Journal of the House

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

At three o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Pastor Aaron Clark, Capitol Ministries, Montpelier.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee or placed on the Notice Calendar as follows:

H. 905

By Reps. LaMont of Morristown and Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the prohibitions on discrimination

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 906

By Reps. Goodnow of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to reimbursing municipalities for services that address the impact of homelessness

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 907

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to legislative review of reporting requirements

Pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 908

By Reps. Critchlow of Colchester, Austin of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Lueders of Lincoln, and Taylor of Mendon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a statewide Parkinson's disease registry

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 909

By Reps. Goodnow of Brattleboro, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Springfield, and Olson of Starksboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a monument to former Governor Philip Hoff

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 209

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations

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

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 757

House bill, entitled

An act relating to manufactured homes and limited equity cooperatives

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

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar
Bills Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, the following House bills were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

H. 632

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental amendments

H. 802

House bill, entitled

An act relating to adjusting the census grant for inflation

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 41

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 41. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 20, 2026.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 20, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 195

Offered by Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Boutin of Barre City, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Emmons of Springfield, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Taylor of Mendon, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, White of Bethel, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as School Board Appreciation Month in Vermont

Whereas, perhaps no other category of elected officials is subject to more exacting scrutiny than locally elected school board members, and

Whereas, service on a local school board involves working directly with students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and the broader taxpaying public, and

Whereas, on behalf of their respective districts, school board members must design sustainable budgets, which provide the best educational opportunities for students, while addressing the realities of a district's financial limitations, goals that can be in conflict, and

Whereas, navigating this challenge is a major civic responsibility that dedicated school board members perform as they carefully weigh all the factors involved in reaching the consequential decisions that affect their communities, and

Whereas, the still-uncertain ramifications arising from the General Assembly's adoption of 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, the recently enacted public education governance legislation, will pose new challenges for school board members across the State, and

Whereas, school board members are elected officials who receive far less appreciation and thanks than they merit for their demanding and essential public service, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 2026 as School Board Appreciation Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont School Board Association.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 13, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 201

Offered by Representatives Luneau of St. Albans City, Bartley of Fairfax, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Morgan, M. of Milton, Oliver of Sheldon, and Walker of Swanton

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers on winning the inaugural Northern Vermont Youth Football League 5/6 championship

Whereas, fifth and sixth grade football enthusiasts residing in the municipalities of St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Alburgh, Bakersfield, Enosburg, Fairfield, Georgia, Sheldon, and Swanton enjoyed the fall of 2025 as members of the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers, and over the course of the 2025 regular season, the team compiled an extraordinary undefeated record, entitling the squad to compete in the Northern Vermont Youth Football League's initial 5/6 championship contest against the Chittenden South Buccaneers, and

Whereas, the Steelers quickly proved their worthiness, scoring the opening touchdown in the first quarter, and in the second quarter, the Buccaneers scored a touchdown plus a point after, concluding the first half holding a 7–6 lead, and

Whereas, after a scoreless third quarter, St. Albans executed a long touchdown run, regaining a 12–7 lead, and later in the fourth quarter, a Steeler intercepted the ball and ran long into Chittenden South territory, which framed St. Albans' final touchdown for its great 18–7 victory and an amazing 9–0 season record, and

Whereas, the talented 5/6 Steelers were Levi Chiaravalle, Jrue Stewart, Max Montagne, Owen Dyke, Chandler Clark, Brody Robair, Spencer Stebbins, Camden Condlin, Lincoln Sullivan, Marcus Taylor, Jaxon Stewart, Reed Wilbur, Drake Gervais, Alden Benoit, Ryan Leclerc, Kayden Bushey, Camden Jean, Nathanael Trieb, Bo Vining, Zdeno Hatin, Isaac Facteau, Carmelo Hardy, Raymond Christian, Ryker Johnson, Preston McCarthy, Carter Longley, Alias Mayhew, Elijah Boomhower, Paxton Norris, Emmett Dustin, Nathaniel Pinkham, Henry Tourangeau, Konnor King, Hunter Gagne, Liam Shea, Chase Corwell, Deacon Weld, Luke Harrison, Aidan Burghardt, Grayson Davis, Jaiden Mann, Kholden Hamilton, and Holden Lambert, and

W*hereas*, Head Coach Shawn Stebbins and assistant coaches Colin McCarthy, Brian Christian, Jim Trieb, and Tom Facteau were outstanding mentors for the team, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers on winning the inaugural Northern Vermont Youth Football League 5/6 championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 13, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 202

Offered by Representatives Luneau of St. Albans City, Bartley of Fairfax, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Morgan, M. of Milton, Oliver of Sheldon, and Walker of Swanton

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers on winning the 2025 Northern Vermont Youth Football League Division I championship

Whereas, the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers consisted of players from the Franklin County communities of St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Alburgh, Enosburg, Fairfield, Sheldon, and Swanton, and

Whereas, the sixth-seeded Steelers battled through the playoffs to earn a championship game berth against the top-ranked and undefeated 7/8 Rutland Raiders, and

Whereas, after an intensive first half, the Steelers were slightly trailing 19–7, but in the second half, St. Albans' defensive performance was superb, preventing additional Rutland scoring while the Steelers tied the game, sending the contest into overtime, and

Whereas, as the overtime commenced, the Steelers scored a touchdown on their first possession and successfully converted the point after, then drew on their proven defensive prowess to twice halt the Raiders from crossing the goal line, clinching a St. Albans 26–19 victory and its first Division I title since 1988, and

Whereas, the thrilled Steelers were Jacques Montagne, Zac Montagne-Litchfield, Caleb Rowden, Jacob Brown, Jaevian Stewart, Louis Meyers, Dream Stewart, Quentin Lunna, Eli McGinnis, Kingston Gomez, Grayson St. Francis, Silas Reed, Case Reynolds, Mathias McConnell, Finn Howrigan, Maddox Rabtoy, John Garrett, Erik Wagner, Ozzy Blackburn, Brody Aiken, Thor Clark, Jacob Ewald, Layn Patnode, Brayden Chalifoux, Kasent Valente, Sawyer Smith, Reed O'Dell, Tanner Limoge, Izek Careau, Elias Bruley, Hunter Graham, Matthew Persons, Drake Scheiber, Blake Kittell, and Lincoln Kane, and

Whereas, Head Coach Nick Norris and assistant coaches Ben Patnode, Chris Norris, Joe Montagne, Brad Ravlin, Luke Howrigan, Jerome Stewart, and Frank Wagner were thrilled with the team's success, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers on winning the 2025 Northern Vermont Youth Football League Division I championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 13, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Senate Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred in; Committee of Conference Requested and Appointed; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 790

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

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

Sec. 1. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.125 is amended to read:

Sec. B.125 Legislative counsel

Personal services	~~4,589,480~~	5,309,541
Operating expenses	286,936	286,936
Total	~~4,876,416~~	5,596,477
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,876,416~~	5,596,477
Total	~~4,876,416~~	5,596,477

Sec. 2. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.126 is amended to read:

Sec. B.126 Legislature

Personal services	~~8,457,653~~	7,620,986
Operating expenses	5,329,448	5,329,448
Total	~~13,787,101~~	12,950,434
Source of funds		
General fund	~~13,787,101~~	12,950,434
Total	~~13,787,101~~	12,950,434

Sec. 3. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.127 is amended to read:

Sec. B.127 Joint fiscal committee

Personal services	~~2,959,862~~	3,076,468
Operating expenses	197,907	197,907
Total	~~3,157,769~~	3,274,375
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,157,769~~	3,274,375
Total	~~3,157,769~~	3,274,375

Sec. 4. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.137 is amended to read:

Sec. B.137 Homeowner rebate

Grants	~~19,000,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~19,000,000~~	17,500,000
Source of funds		
General fund	~~19,000,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~19,000,000~~	17,500,000

Sec. 5. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.138 is amended to read:

Sec. B.138 Renter rebate

Grants	~~9,500,000~~	11,000,000
Total	~~9,500,000~~	11,000,000
Source of funds		
General fund	~~9,500,000~~	11,000,000
Total	~~9,500,000~~	11,000,000

Sec. 6. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.139 is amended to read:

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

Grants	3,410,000	3,410,000
Total	3,410,000	3,410,000
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,410,000~~	0
Special funds	~~0~~	3,410,000
Total	3,410,000	3,410,000

Sec. 7. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.145 is amended to read:

Sec. B.145 Total general government

Source of funds		
General fund	~~140,473,564~~	137,063,564
Transportation fund	4,542,959	4,542,959
Special funds	~~34,043,313~~	37,453,313

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

Sec. 8. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.204 is amended to read:

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

Personal services	~~64,512,754~~	65,071,320
Operating expenses	13,865,672	13,865,672
Grants	121,030	121,030
Total	~~78,499,456~~	79,058,022
Source of funds		
General fund	~~72,601,728~~	73,160,294
Special funds	1,997,094	1,997,094
Federal funds	1,560,412	1,560,412
Interdepartmental transfers	2,340,222	2,340,222
Total	~~78,499,456~~	79,058,022

Sec. 9. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.207 is amended to read:

Sec. B.207 Sheriffs

Personal services	~~6,092,392~~	6,240,913
Operating expenses	~~446,237~~	481,237
Total	~~6,538,629~~	6,722,150
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,538,629~~	6,722,150
Total	~~6,538,629~~	6,722,150

Sec. 10. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.208 is amended to read:

Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration

Personal services	6,289,651	6,289,651
Operating expenses	6,380,415	6,380,415
Grants	278,285	278,285
Total	12,948,351	12,948,351
Source of funds		
General fund	~~7,630,863~~	8,390,863
Special funds	4,105	4,105
Federal funds	1,089,155	1,089,155

Interdepartmental transfers	~~4,224,228~~	3,464,228
Total	12,948,351	12,948,351

Sec. 11. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.209 is amended to read:

Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police

Personal services	~~83,279,417~~	84,145,179
Operating expenses	16,733,452	16,733,452
Grants	1,813,523	1,813,523
Total	~~101,826,392~~	102,692,154
Source of funds		
General fund	~~87,421,532~~	88,287,294
Special funds	3,223,793	3,223,793
Federal funds	9,734,790	9,734,790
Interdepartmental transfers	1,446,277	1,446,277
Total	~~101,826,392~~	102,692,154

Sec. 12. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.210 is amended to read:

Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services

Personal services	~~5,116,729~~	5,686,729
Operating expenses	2,098,944	2,098,944
Total	~~7,215,673~~	7,785,673
Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,929,676~~	2,499,676
Special funds	4,483,740	4,483,740
Federal funds	802,257	802,257
Total	~~7,215,673~~	7,785,673

Sec. 13. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.215 is amended to read:

Sec. B.215 Military - administration

Personal services	1,142,600	1,142,600
Operating expenses	810,661	810,661
Grants	~~1,219,834~~	933,121
Total	~~3,173,095~~	2,886,382
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,173,095~~	2,886,382
Total	~~3,173,095~~	2,886,382

Sec. 14. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.221 is amended to read:

Sec. B.221 Criminal justice council

Personal services	~~2,508,514~~	2,808,514
Operating expenses	2,142,603	2,142,603

Total	~~4,651,117~~	4,951,117
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,260,265~~	4,560,265
Interdepartmental transfers	390,852	390,852
Total	~~4,651,117~~	4,951,117

Sec. 15. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.236 is amended to read:

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

Personal services	~~1,243,420~~	1,175,647
Operating expenses	142,164	142,164
Total	~~1,385,584~~	1,317,811
Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,292,811~~	1,317,811
Federal funds	~~92,773~~	0
Total	~~1,385,584~~	1,317,811

Sec. 16. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.240 is amended to read:

Sec. B.240 Cannabis control board

Personal services	4,466,288	4,466,288
Operating expenses	~~2,053,382~~	2,683,532
Grants	10,000	10,000
Total	~~6,529,670~~	7,159,820
Source of funds		
Special funds	~~6,529,670~~	7,159,820
Total	~~6,529,670~~	7,159,820

Sec. 17. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.241 is amended to read:

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

Source of funds		
General fund	~~279,384,152~~	282,360,288
Special funds	~~121,247,670~~	121,877,820
Tobacco fund	685,239	685,239
Federal funds	~~239,445,060~~	239,352,287
ARRA funds	6,627	6,627
Interdepartmental transfers	~~17,289,829~~	16,529,829
Enterprise funds	17,847,569	17,847,569
Total	~~675,906,146~~	678,659,659

Sec. 18. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.300 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	17,333,398	17,333,398
Operating expenses	~~11,231,120~~	7,199,632
Grants	3,795,202	3,795,202
Total	~~32,359,720~~	28,328,232
Source of funds		
General fund	~~15,569,598~~	13,465,739
Special funds	135,517	135,517
Federal funds	~~14,023,964~~	12,096,335
Global Commitment fund	2,510,857	2,510,857
Interdepartmental transfers	119,784	119,784
Total	~~32,359,720~~	28,328,232

Sec. 19. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~2,207,280,248~~	2,267,099,358
Total	~~2,207,280,248~~	2,267,099,358
Source of funds		
General fund	~~712,815,861~~	730,091,238
Special funds	31,339,852	31,339,852
Tobacco fund	21,049,373	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	31,074,772	31,074,772
Federal funds	~~1,406,003,180~~	1,448,546,913
Interdepartmental transfers	4,997,210	4,997,210
Total	~~2,207,280,248~~	2,267,099,358

Sec. 20. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~142,860,018~~	148,653,725
Operating expenses	~~36,310,876~~	37,434,661
Grants	3,112,301	3,112,301
Total	~~182,283,195~~	189,200,687
Source of funds		
General fund	~~43,820,359~~	46,204,011
Special funds	4,760,237	4,760,237
Federal funds	~~126,141,154~~	130,644,944
Global Commitment fund	~~4,382,601~~	4,412,651
Interdepartmental transfers	3,178,844	3,178,844
Total	~~182,283,195~~	189,200,687

Sec. 21. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.307 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~979,554,012~~	1,009,246,202
Total	~~979,554,012~~	1,009,246,202
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	~~979,554,012~~	1,009,246,202
Total	~~979,554,012~~	1,009,246,202

Sec. 22. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.309 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~67,605,443~~	69,664,468
Total	~~67,605,443~~	69,664,468
Source of funds		
General fund	~~62,133,605~~	64,539,070
Global Commitment fund	~~5,471,838~~	5,125,398
Total	~~67,605,443~~	69,664,468

Sec. 23. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.310 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~44,034,870~~	44,593,047
Total	~~44,034,870~~	44,593,047
Source of funds		
General fund	~~13,467,770~~	13,636,779
Federal funds	~~30,567,100~~	30,956,268
Total	~~44,034,870~~	44,593,047

Sec. 24. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.311 is amended to read:

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

Personal services	9,163,996	9,163,996
Operating expenses	~~8,043,463~~	9,006,777
Grants	7,985,727	7,985,727
Total	~~25,193,186~~	26,156,500
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,298,710~~	4,780,367
Special funds	2,423,587	2,423,587
Federal funds	~~10,954,085~~	11,435,742
Global Commitment fund	7,361,523	7,361,523

Interdepartmental transfers	155,281	155,281
Total	~~25,193,186~~	26,156,500

Sec. 25. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.312 is amended to read:

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

Personal services	71,272,453	71,272,453
Operating expenses	10,371,654	10,371,654
Grants	~~48,496,832~~	48,541,832
Total	~~130,140,939~~	130,185,939
Source of funds		
General fund	~~15,160,817~~	15,505,817
Special funds	25,398,124	25,398,124
Tobacco fund	1,088,918	1,088,918
Federal funds	64,355,699	64,355,699
Global Commitment fund	~~18,457,507~~	18,157,507
Interdepartmental transfers	5,654,874	5,654,874
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Total	~~130,140,939~~	130,185,939

Sec. 26. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.314 is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	~~12,456,526~~	13,271,526
Operating expenses	~~2,420,029~~	2,522,590
Grants	~~279,691,678~~	282,916,053
Total	~~294,568,233~~	298,710,169
Source of funds		
General fund	~~13,127,716~~	15,280,378
Special funds	6,836	6,836
Federal funds	~~13,158,032~~	12,800,308
Global Commitment fund	~~266,967,840~~	269,314,838
Interdepartmental transfers	1,307,809	1,307,809
Total	~~294,568,233~~	298,710,169

Sec. 27. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.315 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~40,937,117~~	41,323,934
Operating expenses	3,393,946	3,393,946
Total	~~44,331,063~~	44,717,880
Source of funds		
General fund	~~18,868,124~~	18,698,157
Special funds	1,711,256	1,711,256

Global Commitment fund	~~23,751,683~~	24,308,467
Total	~~44,331,063~~	44,717,880

Sec. 28. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.316 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	50,609,972	50,609,972
Operating expenses	~~17,876,453~~	20,719,611
Grants	5,914,175	5,914,175
Total	~~74,400,600~~	77,243,758
Source of funds		
General fund	~~43,680,871~~	46,217,414
Special funds	2,954,500	2,954,500
Federal funds	~~24,518,288~~	24,824,903
Global Commitment fund	2,780,636	2,780,636
Interdepartmental transfers	466,305	466,305
Total	~~74,400,600~~	77,243,758

Sec. 29. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.317 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	49,175,153	49,175,153
Operating expenses	5,497,038	5,497,038
Grants	~~100,541,760~~	101,623,888
Total	~~155,213,951~~	156,296,079
Source of funds		
General fund	~~63,680,993~~	63,041,558
Special funds	729,150	729,150
Federal funds	~~37,407,542~~	38,588,277
Global Commitment fund	~~53,381,266~~	53,922,094
Interdepartmental transfers	15,000	15,000
Total	~~155,213,951~~	156,296,079

Sec. 30. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.318 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	6,563,807	6,563,807
Operating expenses	783,604	783,604
Grants	~~227,780,727~~	227,344,739
Total	~~235,128,138~~	234,692,150
Source of funds		
General fund	61,267,870	61,267,870
Special funds	115,409,671	115,409,671

Federal funds	42,924,133	42,924,133
Global Commitment fund	~~15,526,464~~	15,090,476
Total	~~235,128,138~~	234,692,150

Sec. 31. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.320 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~2,558,460~~	2,514,961
Grants	~~10,418,567~~	10,225,103
Total	~~12,977,027~~	12,740,064
Source of funds		
General fund	~~7,470,372~~	7,352,839
Global Commitment fund	~~5,506,655~~	5,387,225
Total	~~12,977,027~~	12,740,064

Sec. 32. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.321 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	15,000	15,000
Grants	~~10,415,779~~	10,674,625
Total	~~10,430,779~~	10,689,625
Source of funds		
General fund	~~10,189,157~~	10,492,643
Federal funds	11,098	11,098
Global Commitment fund	~~230,524~~	185,884
Total	~~10,430,779~~	10,689,625

Sec. 33. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.323 is amended to read:

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

Operating expenses	23,821	23,821
Grants	~~36,532,863~~	34,302,585
Total	~~36,556,684~~	34,326,406
Source of funds		
General fund	~~24,035,417~~	21,805,139
Special funds	~~5,970,229~~	6,106,068
Federal funds	~~2,806,330~~	2,670,491
Global Commitment fund	3,744,708	3,744,708
Total	~~36,556,684~~	34,326,406

Sec. 34. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.325 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~1,376,425~~	1,646,237
Operating expenses	159,458	159,458
Grants	~~39,165,356~~	41,022,744
Total	~~40,701,239~~	42,828,439
Source of funds		
General fund	~~32,312,474~~	34,312,474
Special funds	83,135	83,135
Federal funds	5,118,329	5,118,329
Global Commitment fund	~~3,187,301~~	3,314,501
Total	~~40,701,239~~	42,828,439

Sec. 35. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.327 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	258,100	258,100
Operating expenses	38,775	38,775
Grants	~~3,476,862~~	5,376,862
Total	~~3,773,737~~	5,673,737
Source of funds		
General fund	~~3,743,737~~	5,643,737
Global Commitment fund	30,000	30,000
Total	~~3,773,737~~	5,673,737

Sec. 36. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.329 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	48,973,454	48,973,454
Operating expenses	~~6,544,338~~	6,856,716
Total	~~55,517,792~~	55,830,170
Source of funds		
General fund	~~25,692,412~~	25,848,601
Special funds	1,390,457	1,390,457
Federal funds	~~27,258,639~~	27,414,828
Global Commitment fund	110,000	110,000
Interdepartmental transfers	1,066,284	1,066,284
Total	~~55,517,792~~	55,830,170

Sec. 37. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~24,909,492~~	25,150,975
Total	~~24,909,492~~	25,150,975
Source of funds		
General fund	~~8,585,909~~	8,829,020
Federal funds	~~7,321,114~~	7,191,114
Global Commitment fund	~~9,002,469~~	9,130,841
Total	~~24,909,492~~	25,150,975

Sec. 38. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.333 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~349,987,467~~	351,175,948
Total	~~349,987,467~~	351,175,948
Source of funds		
General fund	132,732	132,732
Special funds	15,463	15,463
Federal funds	403,573	403,573
Global Commitment fund	~~349,385,699~~	350,574,180
Interdepartmental transfers	50,000	50,000
Total	~~349,987,467~~	351,175,948

Sec. 39. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~7,540,256~~	7,544,967
Total	~~7,540,256~~	7,544,967
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	~~7,540,256~~	7,544,967
Total	~~7,540,256~~	7,544,967

Sec. 40. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.334.1 is amended to read:

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

Grants	~~346,858,094~~	375,504,889
Total	~~346,858,094~~	375,504,889
Source of funds		
General fund	498,579	498,579
Federal funds	2,450,000	2,450,000

Global Commitment fund	~~343,909,515~~	372,556,310
Total	~~346,858,094~~	375,504,889

Sec. 41. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.338 is amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

Personal services	~~177,107,933~~	184,910,113
Operating expenses	~~25,571,966~~	26,227,109
Grants	801,823	801,823
Total	~~203,481,722~~	211,939,045
Source of funds		
General fund	~~198,084,766~~	203,987,089
Special funds	~~935,963~~	990,963
Federal funds	516,600	516,600
Global Commitment fund	~~3,548,078~~	6,048,078
Interdepartmental transfers	396,315	396,315
Total	~~203,481,722~~	211,939,045

Sec. 42. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.339 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~4,130,378~~	4,520,333
Total	~~4,130,378~~	4,520,333
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,130,378~~	4,520,333
Total	~~4,130,378~~	4,520,333

Sec. 43. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.342 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	24,048,875	24,048,875
Operating expenses	6,913,887	6,913,887
Total	30,962,762	30,962,762
Source of funds		
General fund	~~10,033,214~~	8,998,647
Special funds	~~12,799,530~~	13,834,097
Federal funds	8,130,018	8,130,018
Total	30,962,762	30,962,762

Sec. 44. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	~~1,428,803,059~~	1,461,151,849
Special funds	~~231,430,533~~	232,655,939

Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	31,074,772	31,074,772
Federal funds	~~1,946,078,413~~	1,993,089,108
Global Commitment fund	~~2,148,606,890~~	2,213,122,801
Internal service funds	403,853	403,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,694,090	32,694,090
Permanent trust funds	25,000	25,000
Total	~~5,842,204,818~~	5,987,305,620

Sec. 45. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.508 is amended to read:

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

Grants	~~18,500,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~18,500,000~~	17,500,000
Source of funds		
Education fund	~~18,500,000~~	17,500,000
Total	~~18,500,000~~	17,500,000

Sec. 46. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.516 is amended to read:

Sec. B.516 Total general education

Source of funds		
General fund	244,496,788	244,496,788
Special funds	32,699,554	32,699,554
Tobacco fund	750,388	750,388
Education fund	~~2,430,399,971~~	2,429,399,971
Federal funds	206,397,296	206,397,296
Global Commitment fund	260,000	260,000
Interdepartmental transfers	2,376,046	2,376,046
Pension trust funds	3,864,405	3,864,405
Total	~~2,921,244,448~~	2,920,244,448

Sec. 47. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.702 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~23,876,543~~	24,086,543
Operating expenses	6,738,504	6,738,504
Grants	833,630	833,630
Total	~~31,448,677~~	31,658,677
Source of funds		
General fund	~~9,532,865~~	9,742,865
Special funds	364,696	364,696
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060	10,097,060
Federal funds	9,927,754	9,927,754

Interdepartmental transfers	1,526,302	1,526,302
Total	~~31,448,677~~	31,658,677

Sec. 48. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.704 is amended to read:

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

Personal services	~~11,026,473~~	11,098,456
Operating expenses	~~1,122,371~~	1,155,605
Grants	1,408,910	1,408,910
Total	~~13,557,754~~	13,662,971
Source of funds		
General fund	~~6,839,753~~	6,944,970
Special funds	1,204,005	1,204,005
Federal funds	4,326,877	4,326,877
Interdepartmental transfers	1,187,119	1,187,119
Total	~~13,557,754~~	13,662,971

Sec. 49. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.713 is amended to read:

Sec. B.713 Land use review board

Personal services	5,001,041	5,001,041
Operating expenses	~~537,905~~	579,155
Total	~~5,538,946~~	5,580,196
Source of funds		
General fund	~~4,169,020~~	4,210,270
Special funds	1,369,926	1,369,926
Total	~~5,538,946~~	5,580,196

Sec. 50. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.714 is amended to read:

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

Source of funds		
General fund	~~50,665,734~~	51,022,201
Special funds	86,811,225	86,811,225
Fish and wildlife fund	10,097,060	10,097,060
Federal funds	184,885,710	184,885,710
Interdepartmental transfers	14,976,689	14,976,689
Total	~~347,436,418~~	347,792,885

Sec. 51. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

(3) $500,000 General Fund for the reimbursement of Community Accountability Court Project expenses requested by other State entities; and

(4) $3,000,000 General Fund to ensure the appropriation made in Sec. B.514 of this act is sufficient to meet 100 percent of the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution. The appropriation made in Sec. B.513 of this act pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(13) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether the appropriation made in Sec. B.514 of this act is sufficient to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution requirement is funded at 100 percent in fiscal year 2026. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted by an act of the General Assembly.

* * *

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

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

(2) $500,000 PILOT Special Fund, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a) or any other provision of law to the contrary, for the purpose of inventorying and creating a property valuation model for communications properties. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted by an act of the General Assembly.

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

(4) $385,000 General Fund for office fit-up costs at the Waterbury State Office Complex and Pilgrim Place; and

(5) $329,520 General Fund and $470,480 federal funds for the Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for a one-time payment increase for nonemergency medical transportation funding.

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

(7) $163,627 General Fund to continue the activities related to addressing health disparities and promoting health equity originally initiated by the Agency of Administration Office of Racial Equity per 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. B.1106(a)(10);

(8) $167,000 General Fund for the Bridges to Health program; and

(9) notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4812, $228,000 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund and $192,000 General Fund for distribution to recovery centers that were negatively impacted by receiving equal distributions from the Department earlier in the year. The funds shall be allocated as follows:

(A) $45,000 to the Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield;

(B) $50,000 to Journey to Recovery Community Center;

(C) $70,000 to the Turning Point Center of Chittenden County;

(D) $75,000 to the Turning Point Center of Addison County;

(E) $105,000 to the Turning Point Recovery Center of Bennington; and

(F) $75,000 to the Turning Point Center of Windham County.

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

* * *

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

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

(5) $150,000 General Fund to make the current Child Abuse Hotline compatible with updated Agency of Digital Services server requirements.

* * *

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

* * *

(6) $250,000 General Fund for a competitive grant to establish a new women's recovery residence, per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan, that shall be awarded on or before September 30, 2025. Up to $50,000 may be used for activities otherwise designated non-eligible per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan.

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

(1) $5,000,000 General Fund to provide support and enhance capacity for the production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community-based services; and

(2) $1,000,000 General Fund for the Land Access and Opportunity Board's Homes for All Initiative and for Community Resilience grants.

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

(5) $2,727,046 General Fund for the Vermont Health Connect cloud migration;

(6) $5,300,000 General Fund and $160,000 federal funds for an alternative payment model reconciliation payment to Brattleboro Retreat. All or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match. If funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match, the commensurate amount of Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to Sec. E.301.1 of this act; and

(7) $800,000 Global Commitment for a one-time payment increase for nonemergency medical transportation funding.

* * *

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

* * *

(2) ~~$500,000~~ $860,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program;

* * *

(ff) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $139,443 General Fund for the establishment and operations of the Chittenden County Community Accountability Court Project.

(gg) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs. In fiscal year 2026, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $36,848 General Fund for the Chittenden County Community Accountability Court Project.

Sec. 52. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.100 is amended to read:

Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

(a) This act contains the following amounts allocated to special funds that receive revenue from the property transfer tax. These allocations shall not exceed available revenues.

* * *

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of ~~$36,964,250~~ $36,471,750 from the property transfer tax and the surcharge established by 32 V.SA. § 9602a deposited into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(A) The dedication of $2,500,000 in revenue from the property transfer tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d) for the debt payments on the affordable housing bond pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314 shall be offset by the reduction of $1,500,000 in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and $1,000,000 from the surcharge established by 32 V.S.A. § 9602a. The fiscal year 2026 appropriation of ~~$36,964,250~~ $36,471,750 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reflects the $1,500,000 reduction. The affordable housing bond and related property transfer tax and surcharge provisions are repealed after the life of the bond on July 1, 2039. Once the bond is retired, the $1,500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall be restored.

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2), amounts in excess of ~~$10,000,705~~ $9,872,655 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund shall be transferred into the General Fund. Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3), the ~~$10,000,705~~ $9,872,655 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) ~~$7,740,546~~ $7,641,435 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) ~~$1,260,089~~ $1,243,955 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) ~~$1,000,070~~ $987,265 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. 53. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following amounts shall be transferred from the funds indicated:

(1) From the General Fund (#10000) to the:

* * *

(I) Criminal History Records Check Fund (#21130): $1,059,324 needed by the Department of Public Safety for deficit mitigation.

(i) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this be a one-time transfer to prevent the Criminal History Records Check Fund from incurring a deficit due to salary and benefit costs at the Department of Public Safety's Vermont Crime Information Center. As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment presentation, the Department of Public Safety shall submit a sustainability plan for the Criminal History Records Check Fund or any proposals for alternative fund sources for associated salary and benefit costs, or both.

* * *

(8) From the Cannabis Regulation Fund (#21998) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): 70 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of ~~$4,035,000~~ $4,665,150 following the close of fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be ~~$8,900,000~~ $9,182,689.

(B) Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund (#21995): 30 percent of the unencumbered and unexpended balance of the fund in excess of ~~$4,035,000~~ $4,665,150 following the close of fiscal year 2025. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report the amount of this transfer to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting. For purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget, this amount is estimated to be ~~$3,800,000~~ $3,935,438.

(b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget and do not supersede the actual year-end transfer amounts.

(1) To the General Fund (#10000) from the:

(A) 8 V.S.A. § 80(d). Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21075): ~~$46,204,523~~ $45,192,728.

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund ~~(#21085)~~ (#21080): ~~$21,745,635~~ $23,892,303.

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): ~~$7,389,063~~ $8,994,314.

(2) To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): ~~$1,053,073~~ $187,946.

* * *

(c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund (#10000) shall not exceed the actual fiscal ~~year end~~ year-end profits earned by the enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2026 budget only.

(1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): ~~$7,600,000~~ $6,678,828.

(2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): ~~$14,849,754~~ $16,802,502.

Sec. 54. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.102 is amended to read:

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

* * *

1260892201	TRE – Bond Redemption	$6,000,000.00
1210892401	LEG-Basic Needs Budget Members	$7,000.00
1220892402	JFO-Renewable Energy Standard	$65.00
1220892403	JFO-Basic Needs Budget Assist	$10,000.00
5100892211	AOE-License Data Management	$700,000.00

* * *

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following amount shall revert to the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund from the account indicated:

3400891802	Invest Substance Use Treat	$1,500.38

Sec. 55. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103 is amended to read:

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2026, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds provided:

(1) General Fund.

* * *

(D) The first $74,908,097 of any fiscal year-end balance otherwise subject to the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308c(a) shall, instead, be reserved for addressing federal funding shortfalls, property tax relief, or any other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public in the subsequent fiscal year. Any proceeds reserved in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision (D) shall automatically be unreserved for use on July 1 of the subsequent fiscal year.

* * *

(4) Education Fund.

(A) The $13,000,000 reserved pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 2 is unreserved.

Sec. 56. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

* * *

(e) The conversion of ~~nine~~ 10 limited service exempt positions to permanent exempt status is authorized in fiscal year 2026 as follows:

* * *

(2) Land Use Review Board:

(A) one Executive Director.

Sec. 57. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.301 is amended to read:

Sec. E.301 SECRETARY'S OFFICE; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

* * *

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of ~~$27,887,533~~ $27,868,051 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds as follows:

(1) $24,714,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with $35,286,000 of federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, equals a total estimated expenditure of $60,000,000. An amount equal to the amount of the federal matching funds for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment shall be transferred from the Global Commitment

Fund to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established by 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(2) ~~$3,173,533~~ $3,154,051 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

* * *

Sec. 58. 32 V.S.A. § 308f is added to read:

§ 308f. CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION RESERVE

(a) Annually, not later than the close of the first week of the new fiscal year, the Department of Taxes and the Joint Fiscal Office shall provide the Department of Finance and Management a consensus estimate of the anticipated fourth quarter receipts from the Child Care Contribution, pursuant to chapter 246 of this title, for the fiscal year being closed.

(b) As part of the annual fiscal year General Fund closeout process, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall reserve an amount of General Fund dollars equal to the consensus estimate provided in subsection (a) of this section prior to executing the requirements of section 308c of this title.

(c) Upon completion of the annual fiscal year General Fund closeout process, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall immediately unreserve the amount reserved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) If the amount unreserved pursuant to subsection (c) of this section is determined to be greater than the actual receipts due to the Child Care Contribution Special Fund, then the excess shall immediately be reserved in accordance with section 308c of this title.

(e) If the amount unreserved pursuant to subsection (c) of this section is determined to be less than the actual receipts due to the Child Care Contribution Special Fund, then the amount of the deficiency shall immediately be unreserved from the General Fund Balance Reserve established pursuant to section 308c of this title.

Sec. 59. 32 V.S.A. § 10554 is amended to read:

§ 10554. CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Child Care Contribution Special Fund is created pursuant to chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title and shall be administered by the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Taxes. Monies in the Fund may be expended by the Department of Taxes for the administration of the Child Care and Parental Leave Contribution created under this chapter; by the Department for Children and Families for benefits provided by the Child Care Financial Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. §§ 3512 and 3513, including the provision of incentive payments pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3515; and by the Departments for necessary costs incurred in administering the Fund. All interest earned on Fund balances shall be credited to the Fund.

(b) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) contributions collected or recovered pursuant to section 10553 of this title;

(2) any amounts transferred ~~or appropriated~~ to the Fund ~~by the General Assembly~~; and

(3) any interest earned by the Fund.

(c) The Departments may seek and accept grants from any source, public or private, to be dedicated for deposit into the Fund.

Sec. 60. 2 V.S.A. § 41 is amended to read:

§ 41. CREATION OF COMMITTEE; PURPOSE

(a) Creation. There is created the Joint Legislative Management Committee. The Committee shall provide general oversight and management across the offices of the General Assembly ~~and shall coordinate the operations of the Office of Legislative Operations in its delivery of shared administrative services to the legislative offices and the General Assembly~~.

* * *

Sec. 61. 2 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

§ 601. CREATION OF COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) The Office of Legislative Counsel ~~and the Office of Legislative Operations~~ shall provide legal~~, professional,~~ and administrative assistance to the Committee.

* * *

Sec. 62. 2 V.S.A. § 614 is amended to read:

§ 614. JOINT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

* * *

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Joint Fiscal Office.

* * *

Sec. 63. 2 V.S.A. § 651 is amended to read:

§ 651. LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE HOUSE

* * *

(e) The Committee shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel ~~and the Office of Legislative Operations~~.

* * *

Sec. 64. 2 V.S.A. § 693 is amended to read:

§ 693. ASSISTANCE

(a) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Joint Fiscal Office.

* * *

Sec. 65. 2 V.S.A. § 801 is amended to read:

§ 801. CREATION OF COMMITTEE

* * *

(f) The professional and clerical services of the Joint Fiscal Office~~, the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Office of Legislative Counsel shall be available to the Committee.

Sec. 66. 2 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

§ 1001. CREATION OF COMMITTEE

* * *

(f) Assistance. The Committee shall have assistance from the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Joint Fiscal Office.

* * *

Sec. 67. 3 V.S.A. § 23 is amended to read:

§ 23. THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

* * *

(e) Staff services. The Commission shall be entitled to staff services of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Office of Legislative Counsel, ~~the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Joint Fiscal Office.

* * *

Sec. 68. 3 V.S.A. § 817 is amended to read:

§ 817. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

* * *

(b) The Committee shall meet as necessary for the prompt discharge of its duties and may use the staff and services of the Office of Legislative Counsel ~~and the Office of Legislative Operations~~. The Committee shall adopt rules to govern its operation and organization. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of five members. For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in session, members of the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members of standing committees under 2 V.S.A. § 23.

* * *

Sec. 69. 4 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

§ 4. JUSTICES

* * *

(d) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a Justice is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of the year preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the Justice has succeeded, thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to continue in office. Whenever a Justice files a declaration under subsection (c) of this section, or notification occurs automatically, the Secretary of State shall notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, <u>and</u> the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, and the Office of Legislative Operations~~ forthwith.

Sec. 70. 4 V.S.A. § 71 is amended to read:

§ 71. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SUPERIOR JUDGES

* * *

(c) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a Superior judge is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of the year preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the judge has succeeded, thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to continue in office. Whenever a Superior judge files a declaration under subsection (b) of this section or notification occurs automatically, the Secretary of State shall notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, and the Office of Legislative Operations~~ forthwith.

* * *

Sec. 71. 4 V.S.A. § 461 is amended to read:

§ 461. OFFICE OF MAGISTRATE; JURISDICTION; SELECTION; TERM

* * *

(c)(1) Terms of office of magistrates, except in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy or unexpired term, shall be for a term of six years from and including April 1 in the year of the magistrate's appointment or retention. A magistrate shall remain in office until a successor is appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed for cause or unless he or she resigns.

* * *

(3) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a magistrate is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of the year preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the magistrate has succeeded, thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to continue in office. Whenever a magistrate files a declaration under subdivision (2) of this subsection or when notification occurs automatically, the Secretary of State shall notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, and the Office of Legislative Operations~~ forthwith.

* * *

Sec. 72. 4 V.S.A. § 607 is amended read:

§ 607. JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RETENTION; CREATION

* * *

(c) The Committee may use the staff and services of the Office of Legislative Counsel ~~and the Office of Legislative Operations~~ to, in addition to other duties, obtain information on the performance of a judge or Justice by soliciting comments from members of the Vermont Bar and the public.

Sec. 73. 12 V.S.A. § 3 is amended to read:

§ 3. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RULES

* * *

(b) The Committee shall meet as necessary for the prompt discharge of its duties and may use the staff and services of the Office of Legislative Counsel ~~and the Office of Legislative Operations~~. The Committee shall adopt rules to govern its operation and organization. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of five members. For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in session, members of the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members of standing committees under 2 V.S.A. § 23.

* * *

Sec. 74. 19 V.S.A. § 12b is amended to read:

§ 12b. JOINT TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

* * *

(b) The Committee shall meet during adjournment for official duties. Meetings shall be convened by the Chair and, when practicable, shall be coordinated with the regular meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee. Members shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23. The Committee shall have the assistance of the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel~~, the Office of Legislative Operations,~~ and the Joint Fiscal Office.

* * *

Sec. 75. 32 V.S.A. § 1052 is amended to read:

§ 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

* * *

(b) During any session of the General Assembly, each member is entitled to receive reimbursement of expenses as set forth in this subsection.

* * *

(2) Meals. Each member shall receive either a meals allowance or reimbursement of actual meals expenses. A member shall be presumed to have elected to receive the meals allowance unless the member informs the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ by a date established by the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ that the member wishes to receive reimbursement of actual meals expenses. A member's election to receive reimbursement of actual meals expenses shall remain in effect through the remainder of that session unless the member notifies the Office, in writing,

that the member needs to change to the meals allowance due to a change in circumstances or for another compelling reason.

(A) Meals allowance. A member who elects to receive a meals allowance shall receive an amount equal to the daily amount for meals determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office of Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of the session for each day the House in which the member serves shall sit.

(B) Meals reimbursement. A member who elects to receive reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual amounts expended by the member for meals for each day that the House in which the member serves shall sit; provided, however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant to this subdivision (B) shall not exceed the amount the member would have received for the same week if the member had elected the meals allowance pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2). The member shall provide meal receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ in the form and manner prescribed by the ~~Director of Legislative Operations~~ Chief Fiscal Officer.

(3) Lodging. Each member shall receive either a lodging allowance or reimbursement of actual lodging expenses. A member shall be presumed to have elected to receive the lodging allowance unless the member informs the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ by a date established by the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ that the member wishes to receive reimbursement of actual lodging expenses. A member's election to receive reimbursement of actual lodging expenses shall remain in effect through the remainder of that session unless the member notifies the Office, in writing, that the member needs to change to the lodging allowance due to a change in circumstances or for another compelling reason.

(A) Lodging allowance. A member who elects to receive a lodging allowance shall receive an amount equal to the daily amount for lodging determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office of Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of the session for each day the House in which the member serves shall sit.

(B) Lodging reimbursement. A member who elects to receive reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual amounts expended by the member for lodging for each day that the House in which the member serves shall sit; provided, however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant to this subdivision (B) for each week shall not exceed the amount the member would have received for the same week if the member had elected the lodging allowance pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3). The member shall provide lodging receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Joint Fiscal Office ~~of Legislative Operations~~ in the form and manner prescribed by the ~~Director of Legislative Operations~~ Chief Fiscal Officer.

* * *

Sec. 76. OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS; REPEAL

(a) 2 V.S.A. chapter 16 (Office of Legislative Operations) is repealed.

Sec. 77. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.312 is amended to read:

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

* * *

(2) In fiscal year 2026, and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of ~~$295,000~~ $340,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: ~~$140,000~~ $165,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: ~~$100,000~~ $115,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: ~~$55,000~~ $60,000.

* * *

Sec. 78. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) $50,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration to be transferred by the Emergency Board pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 133 while the General Assembly is not in session in the event of a reduction in federal funds to the State as set forth in Sec. E.127.2 of this act, or in the event the State or its municipalities incur extraordinary public safety costs necessitated by increased federal action in Vermont. The General Assembly may designate these funds for other purposes related to federal funding changes. These funds shall carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted by an act of the General Assembly.

Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

(a) In fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027, while the General Assembly is not in session the Emergency Board shall have the authority to transfer part of the appropriation in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2), for the purpose of assisting a housing authority to avoid termination of U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing choice vouchers that would otherwise be lost as the result of reductions in federal funding.

(b) If funds are transferred for this purpose, they may be made available to a housing authority for one of the following purposes:

(1) to maintain a current housing assistance payment in use or to prevent the retirement of a housing assistance payment currently in use by the housing authority; or

(2) with prior approval from HUD, to provide funding to a housing authority in order to prevent the termination of assistance to current housing choice voucher participants.

(c) If funds are transferred for this purpose, an affirmative vote of the majority of a housing authority's commissioners shall be required prior to a housing authority requesting funds.

(d) If funds are transferred for this purpose, the designated State entity shall:

(1) establish procedures for validating that such expenditures conform to applicable HUD requirements and are a necessary and proper expense prior to issuing funds; and

(2) make funds available to each housing authority proportionally based on the number of housing assistance payments in use statewide as of January 1, 2026.

(A) a housing authority shall notify the designated State entity of its intent to utilize funds on or before October 1, 2026.

(B) In the event a housing authority chooses not to utilize the funds provided pursuant to this section, the proportional funds set aside for that housing authority shall be made available to the remaining housing authorities in accordance with procedures established by the designated State entity.

(e) As used in this section, "housing authority" has the same meaning as in 24 V.S.A. § 4002.

Sec. 80. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.139.1 is added to read:

Sec. E.139.1 TAX DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION; PILOT FUND

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act shall be made from the PILOT Special Fund.

Sec. 81. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.325 is amended to read:

Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, $29,343,655 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-recognized continuum of care programs.

(b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, $1,322,141 General Fund shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity for distribution to community partners providing services to prevent and address homelessness for the purpose of restoring these community partners to their fiscal year 2025 appropriation level. The $1,322,141 shall be allocated as follows:

(1) $5,000 to the Charter House Coalition;

(2) $46,360 to Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE);

(3) $5,000 to Groundworks Collaborative;

(4) $90,000 to the Homeless Prevention Center;

(5) $1,000 to the NewStory Center;

(6) $60,000 to the Springfield Supported Housing Program;

(7) $50,000 to Upper Valley Haven;

(8) $20,000 to the Good Samaritan Haven;

(9) $10,000 to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

(10) $381,088 to BROC Community Action;

(11) $184,783 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action;

(12) $308,910 to Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity; and

(13) $160,000 to Northeast Kingdom Community Action.

Sec. 82. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.100.3 is amended to read:

Sec. E.100.3 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT; CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND APPROPRIATIONS; REPORTING

* * *

(b) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of any spending authority established pursuant to ~~2023~~ 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106.

* * *

Sec. 83. DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM; IMPLEMENTATION

(a)(1) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall adjust the development disabilities home- and community-based services payment model to reflect per-member, per-month payments to designated and specialized service agencies that are calculated based on a minimum-assumed utilization rate of 65 percent. Reconciliation shall occur in compliance with the developmental disability services home- and community-based services payment reform rules and the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.

(2) To support the ongoing success of those designated and specialized service agencies in need of financial stabilization in advance of reconciliation, each agency currently below the 65 percent threshold and requiring financial stabilization funding at this time shall prepare and submit a financial stabilization plan to the Department on or before October 1, 2027. The Department shall review the stabilization plan and work with the proposing agencies toward the goal of stabilization and sustainability.

(b) For collective sustainability and the success of Vermont's developmental services system, the designated and specialized service agencies shall submit to the Department on or before March 15, 2026, all information deemed necessary by the Department to enable it to perform a comprehensive fiscal analysis and to implement resolutions to address barriers that inhibit an increase service delivery utilization.

(c)(1) On or before June 30, 2026, the Agency of Human Services and the Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Vermont Health Access shall convene a meeting with the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees, and with the designated and specialized service agencies and other key members of the developmental disabilities services delivery system. At the meeting, the parties shall discuss efforts that support the growth of a sustainable developmental service delivery system in which:

(A) increased service utilization meets the needs and goals of individuals and families and drives the designated and specialized service agencies' success;

(B) Medicaid compliance is assured; and

(C) all State and federal rules are adhered to.

(2) At the meeting, the parties shall also develop and recommend concrete solutions to mitigate short-term financial impacts and Medicaid compliance risks associated with the implementation of developmental services payment reform, to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

(d) On or before April 15, 2026, the Department shall submit a written progress report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare detailing recommended solutions, anticipated fiscal impacts to the designated and specialized service agencies, implementation timelines, and compliance safeguards, including how measures, such as the transitional utilization methodology, shall ensure continuity of care, prevent service disruption, and mitigate Medicaid compliance risks for providers and the State during the first year of payment reform implementation, to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

(e) If funds previously appropriated to the Agency of Human Services are insufficient to provide the State match needed to make the payment adjustment in subsection (a) of this section, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308b, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall unreserve an amount of funds equal to the deficiency from the Human Services Caseload Reserve.

Sec. 84. 18 V.S.A. § 9407 is amended to read:

§ 9407. OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; LIMITATIONS ON HOSPITAL CHARGES

* * *

(d) This section shall not apply to:

(1) an independent hospital that is designated as a critical access hospital and that is not affiliated with another hospital or hospital network based in or outside ~~of~~ Vermont; and

(2) a non-critical access hospital that is participating in the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sec. 85. IMPLEMENTATION; ADJUSTMENT OF HOSPITAL BUDGETS

(a) A non-critical access hospital participating in the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may submit claims to a health insurer for reimbursement of prescription drugs administered in an outpatient or office setting on and after the effective date of this act in amounts that exceed the limits set forth in 18 V.S.A. § 9407(a).

(b) The Green Mountain Care Board may adjust the budget for a hospital that is authorized to exceed the limits set forth in 18 V.S.A. § 9407(a) to reflect the exemption enacted in Sec. 84 of this act.

Sec. 86. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.330 is added to read:

Sec. E.330 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING; FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.330 of this act, $80,000 shall be granted to the Vermont Center for Independent Living to provide home-delivered meals to individuals with disabilities under 60 years of age.

Sec. 87. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.334.1 is added to read:

Sec. E.334.1 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; NURSING HOME EMERGENCY FISCAL RELIEF; AREA AGENCIES ON AGING; TIER 1 RESIDENTIAL CARE; FUNDING

(a) Of the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.334.1 of this act, $35,226 shall be used to increase payments to Area Agencies on Aging beginning on April 1, 2026; $267,888 shall be used to increase payments to Tier 1 Enhanced Residential Care facilities beginning on April 1, 2026; and $14,196,886 shall be used for nursing home Emergency Financial Relief.

Sec. 88. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.333.1 is added to read:

Sec. E.333.1 DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM; FUNDING

(a) Of the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.333 of this act, $9,500,000 shall be for one-time transition funding for the first year of developmental disabilities services home and community-based services payment reform implementation.

Sec. 89. CARRYFORWARD

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, General Fund (#10000), Transportation Fund (#20105), Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund (#20191), Education Fund (#20205), Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951), Clean Water Fund (#21932), and Agricultural Water Quality Fund (#21933) appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2026, in the Executive Branch shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, General Fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2026, in the Legislative and Judicial Branches shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

Sec. 90. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) This act shall take effect on passage.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Scheu of Middlebury** moved that the House refuse to concur and ask for a Committee of Conference, which was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury
Rep. Feltus of Lyndon
Rep. Bluemle of Burlington

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 710

Rep. Kleppner of Burlington, for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:

§ 8002. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(18) “Plant” means an independent technical facility that generates electricity from renewable energy. ~~A group of facilities, such as wind turbines, shall be considered one plant if the group is part of the same project and uses common equipment and infrastructure such as roads, control facilities, and connections to the electric grid. Common ownership, contiguity in time of construction, and proximity of facilities to each other shall be relevant to determining whether a group of facilities is part of the same project.~~ Multiple electricity-generating facilities, regardless of when each is constructed, shall be considered one plant if the facilities use the same electricity-generating technology and are located on the same parcel or contiguous parcels of land. Such facilities shall only be considered separate plants if they meet one of the following exceptions:

(A) Exception for individual net-metering and self-consumption. Applies if the facilities:

(i) are not located on the same parcel of land;

(ii) are wired to offset consumption on separate billing meters; and

(iii) supply different retail customers.

(B) Exception for multi-owner individual net-metering on the same parcel. Applies if the facilities:

(i) are located on the same parcel of land where a common interest community is located;

(ii) are wired to offset consumption on separate billing meters; and

(iii) supply different retail customers.

(C) Exception for colocation of facilities other than net-metering program or Standard Offer Program facilities. Applies if the facilities have separate points of interconnection if:

(i) a net-metering facility and a Standard Offer Program facility are not sited on the same parcel or contiguous parcels; and

(ii) the statutory capacity cap for the net-metering program or the Standard Offer Program is not exceeded on the same parcel or contiguous parcels.

* * *

(33) "Common interest community" means real estate described in a declaration with respect to which a person, by virtue of the person's ownership of a unit, is obligated to pay for a share of real estate taxes on, insurance premiums, maintenance, or improvement of, or services or other expenses related to common elements, other units, or other real estate than that unit described in the declaration.

(34) "Contiguous" means sharing a property boundary with another parcel of land or being adjacent to that parcel of land and the two parcels are separated only by a road, recreation path, railway line, stream, or river.

(35) "Electricity-generating technology" means a method or system used to convert energy from one form into electric power, including wind, hydropower or water, solar, or biomass.

(36) "Point of interconnection" means the point on the interconnecting utility's existing distribution system to which a facility proposes to interconnect.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 108. Nays, 30.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bartholomew of Hartland
Bartley of Fairfax
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Bishop of Colchester
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Garofano of Essex
Goldman of Rockingham
Goodnow of Brattleboro
Graning of Jericho
Greer of Bennington
Gregoire of Fairfield
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Morris of Springfield
Morrow of Weston
Mrowicki of Putney
Nigro of Bennington

Bosch of Clarendon
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boutin of Barre City
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston
Branagan of Georgia
Brown of Richmond
Burditt of West Rutland
Burke of Brattleboro
Burkhardt of South Burlington
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Canfield of Fair Haven
Carris Duncan of Whitingham
Casey of Montpelier
Chapin of East Montpelier
Charlton of Chester
Cina of Burlington
Coffin of Cavendish *
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Cooper of Pownal
Critchlow of Colchester
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Essex Junction
Donahue of Northfield
Duke of Burlington
Hango of Berkshire
Harple of Glover
Headrick of Burlington
Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
Houghton of Essex Junction
Howard of Rutland City
Hunter of Manchester
James of Manchester *
Kascenska of Burke
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kleppner of Burlington
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Lalley of Shelburne
LaLonde of South Burlington
LaMont of Morristown
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Lueders of Lincoln
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McCoy of Poultney *
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport
North of Ferrisburgh
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge
Ode of Burlington
Olson of Starksboro
Pezzo of Colchester
Pinsonault of Dorset
Pouech of Hinesburg
Priestley of Bradford
Pritchard of Pawlet
Rachelson of Burlington
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Squirrell of Underhill
Steady of Milton
Stevens of Waterbury
Stone of Burlington
Sweeney of Shelburne
Taylor of Milton
Tomlinson of Winooski
Torre of Moretown
Waszazak of Barre City
Waters Evans of Charlotte
White of Waitsfield
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Burtt of Cabot
Casey of Hubbardton
Corcoran of Bennington
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Dobrovich of Williamstown
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury
Feltus of Lyndon
Galfetti of Barre Town
Goslant of Northfield
Harvey of Castleton
Higley of Lowell
Howland of Rutland Town
Keyser of Rutland City
Labor of Morgan
Luneau of St. Albans City
Maguire of Rutland City
Morrissey of Bennington
Nelson of Derby
Nielsen of Brandon
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Powers of Waterford
Quimby of Lyndon
Southworth of Walden
Tagliavia of Corinth
Taylor of Mendon
Walker of Swanton
Wells of Brownington
Winter of Ludlow

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Burrows of West Windsor
Christie of Hartford
Hooper of Burlington
Hoyt of Hartford
Krasnow of South Burlington
Malay of Pittsford
Parsons of Newbury
White of Bethel
Wood of Waterbury

Rep. Coffin of Cavendish provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because if we can open up more land easier for renewable energy this should prove we can more easily open up more land for housing with less regulation."

Rep. James of Manchester provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

Vermont law currently makes it harder to build renewable projects next to each other than in an undisturbed field. I vote yes to support 'solar smart growth' and to make renewable power more affordable for ratepayers. H.710 helps us site solar in the places where we want it."

Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation:

"Madam Speaker:

While I voted yes for the bill, I am concerned that we are defining 'electricity-generating technology' as a method or system used to convert energy from one form into electric power, which includes wind, hydropower or water, solar, or biomass. I believe nuclear should also be included. We will allow the installation of electricity-generating technology on acres and acres and acres using solar, hydro, biomass, and wind. In the meantime, these very same acres and acres and acres cannot be used to build much needed housing. I wish we put as much 'energy' into making it easier to develop housing."

Adjournment

At four o'clock and thirty-four minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and forty-five minutes in the forenoon.