

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 882.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

H. 882 An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

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

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$122,767,376.00~~ \$130,606,224.00 authorized in this act, not more than ~~\$56,520,325.00~~ \$56,245,325.00 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

* * * Capital Appropriations * * *

Sec. 2. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2024:

* * *

(7) ~~Montpelier, State House, replacement of historic finishes:~~

\$50,000.00

* * *

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025:

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: \$8,500,000.00 \$8,501,999.00

* * *

(3) Statewide, planning, reuse, and contingency:

\$425,000.00 \$455,000.00

(4) Middlesex, Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence, master plan, design, and decommissioning: \$400,000.00 \$50,000.00

(5) ~~Montpelier, State House, replacement of historic finishes:~~

~~\$50,000.00 [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(11) Statewide, R22 refrigerant phase out:

\$1,000,000.00 \$750,000.00

(12) Statewide, Art in State Buildings Program: \$75,000.00

(13) St. Albans, Northwest State Correctional Facility, roof replacement:

\$400,000.00

(14) Windsor, former Southeast State Correctional Facility, evaluation of potential future State use and potential to deactivate or winterize buildings:

\$100,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024 \$23,126,244.00 \$23,076,244.00

Appropriation – FY 2025 \$25,275,000.00 \$25,231,999.00

Total Appropriation – Section 2 \$48,401,244.00 \$48,308,243.00

Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects described in this subsection:

(1) Northwest State Correctional Facility, booking expansion, planning, design, and construction: \$2,500,000.00 \$2,600,000.00

* * *

(3) Statewide, correctional facilities, HVAC systems, planning, design, and construction for upgrades and replacements:

\$700,000.00 \$5,150,000.00

(4) Statewide, correctional facilities, accessibility upgrades:

\$822,000.00

(5) South Burlington, justice-involved men, feasibility study for reentry facility: \$125,000.00

(6) Essex; River Valley Therapeutic Residence; facility requirements review and construction of improvements: \$50,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024 \$1,800,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2025 \$16,200,000.00 \$21,747,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 3 \$18,000,000.00 \$23,547,000.00

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* * *

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects described in this subsection:

(1) Major maintenance at statewide historic sites:

\$500,000.00 \$700,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024 \$596,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2025 \$596,000.00 \$796,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 4 \$1,192,000.00 \$1,392,000.00

Sec. 5. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2024 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the projects described in this subsection:

* * *

(2) Dam safety and hydrology projects: \$500,000.00 \$275,000.00

* * *

(f) The following amounts are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the projects described in this subsection:

(1) General infrastructure projects, including small-scale maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and improvements to buildings, including conservation camps:

\$1,344,150.00 \$2,114,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2024	\$6,997,081.00	<u>\$6,772,081.00</u>
Appropriation – FY 2025	\$7,497,051.00	<u>\$8,266,901.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 9	\$14,494,132.00	<u>\$15,038,982.00</u>

Sec. 6. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

Sec. 10. CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

* * *

(e) ~~The sum of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation for clean water implementation projects. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(g) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for water quality grants and contracts.

(h) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the following projects:

(1) the Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match for the Water Pollution Control Fund: \$1,600,000.00

(2) municipal pollution control grants: \$3,300,000.00

(i) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for forestry access roads, recreation access roads, and water quality improvements.

(j) In FY 2024 and FY 2025, any agency that receives funding from this section shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure that the projects are capital eligible.

Appropriation – FY 2024	\$9,885,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2025	\$6,000,000.00
Total Appropriation – Section 10	\$15,885,000.00

Sec. 7. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15a is added to read:

Sec. 15a. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The sum of \$1,540,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Labor for upgrades of mechanical systems and HVAC, life safety needs, and minor interior renovations at 5 Green Mountain Drive in Montpelier.

Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15b is added to read:

Sec. 15b. SERGEANT AT ARMS

The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2025 to the Sergeant at Arms for the replacement of State House cafeteria furnishings.

* * * Funding * * *

Sec. 9. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 16 is amended to read:

Sec. 16. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

* * *

(5) of the amount appropriated in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 26, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$65,463.17 \$147,206.37

* * *

(7) of the amount appropriated in 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 160, Sec. 1(c)(5) (major maintenance): \$93,549.00 \$116,671.15

* * *

(10) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$24,363.06 \$476,725.66

* * *

(13) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b)(3) (major maintenance): \$32,780.00 \$439,889.66

* * *

(17) of the amount appropriated in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2(b)(4) (Statewide, major maintenance): \$9,606.45

(18) of the amount appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2(b)(4) (Statewide, major maintenance): \$7,207.90

(19) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 2(b)(5) (Montpelier, State House, Dome, Drum, and Ceres, design, permitting, construction, restoration, renovation, and lighting):

\$38,525.00

(20) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(b)(4) (municipal pollution control grants, pollution control projects and planning advances for feasibility studies, new projects):

\$4,498.17

(21) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 11(f)(2) (EcoSystem restoration and protection):

\$4,298.22

(22) of the amount appropriated in 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 8(m) (Downtown Transportation Fund pilot project):

\$9,150.00

(23) of the amount appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(b)(9) (Newport, Northeast State Correctional Facility, direct digital HVAC control system replacement):

\$26,951.52

(24) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(b)(20), as added by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2 (Windsor, former Southeast State Correctional Facility, necessary demolition, salvage, dismantling, and improvements to facilitate future use of the facility):

\$378,180.00

* * *

(h) From prior year bond issuance cost estimates allocated to the entities to which funds were appropriated and for which bonding was required as the source of funds, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 954, \$1,148,251.79 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized by this act.

Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 16

~~\$14,767,376.32~~ \$17,358,383.85

Sec. 10. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$108,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations made in Secs. 2–15b of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded. The State Treasurer shall allocate the estimated cost of bond issuance or issuances to the entities to which funds are

(19) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$4,000,000.00 for the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Municipal Pollution Control Grants for pollution control projects and planning advances for feasibility studies; and

(20) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$3,000,000.00 for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the maintenance facilities at the Gifford Woods State Park and Groton Forest State Park; and.

~~(21) the Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$800,000.00 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife for infrastructure maintenance and improvements of the Department's buildings, including conservation camps. [Repealed.]~~

~~(d) FY 2025 capital projects authorizations. To the extent general funds are available to appropriate to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in FY 2025, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the following capital projects receive funding from the Fund. In FY 2025, spending authority for the following capital projects are authorized as follows:~~

~~(1) the sum of \$250,000.00 \$220,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for planning, reuse, and contingency;~~

~~* * *~~

~~(3) the sum of \$2,000,000.00 \$1,500,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the renovation of the interior HVAC steam lines at 120 State Street in Montpelier;~~

~~(4) the sum of \$1,000,000.00 \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for design, renovations, and land acquisition at the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre;~~

~~(5) the sum of \$1,000,000.00 \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and design of the Special Teams Facility and Storage;~~

~~(6) the sum of \$1,000,000.00 \$850,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for the planning and design of the Rutland Field Station;~~

~~* * *~~

~~(8) the sum of \$500,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Newport courthouse replacement, planning, and design; [Repealed.]~~

(9) the sum of \$250,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for planning for the 133-109 State Street tunnel waterproofing and Aiken Avenue reconstruction; and

(10) the sum of \$200,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the renovation of the stack area, HVAC upgrades, and the elevator replacement at 111 State Street;

(11) the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for roof replacement and brick façade repairs at the McFarland State Office Building in Barre; and

(12) the sum of \$30,000.00 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lake Champlain International fishing derby.

* * *

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Agency of Natural Resources * * *

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

§ 2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER

* * *

~~(g) The Commissioner shall consult with and receive approval from the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services concerning proposed construction or renovation of individual projects involving capital improvements which are expected, either in phases or in total, to cost more than \$200,000.00. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall manage all contracts for engineering services for capital improvements made by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ The Department of Environmental Conservation Facilities Engineering Section:

(1) may execute and consult on design for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(2) shall provide professional engineering services for compliance with environmental operating permits; and

(3) shall be the custodian of all plans of record for work executed by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, regardless of the source and designer of record.

* * *

Sec. 13. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking capacity.

(2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to annual appropriations, continue operating through December 31, 2027.

(3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.

(4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for maintaining or increasing the State's current fish stocking capacity following the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:

(A) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries;

(B) transferring fish stocking capacity from the Salisbury hatchery to other State fish hatcheries;

(C) establishing additional egg production at other State fish hatcheries to compensate for any lost egg production; and

(D) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches for replacing any lost stocking capacity.

(5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

(6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall not close without prior approval of the General Assembly, which shall be provided if:

(A) the hatchery is unable to secure the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027; or

(B) the stocking capacity of the hatchery can be replaced in a manner that is more cost-effective than the up-front and operating costs of the capital improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027.

Sec. 14. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY FEASIBILITY STUDY

(a) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall update the July 9, 2013 Facility Modernization Discharge Requirements Feasibility Study for the Salisbury Fish Hatchery and shall, on or before December 15, 2024, report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding the feasibility of continuing operations at the Salisbury Fish Hatchery after December 31, 2027, of transferring the

production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to the State's hatchery system, and of alternative options for replacing the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery.

(b) The report shall:

(1) identify the repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to enable the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to obtain any permits necessary to continue operating after December 31, 2027 and provide a detailed analysis of the associated costs and a plan for accomplishing the work;

(2) identify any repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to enable the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to be transferred to the State's hatchery system and provide a detailed analysis of the associated costs and a plan for accomplishing the work; and

(3) examine alternative approaches to maintaining the State's fish production capacity, including an analysis of associated costs and work necessary to successfully implement each identified alternative approach.

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 15. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22 is amended to read:

Sec. 22. SALE OF PROPERTIES

* * *

(c) 108 Cherry Street. Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the property located at 108 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington. The Commissioner shall first offer in writing to the City the right to purchase the property.

* * *

(3) Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166(d) and 29 V.S.A. § 160, of the proceeds received by the State for the sale of the property located at 108 Cherry Street in the City of Burlington, \$6,242,500.00 shall be deposited into the Property Management Revolving Fund (58700) to recover the deficit incurred in the fund as a result of the original purchase of the property and, notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 168(c), \$293,753.63 shall be deposited into the State Energy Revolving Fund (59700) to repay debt outstanding for loans for energy improvement projects on the property.

Sec. 16. SALE OF FORMER WILLISTON STATE POLICE BARRACKS;
INTENT; REPORT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Town of Williston shall report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions in January 2025 regarding:

(1) whether the town desires to purchase the property; and

(2) if so:

(A) the feasibility of the Town purchasing the property, including any requested conditions on the sale of the property; and

(B) the potential future uses of the property envisioned by the Town.

Sec. 17. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 36 is amended to read:

Sec. 36. PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD STATION; WILLISTON

* * *

(b) The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the Williston Public Safety Field Station and adjacent land pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects.

Sec. 18. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 34 is amended to read:

Sec. 34. WILLISTON PUBLIC SAFETY BARRACKS; SALE

The Beginning on July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the property known as the Williston Public Safety Barracks (State Office Building) located at 2777 St. George Road in Williston, Vermont pursuant to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 166. The proceeds from the sale shall be appropriated to future capital construction projects.

Sec. 19. 29 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

§ 152. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in addition to the duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, shall have the authority to:

* * *

(3) Prepare or cause to be prepared plans and specifications for construction and repair on all State-owned buildings:

* * *

(B) For which no specific appropriations have been made by the General Assembly or the Emergency Board. The Commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, acquire an option, ~~for a price not to exceed \$75,000.00,~~ on an individual property without prior legislative approval, for a price not to exceed five percent of the listed sale price of the property, provided the option contains a provision stating that purchase of the property shall occur only upon the approval of the General Assembly and the

appropriation of funds for this purpose. The State Treasurer is authorized to advance a sum not to exceed ~~\$75,000.00~~ five percent of the listed sale price of the property, upon warrants drawn by the Commissioner of Finance and Management for the purpose of purchasing an option on a property pursuant to this subdivision.

* * *

(19) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are authorized within the same section of ~~an annual~~ a biennial capital construction act.

(20) Transfer any unexpended project balances between projects that are authorized within different capital construction acts, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, when the unexpended project balance does not exceed ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00, or with the additional approval of the Emergency Board when such balance exceeds ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$200,000.00.

* * *

(22) Use the contingency fund appropriation to cover shortfalls for any project approved in any capital construction act; however, transfers from the contingency in excess of ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 shall be done with the approval of the Secretary of Administration.

* * *

Sec. 20. 29 V.S.A. § 166 is amended to read:

§ 166. SELLING OR RENTING STATE PROPERTY

* * *

(b)(1) Upon authorization by the General Assembly, which may be granted by resolution, and with the advice and consent of the Governor, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may sell real estate owned by the State. ~~Such~~ The property shall be sold to the highest bidder ~~therefor~~ at public auction or upon sealed bids ~~in~~ at the discretion of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, who may reject any or all bids, or the Commissioner is authorized to list the sale of property with a real estate agent licensed by the State. In no event shall the property be sold for less than fair market value as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with an independent real estate broker or appraiser, or both, retained by the Commissioner, unless otherwise authorized by the General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. 21. STATE BUILDING NAMING; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the State Building Naming Study Committee to develop a proposed process for naming State buildings that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee;

(2) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or designee;

(5) the State Librarian or designee

(6) the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Office of Racial Equity or designee;
and

(8) the Executive Secretary of the Transportation Board or designee.

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) The Committee shall develop a proposed process for naming State buildings that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services. The proposed process developed by the Committee shall address the following:

(A) an entity within State government, other than the General Assembly, that should have authority for naming State buildings that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services;

(B) entities and individuals who should be involved in determining whether to name specific State buildings that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services;

(C) methods by which a municipality or the general public may petition to name a State building under the jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings and General Services after a specific person;

(D) any requirements for a historical nexus between the building proposed to be named and the person for whom it is proposed to be named;
and

(E) the process for considering a petition to name a State building, including requirements related to public notice, conduct of hearings, and standards for rendering a decision on a petition.

(2) In carrying out its duties pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section, the Committee shall hold not fewer than three meetings and shall solicit testimony from stakeholders and interested parties.

(d) Report. On or before February 15, 2025, the Committee shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding its proposal and any recommendations for legislative action.

(e) Meetings.

(1) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2024.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 28, 2025.

Sec. 22. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; POTENTIAL LAND TRANSFER; REPORT

(a) The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall evaluate the potential transfer of a portion of the former Southeast State Correctional Facility property to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for inclusion in the adjacent wildlife management area. The evaluation shall:

(1) delineate the portions of the former Southeast State Correctional Facility property that could be used for future redevelopment of the site, taking into account any necessary setbacks from wetlands, streams, or wildlife habitat;

(2) identify any portions of the property that could be transferred into the adjacent wildlife management area and potential impacts on the redevelopment or sale of the property from the transfer of the identified portions; and

(3) identify any rights of way or easements that will be necessary for the potential future redevelopment of any retained portion of the property.

(b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding the evaluation and any legislative action that may be necessary to facilitate a proposed transfer or redevelopment of the property.

Sec. 23. SOUTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; TRANSFER OF PARCEL

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer to the Town of Springfield a portion of the Southern State Correctional Facility Property consisting of approximately 10 acres to be used as the location of a new Town garage.

(b) The transfer shall be contingent on:

(1) the State obtaining State and local zoning and subdivision approvals that are necessary for the transfer; and

(2) the negotiation of an agreement between the State and the Town of Springfield regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the access road and the water and sewer service lines for the Correctional Facility and the transferred parcel.

(c) The transferred parcel shall not include any brownfields on the Southern State Correctional Facility Property.

(d) In the event the Town does not utilize the transferred parcel for a new Town garage, the Town shall consult with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services regarding any proposed alternative uses of the parcel.

(e) The transfer authority provided pursuant to this section shall expire on July 1, 2027.

Sec. 24. SECURE RESIDENTIAL RECOVER FACILITY; REQUIREMENTS; REVIEW; REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Mental Health, shall review the facility requirements related to incorporating the use of emergency involuntary procedures and involuntary medication at the River Valley secure residential recovery facility in Essex. The Commissioner shall report, on or before February 1, 2025, to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Institutions, and on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Corrections and Institutions, and on Health Care regarding the findings of the review.

(b)(1) To the extent funding is available, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Mental Health, may commence construction on improvements and upgrades identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in fiscal year 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital construction and State bonding act shall include funding for any remaining design, development, and construction of the upgrades and improvements identified in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the future development of a forensic facility.

Sec. 25. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY;
POTENTIAL REUSE BY THE STATE; POTENTIAL TO
DEACTIVATE BUILDINGS; REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall:

(1) update previous reports on the potential to repurpose the former Southeast State Correctional Facility for a State purpose and determine whether the location of the former Facility can be used for:

(A) another future State facility;

(B) emergency or backup space to address State needs for temporary facility space or temporary office space; or

(C) other State purposes; and

(2) whether some or all of the structures at the former Southeast State Correctional Facility could be temporarily deactivated or winterized to reduce ongoing maintenance costs until the facility is utilized for another State purpose, and the costs related to deactivation or winterization.

(b) The Commissioner shall, on or before January 15, 2025, report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions regarding the Commissioner's findings pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that it shall not authorize the sale of the parcel on which the former Southeast State Correctional Facility was located unless the State has determined that the site is not needed for use as the location for a State facility or other State purpose.

Sec. 26. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES YOUTH
SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION AND TREATMENT CENTER;
LONG-TERM LEASE; AUTHORIZATION

Notwithstanding any provisions of 29 V.S.A. § 165(h) or 29 V.S.A. § 166(a) to the contrary, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to enter into a long-term ground lease agreement at a below-market rate for an initial term of not more than 20 years with not more than four five-year renewal options for the Department for Children and Families Youth Short Term Stabilization and Treatment Center. At the end of the term and any renewals, the ground lease shall terminate.

Sec. 27. CAPITOL COMPLEX FLOOD RECOVERY; SPECIAL
COMMITTEE

(a) The Special Committee on Capitol Complex Flood Recovery is established. The Special Committee shall comprise the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(b)(1) The Special Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee, in consultation with the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(2)(A) The Special Committee shall meet to review and recommend alterations to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(B) The Special Committee may, as necessary, grant approval to proposals and plans for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide quarterly updates to the Special Committee on the planning process for Capitol Complex flood recovery.

(d) The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

Sec. 28. STATE HOUSE; IMPROVEMENTS; DESIGN; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

(a)(1) To allow the Department of Buildings and General Services to begin the design development phase, it is the intent of the General Assembly to approve a schematic design plan for accessibility, life safety, and mechanical systems improvements to the State House identified in Scenario 1, as approved by the Joint Legislative Management Committee on December 15, 2023 and excluding any improvements that would impact committee rooms.

(2) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide the Special Committee established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section with a draft schematic design plan for the work identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection on or before July 15, 2024 and a final schematic design plan on or before September 15, 2024.

(b)(1) A Special Committee to be called the Special Committee on State House Improvements consisting of the Joint Legislative Management Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions is established.

(2) The Special Committee is authorized to meet to:

(A) review and recommend alterations to the draft schematic design to be submitted on or before July 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this section at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting; and

(B) review and approve the final schematic design to be submitted on or before September 15, 2024 as described in subsection (a) of this section at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

(c) In making its decision, the Special Committee shall consider:

(1) how the design impacts the ability of the General Assembly to conduct legislative business;

(2) whether the design allows for public access to citizens;

(3) the financial consequences to the State of approval or disapproval of the proposal; and

(4) whether any potential alternatives are available.

(d) The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

* * * Corrections * * *

Sec. 29. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 28 is amended to read:

Sec. 28. REPLACEMENT WOMEN'S REENTRY AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; SITE LOCATION PROPOSAL; DESIGN INTENT

(a) Site location proposal.

(1)(A) ~~Site location proposal.~~ On or before January 15, 2024 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall submit a site location proposal for replacement women's reentry and correctional facilities for justice-involved women to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(i) when evaluating site locations, preference shall be given to State-owned property;

(ii) the site location, regardless of whether it is on State-owned land or land proposed to be purchased by the State, shall be:

(I) near support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

(II) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to facilitate retention and continuity of experienced staff; and

(iii) the proposal shall consider the proximity of existing and potential future public transit services.

(C) The proposal shall consider both collocating facilities in a campus-style approach for operational efficiencies and the need for separate facilities at different locations.

* * *

(c) As used in this section, “reentry facility” means a facility that:

(1) is for incarcerated individuals preparing to transition back into the community following release;

(2) provides the lowest level of security;

(3) has a flexible design that is distinct from other existing secure correctional facilities;

(4) provides the individuals housed in the facility with continual access to services and supports, including counseling and treatment; and

(5) is designed in a flexible manner to support programs like work release and day-reporting.

Sec. 30. REPLACEMENT WOMEN’S REENTRY AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE LAND; INTENT; REPORT

(a) Contingent authority to purchase land. In the event that the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, is unable to identify appropriate State-owned site locations for the replacement reentry and correctional facilities for justice-involved women, the Commissioner is authorized to purchase land in a location that is:

(1) near support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community;

(2) in a reasonable proximity to the existing workforce to facilitate retention and continuity of experienced staff; and

(3) near existing or potential future public transit services.

(b) Reports. Beginning in July 2024 and ending in January 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall report at least once per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding the progress in identifying State-owned property and, if necessary, purchasing property on which to locate the replacement facilities for justice-involved women.

(c) As used in this section, “reentry facility” means a facility that:

(1) is for incarcerated individuals preparing to transition back into the community following release;

(2) provides the lowest level of security;

(3) has a flexible design that is distinct from other existing secure correctional facilities;

(4) provides the individuals housed in the facility with continual access to services and supports, including counseling and treatment; and

(5) is designed in a flexible manner to support programs like work release and day-reporting.

Sec. 31. POTENTIAL REUSE OF CHITTENDEN REGIONAL
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SITE; FEASIBILITY; REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary regarding the feasibility of utilizing the site of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for a reentry facility for eligible justice-involved men following the construction of replacement facilities for justice-involved women.

(b) The report shall:

(1)(A) evaluate the condition and structure of the existing facility to determine if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility in a manner that supports the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices; and

(B) if it can be repurposed as a reentry facility, the improvements and other work necessary to support the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices and the estimated cost of performing the work;

(2)(A) evaluate whether a new reentry facility could be constructed on the site following the demolition of some or all of the existing facility;

(B) identify potential designs for a newly constructed reentry facility at the site that supports the programmatic goals of the Department of Corrections using evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices; and

(C) identify any site work, improvements, and other work necessary to construct a new reentry facility on the site, including the cost of any such work; and

(3) if the existing facility cannot be repurposed as a reentry facility and a new reentry facility cannot be constructed on the site, identify other potential sites for a male reentry facility that are near:

(A) support services, programming, and work opportunities needed to facilitate successful reentry into the community; and

(B) existing or potential future public transit services.

(c) As used in this section, “reentry facility” means a facility that:

(1) is for incarcerated individuals preparing to transition back into the community following release;

(2) provides the lowest level of security;

(3) has a flexible design that is distinct from other existing secure correctional facilities;

(4) provides the individuals housed in the facility with continual access to services and supports, including counseling and treatment; and

(5) is designed in a flexible manner to support programs like work release and day-reporting.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the fiscal year 2026 capital construction and State bonding act shall include funding for the preparation of the report required pursuant to this section.

Sec. 32. REENTRY SERVICES; NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; PROGRAMMING; RECOMMENDATIONS

On or before November 15, 2024, the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall submit recommendations to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions detailing the following:

(1) an examination of the Department of Corrections’ reentry and transitional services with the objective to transition and implement modern strategies and facilities to assist individuals involved with the criminal justice system to obtain housing, vocational and job opportunities, and other services to successfully reintegrate into society;

(2) the recommended size of a new women’s correctional facility, including the scope and quality of programming and services housed in the facility and any therapeutic, educational, and other specialty design features necessary to support the programming and services offered in the facility; and

(3) whether it is advisable to construct a new men’s reentry facility on the same campus as the women’s correctional facility or at another location.

* * * Judiciary * * *

Sec. 33. BARRE; WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE;
LAND ACQUISITION; AUTHORIZATION; COMMUNICATION
WITH CITY

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Judiciary, is authorized to use the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) and (d)(4) to purchase land as needed to renovate or replace the Washington County Superior Courthouse.

(b) The Commissioner shall:

(1) consult with the City of Barre on potential options for renovating or replacing the Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre; and

(2) provide updates to the City on progress made with respect to renovating or replacing the Courthouse.

Sec. 34. WHITE RIVER JUNCTION; WINDSOR COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURTHOUSE; TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF EMPLOYEES

It is the intent of the General Assembly that following completion of the renovations to the Windsor County Superior Courthouse in White River Junction, the offices of the Windsor County State's Attorney shall be relocated to the leased office space at 55 Railroad Row that is being used as temporary office space for Courthouse employees during the renovation.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 35. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

RUSSELL H. INGALLS

WENDY K. HARRISON

BRIAN P. COLLAMORE

Committee on the part of the Senate

ALICE M. EMMONS

CONOR CASEY

TROY HEADRICK

Committee on the part of the House