop a process for determining the value of vehicles that do not have a clean trade-in value. This act adds a definition of mail for purposes of the purchase and use tax and requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to establish appeals procedures for the purchase and use tax and to create education and outreach materials regarding the appeal process. This act also requires that requests for a purchase and use tax refund



must be submitted within one year of paying the tax and requires that requests for a fuel tax refund must be submitted within 12 months of paying the tax. This act requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to submit a report regarding the process for determining the taxable cost of a used vehicle for determining the purchase and use tax due and the impact of annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections on Vermonters.

The act permits an individual riding a bicycle who is facing a walk signal to make a turn or proceed across a roadway or intersection in the direction of the signal. This act also establishes requirements for the operation of bicycles at bicycle control signals. This act requires the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety to develop education and outreach materials regarding the laws governing the operation of bicycles on roadways and at signalized intersections and requires those materials to include information on the operation of motor vehicles in relation to bicycles.

This act amends the town highway law to clarify that municipalities have authority to maintain legal trails.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 67 (S.124). An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects**

**Subjects: Water resources; agriculture; agricultural water quality**

This act amends the statutes regulating agricultural water quality, including the regulation of point source discharges of waste or pollutants from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The act strikes the requirement that the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAF) enter a memorandum of understanding (MOU) describing how the agencies will comply with and implement federal CAFO program requirements. In place of the MOU, ANR in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and AAFM shall issue a document that sets forth ANR's responsibilities in implementing the Clean Water Act (CWA), and AAFM's responsibilities in implementing the State's nonpoint source program on farms.

The act clarifies that ANR is the regulatory entity in the State that is required to determine if there is a point source discharge from a large or medium CAFO that requires a CAFO permit. The act defines what constitutes an animal feeding operation, a Large CAFO, and a Medium CAFO under ANR's authority. The act also clarifies that the discharges that ANR shall regulate are point source discharges of wastes or pollutants from AFOs to waters of the State, including waters of the United States.

The act sets forth the specific authority of the Secretary of Natural Resources to regulate discharges from CAFOs. The Secretary has authority to implement the federal CWA to administer a Vermont pollutant discharge elimination system (VPDES) CAFO program that is at least as stringent as the federal CWA and enabling rules. The Secretary has authority to adopt rules and guidance to administer a VPDES CAFO program. The Secretary may designate an AFO that meets the definition of a CAFO as a CAFO, in Secretary's sole discretion. Similarly, the Secretary may designate any small

AFO as a CAFO if after an on-site inspection, the Secretary determines that the small AFO is discharging and is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State.

The act clarifies that a discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater to waters from a CAFO as a result of the application of manure, litter, or process wastewater to land area is a discharge from that CAFO subject to VPDES permit requirements, except where the manure, litter, or process wastewater has been applied in accordance with a site-specific nutrient management plan approved by the Secretary. A precipitation-related discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater from land areas under the control of a Large 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. The act requires all medium farms and large farms to maintain documentation of a nutrient management plan and practices and to make the documentation readily available to the Secretary upon request.

The act also provides that if AAFM determines that a farm may be discharging to waters of the State, AAFM immediately shall refer the potential discharge to ANR for response according to the federal Clean Water Act CAFO rules. If ANR determines no CAFO permit is required, ANR notifies AAFM so that AAFM may regulate the farm. If a farm is required to obtain a CAFO permit, AAFM's vegetated buffer requirements no longer apply, and the farm must comply with the federal buffer requirements.

The act amends the ban on the land application of manure between December 15 and April 1 to allow AAFM to authorize an emergency exemption from the ban. The act also clarifies that AAFM may require any new small farm to certify compliance with the required agricultural practices (RAPs) and AAFM may require any farm to regularly certify ongoing compliance with the RAPs.

The act makes several conforming amendments, including clarifying when a farm required to obtain a CAFO permit will no longer be presumed to be in compliance with water quality requirements if the farm is compliant with the RAPs. The act also establishes a Community Stakeholder Group on Agricultural Water Quality to engage key agricultural stakeholders as part of a pre-rulemaking process to gather input on proposed CAFO rules and how best to implement ANR's CAFO program. The Stakeholder Group shall report its finding to the General Assembly

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

**Act No. 68 (S.126). An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform**

**Subjects: Health; health care reform; Green Mountain Care Board; Agency of Human Services; hospitals; health information technology; Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan; reference-based pricing; global hospital budgets**

This act requires the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to establish, as soon as practicable but not later than hospital fiscal year 2027, reference-based prices that represent the maximum amounts that Vermont hospitals can accept as payment in full for

items and services delivered in Vermont. It allows the GMCB, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and others, to implement reference-based pricing for services delivered outside a hospital, such as primary care services. The act also requires the GMCB to establish global hospital budgets, if resources are available, for one or more non-critical access hospitals by hospital fiscal year 2027 and for all Vermont hospitals by hospital fiscal year 2030. It requires hospitals to submit budget information as directed by the GMCB in order to create greater hospital budget data standardization and enable the GMCB to compare hospitals' expenses. It establishes additional considerations and requirements for the GMCB to undertake in its hospital budget reviews. The act requires that a hospital that proposes to reduce or eliminate a service in order to comply with its budget order provide notice of intent to the GMCB, AHS, the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and legislators who represent the hospital service area at least 45 days in advance and it allows the GMCB to modify the hospital's budget or take other appropriate action to preserve access to necessary services. The act gives the GMCB authority to oversee hospital networks that derive 50 percent or more of their operating revenue from Vermont hospitals and to recommend any action the GMCB deems necessary to correct aspects of a network or its financial operations that are inconsistent with the principles for health care reform or with the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, once established. The act also requires contracting entities and health care providers to provide an unredacted copy of an executed or proposed health care contract to the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) or the GMCB upon request.

The act directs AHS, in collaboration with stakeholders, to lead the development of an integrated Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan that defines a shared vision for improving access, quality, efficiency, and affordability of health care services in Vermont and identifies relevant resources, opportunities, deficiencies, barriers, and strategies. The Plan is due to the General Assembly by January 15, 2028, and AHS must update it every three years, with the first updated Plan due by December 1, 2030. The act creates the 18-member Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee to establish affordability benchmarks, evaluate and monitor the performance of Vermont's health care system and its impacts on population health outcomes, collaborate with stakeholders on the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, consider recommendations for the primary care steering committee, advise the GMCB on monitoring the performance of the health care delivery system, and provide coordinated and consensus recommendations to the General Assembly on issues related to health care delivery, including primary care, and population health. The act also creates the 16-member Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care to inform the work of State government as it relates to primary care.

The act directs AHS to collaborate with the Health Information Exchange Steering Committee to develop the Unified Health Data Space and specifies elements of the development process, including determining whether to integrate clinical and claims data and, if so, how to protect proprietary information; integration cannot begin before January 1, 2027, and only if a majority of the Steering Committee votes to do move forward. A report on the integration of clinical and claims data is due to the General Assembly by January 15, 2026, and annual updates on development and implementation

of Unified Health Data Space are due beginning on January 15, 2027. The act also authorizes the GMCB to share any materials it receives pursuant to a subpoena with AHS or DFR as appropriate to AHS's or DFR's work, as long as AHS and DFR agree to maintain the confidentiality of anything that is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

The act directs AHS to facilitate collaboration and coordination among health care providers to respond to urgent financial pressures and identify opportunities to increase efficiency, improve quality, reduce prescription drug spending, and increase access to essential services while reducing hospital spending by not less than 2.5 percent for hospital fiscal year 2026. By July 1, 2025, AHS must report the proposed reductions it has approved to the General Assembly and must provide additional monthly updates from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. The act also directs AHS to identify specific outcome measures for determining whether, when, and to what extent AHS has met the health care system transformation goals set forth in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167, and to report those measures and related information to the General Assembly each month from August 1, 2025, through January 1, 2027. The act appropriates \$2 million to AHS for incentive grants to hospitals to encourage them to actively participate in transformation efforts, including reducing hospital costs and expanding access through telehealth, and requires AHS to report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, regarding how much of that funding had been obligated and disbursed as of November 15, 2025. The act also requires DFR to provide a plan to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025, for preserving the sustainability of domestic health insurers in Vermont. And it directs AHS to report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on opportunities to retain useful capabilities developed by or on behalf of an accountable care organization and funded in whole or in part by public dollars.

The act requires the GMCB to report to the General Assembly on its implementation of this act by February 15, 2026, and requires the GMCB's annual report to include updates on reference-based pricing and global hospital budgets and their effects on health care access, quality, and cost beginning with the 2027 report. The act requires AHS to provide an update to the General Assembly by February 15 annually on the status of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, the activities of the Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee, and effects of the Plan, the Advisory Committee, and other AHS efforts on health care access, quality, and cost. The act creates three new positions at the GMCB in fiscal year 2026, two of which are related to reference-based pricing and one that is focused on operations, procurement, and contracting. In addition to the \$2 million appropriated to AHS for hospital incentive grants, the act appropriates an additional \$2.2 million to AHS for its transformation work, creation of the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan, and development of alternative payment models, and it appropriates \$1,212,500.00 to the GMCB for the three new positions and for contracts and the standardization of electronic hospital budget data submissions.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 69 (S.127). An act relating to housing and housing development**

**Subjects: Housing; land use; conservation and development; tax credits; taxation and finance; municipal zoning; housing programs; Vermont Bond Bank; municipal and county government; indebtedness; tax increment financing; education property tax; Vermont Economic Progress Council**

This act makes multiple changes to laws related to housing and housing development programs.

This act makes multiple substantive and technical amendments to the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program. The act exempts entities administering the program from certain licensed lender requirements. The act expands the populations intended to be served through the program to include those displaced due to a natural disaster and allows an organization to hold a master lease explicitly used to serve intended recipients. For 10-year forgivable loans, the act allows landlords to rent the rehabilitated units for fair market rent established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The act mandates a minimum set aside for annual funding to be used for the five-year forgivable loans and grants and requires annual reporting on program outcomes.

The act adds the Vermont Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program to provide funding for development and rehabilitation for manufactured housing in mobile home communities.

The act establishes the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund. This revolving fund will be administered by the Vermont Bond Bank to provide low-interest loans or to purchase bonds from municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. The Bond Bank must work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish program guidelines and award terms. Projects funded through the program must demonstrate a connection to housing development with municipal commitment to own and operate the project.

Under the Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program administered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), the act authorizes VHFA to set annual rent increases above the three percent statutory cap.

The act creates the State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee to generate a State plan to develop housing for individuals with developmental disabilities with a report issued on or before November 15, 2025. The Committee ceases to exist on November 30, 2025.

The act requires municipalities to provide additional property information to the Department of Taxes and amends the information provided by landlords on the landlord certificate.

The act requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to issue a report on or before November 1, 2026, on how to establish a State land bank with an interim report on January 15, 2026.

The act amends the State public accommodation and unfair housing practices act to prohibit discrimination against individuals based on citizenship or immigration status. The act authorizes a landlord to accept different forms of identification to conduct criminal or background checks and prohibits landlords from requiring a Social Security number on a residential rental application. The act authorizes differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status if required by federal law and authorizes lenders to take into account immigration status when making credit determinations.

The act moves the date for the Land Use Review Board Act 250 Appeals Study to November 15, 2025.

The act authorizes management of development soils at locations permitted for that purpose under the State's Solid Waste Management Rules when the authorization meets certain minimum requirements. The act requires the Agency of Natural Resources to report on the status of the management of development soils as part of its biennial report to the General Assembly.

The act requires the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources to prioritize review of remediation under the State Brownfield Property Cleanup Program for sites that contain housing and requires a report from the Agency of Natural Resources on or before November 1, 2025, with proposals to make the Brownfields Program substantially more sufficient.

The act creates the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP), a project-based approach to tax increment financing. CHIP authorizes a sponsor—any of a municipality, a developer, or an independent agency that meets State lending standards—to finance the costs of infrastructural improvements (housing infrastructure projects) using future property tax revenues from the parcel or parcels on which a housing development is constructed, subject to Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) approval and the terms of a housing infrastructure agreement that governs the relationship among the municipality, the developer constructing the housing development, and the sponsor. To pursue a housing infrastructure project, a municipality must develop a housing development plan, designate the housing development site on which housing development will occur, execute a housing infrastructure agreement, and apply to VEPC to use tax increment financing for the housing infrastructure project. VEPC may approve only those applications that satisfy the but-for test and certain process requirements and for which the housing development either dedicates at least 60 percent of its floor area to housing or meaningfully addresses the purpose of CHIP. VEPC may annually approve not more than \$200,000,000.00 in aggregate lifetime education property tax increment retention. Sponsors may incur debt eligible for tax increment financing for a period of up to five years following creation of the housing development site, which period may be extended by up to three years. Tax increment may be retained for a period of up to 20 years from the year in which debt is first incurred. Standard housing infrastructure projects are eligible to retain up to 75 percent of their education property tax increment, and projects meeting certain affordability criteria are eligible to retain an additional 10 percent. The act establishes a final application deadline for tax increment financing under CHIP of December 31, 2035. The act authorizes VEPC to undertake rulemaking to

implement CHIP and requires VEPC to issue guidance by November 15, 2025. The act expands VEPC's membership to include three nonvoting members with housing expertise to review and approve CHIP applications. The act additionally provides for regular auditing and reporting and a process for remedying noncompliance under CHIP.

Finally, the act makes technical corrections to the statutes governing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to authorize UL 217 compliant alarms.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2025

**Act No. 70 (H.474). An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law**

**Subjects: Campaign finance; elections; nominations; ranked-choice voting; write-in candidates; electronic ballot return; recounts**

This act prohibits candidates who lose a major party primary election from running in the general election under another party or as an independent candidate. It requires write-in candidates to file with either the Secretary of State or relevant clerks before an election in order to have their votes counted. This act modifies monetary thresholds for when candidates, parties, and committees must register and file campaign finance information with the Secretary of State. It redefines the term "independent expenditure-only committee" and inserts this term alongside the term "political committees" so that the two entities comply with the same laws (excluding contributions). This act requires town clerks and boards of civil authority to perform audits of voter checklists for Representative districts and Senatorial districts that split municipal boundaries. It clarifies the prohibition on casting more than one ballot. This act modifies various State and local election deadlines and procedures. It expressly exempts annual meetings from the Vermont Open Meeting Law. This act also modifies automatic voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles so that an applicant for a driver's license is automatically registered to vote if the applicant attests to having U.S. citizenship or if the Department has proof of U.S. citizenship for the applicant, unless the applicant opts out.

Effective Date: June 25, 2025

**Act No. 71 (S.51). An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits**

**Subjects: Income tax; taxation; tax credit**

This act makes several changes to Vermont income tax credits and income tax exclusions. For the Vermont child tax credit, it increases the maximum age for a child to count as a qualifying child from age five to age six. For the Vermont earned income tax credit, it increases the amount provided to an individual who does not claim any qualifying children from 38 percent of the federal credit to 100 percent of the federal credit. For the exclusion of retirement income, the act increases the income thresholds used to determine eligibility by \$5,000.00 of adjusted gross income. The act further expands the exclusion of U.S. military retirement income by allowing an exclusion for survivor benefits and significantly increasing the income thresholds for eligibility and the amount that can be excluded from income taxation. The act also creates a Vermont

veteran tax credit for residents with low income who have a discharge record from the uniformed services.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

**Act No. 72 (H.480). An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law**

**Subjects: Education; school safety; postsecondary schools; virtual learning; BOCES; flexible pathways; Secretary of Education; State Board of Education; literacy; National Guard Tuition Benefit Program; cardiac emergency response plans; school libraries; therapeutic approved independent schools; cell-phones; social media; career and technical education**

This act makes several miscellaneous changes to Vermont education laws. It makes amendments to the effective dates of portions of 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 29, 2023's school safety act, and amends the list of postsecondary schools that are accredited and approved to operate in Vermont to reflect schools that no longer operate in Vermont or have updated their name. It amends the cost thresholds at which school districts are required to seek public bids, codifies the requirement for AOE to maintain access to and oversight of a virtual learning provider, and allows supervisory unions that are exploring formation of a Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) to apply for and receive a start-up grant rather than waiting until after a BOCES is already formed to be eligible for the grant. This act requires schools, when providing students with postsecondary planning resources, to include resources and information regarding the admissions process and requirements necessary to proceed with any and all military-related opportunities. It further requires the Governor to send a letter to the Chair of the State Board of Education (SBE) asking the Board to initiate the candidate selection process for a new Secretary of Education not later than 30 days after public notification of a vacancy or anticipated vacancy and for the SBE to begin a national search not later than 60 days after receipt of a letter from the Governor

This act also amends the title of 16 V.S.A. § 2903 from "preventing early school failure; reading instruction" to "foundation for literacy" and requires schools to provide supplemental reading instruction to any enrolled student in grades kindergarten through 12 whose reading proficiency falls significantly below proficiency standards for the student's grade level or whose reading proficiency prevents progress in school. It expands the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program to allow eligible members to 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. It requires schools to maintain cardiac emergency response plans beginning in the 26–27 school year and allows school districts to enter into energy performance contracts for a period not to exceed 20 years without needing voter approval. It requires school boards to develop policies for library material selection and superintendents to develop procedures for the reconsideration and retention of library materials. It allows a therapeutic approved



independent school to maintain its approval status if it changes tax status or converts to a nonprofit organization absent any other changes to the organization. This act also requires the Agency of Education to develop a model policy that prohibits students from using cell phones and non-school-issued personal electronic devices from arrival to dismissal and prohibits public schools, approved independent schools, school districts, and supervisory unions from using social media to communicate directly with students. It also allows secondary students to apply for enrollment into programs offered at CTE centers outside the student's assigned service region when the center in the student's 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.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 27, 2025

**Act No. 73 (H.454). An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems**

**Subjects: Education; school districts; taxation and finance; education property tax; State Board of Education; State funding of public education; education finance; Agency of Education**

This act makes changes to Vermont's education policy and finance systems. It states the General Assembly's intent to, in the 2026 session, enact updates to the career and technical education (CTE) system and prekindergarten system, as well as enact new, larger school districts that would become operational on July 1, 2028. This act limits the changes of the Commission on the Future of Public Education, creates the School District Redistricting Task Force to recommend new school district boundaries to the General Assembly, and also creates the School District Voting Ward Working Group to make recommendations to the General Assembly for proportionally representative voting wards within new school districts. It requires public schools and approved independent schools that are eligible for public tuition to comply with class size minimums and requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to update rules to reflect class size minimum requirements and statewide graduation requirements. It also requires the SBE to recommend standards for schools to be deemed small by necessity and sparse by necessity. This act requires the Agency of Education (AOE) to create a statewide school calendar to be effective for the 2028–2029 school year, as well as report back to the General Assembly regarding several topics, including the state of special education delivery and funding. It requires the SBE to review their rules and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding updating rules. This act creates the State Aid for School Construction Program that will be administered by the AOE with advice from the State Aid for School Construction Advisory Board. It requires approved independent schools to meet certain criteria in order to be eligible to receive public tuition, including being located in a nonoperating district or supervisory union with nonoperating districts and complying with class size minimums. It also permits the General Assembly to appoint two members of the SBE. This act also requires school districts, under the new foundation formula that will contingently take effect on July 1, 2028, to pay tuition in an amount of the base amount plus any applicable weights to a

receiving school. It also allows receiving schools to charge an additional five percent fee for secondary students if certain criteria are met and requires school districts to pay the full tuition charged its students attending an approved independent school in Vermont functioning as an approved area career and technical center. It requires the AOE to create a three-year strategic plan for the delivery of special education services and establishes one new permanent classified position within AOE to support the development of the strategic plan. This act also appropriates \$2,865,000.00 to AOE to support education transformation and establishes five limited service positions within AOE to support education transformation work.

As contingently effective July 1, 2028, this act replaces Vermont's existing education finance system that fully funds locally voted school budgets, accounting for local variation in spending through varying homestead property tax rates, with a foundation formula that provides school districts with a fixed, inflation-adjusted base amount of \$15,033.00 per pupil, as adjusted for student weighting. It amends Vermont's student weighting provisions to provide weights for prekindergarten, economic disadvantage, English learners distinguished by both proficiency level and formal education level, and special education distinguished by disability cost. It replaces existing sparsity and small-school weights with small schools and sparse schools support grants. In conjunction with these changes, this act repeals certain existing education finance provisions, such as census block grants for special education, categorical aid for English learners' services, and merger support for merged districts. This act finances the foundation formula payouts to school districts, known as "educational opportunity payments" (EOP), through the imposition of a statewide education tax on homestead and nonhomestead property that may be adjusted by statutory factors based on the new tax classification system and that will be set each year by the General Assembly. This act authorizes school districts to vote additional funds beyond their EOPs (supplemental district spending), subject to a cap of five percent of the product of the school district's unweighted pupil count and the base amount, which funds are raised through a locally imposed supplemental district spending tax. This act creates a supplemental district spending yield to equalize this local tax rate for any locally voted spending that results in the application of the rate that would be required to raise that spending in the school district with the lowest taxing capacity, regardless of property wealth. This act recaptures any locally raised funds in excess of the school district's supplemental district spending resulting from use of the supplemental district spending yield and holds those funds in a newly established Supplemental District Spending Reserve within the Education Fund to be used to buy down statewide education property tax rates in the following fiscal year. This act amends the provisions governing the December 1 letter to require the Commissioner of Taxes to annually recommend the statewide education property tax rate and supplemental district spending yield. It additionally provides for transitional measures in the first years of the foundation formula rollout to gradually move school districts from Vermont's existing education finance system and onto the new foundation formula. This act tasks the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) with contracting with an expert in Vermont's education funding system to recommend updates to the foundation formula, including related to sparsity measures, secondary student costs, and CTE, on or before December 1, 2026. The act's provisions

governing the new foundation formula are effective July 1, 2028, contingent upon operationalization of new school districts and receipt of this foundation formula report.

As contingently effective July 1, 2028, this act repeals the statewide property tax credit and replaces it with a capped homestead exemption that reduces the portion of housesite value subject to the statewide education tax and supplemental district spending tax. It establishes income sensitivity measures for households that do not exceed \$115,000.00 in household income that provide an increasing homestead exemption as household income declines, with households at or below \$25,000.00 in household income entitled to a homestead property tax exemption of 95 percent of the first \$425,000.00 of housesite value. This act makes conforming changes to provide the benefits of the homestead exemption to households that indirectly pay property taxes as is currently done for the statewide property tax credit. It additionally tasks the Department of Taxes with submitting an alternative homestead exemption structure proposal to committees of jurisdiction on or before December 15, 2026, that includes appropriate inflationary measures and analyzes the implications of moving to income sensitivity measures that provide benefits to households with household income of up to \$175,000.00.

As contingently effective July 1, 2028, this act creates a new property tax classification for nonhomestead residential properties. The new classification will be repealed on July 1, 2028, if the General Assembly does not create a new tax rate multiplier for tax classifications before that date. This act requires the Department of Taxes to study the implementation of a new tax classification and report back for the 2026 legislative session.

As contingently effective January 1, 2029, this act creates regional assessment districts for the purpose of full reappraisal of grand list properties in a designated region, which will replace the current system of having individual municipalities responsible for full reappraisals. It further creates a stakeholder working group, to be managed by the Department of Taxes, to recommend future changes to the regional assessment district system. This act makes further technical and policy adjustments to property valuation and property tax statutes.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2025

**Act No. M-1 (H.10). An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre**

**Subjects: Municipal government; municipal charters; amendments; City of Barre**

This act approves amendments to the charter of the City of Barre to eliminate references to the City of Barre School District, separate the office of City Clerk and Treasurer into the offices of the City Clerk and the City Treasurer, and to move the date of the City's annual meeting to the second Tuesday in May.

Effective Date: May 1, 2025

**Act No. M-2 (H.17). An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Morristown**

**Subjects: Municipal charters; municipal and county government; Town of Morristown**

This act approves the adoption of the charter of the Town of Morristown to authorize the Town Manager to exercise certain authority, including the authority to hire, appoint, discipline, and remove all Town employees, subject to the provisions of personnel rules approved by the Selectboard.

Effective Date: May 5, 2025

**Act No. M-3 (H.364). An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton**

**Subjects: Municipal government; municipal charters; Village of Swanton; approval of expansion of boundaries**

This act approves the annexation of a property located within the Town of Swanton by the Village of Swanton.

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

**Act No. M-4 (H.505). An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre**

**Subjects: Municipal charters; municipal and county government; amendments; Town of Barre**

This act approves amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre to eliminate the Town's Office of Auditor.

Effective Date: June 2, 2025

**Act No. M-5 (H.504). An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland**

**Subjects: Municipal charters; municipal and county government; amendments; City of Rutland; approval**

This act approves amendments to the charter of the City of Rutland to limit the maximum penalty for violation of a City ordinance to the maximum penalties authorized under 24 V.S.A. § 1974, increase the tax on the grand list for purposes of replacing fire equipment, establish a tax on the grand list for purposes of replacing police equipment, require the City's Purchasing Agent to make purchases based on bids whenever the value of the proposed purchase exceeds the amount established in the City's Purchasing Policy, and reorganize the composition and staggered terms of the Board of Commissioners of the Rutland Redevelopment Authority.

Effective Date: June 5, 2025