# Journal of the Senate

**FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026**

Pursuant to the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President, the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

**Devotional Exercises**

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

**House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In**

**S. 71.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

Was taken up.

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

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 61A is added to read:

CHAPTER 61A. DATA PRIVACY

Subchapter 1. Vermont Data Privacy and Online Surveillance Act

§ 2415a. SHORT TITLE AND DEFINITIONS

(a) Short title. This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Vermont Data Privacy and Online Surveillance Act."

(b) Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) "Affiliate" means a legal entity that shares common branding with another legal entity or controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another legal entity.

(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), "control" or "controlled" means:

(i) ownership of, or the power to vote, more than 50 percent of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of a company;

(ii) control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors or of individuals exercising similar functions; or

(iii) the power to exercise controlling influence over the management of a company.

(2) "Authenticate" means to use reasonable means to determine that a request to exercise any of the rights afforded under subdivisions 2415d(a)(1)–(4) of this subchapter is being made by, or on behalf of, the consumer who is entitled to exercise the consumer rights with respect to the personal data at issue.

(3)(A) "Biometric data" means data generated from the technological processing of an individual's unique biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that are collected on or used to identify a specific consumer, including:

(i) iris or retina scans;

(ii) fingerprints;

(iii) facial or hand mapping, geometry, or templates;

(iv) vein patterns;

(v) voice prints or vocal biomarkers; and

(vi) gait or personally identifying physical movement or patterns.

(B) "Biometric data" does not include:

(i) a digital or physical photograph;

(ii) an audio or video recording; or

(iii) any data generated from a digital or physical photograph or an audio or video recording, unless such data is generated to identify a specific individual.

(4) "Business associate" has the same meaning as in HIPAA.

(5) "Child" has the same meaning as in COPPA.

(6)(A) "Collect," "collected," or "collection" means buying, renting, gathering, obtaining, receiving, or accessing any personal data by any means, other than such activities between a controller and a processor or between a processor and its subcontractors.

(B) "Collect," "collected," or "collection" includes receiving data from the consumer, either actively or passively, or by observing the consumer's behavior.

(7)(A) "Consent" means a clear affirmative act signifying a consumer's freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous agreement to allow the processing of personal data relating to the consumer.

(B) "Consent" may include a written statement, including by electronic means, or any other unambiguous affirmative action.

(C) "Consent" does not include:

(i) acceptance of a general or broad terms of use or similar document that contains descriptions of personal data processing along with other, unrelated information;

(ii) hovering over, muting, pausing, or closing a given piece of content; or

(iii) agreement obtained through the use of dark patterns.

(8)(A) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of the State.

(B) "Consumer" does not include an individual acting in a commercial or employment context or as an employee, owner, director, officer, or contractor of a company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit organization, or government agency whose communications or transactions with the controller occur solely within the context of that individual's role with the company, partnership, sole proprietorship, nonprofit organization, or government agency.

(9) "Consumer health data" means any personal data that a controller uses to identify a consumer's physical or mental health condition, diagnosis, or status, including gender-affirming health data and reproductive or sexual health data.

(10) "Consumer health data controller" means any controller that, alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of processing consumer health data.

(11) "Consumer reporting agency" has the same meaning as in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f).

(12) "Controller" means a person who, alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of processing personal data.

(13) "COPPA" means the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6506, and any regulations, rules, guidance, and exemptions adopted pursuant to the act, as the act and regulations, rules, guidance, and exemptions may be amended.

(14) "Covered entity" has the same meaning as in HIPAA.

(15) "Credit union" has the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 30101.

(16) "Dark pattern" means a user interface designed or manipulated with the substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision making, or choice and includes any practice the Federal Trade Commission refers to as a "dark pattern."

(17) "Decision that produces any legal or similarly significant effect" means any decision made by the controller, or on behalf of the controller, that results in the provision or denial by the controller of any financial or lending service, any housing, any insurance, any education enrollment or opportunity, any criminal justice, any employment opportunity, or any health care service.

(18) "Deidentified data" means data that does not identify and cannot reasonably be used to infer information about, or otherwise be linked to, an identified or identifiable individual, or a device linked to the individual, if the controller that possesses the data:

(A)(i) takes reasonable measures to ensure that the data cannot be used to reidentify an identified or identifiable individual or be associated with an individual or device that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual; and

(ii) for purposes of this subdivision (A), "reasonable measures" includes the deidentification requirements set forth under 45 C.F.R § 164.514 (other requirements relating to uses and disclosures of protected health information);

(B) publicly commits to process the data only in a deidentified fashion and not attempt to reidentify the data; and

(C) contractually obligates any recipients of the data to comply with all provisions of this subchapter.

(19) "Derived data" means data that is created by the derivation of information, data, assumptions, correlations, inferences, predictions, or conclusions from facts, evidence, or another source of information or data about a consumer's device.

(20) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as in 1 V.S.A. § 150.

(21) "Gender-affirming health data" means any personal data concerning a past, present, or future effort made by a consumer to seek, or a consumer's receipt of, gender-affirming health care services.

(22) “Genetic data” means any data, regardless of its format, that results from the analysis of a biological sample of an individual, or from another source enabling equivalent information to be obtained, and concerns genetic material, including deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA), ribonucleic acids (RNA), genes, chromosomes, alleles, genomes, alterations or modifications to DNA or RNA, single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), epigenetic markers, uninterpreted data that results from analysis of the biological sample or other source, and any information extrapolated, derived, or inferred therefrom.

(23) “Geofence” means any technology that uses global positioning coordinates, cell tower connectivity, cellular data, radio frequency identification, wireless fidelity technology data, or any other form of location detection, or any combination of such coordinates, connectivity, data, identification, or other form of location detection, to establish a virtual boundary.

(24) “Health care facility” has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9432.

(25) “HIPAA” means the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, as may be amended.

(26) “Hybrid entity” has the same meaning as in HIPAA.

(27) “Identified or identifiable individual” means an individual who can be readily identified, directly or indirectly, including by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, precise geolocation data, or an online identifier.

(28) “Institution of higher education” means any individual who, or school, board, association, limited liability company, or corporation that, is licensed or accredited to offer one or more programs of higher learning leading to one or more degrees.

(29) “Mental health facility” means any health care facility in which at least 70 percent of the health care services provided in the facility are mental health services.

(30) “Minor” means any consumer who is younger than 18 years of age.

(31) “Neural data” means any information that is generated by measuring the activity of an individual’s central nervous system.

(32) “Nonprofit organization” means any organization that is qualified for tax exempt status under I.R.C. § 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6), or 501(c)(12), or any corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as may be amended.

(33) “Patient-identifying information” has the same meaning as in 42 C.F.R. § 2.11 (confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records).

(34) “Person” means an individual, association, company, limited liability company, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, trust, or other legal entity.

(35)(A) “Personal data” means any information, including derived data and unique identifiers, that is linked or reasonably linkable, alone or in combination with other information, to an identified or identifiable individual or to a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to one or more identified or identifiable individuals.

(B) “Personal data” does not include deidentified data or publicly available information.

(36)(A) “Precise geolocation data” means information derived from technology, including global positioning system level latitude and longitude coordinates or other mechanisms, that directly identifies the specific location of an individual with precision and accuracy within a radius of 1,750 feet.

(B) “Precise geolocation data” does not include:

(i) the content of communications;

(ii) data generated by or connected to an advanced utility metering infrastructure system; or

(iii) data generated by equipment used by a utility company.

(37) “Process” or “processing” means any operation or set of operations performed, whether by manual or automated means, on personal data or on sets of personal data, such as the collection, use, storage, disclosure, analysis, deletion, or modification of personal data.

(38) “Processor” means a person who collects or processes personal data on behalf of:

(A) a controller; or

(B) another processor.

(39) “Profiling” means any form of automated processing performed on personal data to evaluate, analyze, or predict personal aspects, including an individual’s economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behavior, location, movements, or identifying characteristics.

(40) “Protected health information” has the same meaning as in HIPAA.

(41) "Pseudonymous data" means personal data that cannot be attributed to a specific individual without the use of additional information, provided the additional information is kept separately and is subject to appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable individual.

(42)(A) "Publicly available information" means information that:

(i) is made available through federal, state, or local government records or to the general public from widely distributed media; or

(ii) a controller has a reasonable basis to believe that the consumer has lawfully made available to the general public.

(B) "Publicly available information" does not include:

(i) biometric data collected by a business about a consumer without the consumer's knowledge;

(ii) information that is collated and combined to create a consumer profile that is made available to a user of a publicly available website either in exchange for payment or free of charge;

(iii) an inference that is generated from the information described in subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (42)(B);

(iv) solely for the purposes set forth in subdivisions 2415d(a)(1), (2), and (4) of this subchapter, information that is made available for sale;

(v) any obscene visual depiction, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1460;

(vi) personal data that is created through the combination of personal data with publicly available information;

(vii) genetic data, unless otherwise made publicly available by the consumer to whom the information pertains;

(viii) information provided by a consumer on a website or online service made available to all members of the public, for free or for a fee, where the consumer has maintained a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information, such as by restricting the information to a specific audience; or

(ix) intimate images, authentic or computer generated, known to be nonconsensual.

(43) "Reproductive or sexual health care" has the same meaning as "reproductive health care services" in 1 V.S.A. § 150(c).

(44) "Reproductive or sexual health data" means any personal data concerning an effort made by a consumer to seek, or a consumer's receipt of, reproductive or sexual health care.

(45) "Reproductive or sexual health facility" means any health care facility in which at least 70 percent of the health care–related services or products rendered or provided in the facility are reproductive or sexual health care.

(46)(A) "Sale of personal data" means the exchange of a consumer's personal data by the controller with a third party for monetary or other valuable consideration.

(B) "Sale of personal data" does not include:

(i) the disclosure of personal data to a processor that processes the personal data on behalf of the controller;

(ii) the disclosure of personal data to a third party for purposes of providing a product or service requested by the consumer;

(iii) the disclosure or transfer of personal data to an affiliate of the controller;

(iv) the disclosure of personal data when the consumer directs the controller to disclose the personal data or intentionally uses the controller to interact with a third party;

(v) the disclosure of personal data that the consumer:

(I) intentionally made available to the general public via a channel of mass media; and

(II) did not restrict to a specific audience; or

(vi) the disclosure or transfer of personal data to a third party as an asset that is part of a merger, acquisition, bankruptcy, or other transaction, or a proposed merger, acquisition, bankruptcy, or other transaction, in which the third party assumes control of all or part of the controller's assets.

(47) "Sensitive data" means personal data that includes:

(A) data revealing:

(i) racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, sex life, sexual orientation, status as nonbinary or transgender, or citizenship or immigration status; or

(ii) a mental or physical health condition, diagnosis, disability, or treatment;

(B) consumer health data;

(C) genetic or biometric data or information derived therefrom;

(D) personal data collected from an individual the controller has actual knowledge, or willfully disregards, is a child;

(E) precise geolocation data;

(F) neural data;

(G) a consumer's financial account number, financial account login information, or credit card or debit card number that, in combination with any required access or security code, password, or credential, would allow access to a consumer's financial account; or

(H) a government-issued identification number, including, but not limited to, Social Security number, passport number, State identification card number, or driver's license number, that applicable law does not require to be publicly displayed.

(48)(A) "Targeted advertising" means displaying advertisements to a consumer where the advertisement is selected based on personal data obtained or inferred from that consumer's activities over time and across nonaffiliated websites or online applications to predict the consumer's preferences or interests.

(B) "Targeted advertising" does not include:

(i) an advertisement based on activities within the controller's own website or online application;

(ii) an advertisement based on the context of a consumer's current search query or visit to a website or online application;

(iii) an advertisement directed to a consumer in response to the consumer's request for information or feedback; or

(iv) processing of personal data solely to measure or report advertising frequency, performance, or reach.

(49) "Third party" means a person, public authority, agency, or body, other than the consumer, controller, or processor or an affiliate of the processor or the controller.

(50) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as in section 4601 of this title.

§ 2415b. APPLICABILITY

(a) Thresholds. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this subchapter applies to a person that conducts business in this State or a person that produces products or services that are targeted to residents of this State and that during the preceding calendar year:

(1) controlled or processed the personal data of not fewer than 35,000 consumers, excluding personal data controlled or processed solely for the purpose of completing a payment transaction;

(2) controlled or processed the sensitive data of not fewer than 3,000 consumers, excluding personal data controlled or processed solely for the purposes of completing a payment transaction; or

(3) offered for sale in trade or commerce the personal data of not fewer than 3,000 consumers.

(b) Health data applicability. Section 2415k of this subchapter and the provisions of this subchapter concerning consumer health data and consumer health data controllers apply to a person that conducts business in this State or a person that produces products or services that are targeted to residents of this State.

(c) Controlling law. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this subchapter and any other law, including the Vermont Age-Appropriate Design Code Act, the provisions of the law that afford the greatest protection for the right of privacy for consumers shall control.

§ 2415c. EXEMPTIONS

(a) This subchapter does not apply to:

(1) in the ordinary course of its operation, a federal, state, tribal, or local government entity or an instrumentality of the State;

(2)(A) a covered entity that is not a hybrid entity;

(B) any health care component of a hybrid entity; or

(C) a business associate;

(3) patient-identifying information, for purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 290DD–2;

(4)(A) information to the extent it is used for public health, community health, or population health activities and purposes, as authorized by HIPAA, when provided by or to a covered entity or when provided by or to a business associate in accordance with the business associate agreement with a covered entity;

(B) information that is a health care record, as that term is defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9419, if the information is held by an entity that is a covered entity or business associate under HIPAA because it collects, uses, or discloses protected health information;

(C) information that is deidentified in accordance with the requirements for deidentification set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 164.514 and that is derived from individually identifiable health information as described in HIPAA; and

(D) personal information consistent with the human subject protection requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration;

(5) information used only for public health activities and purposes described in 45 C.F.R. § 164.512 (disclosure of protected health information without authorization);

(6) information that identifies a consumer in connection with:

(A) activities that are subject to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified as 45 C.F.R. Part 46 (HHS protection of human subjects) and in various other federal regulations;

(B) activities that are subject to the protections provided in 21 C.F.R. Parts 50 (FDA clinical investigations protection of human subjects) and 56 (FDA clinical investigations institutional review boards); or

(C) research conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (a)(6) or otherwise in accordance with applicable law;

(7) patient-identifying information that is collected and processed in accordance with 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records);

(8) patient safety work product that is created and used for purposes of patient safety improvement in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 3, established in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §§ 299b–21 through 299b–26;

(9) information or documents created for the purposes of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11101–11152, and regulations adopted to implement that act;

(10) information processed or maintained solely in connection with, and for the purpose of, enabling notice of an emergency to persons that an individual specifies;

(11) any activity that involves collecting, maintaining, disclosing, selling, communicating, or using information for the purpose of evaluating a consumer's creditworthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living if done strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681–1681x, as may be amended, by:

(A) a consumer reporting agency;

(B) a person who furnishes information to a consumer reporting agency under 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2 (responsibilities of furnishers of information to consumer reporting agencies); or

(C) a person who uses a consumer report as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(3) (permissible purposes of consumer reports);

(12) information collected, processed, sold, or disclosed under and in accordance with the following laws and regulations:

(A) the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2721–2725;

(B) data that is subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and regulations adopted to implement that act;

(C) data that is subject to the Airline Deregulation Act, Pub. L. No. 95-504, only to the extent that an air carrier collects information related to prices, routes, or services, and only to the extent that the provisions of the Airline Deregulation Act preempt this subchapter;

(D) data that is subject to the Farm Credit Act, Pub. L. No. 92-181, as may be amended; and

(E) data that is subject to federal policy under 21 U.S.C. § 830 (regulation of listed chemicals and certain machines);

(13) data subject to Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, Pub. L. No. 106-102, and regulations adopted to implement that act;

(14) a state- or federally chartered bank or credit union, or an affiliate or subsidiary that is principally engaged in financial activities, as described in 12 U.S.C. § 1843(k);

(15) an agent, broker-dealer, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, as those terms are defined in section 5102 of this title, who is regulated by the Department of Financial Regulation or the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(16) a person regulated pursuant to 8 V.S.A. part 3 (chapters 101–165) other than a person who, alone or in combination with another person, establishes and maintains a self-insurance program and who does not otherwise engage in the business of entering into policies of insurance;

(17) health care providers and health care facilities, as those terms are defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402, provided such providers and facilities maintain all protected health information in accordance with the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 1881 and HIPAA regardless of whether such providers or facilities are covered entities under 45 C.F.R. § 160.103;

(18) protected health information under HIPAA;

(19) a third-party administrator, as that term is defined in the Third Party Administrator Rule adopted pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9417, provided that the third-party administrator is subject to and in compliance with the Department of Financial Regulation's Regulation IH-2001-01 (Privacy of Consumer Financial and Health Information);

(20) personal data of a victim or witness of child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, violent felony, or stalking that a victim services organization collects, processes, or maintains in the course of its operation;

(21) a nonprofit organization that is established to detect and prevent fraudulent acts in connection with insurance;

(22) information that is processed for purposes of compliance, enrollment or degree verification, or research services by a nonprofit organization that is established to provide enrollment data reporting services on behalf of postsecondary schools as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 176;

(23) noncommercial activity of:

(A) a publisher, editor, reporter, or other person who is connected with or employed by a newspaper, magazine, periodical, newsletter, pamphlet, report, or other publication in general circulation;

(B) a radio or television station that holds a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission;

(C) a nonprofit organization that provides programming to radio or television networks; or

(D) a press association or wire service; or

(24) data processed or maintained:

(A) in the course of an individual applying to, employed by, or acting as an agent or independent contractor of a controller, processor, consumer health data controller, or third party, to the extent that the data is collected and used within the context of that role;

(B) as the emergency contact information of a consumer pursuant to this subchapter, used for emergency contact purposes; or

(C) that is necessary to retain to administer benefits for another individual relating to the individual who is the subject of the information pursuant to subdivision (18) of this subsection (a) and used for the purposes of administering such benefits.

(b) Controllers, processors, and consumer health data controllers that comply with the verifiable parental consent requirements of COPPA shall be deemed compliant with any obligation to obtain parental consent pursuant to this subchapter.

§ 2415d. CONSUMER PERSONAL DATA RIGHTS

(a) Consumer rights. A consumer shall have the right to:

(1) confirm whether or not a controller is processing the consumer's personal data and access such personal data, including any inferences about the consumer derived from such personal data and whether a controller or processor is processing a consumer's personal data for the purposes of profiling to make a decision that produces any legal or similarly significant effect concerning a consumer, unless such confirmation or access would require the controller to reveal a trade secret or the controller is prohibited from disclosing such personal data under subsection (e) of this section;

(2) correct inaccuracies in the consumer's personal data, taking into account the nature of the personal data and the purposes of the processing of the consumer's personal data;

(3) delete personal data provided by, or obtained about, the consumer;

(4) obtain a copy of the consumer's personal data processed by the controller, in a portable and, to the extent technically feasible, readily usable format that allows the consumer to transmit the data to another controller without hindrance, where the processing is carried out by automated means, provided the controller shall not be required to reveal any trade secret;

(5) opt out of the processing of the personal data for purposes of:

(A) targeted advertising;

(B) the sale of personal data, except as provided in subsection 2415e(b) of this subchapter; or

(C) profiling in furtherance of any automated decision that produces any legal or similarly significant effect concerning the consumer;

(6) if the consumer's personal data were processed for the purposes of profiling in furtherance of any automated decision that produced any legal or similarly significant effect concerning the consumer, and if feasible:

(A) question the result of such profiling;

(B) be informed of the reason that such profiling resulted in such decision;

(C) review the consumer's personal data that were processed for the purposes of such profiling; and

(D) if the profiling decision concerned housing, taking into account the nature of the personal data and the purposes for which such personal data were processed, be allowed to correct any incorrect personal data that were processed for the purposes of such profiling and have the profiling decision reevaluated based on the corrected personal data; and

(7) obtain from the controller a list of the third parties to which such controller has sold the consumer's personal data or, if such controller does not maintain a list of the third parties to which such controller has sold the consumer's personal data, a list of all third parties to which such controller has sold personal data, provided the controller shall not be required to reveal any trade secret.

(b) Exercising consumer rights.

(1) A consumer may exercise rights under this section by a secure and reliable means established by the controller and described to the consumer in the controller's privacy notice pursuant to subsection 2415e(c) of this subchapter.

(2)(A) A consumer may designate another person to serve as the consumer's authorized agent, and act on the consumer's behalf, to opt out of the processing of the consumer's personal data for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(B) The consumer may designate an authorized agent by way of, among other things, a technology, including an internet link or a browser setting, browser extension, or global device setting, indicating the consumer's intent to opt out of the processing.

(C) A controller shall comply with an opt-out request received from an authorized agent if the controller is able to verify, with commercially reasonable effort, the identity of the consumer and the authorized agent's authority to act on the consumer's behalf.

(3) In the case of processing personal data of a consumer who:

(A) a controller has actual knowledge, or willfully disregards, is a child, the parent or legal guardian may exercise the consumer rights on the child's behalf; and

(B) is subject to a guardianship, conservatorship, or other protective arrangement, the guardian or the conservator of the consumer may exercise the rights on the consumer's behalf.

(c) Controller compliance. Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a controller shall comply with a request by a consumer to exercise the consumer rights authorized pursuant to this subchapter as follows:

(1) Timeline to respond. A controller:

(A) shall respond to the consumer without undue delay, but not later than 45 days after receipt of the request; and

(B) may extend the response period by 45 additional days when reasonably necessary, considering the complexity and number of the consumer's requests, provided the controller informs the consumer of the extension within the initial 45-day response period and of the reason for the extension.

(2) Declining to take action. If a controller declines to take action regarding the consumer's request, the controller shall inform the consumer without undue delay, but not later than 45 days after receipt of the request, of the justification for declining to take action and instructions for how to appeal the decision.

(3) Cost of information.

(A) Information provided by a controller in response to a consumer request shall be provided by the controller, free of charge, once per consumer during any 12-month period.

(B) If requests from a consumer are manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive, the controller may charge the consumer a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of complying with the request or decline to act on the request.

(C) The controller bears the burden of demonstrating the manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive nature of the request.

(4) Authentication of request.

(A) If a controller is unable to authenticate a request to exercise any of the rights afforded under subdivisions (a)(1)–(4) of this section using commercially reasonable efforts, the controller shall not be required to comply with a request to initiate an action pursuant to this section and shall provide notice to the consumer that the controller is unable to authenticate the request to exercise the right or rights until the consumer provides additional information reasonably necessary to authenticate the consumer and the consumer's request to exercise the right or rights.

(B) A controller shall not be required to authenticate an opt-out request, but a controller may deny an opt-out request if the controller has a good faith, reasonable, and documented belief that the request is fraudulent.

(C) If a controller denies an opt-out request because the controller believes the request is fraudulent, the controller shall send a notice to the person who made the request disclosing that the controller believes the request is fraudulent, why the controller believes the request is fraudulent, and that the controller shall not comply with the request.

(5) Third-party data. A controller that has obtained personal data about a consumer from a source other than the consumer shall be deemed in compliance with a consumer's request to delete the consumer's data pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section by:

(A) retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum data necessary for the purpose of ensuring the consumer's personal data remains deleted from the controller's records and not using the retained data for any other purpose pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter; or

(B) opting the consumer out of the processing of the personal data for any purpose except for those exempted pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

(d) Appeals.

(1) A controller shall establish a process for a consumer to appeal the controller's refusal to take action on a request pursuant to this section within a reasonable period of time after the consumer's receipt of the decision.

(2) The appeal process shall be conspicuously available and similar to the process for submitting requests to initiate action pursuant to this section.

(3) Not later than 60 days after receipt of an appeal, a controller shall inform the consumer in writing of any action taken or not taken in response to the appeal, including a written explanation of the reasons for the decisions.

(4) If the controller denies the appeal, the controller shall also provide the consumer with an online mechanism, if available, or other method through which the consumer may contact the Attorney General to submit a complaint.

(e) Disclosure of certain information. A controller shall not disclose the following personal data in response to a request to exercise the consumer's rights pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section and shall instead inform the consumer or the person exercising such right on behalf of the consumer, with sufficient particularity, that the controller has collected the consumer's:

(1) Social Security number;

(2) driver's license number, State identification card number, or other government-issued identification number;

(3) financial account number;

(4) health insurance identification number or medical identification number;

(5) account password;

(6) security question or answer thereto; or

(7) biometric data.

§ 2415e. DUTIES OF CONTROLLERS

(a) Data collection and processing. A controller shall:

(1) limit the collection of a consumer's personal data to what is reasonably necessary and proportionate in relation to the purposes for which the data are processed, as disclosed to the consumer;

(2) not process a consumer's personal data for any material new purpose that is neither reasonably necessary to, nor compatible with, the purposes for which the data were processed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, unless the controller receives consent from the consumer;

(3) establish, implement, and maintain reasonable administrative, technical, and physical data security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal data appropriate to the volume and nature of the personal data at issue;

(4) regarding the sensitive data of a consumer:

(A) not process the sensitive data unless the consumer has provided consent and unless the processing is reasonably necessary in relation to the purposes for which the sensitive data are collected;

(B) not sell the sensitive data unless the consumer has provided consent; and

(C) if the controller has actual knowledge, or willfully disregards, that the consumer is a child, process the sensitive data in accordance with:

(i) COPPA; and

(ii) if applicable, section 2449f of this title;

(5) not process personal data in violation of any:

(A) law of this State that prohibits unlawful discrimination against consumers and any evidence, or lack of evidence, concerning proactive antibias testing or any similar proactive effort to avoid processing data in violation of any such law, including any evidence or lack of evidence concerning the quality, efficacy, recency, and scope of any testing or effort, the results of which shall be relevant to any claim available for a violation of such law and any defense available thereto; or

(B) federal law that prohibits unlawful discrimination against consumers;

(6) provide an effective mechanism for a consumer to revoke the consumer's consent under this section that is at least as easy as the mechanism by which the consumer provided the consumer's consent and, upon revocation of the consent, cease to process the data as soon as practicable, but not later than 15 days after the receipt of the request;

(7) subject to subdivision (9) of this subsection, if a controller has actual knowledge, and willfully disregards, that a consumer is at least 13 years of age but younger than 18 years of age:

(A) not process the personal data of the consumer for purposes of targeted advertising; and

(B) not sell the consumer's personal data;

(8) not discriminate against a consumer for exercising any of the consumer rights contained in this subchapter, including denying goods or services, charging different prices or rates for goods or services, or providing a different level of quality of goods or services to the consumer; and

(9) if the controller is a covered business and the consumer is a covered minor as both terms are defined in section 2449a of this title, comply with the requirements set forth in chapter 62, subchapter 6 of this title (Vermont Age-Appropriate Design Code Act).

(b) Limitations. Subsection (a) of this section shall not be construed to:

(1) require a controller to provide a product or service that requires the personal data of a consumer that the controller does not collect or maintain; or

(2) prohibit a controller from offering a different price, rate, level, quality, or selection of goods or services to a consumer, including offering goods or services for no fee if the offering is in connection with a consumer's voluntary participation in a bona fide loyalty, rewards, premium features, discounts, or club card program.

(c) Privacy notice.

(1) A controller shall provide consumers with a reasonably accessible, clear, and meaningful privacy notice that includes:

(A) the categories of personal data processed by the controller;

(B) the purpose for processing personal data and a description of the processing, pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section;

(C) a description of the means, established pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, for consumers to submit requests to exercise their consumer rights pursuant to this subchapter, including a description of how consumers may:

(i) exercise a consumer's rights under subsection 2415d(a) of this subchapter; and

(ii) appeal a controller's decisions with regard to requests to exercise such rights;

(D) the categories of personal data that the controller sells to third parties, if any;

(E) the categories of third parties, if any, to which the controller sells personal data;

(F) a clear and conspicuous disclosure of any:

(i) processing of personal data for purposes of targeted advertising; or

(ii) sale of personal data to a third party for purposes of targeted advertising;

(G) an active email address or other online mechanism that the consumer may use to contact the controller;

(H) a statement disclosing whether the controller collects, uses, or sells personal data for the purpose of training large language models; and

(I) the most recent month and year during which the controller updated the privacy notice.

(2) A controller shall make the privacy notice required under subdivision (1) of this subsection publicly available:

(A) through a conspicuous hyperlink that includes the word "privacy":

(i) on the home page of the controller's website, if the controller maintains a website;

(ii) on the application store page or download page of a mobile device, if the controller maintains an application for use on a mobile device; and

(iii) on the application's settings menu or in a similarly conspicuous and accessible location, if the controller maintains an application for use on a mobile device or other device used to connect to the internet;

(B) through a medium in which the controller regularly interacts with consumers, including mail, if the controller does not maintain a website;

(C) in each language in which the controller:

(i) provides any product or service that is subject to the privacy notice; or

(ii) carries out any activity that is related to any product or service described in subdivision (i) of this subdivision (C); and

(D) in a manner that is reasonably accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

(3) Whenever a controller makes any retroactive material change to the controller's privacy notice or practices, the controller shall:

(A) notify the consumers affected by such material change with respect to any personal data to be collected after the effective date of such material change;

(B) provide a reasonable opportunity for the consumers described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) to withdraw consent to any further and materially different collection, processing, or transfer of previously collected personal data following such material change; and

(C) take all reasonable electronic measures to provide the notice set forth in this subdivision (3) to the affected consumers, taking into account the technology available to the controller and the nature of the controller's relationship with such affected consumers.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a controller to provide a privacy notice that is specific to this State if the controller provides a generally applicable privacy notice that satisfies the requirements established in this subsection.

(d) Providing consumers access to exercise rights.

(1) A controller shall:

(A) establish and describe in a privacy notice, one or more secure and reliable means for consumers to submit a request to exercise their consumer rights pursuant to this subchapter; and

(B) not require a consumer to create a new account in order to exercise consumer rights but may require a consumer to use an existing account.

(2) The means pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

(A) take into account the ways in which consumers normally interact with the controller, the need for secure and reliable communication of the requests, and the ability of the controller to verify the identity of the consumer making the request;

(B) provide a clear and conspicuous link on the controller's website to a web page that enables a consumer, or an agent of the consumer, to opt out of the processing of the consumer's personal data for purposes of targeted advertising or any sale of the consumer's personal data; and

(C) allow a consumer to opt out of any processing of the consumer's personal data for the purposes of targeted advertising, or any sale of the personal data, through an opt-out preference signal sent to the controller with the consumer's consent indicating the consumer's intent to opt out of any of the processing or sale, by a platform, technology, or other mechanism that shall:

(i) not unfairly disadvantage another controller;

(ii) not make use of a default setting, but rather require the consumer to make an affirmative, freely given, and unambiguous choice to opt out of any processing of the consumer's personal data pursuant to this subchapter;

(iii) be consumer friendly and easy to use by the average consumer;

(iv) be as consistent as possible with any other similar platform, technology, or mechanism required by any federal or State law or regulation; and

(v) enable the controller to accurately determine whether the consumer is a resident of this State and whether the consumer has made a legitimate request to opt out of any sale of the consumer's personal data or targeted advertising.

(3) If a consumer's decision to opt out of any processing of the consumer's personal data for the purposes of targeted advertising, or any sale of the personal data, through an opt-out preference signal sent in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2)(C) of this subsection conflicts with the consumer's existing controller-specific privacy setting or voluntary participation in a controller's bona fide loyalty, rewards, premium features, discounts, or club card program, the controller shall comply with the consumer's opt-out preference signal but may notify the consumer of the conflict and provide to the consumer the choice to confirm the controller-specific privacy setting or participation in the program.

(4) If a controller responds to a consumer opt-out request received pursuant to subdivision (2)(C) of this subsection by informing the consumer of a charge for the use of any product or service, the controller shall present the terms of any financial incentive offered pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section for the retention, use, sale, or sharing of the consumer's personal data.

§ 2415f. PROCESSORS' DUTIES; CONTRACTS BETWEEN CONTROLLERS AND PROCESSORS

(a) Generally. A processor shall adhere to the instructions of a controller and shall assist the controller in meeting the controller's obligations under this subchapter, including:

(1) taking into account the nature of processing and to the extent possible, to fulfill the controller's obligation to respond to consumer rights requests pursuant to subsection 2415d(a) of this subchapter;

(2) taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the processor, by assisting the controller in meeting the controller's obligations in relation to the security of processing the personal data and in relation to the notification of a data broker security breach or security breach, as defined in section 2430 of this title, of the system of the processor, in order to meet the controller's obligations; and

(3) providing necessary information to enable the controller to conduct and document data protection and impact assessments.

(b) Contractual terms.

(1) A contract between a controller and a processor shall govern the processor’s data processing procedures with respect to processing performed on behalf of the controller.

(2) The contract shall be binding and clearly set forth instructions for processing data, the nature and purpose of processing, the type of data subject to processing, the duration of processing, and the rights and obligations of both parties.

(3) The contract shall require that the processor:

(A) ensure that each person processing personal data is subject to a duty of confidentiality with respect to the data;

(B) at the controller’s direction, delete or return all personal data to the controller as requested at the end of the provision of services, unless retention of the personal data is required by law;

(C) upon the reasonable request of the controller, make available to the controller all information in its possession necessary to demonstrate the processor’s compliance with the obligations in this subchapter;

(D) after providing the controller an opportunity to object, engage any subcontractor pursuant to a written contract that requires the subcontractor to meet the obligations of the processor with respect to the personal data; and

(E) make available to the controller upon the reasonable request of the controller all information in the processor’s possession necessary to demonstrate the processor’s compliance with this subchapter.

(4) A processor shall provide a report of an assessment to the controller upon request.

(c) Liabilities. This section shall not be construed to relieve a controller or processor from the liabilities imposed on the controller or processor by virtue of the controller’s or processor’s role in the processing relationship, as described in this subchapter.

(d) Processors performing as controllers.

(1) Determining whether a person is acting as a controller or processor with respect to a specific processing of data is a fact-based determination that depends upon the context in which personal data are to be processed.

(2) A person who is not limited in the person’s processing of personal data pursuant to a controller’s instructions, or who fails to adhere to the instructions, is a controller and not a processor with respect to a specific processing of data.

(3) A processor that continues to adhere to a controller's instructions with respect to a specific processing of personal data remains a processor.

(4) If a processor begins, alone or jointly with others, determining the purposes and means of the processing of personal data, the processor is a controller with respect to the processing and may be subject to an enforcement action under section 2415j of this subchapter.

§ 2415g. DATA PROTECTION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS; DISCLOSURE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Generally. A controller shall conduct and document a data protection assessment for each of the controller's processing activities that presents a heightened risk of harm to a consumer, which for the purposes of this section includes:

(1) the processing of personal data for the purposes of targeted advertising;

(2) the sale of personal data;

(3) the processing of personal data for the purposes of profiling, if the profiling presents a reasonably foreseeable risk of:

(A) unfair or deceptive treatment of, or unlawful disparate impact on, a consumer;

(B) financial, physical, or reputational injury to a consumer;

(C) a physical or other intrusion upon the solitude or seclusion, or the private affairs or concerns, of a consumer, if the intrusion would be offensive to a reasonable person; or

(D) other substantial injury to a consumer; and

(4) the processing of sensitive data.

(b) Requirements.

(1) Data protection assessments conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall identify and weigh the benefits that may flow, directly and indirectly, from the processing to the controller, the consumer, other stakeholders, and the public against the potential risks to the rights of the consumer associated with the processing, as mitigated by safeguards that can be employed by the controller to reduce the risks.

(2) The controller shall factor into each data protection assessment the use of deidentified data and the reasonable expectations of consumers, as well as the context of the processing and the relationship between the controller and the consumer whose personal data will be processed.

(c) Impact assessments for profiling. Each controller that engages in any profiling for the purposes of making a decision that produces any legal or similarly significant effect concerning a consumer shall conduct an impact assessment for the profiling. The impact assessment shall include, to the extent reasonably known by or available to the controller, as applicable:

(1) a statement by the controller disclosing the purpose, intended use cases, and deployment context of, and benefits afforded by, the profiling;

(2) an analysis of whether the profiling poses any known or reasonably foreseeable heightened risk of harm to a consumer, and, if so:

(A) the nature of such heightened risk of harm to a consumer; and

(B) the steps that have been taken to mitigate such heightened risk of harm to a consumer;

(3) a description of:

(A) the main categories of personal data processed as inputs for the purposes of such profiling; and

(B) the outputs such profiling produces;

(4) an overview of the main categories of personal data the controller used to customize the profiling, if the controller used data to customize the profiling;

(5) any metrics used to evaluate the performance and known limitations of the profiling;

(6) a description of any transparency measures taken concerning the profiling, including any measures taken to disclose to consumers that the controller is engaged in profiling while the controller is engaged in the profiling; and

(7) a description of the postdeployment monitoring and user safeguards provided concerning such profiling, including the oversight, use, and learning processes established by the controller to address issues arising from such profiling.

(d) Disclosure to Attorney General.

(1) The Attorney General may require that a controller disclose any data protection or impact assessment that is relevant to an investigation conducted by the Attorney General, and the controller shall make the data protection or impact assessment available to the Attorney General.

(2) The Attorney General may evaluate the data protection or impact assessment for compliance with the responsibilities set forth in this subchapter.

(3) Data protection and impact assessments shall be confidential and shall be exempt from disclosure and copying under the Public Records Act.

(4) To the extent any information contained in a data protection or impact assessment disclosed to the Attorney General includes information subject to attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the disclosure shall not constitute a waiver of the privilege or protection.

(e) Assessment efficiency and applicability.

(1) A single data protection or impact assessment may address a comparable set of processing operations that include similar activities.

(2) If a controller conducts a data protection or impact assessment for the purpose of complying with another applicable law or regulation, the data protection or impact assessment shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements established in this section if the data protection or impact assessment is reasonably similar in scope and effect to the data or impact protection assessment that would otherwise be conducted pursuant to this section.

(3) Data protection and impact assessment requirements shall apply to processing activities created or generated after January 1, 2028, and are not retroactive.

§ 2415h. DEIDENTIFIED DATA

(a) Requirements. A controller in possession of deidentified data shall:

(1) take reasonable measures to ensure that the data cannot be associated with an individual;

(2) publicly commit to maintaining and using deidentified data without attempting to reidentify the data; and

(3) contractually obligate any recipients of the deidentified data to comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) Limitations. This subchapter shall not be construed to:

(1) require a controller or processor to reidentify deidentified data or pseudonymous data;

(2) maintain data in identifiable form, or collect, obtain, retain, or access any data or technology, in order to be capable of associating an authenticated consumer request with personal data; or

(3) require a controller or processor to comply with an authenticated consumer rights request if the controller:

(A) is not reasonably capable of associating the request with the personal data or it would be unreasonably burdensome for the controller to associate the request with the personal data;

(B) does not use the personal data to recognize or respond to the specific consumer who is the subject of the personal data, or associate the personal data with other personal data about the same specific consumer; and

(C) does not sell the personal data to any third party or otherwise voluntarily disclose the personal data to any third party other than a processor, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(c) Pseudonymous data. The rights afforded under subdivisions 2415d(a)(1)–(4) of this subchapter shall not apply to pseudonymous data in cases in which the controller is able to demonstrate that any information necessary to identify the consumer is kept separately and is subject to effective technical and organizational controls that prevent the controller from accessing the information.

(d) Oversight when disclosing. A controller that discloses pseudonymous data or deidentified data shall exercise reasonable oversight to monitor compliance with any contractual commitments to which the pseudonymous data or deidentified data is subject and shall take appropriate steps to address any breaches of those contractual commitments.

§ 2415i. CONSTRUCTION OF DUTIES

(a) Generally. This subchapter shall not be construed to restrict a controller's, processor's, or consumer health data controller's ability to:

(1) comply with federal, state, or municipal laws, ordinances, or regulations, except as prohibited by 1 V.S.A. § 150;

(2) comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by federal, state, municipal, or other governmental authorities;

(3) cooperate with law enforcement agencies concerning conduct or activity that the controller, processor, or consumer health data controller reasonably and in good faith believes may violate federal, state, or municipal laws, ordinances, or regulations;

(4) investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for, or defend legal claims;

(5) provide a product or service specifically requested by a consumer;

(6) perform under a contract to which a consumer is a party, including fulfilling the terms of a written warranty;

(7) take steps at the request of a consumer prior to entering into a contract;

(8) take immediate steps to protect an interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the consumer or another individual, and if the processing cannot be manifestly based on another legal basis;

(9) prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities, or any illegal activity; preserve the integrity or security of systems; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for the action;

(10) engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board that determines, or similar independent oversight entities that determine:

(A) whether the deletion of the information is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively accrue to the controller;

(B) the expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks; and

(C) whether the controller or consumer health data controller has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with research, including any risks associated with reidentification;

(11) assist another controller, processor, consumer health data controller, or third party with any of the obligations under this subchapter; or

(12) process personal data for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, community health, or population health, but solely to the extent that the processing is:

(A) subject to suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights of the consumer whose personal data are being processed; and

(B) under the responsibility of a professional subject to confidentiality obligations under federal, state, or local law.

(b) Internal use of data. The obligations imposed on controllers, processors, or consumer health data controllers under this subchapter shall not restrict a controller's, processor's, or consumer health data controller's ability to collect, use, or retain data for internal use to:

(1) conduct internal research to develop, improve, or repair products, services, or technology;

(2) effectuate a product recall;

(3) identify and repair technical errors that impair existing or intended functionality;

(4) process personal data for the purposes of profiling in furtherance of any automated decision that may produce any legal or similarly significant effect concerning a consumer, provided the personal data are:

(A) processed only to the extent necessary to detect or correct any bias that may result from processing the data for such purposes, the bias cannot effectively be detected or corrected without processing the data, and the data are deleted once the processing has been completed;

(B) processed subject to appropriate safeguards to protect the rights of consumers secured by the Constitution or laws of this State or of the United States;

(C) subject to technical restrictions concerning the reuse of the data and industry-standard security and privacy measures, including pseudonymization;

(D) subject to measures to ensure that the data are secure, protected, and subject to suitable safeguards, including strict controls concerning, and documentation of, access to the data, to avoid misuse and ensure that only authorized persons may access the data while preserving the confidentiality of the data; and

(E) not transmitted, transferred, or otherwise accessed by any third party;

(5) perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations of the consumer or reasonably anticipated based on the consumer’s existing relationship with the controller or consumer health data controller, or are otherwise compatible with processing data in furtherance of the provision of a product or service specifically requested by a consumer or the performance of a contract to which the consumer is a party; or

(6) perform internal operations in accordance with the internal operations exception established in COPPA if the controller, processor, or consumer health data controller is processing data in accordance with the exception.

(c) Evidentiary privilege.

(1) The obligations imposed on controllers, processors, or consumer health data controllers under this subchapter shall not apply if compliance by the controller, processor, or consumer health data controller with this subchapter would violate an evidentiary privilege under the laws of this State.

(2) This subchapter shall not be construed to prevent a controller, processor, or consumer health data controller from providing personal data concerning a consumer to a person covered by an evidentiary privilege under the laws of this State as part of a privileged communication.

(3) Nothing in this subchapter modifies 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 14 or authorizes the use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement.

(d) Third parties.

(1) A controller, processor, or consumer health data controller that discloses personal data to a processor or third-party controller pursuant to this subchapter shall not be deemed to have violated this subchapter if the processor or third-party controller that receives and processes the personal data violates this subchapter, provided, at the time the disclosing controller, processor, or consumer health data controller disclosed the personal data, the disclosing controller, processor, or consumer health data controller did not have actual knowledge that the receiving processor or third-party controller would violate this subchapter.

(2) A third-party controller or processor receiving personal data from a controller, processor, or consumer health data controller in compliance with this subchapter is not in violation of this subchapter for the transgressions of the controller, processor, or consumer health data controller from which the third-party controller or processor receives the personal data.

(e) Clarifications. This subchapter shall not be construed to:

(1) impose any obligation on a controller or processor that adversely affects the rights or freedoms of any person, including the rights of any person:

(A) to freedom of speech or freedom of the press guaranteed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; or

(B) under 12 V.S.A. § 1615;

(2) apply to any person's processing of personal data in the course of the person's purely personal or household activities; or

(3) require an independent school as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(8) or a private institution of higher education, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq., to delete personal data or opt out of processing of personal data that would unreasonably interfere with the provision of education services by or the ordinary operation of the school or institution.

(f) Personal data processing.

(1) Personal data processed by a controller or consumer health data controller pursuant to this section may be processed to the extent that the processing is:

(A) reasonably necessary and proportionate to the purposes listed in this section; and

(B) adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the specific purposes listed in this section.

(2)(A) The collection, use, or retention of personal data pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall, where applicable, take into account the nature and purpose or purposes of the collection, use, or retention.

(B) The data shall be subject to reasonable administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of the personal data and to reduce reasonably foreseeable risks of harm to consumers relating to the collection, use, or retention of personal data.

(3) If a controller or consumer health data controller processes personal data pursuant to an exemption in this section, the controller or consumer health data controller bears the burden of demonstrating that the processing qualifies for the exemption and complies with the requirements of this subsection.

(4) Processing personal data for the purposes expressly identified in this section shall not solely make a legal entity a controller or consumer health data controller with respect to the processing.

§ 2415j. ATTORNEY GENERAL ENFORCEMENT; REPORTING

(a) Consumer Protection Act. A violation of this subchapter shall be deemed a violation of the Vermont Consumer Protection Act, pursuant to chapter 63 of this title. The Attorney General has the same authority to enforce this subchapter as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1. This subchapter shall not be construed as providing the basis for, or be subject to, a private right of action for violations of this subchapter or any other law.

(b) Reporting. Annually, on or before December 1, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the General Assembly disclosing:

(1) the number of notices of violation pursuant to this subchapter that the Attorney General has issued;

(2) the nature of each violation;

(3) the number of violations that resulted in an enforcement action being taken;

(4) the number of enforcement actions that proceeded to trial;

(5) whether and to what extent the Attorney General has offered an opportunity for a controller or processor to cure a violation; and

(6) any other matter the Attorney General deems relevant for the purposes of the report.

(c) Guidance. The Attorney General shall provide, and update as necessary, guidance to controllers and processors for compliance with the terms of the Vermont Data Privacy and Online Surveillance Act.

§ 2415k. CONSUMER HEALTH DATA PRIVACY

A person shall not:

(1) provide any employee or contractor with access to consumer health data unless the employee or contractor is subject to a contractual or statutory duty of confidentiality;

(2) provide any processor with access to consumer health data unless the person and processor comply with section 2415f of this subchapter;

(3) use a geofence to establish a virtual boundary that is within 1,850 feet of any health care facility, including any mental health facility or reproductive or sexual health facility, for the purpose of identifying, tracking, collecting data from, or sending any notification to a consumer regarding the consumer's consumer health data; or

(4) sell, or offer to sell, consumer health data without first obtaining the consumer's consent.

Sec. 2. DATA PRIVACY; INTENT; ENFORCEMENT; EDUCATION

(a) Enforcement intent. Through this act, the General Assembly makes the decision to not provide consumers with a right to hold persons accountable in civil court for violations of the Vermont Data Privacy and Online Surveillance Act. Consequently, the Office of the Attorney General will bear the burden of enforcing the Act and ensuring, to the best of its abilities, that the rights of Vermonters will be protected. In prohibiting a private right of action, it is the intent of the General Assembly that additional appropriations and resources will be provided in the following years to support the Office of the Attorney General's enforcement of this Act, which may require the creation of a data privacy unit. If such appropriations or resources are not provided, the General Assembly may consider adding a private right of action for consumers.

(b) Educational intent. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that appropriate educational resources and sufficient technical support will be provided by the State in the following years to help Vermont businesses comply with the Act.

Sec. 3. DATA PRIVACY; ENFORCEMENT; CURE PERIOD

During the period beginning January 1, 2028, and ending on June 30, 2029, the Attorney General shall, prior to initiating any action for a violation of the Vermont Data Privacy and Online Surveillance Act, issue a notice of violation to the alleged violator if the Attorney General determines that a cure is possible. If the person fails to cure the violation within 60 days after receipt of the notice of violation, the Attorney General may bring an action pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2415j(a).

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

**Consideration Postponed**

**S. 313.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to transforming Vermont's career technical education system.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, Senator Lyons moved to postpone action until later in the day, which was agreed to.

**Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**

**J.R.H. 12.**

Joint House resolution entitled:

Joint resolution authorizing remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2026 and the application of the ADA thereto.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

**Rules Suspended; Immediate Consideration; Rules Suspended; Appointments Confirmed**

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Collamore, the rules were suspended in order to take up the following confirmations for immediate consideration and the following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed as a group by the Senate, without reports given by the Committees to which they were referred and without debate:

Paul, Annik of Jeffersonville - Member, Vermont State Housing Authority - August 27, 2025 to February 28, 2030.

Phelps, Michelle of Georgia - Member, State Labor Relations Board - July 15, 2025 to June 30, 2031.

Peters, Gwenna of Duxbury - Member, State Labor Relations Board - May 23, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

**Rules Suspended; Appointments Confirmed**

Under suspension of the rules (and particularly, Senate Rule 93), as moved by Senator Collamore, the following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed together as a group by the Senate, without reports given by the Committees to which they were referred and without debate:

Falk, Gail of Plainfield - Member, Medical Practice, Board of - August 12, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

Wobby, Lauren of Northfield - Member, Vermont Educational and Health Buildings Financing Agency - April 15, 2026 to January 31, 2032.

**Rules Suspended; Action Messaged**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended, and action on the following bill and resolution were ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

**S. 71.** An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

**J.R.H. 12.** Joint resolution authorizing remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2026 and the application of the ADA thereto.

**Rules Suspended; Report of Committee of Conference Accepted and Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

**H. 949.**

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee of Conference, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

**H. 949** An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance.

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 as follows:

First: By striking out Secs. 1, property dollar equivalent yield, income dollar equivalent yield, and nonhomestead property tax rate for fiscal year 2027, and 2, Education Fund reserve; property tax rate offset, in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof two reader assistance headings and two new Secs. 1 and 2 to read as follows:

* * * Yields * * *

Sec. 1. PROPERTY DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD, INCOME DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD, AND NONHOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

For fiscal year 2027 only:

(1) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b), the property dollar equivalent yield shall be $9,401.00.

(2) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b), the income dollar equivalent yield shall be $12,960.00.

(3) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5402(a)(1) and any other provision of law to the contrary, the nonhomestead property tax rate shall be $1.643 per $100.00 of equalized education property value.

* * * Excess Spending Exemption * * *

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6) is amended to read:

(6) "Education spending" means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.

(A) [Repealed.]

(B) For all bonds approved by voters prior to July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026, voter-approved bond payments toward principal and interest shall not be included in "education spending" for purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12).

Second: By striking out Sec. 6, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof six reader assistance headings and 11 new sections to be Secs. 6–16 to read as follows:

* * * Excess Spending Penalty Transition Fiscal Years 2028–2032 * * *

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12) "Excess spending" means~~:~~

~~(A) The~~ the per pupil spending amount of the district's education spending, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), plus any amount required to be added from a capital construction reserve fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b), that exceeds the excess spending threshold, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date.

~~(B) In excess of 118 percent of the statewide average district per pupil education spending increased by inflation, as determined by the Secretary of Education on or before November 15 of each year based on the passed budgets to date. As used in this subdivision, "increased by inflation" means increasing the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025 by the most recent New England Economic Project cumulative price index, as of November 15, for state and local government purchases of goods and services, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined.~~

* * *

(18) "Excess spending base" means the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025, as adjusted for inflation. The excess spending base shall be adjusted for inflation by adjusting the excess spending base by the change in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, as of November 15, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

(19) "Excess spending threshold" means 112.5 percent of the excess spending base.

Sec. 7. EXCESS SPENDING PENALTY; TRANSITION

Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5401(19), beginning in fiscal year 2028, the excess spending threshold shall annually decrease according to the following schedule until reaching the statutory excess spending threshold in fiscal year 2032:

(1) in fiscal year 2028, 115.5 percent of the excess spending base;

(2) in fiscal year 2029, 114.5 percent of the excess spending base;

(3) in fiscal year 2030, 113.5 percent of the excess spending base;

(4) in fiscal year 2031, 113 percent of the excess spending base; and

(5) in fiscal year 2032, 112.5 percent of the excess spending base.

* * * Renter Credit Expansion Claim Year 2027 * * *

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 6066(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed ~~$2,500.00~~ $3,250.00, to be calculated as follows:

(A) If the claimant's income is less than or equal to the extremely low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of fair market rent.

(B) If the claimant's income is greater than the extremely low-income limit but less than or equal to the very low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a percentage of the credit that is proportional to the claimant's income that is less than the very low-income limit, determined by:

(i) subtracting the claimant's income from the very low-income limit;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (1)(B) by the difference between the extremely low-income limit and the very low-income limit; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (1)(B) by ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of fair market rent.

(C) If the claimant's income is greater than the very low-income limit, the claimant shall not be entitled to a renter credit.

(D) A claimant who is eligible for a renter credit, including pursuant to this subsection (b), and who receives a rental subsidy shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of gross rent paid.

(E) A renter credit shall be prorated by the number of calendar months in the taxable year during which the claimant rented the homestead, except for a credit based on gross rent paid under subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(1), and by the portion of the principal dwelling used for business purposes, if the portion used for business purposes includes more than 25 percent of the floor space of the dwelling.

(2) The Commissioner shall calculate the credit under subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) using the fair market rent corresponding to a number of bedrooms equal to the number of personal exemptions allowed under subdivision 5811(21)(C) of this title for the taxable year, provided that for claimants who resided with any person who was neither the claimant's dependent nor jointly filing spouse at any time during the taxable year, the Commissioner shall reduce the credit by 50 percent.

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 6067 is amended to read:

§ 6067. CREDIT LIMITATIONS

Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a property tax credit under this chapter. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter. No taxpayer shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of ~~$2,500.00~~ $3,250.00. No taxpayer shall receive a property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title greater than $2,400.00 or cumulative credit under subdivisions ~~6066(a)(1)-(2)~~ 6066(a)(1), (2), and (4) of this title greater than $5,600.00.

* * * Circuit Breaker Expansion Fiscal Year 2028 * * *

Sec. 10. 32 V.S.A. § 6066 is amended to read:

§ 6066. COMPUTATION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AND RENTER CREDIT

(a) An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the year in which the claim is filed shall be entitled to a credit for the prior year's homestead property tax liability amount determined as follows:

(1)(A) For a claimant with household income of $90,000.00 or more:

* * *

(B) For a claimant with household income of less than $90,000.00 but more than ~~$47,000.00~~ $50,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus (if less) the sum of:

* * *

(C) For a claimant whose household income does not exceed ~~$47,000.00~~ $50,000.00, the statewide education tax rate, multiplied by the equalized value of the housesite in the taxable year, minus the lesser of:

* * *

(3) A claimant whose household income does not exceed ~~$47,000.00~~ $50,000.00 shall also be entitled to an additional credit amount from the claimant's municipal taxes for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the municipal property taxes for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:

| If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is: | then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income: |
|---|---|
| $0.00 – 9,999.00 | 1.50 |
| $10,000.00 – ~~47,000.00~~ 50,000.00 | 3.00 |

(4) A claimant whose household income does not exceed ~~$47,000.00~~ $50,000.00 shall also be entitled to an additional credit amount from the claimant's statewide education tax for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the education property tax for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite, reduced by the credit amount determined under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:

| If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is: | then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income: |
|---|---|
| $0.00 – 9,999.00 | 0.5 |
| $10,000.00 – 24,999.00 | 1.5 |
| $25,000.00 – ~~47,000.00~~ 50,000.00 | 2.0 |

* * *

(b)(1) An eligible claimant who rented the homestead shall be entitled to a credit for the taxable year in an amount not to exceed ~~$3,250.00~~ $2,500.00, to be calculated as follows:

(A) If the claimant's income is less than or equal to the extremely low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of fair market rent.

(B) If the claimant's income is greater than the extremely low-income limit but less than or equal to the very low-income limit, the claimant shall be entitled to a percentage of the credit that is proportional to the claimant's income that is less than the very low-income limit, determined by:

(i) subtracting the claimant's income from the very low-income limit;

(ii) dividing the value under subdivision (i) of this subdivision (1)(B) by the difference between the extremely low-income limit and the very low-income limit; and

(iii) multiplying the value under subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (1)(B) by ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of fair market rent.

(C) If the claimant's income is greater than the very low-income limit, the claimant shall not be entitled to a renter credit.

(D) A claimant who is eligible for a renter credit, including pursuant to this subsection (b), and who receives a rental subsidy shall be entitled to a credit in the amount of ~~12.5~~ 10 percent of gross rent paid.

(E) A renter credit shall be prorated by the number of calendar months in the taxable year during which the claimant rented the homestead, except for a credit based on gross rent paid under subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(1), and by the portion of the principal dwelling used for business purposes, if the portion used for business purposes includes more than 25 percent of the floor space of the dwelling.

(2) The Commissioner shall calculate the credit under subdivision (1) of this subsection ~~(b)~~ using the fair market rent corresponding to a number of bedrooms equal to the number of personal exemptions allowed under subdivision 5811(21)(C) of this title for the taxable year, provided that for claimants who resided with any person who was neither the claimant's dependent nor jointly filing spouse at any time during the taxable year, the Commissioner shall reduce the credit by 50 percent.

* * *

Sec. 11. 32 V.S.A. § 6067 is amended to read:

§ 6067. CREDIT LIMITATIONS

Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a property tax credit under this chapter. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter. No taxpayer shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of ~~$3,250.00~~ $2,500.00. No taxpayer shall receive a property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title greater than ~~$2,400.00~~ $2,600.00 or cumulative credit under subdivisions 6066(a)(1), (2), and (4) of this title greater than ~~$5,600.00~~ $6,000.00.

* * * Conforming Changes for Foundation Formula Fiscal Year 2030 * * *

Sec. 12. 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(18) ~~"Excess spending base" means the statewide average district per pupil education spending for fiscal year 2025, as adjusted for inflation. The excess spending base shall be adjusted for inflation by adjusting the excess spending base by the change in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) implicit price deflator for state and local government consumption expenditures published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, as of November 15, from fiscal year 2025 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.~~ [Repealed.]

(19) ~~"Excess spending threshold" means 112.5 percent of the excess spending base.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 6066 is amended to read:

§ 6066. COMPUTATION OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, AND RENTER CREDIT

(a)(1) An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed $115,000.00 shall be entitled to a homestead property tax exemption in the claim year in an amount determined as follows:

* * *

(2) An eligible claimant who owned the homestead on April 1 of the claim year and whose household income does not exceed ~~$47,000.00~~ $50,000.00 shall also be entitled to a credit amount against the claimant's municipal taxes for the upcoming fiscal year that is equal to the amount by which the municipal property taxes for the municipal fiscal year that began in the taxable year upon the claimant's housesite exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household income for the taxable year as follows:

| If household income (rounded to the nearest dollar) is: | then the taxpayer is entitled to credit for the reduced property tax in excess of this percent of that income: |
|---|---|
| $0.00 – 9,999.00 | 1.50 |
| $25,000.00 – ~~47,000.00~~ 50,000.00 | 3.00 |

* * *

Sec. 14. 32 V.S.A. § 6067(c) is amended to read:

(c) Dollar amount. No claimant shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of $2,500.00. No claimant shall receive a municipal property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(2) of this title greater than ~~$2,400.00~~ $2,600.00.

* * * Tuition * * *

Sec. 15. TUITION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2028–2032

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal years 2028–2032 only, the tuition paid to a public or approved independent receiving school shall not increase from the prior year by more than the relative percentage change in statewide education spending between the previous fiscal year and the fiscal year preceding that. The tuition overcharge or undercharge provisions contained in 16 V.S.A. § 836 shall continue to apply in fiscal years 2028–2032.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1 (yields), Sec. 3 (statewide adjustment correction), Sec. 4 (Barre TIF overpayment refund), and Sec. 5 (census grant inflator) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Secs. 8 and 9 (one-year renter credit expansion) shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and apply to claim year 2027.

(c) Sec. 2 (excess spending exemption) shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and apply to fiscal year 2028 and after.

(d) Secs. 6 and 7 (excess spending penalty transition) shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and apply to fiscal year 2028 and after.

(e) Secs. 10 and 11 (circuit breaker expansion) shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and apply to fiscal year 2028 and after, except that amendments to the renter credit shall apply to claim year 2028 and after.

(f) Sec. 15 (tuition for fiscal years 2028–2032) shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and apply to fiscal years 2028–2032.

(g) Sec. 12 (excess spending repeal) shall take effect on June 30, 2029.

(h) Secs. 13 and 14 (conforming changes for foundation formula) shall take effect on July 2, 2029.

*SEN. ANN E. CUMMINGS*
*SEN. THOMAS I. CHITTENDEN*
*SEN. SCOTT L. BECK*
*Committee on the part of the Senate*

*REP. EMILIE K. KORNHEISER*
*REP. CHARLES A. KIMBELL*
*REP. MARTHA A. FELTUS*
*Committee on the part of the House*

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate accept and adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, was decided in the affirmative.

**Rules Suspended; Action Messaged**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended, and the action on the following bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

**H. 949.**

**Point of Privilege Journalized**

During announcements, on a point of personal privilege, Senator Gulick addressed the President, and on motion of Senator Weeks, her remarks were ordered entered into the Journal and are as follows:

“Ode to Alison Clarkson.

“In chambers where the old wood creaks with the memory of Senators past, and green velvet hangs from on high, you rise. Often for a farmer's night reminder or a birthday wish, but at times with the steady gravity of purpose.

“Your voice carries like a practiced note, clear, intentional, unafraid of its own resonance. Not loud for the sake of noise, but tuned to what must be heard.

“You understand the stage, the choreography of policy and persuasion, the quiet drama of a well-placed word. But you never mistake performance for truth.

“For you know what others sometimes forget: a prima donna thinks she's special; a diva knows she is divine.

“And divinity, in your case, is not ego, it's community, the rehearsal of listening and responding, the courage to hold a line when it would be easier to bend.

“But much more than that, you open doors with the warmth and pizazz of a grand dame. A smile, a word, a gesture that says; stay. You make the room feel larger just by being in it, make strangers feel expected, colleagues feel seen, and community feel like something you can actually hold.

“There's a jolly warmth in you, Alison. Not frivolous, but generous, the kind that eases tension and reminds us why we gather.

“And yes, there's pizazz, a spark that catches the air, a sense that the work, while serious, does not need to be drab.

“So let the record show more than votes and bills, Alison Clarkson, not prima donna, but diva. The real deal. The first to welcome new comers, and embrace old friends. Leaning in to understand and always, always adding color, music and pizazz to these hallowed halls.

“I will miss you Alison. We will miss you.”

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the Senate adjourned until one o’clock and in the afternoon.

**Called to Order**

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

**Consideration Resumed; House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In**

**S. 313.**

Consideration was resumed of House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to transforming Vermont’s career technical education system.

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont has unmet workforce needs and skills gaps, while a growing percentage of the decreasing school-aged population is not continuing on to further their education.

(2) To help reverse these trends, every student should graduate with a plan for what comes next after high school, whether that is continued education or training, military service, or entering the workforce.

(3) A growing body of research shows that the fulfillment of this vision requires the creation of a career navigation system that includes intentional, coordinated, and equitable local, regional, and statewide programming from elementary school through high school. The system should ensure that students gain awareness of post–high school career and education opportunities through career exploration, personalized guidance, work-based learning, flexible pathways programming, and credentials of value that support successful transitions beyond high school.

(4) CTE is an essential tool to realize this vision. CTE engages students in hands-on instruction and applied learning that builds practical skills, develops career readiness, and provides pathways to industry-recognized credentials and postsecondary credit. Vermont's CTE system must ensure that every student, regardless of geography, identity, or school, has access to high-quality career technical education opportunities.

Sec. 2. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

To realize a strong statewide career preparation system, it is the intent of the General Assembly to transform Vermont's career technical education (CTE) system as follows:

(1) Provide universal access to CTE, ensuring that every student can participate in CTE programming, including pretech and foundations courses, by:

(A) increasing exposure to and early awareness of CTE in middle school and the first two years of high school;

(B) addressing barriers such as transportation, scheduling conflicts, and awareness;

(C) providing consistency in admissions policies while allowing for program-specific requirements related to readiness, sequencing, and safety; and

(D) ensuring that no student may be placed on a waitlist or prevented from accessing CTE for lack of capacity where there is a viable alternative program that aligns with the student's intended program of study and meets program requirements, including sequencing and safety concerns, through the provision of transportation, supported through a state-level funding or coordination mechanism.

(2) Enable flexible delivery models, expanding beyond regional technical centers to offer multiple pathways for students to access CTE programming and graduate with required high school courses by:

(A) delivering programs at sending high schools or in a hybrid format where appropriate, provided that program quality, industry alignment, and access to necessary equipment and facilities are maintained; and

(B) utilizing shared resources and technology to improve educational access and limit transportation needs.

(3) Align the CTE system with workforce needs by designing and evaluating programs based on current and emerging Vermont labor market demands, continue robust evaluation of the system through the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment process, and utilize statewide research from Vermont's Most Promising Jobs and VT Labor Market Information to assess student outcomes in continuing to the workforce.

(4) Create a sustainable, student-centered funding system that removes disincentives for participation and supports program growth and innovation. Flexible delivery models and access must be taken into consideration to ensure the sustainability of program delivery.

(5) Explore the viability and impact of CTE centers becoming diploma-conferring institutions or comprehensive high schools. In situations where this is not possible, high schools shall be required to award the credits recommended by a CTE center.

(6) Maintain a strong adult CTE system by building robust adult and continuing education pathways within CTE that meet Vermont's upskilling, reskilling, and workforce development needs while connecting seamlessly with secondary programs and regional workforce partners. Such a system shall have a governance and funding model that promotes coordination, quality, program consistency, and sustainability.

(7) Coordinate CTE governance by establishing governance approaches that strengthen collaboration across districts, improve consistency and program quality, and better support positive student outcomes. CTE governance should align with the ongoing education transportation process, with the above goals as the lens through which decisions are made.

Sec. 3. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION; GUIDANCE

On or before September 18, 2026, the Agency of Education, in collaboration with the Vermont Association of Career and Technical Directors and the Vermont Superintendents Association, shall issue guidance on the following topics, which shall reflect the current career technical education system as it exists on July 1, 2026, in an effort to provide clarity to the field prior to updates to the career and technical education rules:

(1) updates to definitions, including definitions for “CTE programs,” “credentials,” “embedded academics,” and “satellite models”;

(2) credit standards and competency-based pathways;

(3) work-based learning sequencing aligned with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and federal hazard orders;

(4) minimum safety, space, and equipment standards;

(5) data and reporting alignment with Perkins V; and

(6) explicit allowance for differentiated regional delivery models.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1532 is amended to read:

§ 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS; RULES

(a) The State Board shall adopt by rule:

* * *

(b) The following shall be adopted by procedure or rule:

* * *

(c) The State Board shall review the rules and procedures adopted pursuant to this section not less than every five years and shall update the rules and procedures as necessary.

Sec. 5. AGENCY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS; LICENSING OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EDUCATORS; ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION PATHWAY; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Education and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Education, with recommendations for the following:

(1) In collaboration with the Standards Board for Professional Educators, recommendations regarding career technical education (CTE) educator endorsement requirements that will balance the need for increased access to CTE educators with industry expertise and experience with the need for ensuring CTE educators are qualified to provide education in their specialty fields, without unintentionally creating additional barriers or complexity. Such recommendations shall include both necessary statutory changes as well as recommended changes to applicable State Board of Education rules.

(2) A pre-enforcement intervention pathway that is responsible for:

(A) supporting interpretation and implementation of CTE rules and statute;

(B) providing early-stage mediation between CTE centers and sending districts;

(C) documenting patterns of noncompliance or systemic barriers; and

(D) escalating unresolved or repeated issues for formal enforcement.

(3) Updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative created within the Agency pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 941 that alleviate statewide inconsistencies with how flexible pathways are accessed and how personalized learning plans are created, updated, and utilized, including:

(A) recommendations for a statewide framework for career navigation consistent with the requirements of 16 V.S.A. chapter 23, subchapter 2, including:

(i) grade-level competency standards for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 related to career exploration and planning that are designed to ensure that each student develops the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to graduate with a clear, actionable, and adaptable plan for career and educational next steps; and

(ii) evidence-informed educational resources, activities, and curricula that support opportunities for awareness and exploration of and planning for career and education pathways both in and out of the classroom setting;

(B) recommendations for statewide professional development programming to help individuals within the public education system who have direct contact with students build role-specific knowledge and skills necessary to support students in developing post–high school career and education plans;

(C) recommendations for a model career navigation policy that is integrated within comprehensive system improvement efforts to strengthen prekindergarten through grade 12 academic proficiency and that:

(i) establishes a framework for school districts to embed grade-level competencies related to career exploration directly into core academic instruction, ensuring that career-aligned learning supports the attainment of rigorous student performance standards;

(ii) ensures that students engage in meaningful career education exploration and planning activities that reinforce academic growth and the real-world application of classroom learning; and

(iii) utilizes a process by which each student develops and updates a personalized learning plan in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 941(b)(2), serving as a primary tool for tracking both academic proficiency and evolving career interests; and

(D) an analysis of data collection system capabilities and gaps related to flexible pathways, personalized learning plans, and college and career readiness.

(4) Recommendations for ensuring Adult Diploma Program (ADP) participants have access to the educational programs that best serve their needs, including career technical education, while also complying with federal and State requirements for adult education, as well as recommendations for how access to such educational programs shall be funded through the use of State funds. If federal or State law is identified as a barrier, the report shall cite the applicable law and explain how it is a barrier to ADP participants' access to the educational program at issue.

Sec. 6. COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOLS REDEFINED; INTENT

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 1522(14) defines a comprehensive high school as "a public or independent school other than a career technical center that provides secondary career technical education approved under section 1533 of this title." As Vermont works to transform its career technical education (CTE) system to increase the access, quality, and opportunity of CTE programming available to Vermont students, the concept of a comprehensive high school could be expanded to achieve these goals. It is the intent of the General Assembly to move toward a model of comprehensive high schools that would offer all opportunities available to students within the public education system, to be defined as "a public or independent school other than a career technical center that fully integrates the provision of career technical education with the provision of general education in one school building or on one school campus, with a single budget for both CTE education and general education."

(b) Any recommendations issued to the General Assembly regarding how to achieve regional high schools, how to achieve more comprehensive high schools, or how to embed career technical education within secondary schools shall consider the definition of comprehensive high school the General Assembly intends to move toward pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or any other model that creates high schools that share operational costs, expand opportunities, and improve educational equity across a broad geographical area, to guide such recommendations.

Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1545 is amended to read:

§ 1545. CREDITS AND GRADES EARNED

(a) ~~Grades~~ Credits or proficiencies and grades earned in a course offered within a CTE program approved by the State Board shall not be altered by any public school or approved or recognized independent school in Vermont and shall be applied by the school toward any State graduation requirements in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board. Any State Board rules regarding earning of credits or proficiencies shall allow flexibility with respect to the integration of CTE education and other academic courses.

(b) The credits or proficiencies earned for a career technical education program approved by the State Board shall be honored by any public or independent school within Vermont. If necessary to enable a student to participate in career technical education and graduate with ~~his or her~~ the student's class, the credits or proficiencies earned shall be applied toward any school district or independent school graduation requirements exceeding the minimum number of credits or proficiencies required by the State Board. The school board of the high school from which the student wishes to graduate shall ~~make a determination as to whether the credits shall be applied~~ apply credits or proficiencies earned for a career technical education program approved by the State Board toward graduation requirements. A decision of a school board may be appealed to the Secretary who shall construe this section to favor participation in career technical education.

(c) For any student attending the Vermont Academy for Science and Technology pursuant to subsection 4011(e) of this title, the credits or proficiencies and grades earned shall, upon request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, be applied toward graduation requirements at the Vermont high school that the student attended prior to enrolling in the Academy.

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

Sec. 8a. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(5) "Employee" means a person who, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of one year for an average of at least 30 hours per week or meets the service requirement set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.801 (airline flight crew employees) or 29 C.F.R. § 825.110(c)(3) (full-time teachers, as defined in 29 C.F.R. § 825.102, of an elementary or secondary school system or institution of higher education).

* * *

Sec. 8b. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

§ 495d. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(15) "Crime victim" means any of the following:

(A) a person who has obtained a relief from abuse order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(B) a person who has obtained an order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. chapter 178;

(C) a person who has obtained an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. chapter 69; ~~or~~

(D)(i) a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301, provided that the victim is identified as a crime victim in an affidavit filed by a law enforcement official with a prosecuting attorney of competent state or federal jurisdiction; and

(ii) shall include the victim's child, foster child, parent, spouse, stepchild or ward of the victim who lives with the victim, or a parent of the victim's spouse, provided that the individual is not identified in the affidavit as the defendant; or

(E) a person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who has supporting documentation from any one of the following sources:

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

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

(iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the person has received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

(iv) a self-attestation by the person describing the circumstances supporting the person's status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking for which no further corroboration shall be required unless otherwise mandated by law.

* * *

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

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

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

Sec. 8c. 21 V.S.A. § 495g is amended to read:

§ 495g. ~~PROVISION APPLICABLE TO COLLEGE PROFESSORS~~

~~Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit any institution of higher education as defined by section 1201(a) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 from retiring any employee who is serving under a contract of unlimited tenure, who attains 70 years of age. Any employee whose tenure contract is terminated may, in the discretion of the institution, be allowed to continue in the employ of the institution on a nontenured basis.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 8d. 21 V.S.A. § 383 is amended to read:

§ 383. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor or designee.

(2) "Employee" means any individual employed or permitted to work by an employer except:

* * *

(H) outside salespersons; ~~and~~

(I) students working during all or any part of the school year or regular vacation periods; and

(J) elected and appointed municipal officers.

* * *

Sec. 8e. 21 V.S.A. § 495q is added to read:

§ 495q. AGREEMENTS WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

(a) Any provision in a contract or agreement that creates or establishes the terms of a partnership, employment, or any other form of professional relationship with a health care provider regarding the health care provider's provision of health care services in Vermont shall be void and unenforceable if the provision:

(1) includes a restriction on the right of the health care provider to provide health care services in any geographical area for any period of time after the termination of such partnership, agreement, or professional relationship;

(2) limits the ability of a separating health care provider to provide notice of the provider's change of employment to individuals to whom the separating provider provided direct health care services;

(3) restricts a health care provider from making disparaging statements about another party to the contract or agreement or about another person specified in the agreement as a third-party beneficiary of the agreement;

(4) is inconsistent with Vermont law; or

(5) requires litigation arising from the performance of the contract or agreement in Vermont to be conducted in another state.

(b) The notice provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section may include the following information:

(1) that the health care provider is continuing to practice the provider's profession;

(2) the health care provider's new professional contact information; and

(3) the recipient's right to choose a health care provider.

(c) The provisions in subsection (a) of this section do not apply to restrictions that limit a health care provider who contracts with a third-party company for nonclinical business support services from opening a business within a specific territory supported by a different third-party company providing nonclinical services.

(d) "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified, or authorized by law to provide professional health care service in this State to an individual during that individual's medical care, treatment, or confinement.

(e) An employer shall not discharge or in any other manner retaliate against an employee who exercises or attempts to exercise the employee's rights under this section. The provisions against retaliation in subdivision 495(a)(8) of this subchapter and the penalty and enforcement provisions of section 495b of this subchapter shall apply to this section.

(f) This section shall apply to contracts and agreements entered into on or after July 1, 2026.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

### Rules Suspended; Report of Committee of Conference Accepted and Adopted on the Part of the Senate

### H. 933.

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to miscellaneous administrative and policy changes to the tax laws.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee of Conference, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

**H. 933**. An act relating to miscellaneous administrative and policy changes to the tax laws.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 19, 3 V.S.A. § 24, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 19 to read as follows:

Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 24 is added to read:

§ 24. GOVERNOR'S LIST OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Annually on December 1, the Governor or designee may elect to provide a list of organizations that satisfy the conditions of subsection (b) of this section to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury for purposes of making the federal qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship tax credit available for Vermont taxpayers under 26 U.S.C. § 25F. It shall be presumed that an organization listed in the previous year will be listed in the subsequent year unless the Governor finds that the organization has failed to meet the requirements of this section.

(b) An organization shall not be listed unless the organization meets the following criteria:

(1) it qualifies as a "scholarship granting organization" as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 25F(c)(5);

(2) it is a nonprofit organization with the core mission of providing educational opportunities to economically underprivileged students through afterschool programs, summer programs, tutoring, and similar programs;

(3) all grants and scholarships provided by the organization are to students attending a public school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(7), or an independent school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(8), that is also capable of receiving public tuition;

(4) all grants and scholarships provided by the organization are for students to attend a program offered by a program provider that has entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to subsection (c) of this section with a public school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(7); an independent school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(8), that is also capable of receiving public tuition; or a school district, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(10); and

(5) when determining whether to award a scholarship, the organization does not discriminate against any student because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age or against a student with a disability, as that term is defined under 21 V.S.A. § 495d(5).

(c) The memorandum of understanding between a program provider and school required under subdivision (b)(4) of this section shall include verification that the program provider offers a program that:

(1) is for after school, during a school break, for supplemental tutoring, or similar;

(2) is educational in nature; and

(3) does not discriminate against any student because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age or against a student with a disability, as that term is defined under 21 V.S.A. § 495d(5).

(d) Annually, on or before January 15, each scholarship granting organization listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in the previous calendar year shall provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education providing the following information relating to activity in the previous year:

(1) the total amount provided in scholarships under this section;

(2) the total number of scholarships provided under this section;

(3) the total number of scholarship recipients;

(4) a complete list of afterschool programs, summer programs, tutoring, and similar programs that scholarship recipients attended using scholarship funds provided by the organization and the amount of scholarship funds received by each program;

(5) the total number of individuals who made donations to the organization, including the zip code of each individual donor;

(6) the total amount of money received as donations;

(7) the total amount spent on administrative costs with a description of those administrative costs and an accounting of any unspent funds currently held; and

(8) a list identifying all employees, officers, and board members of the organization that includes, for every individual, the name of the position held and compensation received.

(e) In the Governor's discretion, the Governor may audit an organization seeking placement on the list, or a program receiving scholarship funds under this section, to ensure the organization meets all the requirements for placement as provided by this section and applicable federal law. The Governor shall not list an organization that the Governor knows is not in compliance with the requirements of this section or 26 U.S.C. § 25F(c)(5).

(f)(1) If the Attorney General finds that any provision of this act is rendered invalid due to a federal act, federal agency rule, or court of competent jurisdiction, the Attorney General shall submit written notice of the invalidation to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate that the provision is invalid.

(2) Upon receipt of the notice provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection, neither the Governor nor the Governor's designee shall provide a list of organizations to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a) of this section until the General Assembly has enacted legislation addressing the invalidated provision.

Second: By striking out Sec. 22, repeal; Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife rule on fees for the use of Fish and Wildlife Department lands and facilities, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 22 to read as follows:

Sec. 22. REPEAL; COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RULE ON FEES FOR THE USE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT LANDS AND FACILITIES

Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 848, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife Rule 2008-01, CVR 12-010-075, Fees for the Use of Fish and Wildlife Department Lands and Facilities will remain in effect through June 30, 2027, and will be repealed on July 1, 2027.

Third: By striking out Sec. 50, 24 V.S.A. § 138, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 50 to read as follows:

Sec. 50. [Deleted.]

Fourth: In Sec. 63a, Burlington Waterfront Tax Increment Financing District; findings; intent, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify that the City of Burlington may retain State education tax increment and municipal tax increment until June 30, 2035, consistent with the methodology approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee on September 10, 2009, for the following three properties located at 49 Church Street and 75 Cherry Street, as designated on the City of Burlington's Tax Parcel Maps:

(1) Parcel ID# 044-4-004-000;

(2) Parcel ID# 044-4-004-001; and

(3) Parcel ID# 044-4-033-000.

Fifth: By adding three new sections to be Secs. 63c, 63d, and 63e to read as follows:

Sec. 63c. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

(a) The Education Fund is established to comprise the following:

* * *

(4) ~~29~~ 32.5 percent of the revenues from the meals and rooms taxes imposed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 225;

(5) ~~27~~ 21 percent of the revenues raised from the purchase and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 219, notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 11(1);

* * *

Sec. 63d. 32 V.S.A. § 435(b)(7) is amended to read:

(7) ~~65~~ 61.5 percent of the meals and rooms taxes levied pursuant to chapter 225 of this title;

Sec. 63e. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION FUNDS

It is the intent of the General Assembly, in future fiscal years, to gradually shift additional revenue generated by the motor vehicle purchase and use tax to the Transportation Fund. It is further intended that any future changes resulting in a decrease of revenues deposited in the Education Fund be accompanied by other revenue policy measures that mitigate any impact on statewide education property taxes.

Sixth: In Sec. 64, effective dates, by striking out subdivision (10) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (10) to read as follows:

(10) Secs. 62 and 63 (deposit of meals and rooms tax and purchase and use tax revenues) shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and apply beginning with fiscal year 2027.

Seventh: In Sec. 64, effective dates, by adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (11) to read as follows:

(11) Secs. 63c and 63d (deposit of meals and rooms tax and purchase and use tax revenues) shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and apply beginning with fiscal year 2028.

*SEN. ANN E. CUMMINGS*
*SEN. RUTH E. HARDY*
*SEN. CHRISTOPHER P. MATTOS*

*Committee on the part of the Senate*

*REP. EMILIE K. KORNHEISER*
*REP. WILLIAM P. CANFIELD*
*REP. CHARLES A. KIMBELL*

*Committee on the part of the House*

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate accept and adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, was decided in the affirmative.

**Rules Suspended; Report of Committee of Conference Accepted and Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

**H. 955.**

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Bongartz, for the Committee of Conference, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

**H.955**. An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, findings; legislative intent, in subsection (a) by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct.

Second: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. chapter 10, in section 603, in subdivision (a)(1), by striking out subdivisions (D) and (E) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof three new subdivisions to be subdivisions (D), (E), and (F) to read as follows:

(D) Maple Run Unified Union Supervisory District;

(E) Milton Supervisory District; and

(F) Missisquoi Valley Supervisory District.

Third: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. chapter 10, in section 603, in subdivision (a)(2), by striking out subdivisions (D), (E), and (F) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof two new subdivisions to be subdivisions (D) and (E) to read as follows:

(D) South Burlington Supervisory District; and

(E) Winooski Supervisory District.

Fourth: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. chapter 10, section 603, in subdivision (a)(5) by striking out subdivision (5) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (5) to read as follows:

(5) Mountain Views Supervisory Union, which is composed of the member school districts of the Pittsfield School District and the Mountain Views School District;

Fifth: In Sec. 13, union school district creation consultation and facilitation; merger committees, in subdivision (b)(1), following "16 V.S.A. §§ 706 and 707." by inserting "A merger committee member shall be a current member of a school board participating in that particular merger committee. If the school board member assigned to a merger committee is no longer a member of the member's appointing school board for any reason, the school board shall appoint a new member to the merger committee."

Sixth: In Sec. 13, union school district creation consultation and facilitation; merger committees, in subdivision (b)(4), by striking out subdivision (A) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (A) to read as follows:

(A)(i) If a merger committee identifies a school district as necessary that is not a member of the merger committee or that is not a member of the CESA, or both, the merger committee shall work with the applicable facilitator or facilitators to adjust merger committee membership as necessary.

(ii) A school district may join a different merger committee than the one it was assigned to by a facilitator if a majority of the school board members vote to leave the assigned merger committee and join a new merger committee.

Seventh: In Sec. 13, union school district creation consultation and facilitation; merger committees, in subdivision (b)(5), following "determined it was inadvisable to form a new unified union school district." by inserting "The report shall be transmitted to the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education at the same time."

Eighth: In Sec. 13, union school district creation consultation and facilitation; merger committees, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Secretary review. The Secretary shall review the report and proposed articles of agreement of any merger committee that determines it is advisable to propose the formation of a new unified union school district and submit a recommendation to the State Board. If the Secretary fails to submit the Secretary's recommendation to the State Board within 30 days following the receipt of the report and proposed articles of agreement or on or before December 1, 2027, whichever date shall occur first, the State Board shall take action pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 709(c) regardless of whether the Secretary submits a recommendation regarding the proposed unified union school district.

Ninth: In Sec. 14, guidance for merger committee groupings, by striking out subdivisions (1)–(18) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof 20 new subdivisions to be subdivisions (1)–(20) to read as follows:

(1) Group one: Addison Central School District, Addison Northwest School District, Lincoln School District, and Mount Abraham Unified School District.

(2) Group two: Barstow Unified School District, Ira School District, Mill River Unified Union School District, Otter Valley Unified Union School District, Quarry Valley Unified Union School District, Rutland City School District, Rutland Town School District, and Slate Valley Unified Union School District.

(3) Group three: Mettawee School District, Stratton School District, Taconic and Green Regional School District, Wells Spring Unified Union School District, and Winhall School District.

(4) Group four: Arlington School District, Mount Anthony Union High School District #14, North Bennington Graded School District, Sandgate School District, and Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District.

(5) Group five: Halifax School District, Readsboro School District, Searsburg School District, Somerset School District, Stamford School District, Twin Valley Unified School District, Vernon Town School District, and Windham Southeast School District.

(6) Group six: Athens Grafton School District, Bellows Falls Union High School District, Marlboro School District, River Valleys Unified School District, Rockingham School District, West River Modified Union Education District, Westminster School District, and Windham School District.

(7) Group seven: Green Mountain Unified School District, Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, and Springfield School District.

(8) Group eight: Hartford School District, Hartland School District, Mount Ascutney School District, Mountain Views School District, Pittsfield School District, and Weathersfield School District.

(9) Group nine: Echo Valley Community School District, First Branch Unified School District, Granville-Hancock Unified District, Orange Southwest Unified Union School District, Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District, Sharon School District, Stafford School District, and White River Unified District.

(10) Group 10: Blue Mountain Union School District, Cabot School District, Caledonia Cooperative School District, Danville School District, Peacham School District, Oxbow Unified Union School District, Thetford Town School District, Twinfield Unified School District, and Waits River Valley Union School District #36.

(11) Group 11: Canaan School District, Essex North Supervisory Union, Kingdom East Unified Union School District, NEK Choice School District, and St. Johnsbury School District.

(12) Group 12: Brighton School District, Charleston School District, Coventry School District, Derby School District, Holland School District, Jay School District, Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District, Lake Region Union High School District, Lowell School District, Morgan School District, Newport City School District, Newport Town School District, North Country Union High School District, North Country Union Junior High School Board, Troy School District, and Westfield School District.

(13) Group 13: Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District and Champlain Valley School District.

(14) Group 14: Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District.

(15) Group 15: Cambridge School District, Craftsbury School District, Elmore-Morristown Unified Union School District, Hazen Union School District, Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District, Mountain View Union Elementary School District, Stannard Town School District, Stowe School District, and Wolcott School District.

(16) Group 16: Enosburgh-Richford Unified Union School District, Northern Mountain Valley Unified Union School District, and Missisquoi Valley School District.

(17) Group 17: Fairfax School District, Fletcher School District, Georgia School District, and Maple Run Unified School District.

(18) Group 18: Burlington School District, South Burlington School District, and Winooski ID.

(19) Group 19: Alburgh School District, Champlain Islands Unified Union School District, Colchester School District, Milton Town School District, and South Hero School District.

(20) Group 20: Barre Unified Union School District, Harwood Unified Union School District, Montpelier Roxbury School District, Paine Mountain School District, and Washington Central Unified Union School District.

Tenth: By striking out Sec. 24, tuition in excess of foundation formula; legislative intent, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 24 to read as follows:

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

§ 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

* * *

(e) A school eligible to receive tuition pursuant to this section shall be prohibited from requiring tuition from a student attending the school, according to the provisions of this chapter, above the amount of tuition paid by a sending school district pursuant to section 823 of this chapter.

Eleventh: By striking out Sec. 24a, deleted, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 24a to read as follows:

Sec. 24a. SCHOOL FEES; REPORT

On or before January 1, 2027, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education and on Finance with the following:

(1) information regarding the fees charged by public schools for both tuitioned students and resident students;

(2) information regarding fees charged by approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition to students attending the school on public tuition; and

(3) recommendations for any guardrails necessary on a school's ability to charge fees to a publicly funded student under the foundation formula.

Twelfth: In Sec. 27, intradistrict budgeting; Agency of Education; District Quality Standards; rulemaking, by striking out "December 31, 2028" and inserting in lieu thereof "June 1, 2028"

Thirteenth: By striking out Sec. 29a, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 7, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 29a to read as follows:

Sec. 29a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; STATE BOARD ACTION

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 165(b)(4) and (5) and any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Board shall be prohibited from ordering school district consolidation or school consolidation if a school fails to comply with class size minimum education quality standards and the resulting consolidation would result in school construction costs in excess of the applicable district's capital reserve account until the General Assembly establishes new school district boundaries and takes further action regarding the consequences for failure to meet education quality standards.

(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9)(C) and (b), a school's failure to comply with the class size minimum requirements contained in 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(9) shall not count towards the three consecutive school years of noncompliance that enables the Secretary to recommend action to the State Board until the State Board adopts updates to the Education Quality Standards rule 2000 series, Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (22-000-003) to reflect the addition of class size minimums to the education quality standards, or July 1, 2027, whichever date shall come first.

Fourteenth: By adding two new reader assistance headings and three new sections to be Secs. 29c, 29d, and 29e to read as follows:

* * * Definitions * * *

Sec. 29c. 16 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this title, unless the context otherwise clearly requires:

* * *

(36) "Average class size" means the total number of students enrolled across all classes included in a grade band or content area, as applicable, divided by the total number of individual classes contained in a grade band or content area, as applicable, calculated separately for each school and each grade band or content area, as specified in subdivision 165(a)(9) of this title; provided, however, that the following shall not be included in the determination of average class size:

(A) prekindergarten, kindergarten, career and technical education, flexible pathways, terminal courses, advanced placement courses, courses that require specialized equipment, and driver's education classes;

(B) small group services for the purpose of providing special education, supplemental or targeted academic intervention, or English learner instruction; and

(C) specialized or targeted academic opportunities.

(37) "Class" means a group of students, taught by a single teacher or team of teachers, organized for instruction in specific subjects or grade levels, for a defined period during the regular school day. Each course section shall be counted as a separate class. A class with more than one teacher of record shall be counted as a single class.

(38) "Content area" means a grouping of courses aligned to a single educator endorsement area as defined by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators.

(39) "Full-time equivalent class" means the proportion of instructional time relative to a full school year.

(40) "School" means a public or independent educational institution with assigned staff, including teachers and administrators, that serves students within a dedicated building and that is identified by a unique state school identification number assigned by the National Center for Education Statistics.

(41) "School day" means the hours between the latest time at which a student may arrive at school and not be considered late and the time a student is dismissed from school, on a student attendance day.

(42) "Student" means a pupil enrolled in and assigned to a school as of October 1.

(43) "Teacher of record" means the educator primarily responsible for delivering instruction, assessing student learning, and assigning grades for a class, as designated in a school district's student information system.

* * *

Sec. 29d. DEFINITION RULEMAKING; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 that establish definitions for the terms contained in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(36)–(43). The Board may adopt rules pursuant to this section with definitions for the terms that differ from the definitions contained in statute.

* * * Prospective Repeals * * *

Sec. 29e. PROSPECTIVE REPEALS

(a) 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(36)–(43) are repealed on the July 1 following the effective date of rules adopted pursuant to Sec. 29d of this act.

(b) 16 V.S.A. § 828(e) shall be repealed on July 1, 2029, if the cost-factor foundation formula report required pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 45a contains evidence that it costs more to educate students in grades nine through 12 but the General Assembly has failed to enact legislation to add a secondary student weight.

Fifteenth: In Sec. 66a, Facilities Master Plan Grant Program; appropriation, by striking out "$900,000.00" and inserting in lieu thereof "$800,000.00" and striking out "study committee" and inserting in lieu thereof "merger committee"

Sixteenth: In Sec. 67, Agency of Education, State Aid For School Construction; rulemaking, in subdivision (1), by striking out "study committee" and inserting in lieu thereof "merger committee"

Seventeenth: In Sec. 68a, State Aid For School Construction Program; intent, by striking out "Treasurer's" and inserting in lieu thereof "Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee's"

Eighteenth: In Sec. 69, 16 V.S.A. § 3440, in subsection (b), by striking out "study committee" and inserting in lieu thereof "merger committee"

Nineteenth: By striking out Sec. 74, 16 V.S.A. § 4033, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 74 to read as follows:

Sec. 74. 16 V.S.A. § 4033 is added to read:

§ 4033. LEGACY DEBT AID

(a) A school district shall be eligible to receive legacy debt aid pursuant to this section only if the district is not identified as a bad faith participant in the facilitator report submitted pursuant to Sec. 15 of legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 2026 that requires each school board to participate in a merger committee to study the advisability of forming a unified union school district.

(b) An eligible school district's legacy debt aid shall equal 75 percent of the debt service cost of any debt that is approved by the voters of the district related to facility construction and renovation and for which construction has begun as of December 31, 2024.

(c) Aid shall be awarded annually for annual debt service costs up to a maximum total annual amount of $45,750,000.00 and is subject to an annual appropriation for the purposes of the legacy debt aid.

(d) On or before February 15, 2029, a school district that is identified as a bad faith participant in the facilitator report submitted pursuant to Sec. 15 of legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 2026 that requires each school board to participate in a merger committee to study the advisability of forming a unified union school district may appeal the facilitator's determination to the Secretary of Education in order to receive aid under this section.

(e) On or before May 15, 2029, the Secretary of Education shall determine whether each school district that has submitted an appeal pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall receive aid under this section. The Secretary's determination shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal. The Secretary shall develop written policies to implement the appeals process under this section.

Twentieth: By striking out Sec. 77, 32 V.S.A. § 5401(22), in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 77 to read as follows:

Sec. 77. 32 V.S.A. § 5401(22) is amended to read:

(22) "Supplemental district spending" means the spending that the voters of a school district approve in excess of the school district's educational opportunity payment, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(17), for the fiscal year, plus the annual debt service costs on any legacy school construction debt not covered by legacy debt aid pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4033, provided that the voters of a school district other than an interstate school district shall not approve spending in excess of five percent of the product of the base amount, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(16), and the school district's long-term membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(7). The cap on supplemental district spending shall not apply to school construction expenditures.

Twenty-first: In Sec. 80, educational opportunity payments; tuition; transition; fiscal years 2030–2033, in subdivision (c)(2), by striking out "2031" and inserting in lieu thereof "2030"

Twenty-second: In Sec. 86, effective dates, in subdivision (6), preceding "Sec. 29 (16 V.S.A. § 4019)" by inserting "Sec. 24 (16 V.S.A. § 828(e)),"

*SEN. SETH BONGARTZ*
*SEN. RUTH E. HARDY*
*SEN. CHRISTOPHER P. MATTOS*

*Committee on the part of the Senate*

*REP. PETER C. CONLON*
*REP. EMILIE K. KORNHEISER*
*REP. BETH M. QUIMBY*

*Committee on the part of the House*

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate accept and adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, was decided in the affirmative.

**Rules Suspended; Report of Committee of Conference Accepted and Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

**H. 951.**

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

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

Was taken up for immediate action.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee of Conference, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

**H.951**. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

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

* * * Purpose, Definitions, Legend * * *

Sec. A.100 SHORT TITLE

(a) This bill may be referred to as the "BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Act."

Sec. A.101 PURPOSE

(a) The purpose of this act is to provide appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds during fiscal year 2027. It is the express intent of the General Assembly that activities of the various agencies, departments, divisions, boards, offices, and commissions be limited to those that can be supported by funds appropriated in this act or other acts passed prior to June 30, 2026.

Agency and department heads are directed to implement staffing and service levels at the beginning of fiscal year 2027 so as to meet this condition unless otherwise directed by specific language in this act or other acts of the General Assembly.

Sec. A.102 APPROPRIATIONS

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this act serves as the primary source and reference for appropriations for the operations of State government and for capital appropriations not funded with bond proceeds in fiscal year 2027.

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

(c) Unless codified or otherwise specified, all narrative portions of this act apply only to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2027.

Sec. A.103 DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. A.104 RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAWS

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

Sec. A.105 OFFSETTING APPROPRIATIONS

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

Sec. A.106 FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may accept federal funds available to the State of Vermont, including block grants in lieu of, or in addition to, funds herein designated as federal. The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly or the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, may allocate all or any portion of such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the basic appropriations in this act have been made.

(b) If, during fiscal year 2027, federal funds available to the State and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2026 session of the General Assembly are converted into block grants or are abolished under their current title in federal law and reestablished under a new title in federal law, the Governor may continue to accept such federal funds for any purpose consistent with the purposes for which the federal funds were appropriated. The Governor may spend such funds for such purposes for not more than 45 days prior to General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee approval. Notice shall be given to the Joint Fiscal Committee without delay if the Governor intends to use the authority granted by this section, and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet in an expedited manner to review the Governor's request for approval.

Sec. A.107 NEW POSITIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total number of authorized State positions, both classified and exempt, excluding temporary positions as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 311(a)(11), shall not be increased during fiscal year 2027 except for new positions authorized by the General Assembly during the 2026 session. Limited service positions approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5 shall not be subject to this restriction.

Sec. A.108 LEGEND

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

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

(b) The C sections contain any amendments to the current fiscal year; the D sections contain fund allocations, transfers, reversions, and reservations for the upcoming budget year; the F sections contain the Pay Act; and the G section contains effective dates applicable to the act itself or specific sections within this act.

* * * Fiscal Year 2027 Base Appropriations * * *

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,506,216 |
| Operating expenses | 266,559 |
| Grants | 125,000 |
| Total | 2,897,775 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,861,224 |
| Special funds | 125,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 911,551 |
| Total | 2,897,775 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,568,041 |
| Operating expenses | 95,802 |
| Total | 1,663,843 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,113,347 |
| Internal service funds | 550,496 |
| Total | 1,663,843 |

Sec. B.101 Secretary of administration - finance

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,557,057 |
| Operating expenses | 185,178 |
| Total | 1,742,235 |
| Source of funds | |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,742,235 |
| Total | 1,742,235 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 896,646 |
| Operating expenses | 104,349 |
| Total | 1,000,995 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 1,000,995 |
| Total | 1,000,995 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 417,351 |
| Operating expenses | 68,210 |
| Total | 485,561 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 485,561 |
| Total | 485,561 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 301,453 |
| Operating expenses | 57,383 |
| Total | 358,836 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 358,836 |
| Total | 358,836 |

Sec. B.104.1 Retired state employees pension plus funding

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 33,055,594 |
| Operating expenses | 16,188,998 |
| Total | 49,244,592 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 9,317,892 |
| Special funds | 1,031,998 |
| Internal service funds | 38,894,702 |
| Total | 49,244,592 |

Sec. B.105.1 Agency of digital services - demand driven services

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 32,005,770 |
| Operating expenses | 15,300,212 |
| Total | 47,305,982 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 47,305,982 |
| Total | 47,305,982 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,726,678 |
| Operating expenses | 376,867 |
| Total | 2,103,545 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,320,303 |
| Internal service funds | 517,237 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 266,005 |
| Total | 2,103,545 |

Sec. B.107 Finance and management - financial operations

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,263,811 |
| Operating expenses | 835,537 |
| Total | 4,099,348 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 3,880,186 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 219,162 |
| Total | 4,099,348 |

Sec. B.108 Human resources - operations

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 12,618,652 |
| Operating expenses | 1,683,153 |
| Total | 14,301,805 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,009,464 |
| Special funds | 180,668 |
| Internal service funds | 11,149,163 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 962,510 |
| Total | 14,301,805 |

Sec. B.108.1 Human resources - VTHR operations

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,495,563 |
| Operating expenses | 989,816 |
| Total | 3,485,379 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 3,335,155 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 150,224 |
| Total | 3,485,379 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,470,728 |
| Operating expenses | 765,201 |
| Total | 2,235,929 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 2,235,929 |
| Total | 2,235,929 |

Sec. B.110 Libraries

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,142,573 |
| Operating expenses | 548,504 |
| Grants | 238,660 |
| Total | 3,929,737 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,470,909 |
| Special funds | 87,178 |
| Federal funds | 1,241,835 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 129,815 |
| Total | 3,929,737 |

Sec. B.111 Tax - administration/collection

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 30,878,080 |
| Operating expenses | 7,323,104 |
| Total | 38,201,184 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 25,818,400 |
| Special funds | 12,332,784 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 50,000 |
| Total | 38,201,184 |

Sec. B.112 Buildings and general services - administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,090,871 |
| Operating expenses | 228,872 |
| Total | 1,319,743 |
| Source of funds | |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,319,743 |
| Total | 1,319,743 |

Sec. B.113 Buildings and general services - engineering

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 102,231 |
| Operating expenses | 1,114,195 |
| Total | 1,216,426 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,216,426 |
| Total | 1,216,426 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,489,916 |
| Operating expenses | 500,000 |
| Total | 3,989,916 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,351,480 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 638,436 |
| Total | 3,989,916 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,684,847 |
| Operating expenses | 2,228,705 |
| Total | 5,913,552 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 723,210 |
| Transportation fund | 4,710,621 |
| Special funds | 479,721 |
| Total | 5,913,552 |

Sec. B.115 Buildings and general services - purchasing

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,189,478 |
| Operating expenses | 266,883 |
| Total | 3,456,361 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,727,877 |
| Internal service funds | 1,386,959 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 341,525 |
| Total | 3,456,361 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 892,320 |
| Operating expenses | 173,126 |
| Total | 1,065,446 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 96,479 |
| Internal service funds | 968,967 |
| Total | 1,065,446 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 992,680 |
| Operating expenses | 217,022 |
| Total | 1,209,702 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 1,209,702 |
| Total | 1,209,702 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,086,176 |
| Operating expenses | 251,051 |
| Total | 1,337,227 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 1,238,057 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 99,170 |
| Total | 1,337,227 |

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

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 389,970 |
| Operating expenses | 167,097 |
| Total | 557,067 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 557,067 |
| Total | 557,067 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,250,068 |
| Operating expenses | 722,602 |
| Total | 1,972,670 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 1,830,898 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 141,772 |
| Total | 1,972,670 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 23,787,396 |
| Operating expenses | 17,757,907 |
| Total | 41,545,303 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 41,545,303 |
| Total | 41,545,303 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,087,428 |
| Operating expenses | 571,877 |
| Total | 2,659,305 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,086,338 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 572,967 |
| Total | 2,659,305 |

Sec. B.125 Legislative counsel

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 5,562,384 |
| Operating expenses | 305,246 |
| Total | 5,867,630 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 5,867,630 |
| Total | 5,867,630 |

Sec. B.126 Legislature

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,319,895 |
| Operating expenses | 5,653,460 |
| Total | 11,973,355 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 11,973,355 |
| Total | 11,973,355 |

Sec. B.126.1 Legislative information technology

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,589,468 |
| Operating expenses | 940,400 |
| Total | 2,529,868 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,529,868 |
| Total | 2,529,868 |

Sec. B.127 Joint fiscal committee

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,218,498 |
| Operating expenses | 203,144 |
| Total | 3,421,642 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,421,642 |
| Total | 3,421,642 |

Sec. B.128 Sergeant at arms

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,738,030 |
| Operating expenses | 215,269 |
| Total | 1,953,299 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,953,299 |
| Total | 1,953,299 |

Sec. B.129 Lieutenant governor

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 256,396 |
| Operating expenses | 65,515 |
| Total | 321,911 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 321,911 |
| Total | 321,911 |

Sec. B.130 Auditor of accounts

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,914,039 |
| Operating expenses | 159,245 |
| Total | 5,073,284 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 289,054 |
| Special funds | 53,145 |
| Internal service funds | 4,731,085 |
| Total | 5,073,284 |

Sec. B.131 State treasurer

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 7,459,970 |
| Operating expenses | 378,493 |
| Total | 7,838,463 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,744,590 |
| Special funds | 4,713,210 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 380,663 |
| Total | 7,838,463 |

Sec. B.132 State treasurer - unclaimed property

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 980,240 |
| Operating expenses | 669,064 |
| Total | 1,649,304 |
| Source of funds | |
| Private purpose trust funds | 1,649,304 |
| Total | 1,649,304 |

Sec. B.133 Vermont state retirement system

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 287,163 |
| Operating expenses | 3,480,963 |
| Total | 3,768,126 |
| Source of funds | |
| Pension trust funds | 3,768,126 |
| Total | 3,768,126 |

Sec. B.134 Municipal employees' retirement system

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 234,016 |
| Operating expenses | 1,973,853 |
| Total | 2,207,869 |
| Source of funds | |
| Pension trust funds | 2,207,869 |
| Total | 2,207,869 |

Sec. B.134.1 Vermont pension investment commission

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,696,175 |
| Operating expenses | 286,820 |
| Total | 2,982,995 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 2,982,995 |
| Total | 2,982,995 |

Sec. B.135 State labor relations board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 435,622 |
| Operating expenses | 85,406 |
| Total | 521,028 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 507,202 |
| Special funds | 11,038 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 2,788 |
| Total | 521,028 |

Sec. B.136 VOSHA review board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 114,314 |
| Operating expenses | 27,965 |
| Total | 142,279 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 91,275 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 51,004 |
| Total | 142,279 |

Sec. B.136.1 Ethics commission

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 364,306 |
| Operating expenses | 36,234 |
| Total | 400,540 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 150,000 |
| Internal service funds | 250,540 |
| Total | 400,540 |

Sec. B.137 Homeowner rebate

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 17,500,000 |
| Total | 17,500,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 17,500,000 |
| Total | 17,500,000 |

Sec. B.138 Renter rebate

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 15,500,000 |
| Total | 15,500,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 15,500,000 |
| Total | 15,500,000 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 3,410,000 |
| Total | 3,410,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 3,410,000 |
| Total | 3,410,000 |

Sec. B.140 Municipal current use

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 21,650,000 |
| Total | 21,650,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 21,650,000 |
| Total | 21,650,000 |

Sec. B.142 Payments in lieu of taxes

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

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

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

Sec. B.145 Total general government

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 152,613,175 |
| Transportation fund | 4,710,621 |
| Special funds | 37,647,737 |
| Federal funds | 1,241,835 |
| Internal service funds | 163,432,820 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 7,979,570 |
| Enterprise funds | 4,427 |
| Pension trust funds | 5,975,995 |
| Private purpose trust funds | 1,649,304 |
| Total | 375,255,484 |

Sec. B.200 Attorney general

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 17,117,330 |
| Operating expenses | 2,045,972 |
| Grants | 20,000 |
| Total | 19,183,302 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 8,947,036 |
| Special funds | 2,976,044 |
| Tobacco fund | 434,660 |
| Federal funds | 1,956,258 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 4,869,304 |
| Total | 19,183,302 |

Sec. B.201 Vermont court diversion

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,250 |
| Grants | 5,012,871 |
| Total | 5,014,121 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,756,124 |
| Special funds | 257,997 |
| Total | 5,014,121 |

Sec. B.202 Defender general - public defense

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 20,439,822 |
| Operating expenses | 1,855,610 |
| Total | 22,295,432 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 21,705,779 |
| Special funds | 589,653 |
| Total | 22,295,432 |

Sec. B.203 Defender general - assigned counsel

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 8,277,975 |
| Operating expenses | 64,500 |
| Total | 8,342,475 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 8,342,475 |
| Total | 8,342,475 |

Sec. B.204 Judiciary

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 67,540,550 |
| Operating expenses | 14,904,686 |
| Grants | 121,030 |
| Total | 82,566,266 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 76,767,361 |
| Special funds | 1,970,905 |
| Federal funds | 1,580,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 2,248,000 |
| Total | 82,566,266 |

Sec. B.205 State’s attorneys

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 19,675,456 |
| Operating expenses | 2,818,379 |
| Total | 22,493,835 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 21,865,234 |
| Federal funds | 31,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 597,601 |
| Total | 22,493,835 |

Sec. B.206 Special investigative unit

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 151,063 |
| Operating expenses | 34,335 |
| Grants | 2,174,400 |
| Total | 2,359,798 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,359,798 |
| Total | 2,359,798 |

Sec. B.206.1 Crime victims advocates

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,733,421 |
| Operating expenses | 104,756 |
| Total | 3,838,177 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,838,177 |
| Total | 3,838,177 |

Sec. B.207 Sheriffs

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,738,595 |
| Operating expenses | 475,338 |
| Total | 7,213,933 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 7,213,933 |
| Total | 7,213,933 |

Sec. B.208 Public safety - administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,697,580 |
| Operating expenses | 6,307,218 |
| Grants | 278,285 |
| Total | 13,283,083 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 7,978,921 |
| Special funds | 162,545 |
| Federal funds | 1,108,908 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 4,032,709 |
| Total | 13,283,083 |

Sec. B.209 Public safety - state police

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 85,401,432 |
| Operating expenses | 21,768,293 |
| Grants | 5,105,175 |
| Total | 112,274,900 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 92,333,444 |
| Special funds | 3,272,346 |
| Federal funds | 15,200,575 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,468,535 |
| Total | 112,274,900 |

Sec. B.210 Public safety - criminal justice services

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 5,274,841 |
| Operating expenses | 2,267,161 |
| Grants | 47,775 |
| Total | 7,589,777 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,140,979 |
| Special funds | 3,502,099 |
| Federal funds | 946,699 |
| Total | 7,589,777 |

Sec. B.211 Public safety - emergency management

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,727,689 |
| Operating expenses | 1,030,786 |
| Grants | 62,267,474 |
| Total | 70,025,949 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,717,693 |
| Special funds | 710,000 |
| Federal funds | 67,578,256 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 20,000 |
| Total | 70,025,949 |

Sec. B.212 Public safety - fire safety

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 10,703,913 |
| Operating expenses | 4,581,165 |
| Grants | 55,000 |
| Total | 15,340,078 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,339,163 |
| Special funds | 11,259,010 |
| Federal funds | 1,696,905 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 45,000 |
| Total | 15,340,078 |

Sec. B.213 Public safety - forensic laboratory

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,643,753 |
| Operating expenses | 1,465,076 |
| Total | 6,108,829 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,435,869 |
| Special funds | 70,131 |
| Federal funds | 1,087,429 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 515,400 |
| Total | 6,108,829 |

Sec. B.215 Military - administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,179,336 |
| Operating expenses | 916,266 |
| Grants | 1,219,834 |
| Total | 3,315,436 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,315,436 |
| Total | 3,315,436 |

Sec. B.216 Military - air service contract

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 12,390,019 |
| Operating expenses | 1,476,497 |
| Total | 13,866,516 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 846,658 |
| Federal funds | 13,019,858 |
| Total | 13,866,516 |

Sec. B.217 Military - army service contract

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 45,572,956 |
| Operating expenses | 8,116,785 |
| Total | 53,689,741 |
| Source of funds | |
| Federal funds | 53,689,741 |
| Total | 53,689,741 |

Sec. B.218 Military - building maintenance

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,215,984 |
| Operating expenses | 773,080 |
| Total | 1,989,064 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,926,564 |
| Special funds | 62,500 |
| Total | 1,989,064 |

Sec. B.219 Military - veterans' affairs

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,462,774 |
| Operating expenses | 189,912 |
| Grants | 37,500 |
| Total | 1,690,186 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,511,104 |
| Special funds | 52,149 |
| Federal funds | 126,933 |
| Total | 1,690,186 |

Sec. B.220 Center for crime victim services

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,391,977 |
| Operating expenses | 349,027 |
| Grants | 8,450,425 |
| Total | 11,191,429 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,662,398 |
| Special funds | 3,765,489 |
| Federal funds | 5,763,542 |
| Total | 11,191,429 |

Sec. B.221 Criminal justice council

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,691,167 |
| Operating expenses | 1,987,866 |
| Total | 4,679,033 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,331,708 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 347,325 |
| Total | 4,679,033 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,612,905 |
| Operating expenses | 462,506 |
| Total | 4,075,411 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,650,272 |
| Special funds | 1,919,780 |
| Federal funds | 497,859 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 7,500 |
| Total | 4,075,411 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,110,557 |
| Operating expenses | 1,310,703 |
| Grants | 2,780,000 |
| Total | 10,201,260 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,235,750 |
| Special funds | 3,830,620 |
| Federal funds | 2,122,890 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 12,000 |
| Total | 10,201,260 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,031,439 |
| Operating expenses | 720,667 |
| Grants | 16,318,200 |
| Total | 20,070,306 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,232,484 |
| Special funds | 683,149 |
| Federal funds | 16,103,955 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 50,718 |
| Total | 20,070,306 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,112,283 |
| Operating expenses | 916,568 |
| Grants | 555,000 |
| Total | 4,583,851 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 808,770 |
| Special funds | 2,977,583 |
| Federal funds | 411,751 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 385,747 |
| Total | 4,583,851 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,118,554 |
| Operating expenses | 1,425,694 |
| Total | 3,544,248 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,657,622 |
| Special funds | 1,799,983 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 86,643 |
| Total | 3,544,248 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,302,930 |
| Operating expenses | 596,899 |
| Grants | 13,704,381 |
| Total | 18,604,210 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,040,981 |
| Special funds | 13,143,719 |
| Federal funds | 899,994 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 2,519,516 |
| Total | 18,604,210 |

Sec. B.226 Financial regulation - administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,191,764 |
| Operating expenses | 119,849 |
| Grants | 100,000 |
| Total | 3,411,613 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 3,411,613 |
| Total | 3,411,613 |

Sec. B.227 Financial regulation - banking

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,626,530 |
| Operating expenses | 489,061 |
| Total | 3,115,591 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 3,115,591 |
| Total | 3,115,591 |

Sec. B.228 Financial regulation - insurance

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,081,320 |
| Operating expenses | 726,826 |
| Total | 6,808,146 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 6,808,146 |
| Total | 6,808,146 |

Sec. B.229 Financial regulation - captive insurance

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 5,852,030 |
| Operating expenses | 485,166 |
| Total | 6,337,196 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 6,337,196 |
| Total | 6,337,196 |

Sec. B.230 Financial regulation - securities

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,484,957 |
| Operating expenses | 236,805 |
| Total | 1,721,762 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 1,721,762 |
| Total | 1,721,762 |

Sec. B.232 Secretary of state

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 22,771,803 |
| Operating expenses | 3,553,687 |
| Grants | 1,800,000 |
| Total | 28,125,490 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,800,000 |
| Special funds | 21,682,168 |
| Federal funds | 4,643,322 |
| Total | 28,125,490 |

Sec. B.233 Public service - regulation and energy

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 13,710,252 |
| Operating expenses | 2,748,196 |
| Grants | 16,375,000 |
| Total | 32,833,448 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 12,654,322 |
| Federal funds | 18,595,869 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,568,571 |
| Enterprise funds | 14,686 |
| Total | 32,833,448 |

Sec. B.233.1 VT Community broadband board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,453,429 |
| Operating expenses | 816,431 |
| Grants | 43,000,000 |
| Total | 46,269,860 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 882,735 |
| Federal funds | 45,387,125 |
| Total | 46,269,860 |

Sec. B.234 Public utility commission

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,685,041 |
| Operating expenses | 604,301 |
| Total | 5,289,342 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 5,289,342 |
| Total | 5,289,342 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,854,520 |
| Operating expenses | 704,797 |
| Total | 5,559,317 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 5,559,317 |
| Total | 5,559,317 |

Sec. B.236 Human rights commission

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,352,987 |
| Operating expenses | 178,128 |
| Total | 1,531,115 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,531,115 |
| Total | 1,531,115 |

Sec. B.236.1 Liquor and lottery commission

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 11,295,690 |
| Operating expenses | 5,914,352 |
| Total | 17,210,042 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 125,000 |
| Tobacco fund | 252,863 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 70,000 |
| Enterprise funds | 16,762,179 |
| Total | 17,210,042 |

Sec. B.240 Cannabis control board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,669,174 |
| Operating expenses | 2,456,952 |
| Grants | 15,000 |
| Total | 7,141,126 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,576,032 |
| Special funds | 2,565,094 |
| Total | 7,141,126 |

Sec. B.241 Total protection to persons and property

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 302,868,880 |
| Special funds | 123,157,988 |
| Tobacco fund | 687,523 |
| Federal funds | 252,448,869 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 18,844,569 |
| Enterprise funds | 16,776,865 |
| Total | 714,784,694 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 18,803,543 |
| Operating expenses | 8,491,902 |
| Grants | 3,257,864 |
| Total | 30,553,309 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 12,150,921 |
| Special funds | 135,517 |
| Federal funds | 15,052,120 |
| Global Commitment fund | 2,875,929 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 338,822 |
| Total | 30,553,309 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 2,273,186,435 |
| Total | 2,273,186,435 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 743,900,289 |
| Special funds | 31,874,504 |
| Tobacco fund | 21,049,373 |
| State health care resources fund | 31,074,772 |
| Federal funds | 1,440,101,602 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 5,185,895 |
| Total | 2,273,186,435 |

Sec. B.303 Developmental disabilities council

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 536,809 |
| Operating expenses | 91,194 |
| Grants | 191,595 |
| Total | 819,598 |
| Source of funds | |
| Federal funds | 819,598 |
| Total | 819,598 |

Sec. B.304 Human services board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 837,298 |
| Operating expenses | 103,145 |
| Total | 940,443 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 550,413 |
| Federal funds | 390,030 |
| Total | 940,443 |

Sec. B.305 AHS - administrative fund

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 147,234,611 |
| Operating expenses | 47,892,588 |
| Grants | 3,112,301 |
| Total | 198,239,500 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 43,531,984 |
| Special funds | 11,408,238 |
| Federal funds | 135,473,624 |
| Global Commitment fund | 4,814,385 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 3,011,269 |
| Total | 198,239,500 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 1,018,891,468 |
| Total | 1,018,891,468 |
| Source of funds | |
| Global Commitment fund | 1,018,891,468 |
| Total | 1,018,891,468 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 87,719,396 |
| Total | 87,719,396 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 62,223,167 |
| Special funds | 20,025,000 |
| Global Commitment fund | 5,471,229 |
| Total | 87,719,396 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 53,713,422 |
| Total | 53,713,422 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 13,976,890 |
| Federal funds | 39,736,532 |
| Total | 53,713,422 |

Sec. B.311 Health - administration and support

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 9,530,484 |
| Operating expenses | 9,699,306 |
| Grants | 0 |
| Total | 19,229,790 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,988,804 |
| Special funds | 1,584,462 |
| Tobacco fund | 70,101 |
| Federal funds | 9,440,311 |
| Global Commitment fund | 4,018,122 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 127,990 |
| Total | 19,229,790 |

Sec. B.312 Health - public health

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 74,383,408 |
| Operating expenses | 9,332,917 |
| Grants | 50,181,945 |
| Total | 133,898,270 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 16,942,106 |
| Special funds | 28,928,042 |
| Tobacco fund | 1,022,514 |
| Federal funds | 64,633,236 |
| Global Commitment fund | 19,796,403 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 2,550,969 |
| Permanent trust funds | 25,000 |
| Total | 133,898,270 |

Sec. B.313 Health - substance use programs

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,228,331 |
| Operating expenses | 1,597,360 |
| Grants | 62,950,881 |
| Total | 70,776,572 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,597,402 |
| Special funds | 11,594,473 |
| Tobacco fund | 949,917 |
| Federal funds | 16,490,182 |
| Global Commitment fund | 37,144,598 |
| Total | 70,776,572 |

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 15,045,226 |
| Operating expenses | 3,284,381 |
| Grants | 284,925,309 |
| Total | 303,254,916 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 16,159,945 |
| Special funds | 1,006,836 |
| Federal funds | 13,679,245 |
| Global Commitment fund | 271,143,986 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,264,904 |
| Total | 303,254,916 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 42,645,892 |
| Operating expenses | 3,453,114 |
| Total | 46,099,006 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 23,627,954 |
| Special funds | 1,711,833 |
| Global Commitment fund | 20,759,219 |
| Total | 46,099,006 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 53,504,671 |
| Operating expenses | 21,318,873 |
| Grants | 5,311,047 |
| Total | 80,134,591 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 54,056,305 |
| Special funds | 2,695,360 |
| Federal funds | 20,162,623 |
| Global Commitment fund | 2,593,300 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 627,003 |
| Total | 80,134,591 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 53,086,776 |
| Operating expenses | 5,608,679 |
| Grants | 101,038,145 |
| Total | 159,733,600 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 68,388,078 |
| Special funds | 729,150 |
| Federal funds | 37,280,968 |
| Global Commitment fund | 53,320,404 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 15,000 |
| Total | 159,733,600 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 7,080,069 |
| Operating expenses | 1,017,973 |
| Grants | 225,731,684 |
| Total | 233,829,726 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 71,876,506 |
| Special funds | 104,967,803 |
| Federal funds | 42,948,970 |
| Global Commitment fund | 14,036,447 |
| Total | 233,829,726 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 14,842,317 |
| Operating expenses | 3,753,380 |
| Total | 18,595,697 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 5,841,149 |
| Special funds | 453,110 |
| Federal funds | 11,913,838 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 387,600 |
| Total | 18,595,697 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,611,765 |
| Grants | 10,283,881 |
| Total | 12,895,646 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 7,452,643 |
| Global Commitment fund | 5,443,003 |
| Total | 12,895,646 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 15,000 |
| Grants | 11,190,819 |
| Total | 11,205,819 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 11,004,245 |
| Federal funds | 11,098 |
| Global Commitment fund | 190,476 |
| Total | 11,205,819 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 53,077,812 |
| Total | 53,077,812 |
| Source of funds | |
| Federal funds | 53,077,812 |
| Total | 53,077,812 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Operating expenses | 23,821 |
| Grants | 32,466,947 |
| Total | 32,490,768 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 17,904,212 |
| Special funds | 6,106,068 |
| Federal funds | 4,953,062 |
| Global Commitment fund | 3,527,426 |
| Total | 32,490,768 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 20,730,395 |
| Total | 20,730,395 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 1,480,395 |
| Federal funds | 19,250,000 |
| Total | 20,730,395 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,872,257 |
| Operating expenses | 188,231 |
| Grants | 55,272,640 |
| Total | 57,333,128 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 48,486,907 |
| Special funds | 83,135 |
| Federal funds | 5,139,585 |
| Global Commitment fund | 3,623,501 |
| Total | 57,333,128 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 473,291 |
| Operating expenses | 277,072 |
| Grants | 16,147,885 |
| Total | 16,898,248 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 7,733,295 |
| Federal funds | 9,164,953 |
| Total | 16,898,248 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 258,100 |
| Operating expenses | 38,870 |
| Grants | 4,476,862 |
| Total | 4,773,832 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,743,832 |
| Global Commitment fund | 30,000 |
| Total | 4,773,832 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 8,771,035 |
| Operating expenses | 632,678 |
| Total | 9,403,713 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 141,599 |
| Federal funds | 9,262,114 |
| Total | 9,403,713 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 53,613,657 |
| Operating expenses | 7,899,745 |
| Total | 61,513,402 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 28,240,734 |
| Special funds | 2,601,056 |
| Federal funds | 29,054,031 |
| Global Commitment fund | 110,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,507,581 |
| Total | 61,513,402 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 27,332,274 |
| Total | 27,332,274 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 8,769,909 |
| Federal funds | 10,541,896 |
| Global Commitment fund | 8,020,469 |
| Total | 27,332,274 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 3,557,604 |
| Total | 3,557,604 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 639,154 |
| Special funds | 223,450 |
| Federal funds | 2,390,000 |
| Global Commitment fund | 305,000 |
| Total | 3,557,604 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 10,145,384 |
| Total | 10,145,384 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 371,845 |
| Federal funds | 9,616,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 157,539 |
| Total | 10,145,384 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 361,412,468 |
| Total | 361,412,468 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 132,732 |
| Special funds | 15,463 |
| Federal funds | 200,000 |
| Global Commitment fund | 360,997,607 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 66,666 |
| Total | 361,412,468 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 7,617,804 |
| Total | 7,617,804 |
| Source of funds | |
| Global Commitment fund | 7,617,804 |
| Total | 7,617,804 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 363,402,885 |
| Total | 363,402,885 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 498,579 |
| Federal funds | 2,450,000 |
| Global Commitment fund | 360,454,306 |
| Total | 363,402,885 |

Sec. B.335 Corrections - administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,294,173 |
| Operating expenses | 269,950 |
| Total | 6,564,123 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 6,564,123 |
| Total | 6,564,123 |

Sec. B.336 Corrections - parole board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 546,911 |
| Operating expenses | 60,112 |
| Total | 607,023 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 607,023 |
| Total | 607,023 |

Sec. B.337 Corrections - correctional education

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 4,229,246 |
| Operating expenses | 255,064 |
| Total | 4,484,310 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,335,526 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 148,784 |
| Total | 4,484,310 |

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 185,053,487 |
| Operating expenses | 28,640,294 |
| Grants | 801,823 |
| Total | 214,495,604 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 205,731,635 |
| Special funds | 935,963 |
| Federal funds | 581,790 |
| Global Commitment fund | 6,849,901 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 396,315 |
| Total | 214,495,604 |

Sec. B.338.1 Corrections - justice reinvestment II

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 11,189,702 |
| Total | 11,189,702 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 8,625,161 |
| Global Commitment fund | 2,564,541 |
| Total | 11,189,702 |

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

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

Sec. B.340 Corrections - correctional facilities - recreation

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 694,135 |
| Operating expenses | 457,555 |
| Total | 1,151,690 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 1,151,690 |
| Total | 1,151,690 |

Sec. B.341 Corrections - Vermont offender work program

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 515,893 |
| Operating expenses | 160,570 |
| Total | 676,463 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 676,463 |
| Total | 676,463 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 24,295,479 |
| Operating expenses | 7,265,907 |
| Total | 31,561,386 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 10,370,653 |
| Special funds | 12,153,730 |
| Federal funds | 9,037,003 |
| Total | 31,561,386 |

Sec. B.343 Commission on women

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 446,911 |
| Operating expenses | 93,377 |
| Total | 540,288 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 536,228 |
| Special funds | 4,060 |
| Total | 540,288 |

Sec. B.344 Retired senior volunteer program

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 169,909 |
| Total | 169,909 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 169,909 |
| Total | 169,909 |

Sec. B.345 Green mountain care board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 10,791,488 |
| Operating expenses | 585,144 |
| Total | 11,376,632 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,403,223 |
| Special funds | 6,973,409 |
| Total | 11,376,632 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 407,107 |
| Operating expenses | 85,059 |
| Total | 492,166 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 492,166 |
| Total | 492,166 |

Sec. B.347 Total human services

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,516,164,329 |
| Special funds | 256,576,042 |
| Tobacco fund | 23,091,905 |
| State health care resources fund | 31,074,772 |
| Federal funds | 2,012,852,223 |
| Global Commitment fund | 2,214,599,524 |
| Internal service funds | 676,463 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 29,286,337 |
| Permanent trust funds | 25,000 |
| Total | 6,084,346,595 |

Sec. B.400 Labor - programs

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 37,245,562 |
| Operating expenses | 5,944,271 |
| Grants | 1,632,900 |
| Total | 44,822,733 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 11,854,490 |
| Special funds | 10,685,153 |
| Federal funds | 22,188,227 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 94,863 |
| Total | 44,822,733 |

Sec. B.401 Total labor

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 11,854,490 |
| Special funds | 10,685,153 |
| Federal funds | 22,188,227 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 94,863 |
| Total | 44,822,733 |

Sec. B.500 Education - education services

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 34,311,091 |
| Operating expenses | 6,389,982 |
| Grants | 188,531,318 |
| Total | 229,232,391 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 20,194,009 |
| Special funds | 2,111,117 |
| Tobacco fund | 750,388 |
| Education fund | 3,937,725 |
| Federal funds | 200,665,386 |
| Global Commitment fund | 260,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,313,766 |
| Total | 229,232,391 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,083,000 |
| Grants | 275,642,100 |
| Total | 276,725,100 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 276,725,100 |
| Total | 276,725,100 |

Sec. B.503 Education - state-placed students

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 18,286,500 |
| Total | 18,286,500 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 18,286,500 |
| Total | 18,286,500 |

Sec. B.504 Education - adult education and literacy

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 5,290,338 |
| Total | 5,290,338 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,349,673 |
| Federal funds | 940,665 |
| Total | 5,290,338 |

Sec. B.504.1 Education - Flexible Pathways

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 11,742,782 |
| Total | 11,742,782 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 921,500 |
| Education fund | 10,821,282 |
| Total | 11,742,782 |

Sec. B.505 Education - adjusted education payment

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 2,067,557,580 |
| Total | 2,067,557,580 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 2,067,557,580 |
| Total | 2,067,557,580 |

Sec. B.506 Education - transportation

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 26,925,382 |
| Total | 26,925,382 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 26,925,382 |
| Total | 26,925,382 |

Sec. B.507 Education - merger support grants

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

Sec. B.507.1 Education - EL categorical aid

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 2,500,000 |
| Total | 2,500,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 2,500,000 |
| Total | 2,500,000 |

Sec. B.508 Education - nutrition

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 18,300,000 |
| Total | 18,300,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 18,300,000 |
| Total | 18,300,000 |

Sec. B.509 Education - afterschool grant program

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 484,293 |
| Operating expenses | 20,707 |
| Grants | 9,595,000 |
| Total | 10,100,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Special funds | 10,100,000 |
| Total | 10,100,000 |

Sec. B.510 Education - essential early education grant

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 9,552,240 |
| Total | 9,552,240 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 9,552,240 |
| Total | 9,552,240 |

Sec. B.511 Education - technical education

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 19,636,750 |
| Total | 19,636,750 |
| Source of funds | |
| Education fund | 19,636,750 |
| Total | 19,636,750 |

Sec. B.511.1 State board of education

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 184,208 |
| Operating expenses | 16,500 |
| Total | 200,708 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 200,708 |
| Total | 200,708 |

Sec. B.513 Retired teachers pension plus funding

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

Sec. B.514 State teachers' retirement system

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 212,905,084 |
| Total | 212,905,084 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 170,750,066 |
| Education fund | 42,155,018 |
| Total | 212,905,084 |

Sec. B.514.1 State teachers' retirement system administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 428,408 |
| Operating expenses | 3,750,161 |
| Total | 4,178,569 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Pension trust funds | 4,178,569 |
| Total | 4,178,569 |

Sec. B.515 Retired teachers' health care and medical benefits

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 90,834,595 |
| Total | 90,834,595 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 62,640,904 |
| Education fund | 28,193,691 |
| Total | 90,834,595 |

Sec. B.516 Total general education

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 274,056,860 |
| Special funds | 12,211,117 |
| Tobacco fund | 750,388 |
| Education fund | 2,526,391,268 |
| Federal funds | 201,606,051 |
| Global Commitment fund | 260,000 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,313,766 |
| Pension trust funds | 4,178,569 |
| Total | 3,020,768,019 |

Sec. B.600 University of Vermont

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 59,099,447 |
| Total | 59,099,447 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 59,099,447 |
| Total | 59,099,447 |

Sec. B.602 Vermont state colleges

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 54,042,753 |
| Total | 54,042,753 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 54,042,753 |
| Total | 54,042,753 |

Sec. B.603 Vermont state colleges - allied health

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 1,806,000 |
| Total | 1,806,000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 306,000 |
| Global Commitment fund | 1,500,000 |
| Total | 1,806,000 |

Sec. B.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 27,897,494 |
| Total | 27,897,494 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 27,897,494 |
| Total | 27,897,494 |

Sec. B.605.1 VSAC - flexible pathways stipend

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

Sec. B.606 New England higher education compact

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

Sec. B.607 Total higher education

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 141,473,439 |
| Education fund | 41,225 |
| Global Commitment fund | 1,500,000 |
| Total | 143,014,664 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,881,451 |
| Operating expenses | 1,291,376 |
| Grants | 5,000 |
| Total | 8,177,827 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 5,628,757 |
| Special funds | 687,843 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,861,227 |
| Total | 8,177,827 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Operating expenses | 2,711,643 |
| Total | 2,711,643 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,290,143 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 421,500 |
| Total | 2,711,643 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 25,124,512 |
| Operating expenses | 7,287,815 |
| Grants | 824,803 |
| Total | 33,237,130 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 10,313,811 |
| Special funds | 379,405 |
| Fish and wildlife fund | 10,864,047 |
| Federal funds | 10,133,967 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,545,900 |
| Total | 33,237,130 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 1,644,130 |
| Operating expenses | 1,807,698 |
| Total | 3,451,828 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,207,811 |
| Special funds | 138,261 |
| Federal funds | 105,756 |
| Total | 3,451,828 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 10,669,963 |
| Operating expenses | 1,397,258 |
| Grants | 2,517,648 |
| Total | 14,584,869 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 7,196,482 |
| Special funds | 1,553,980 |
| Federal funds | 5,657,787 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 176,620 |
| Total | 14,584,869 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 14,447,858 |
| Operating expenses | 4,775,590 |
| Grants | 598,307 |
| Total | 19,821,755 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,774,736 |
| Special funds | 18,047,019 |
| Total | 19,821,755 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 8,459,029 |
| Operating expenses | 4,627,930 |
| Grants | 2,469,865 |
| Total | 15,556,824 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,403,261 |
| Special funds | 2,430,801 |
| Federal funds | 11,180,116 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 542,646 |
| Total | 15,556,824 |

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

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 10,017,955 |
| Operating expenses | 5,850,830 |
| Grants | 191,597 |
| Total | 16,060,382 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 2,207,896 |
| Special funds | 1,593,728 |
| Federal funds | 2,948,598 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 9,310,160 |
| Total | 16,060,382 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 15,391,418 |
| Operating expenses | 5,574,446 |
| Grants | 7,623,000 |
| Total | 28,588,864 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,476,577 |
| Special funds | 20,742,337 |
| Federal funds | 6,202,095 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 167,855 |
| Total | 28,588,864 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 43,817,953 |
| Operating expenses | 9,017,743 |
| Grants | 104,714,537 |
| Total | 157,550,233 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 13,321,778 |
| Special funds | 34,702,513 |
| Federal funds | 108,412,378 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,113,564 |
| Total | 157,550,233 |

Sec. B.713 Land use review board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 5,298,333 |
| Operating expenses | 598,682 |
| Total | 5,897,015 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 4,364,343 |
| Special funds | 1,532,672 |
| Total | 5,897,015 |

Sec. B.714 Total natural resources

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 53,415,520 |
| Special funds | 81,808,559 |
| Fish and wildlife fund | 10,864,047 |
| Federal funds | 144,640,697 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 15,139,472 |
| Total | 305,868,295 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,617,789 |
| Operating expenses | 921,911 |
| Grants | 424,320 |
| Total | 3,964,020 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 3,964,020 |
| Total | 3,964,020 |

Sec. B.801 Economic development

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,221,256 |
| Operating expenses | 1,306,125 |
| Grants | 6,506,544 |
| Total | 11,033,925 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 6,105,922 |
| Special funds | 3,314,565 |
| Federal funds | 1,613,438 |
| Total | 11,033,925 |

Sec. B.802 Housing and community development

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,568,853 |
| Operating expenses | 2,253,786 |
| Grants | 45,303,523 |
| Total | 54,126,162 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 12,002,421 |
| Transportation fund | 1,000,000 |
| Special funds | 10,679,645 |
| Federal funds | 30,444,096 |
| Total | 54,126,162 |

Sec. B.806 Tourism and marketing

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 2,284,798 |
| Operating expenses | 1,785,851 |
| Grants | 1,020,000 |
| Total | 5,090,649 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 5,090,649 |
| Total | 5,090,649 |

Sec. B.808 Vermont council on the arts

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 1,071,800 |
| Total | 1,071,800 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,071,800 |
| Total | 1,071,800 |

Sec. B.809 Vermont symphony orchestra

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 158,795 |
| Total | 158,795 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 158,795 |
| Total | 158,795 |

Sec. B.810 Vermont historical society

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 1,245,583 |
| Total | 1,245,583 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,245,583 |
| Total | 1,245,583 |

Sec. B.811 Vermont housing and conservation board

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 100,358,842 |
| Total | 100,358,842 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 1,680,529 |
| Special funds | 39,341,857 |
| Federal funds | 59,336,456 |
| Total | 100,358,842 |

Sec. B.812 Vermont humanities council

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 327,818 |
| Total | 327,818 |
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 327,818 |
| Total | 327,818 |

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| General fund | 31,647,537 |
| Transportation fund | 1,000,000 |
| Special funds | 53,336,067 |
| Federal funds | 91,393,990 |
| Total | 177,377,594 |

Sec. B.900 Transportation - finance and administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 19,147,814 |
| Operating expenses | 6,291,478 |
| Grants | 50,000 |
| Total | 25,489,292 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 24,169,252 |
| Federal funds | 1,320,040 |
| Total | 25,489,292 |

Sec. B.901 Transportation - aviation

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 5,289,467 |
| Operating expenses | 7,691,413 |
| Total | 12,980,880 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 6,710,146 |
| Federal funds | 6,270,734 |
| Total | 12,980,880 |

Sec. B.902 Transportation - buildings

| | |
|---|---|
| Operating expenses | 1,700,000 |
| Total | 1,700,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 1,700,000 |
| Total | 1,700,000 |

Sec. B.903 Transportation - program development

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 109,305,403 |
| Operating expenses | 304,422,913 |
| Grants | 51,321,428 |
| Total | 465,049,744 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 66,875,701 |
| TIB fund | 14,575,436 |
| Special funds | 280,000 |
| Federal funds | 363,035,876 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 10,331,303 |
| Local match | 9,951,428 |
| Total | 465,049,744 |

Sec. B.904 Transportation - rest areas construction

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 180,000 |
| Operating expenses | 270,000 |
| Total | 450,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 45,000 |
| Federal funds | 405,000 |
| Total | 450,000 |

Sec. B.905 Transportation - maintenance state system

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 52,774,612 |
| Operating expenses | 59,752,063 |
| Total | 112,526,675 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 109,994,661 |
| Federal funds | 2,432,014 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 100,000 |
| Total | 112,526,675 |

Sec. B.906 Transportation - policy and planning

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,368,645 |
| Operating expenses | 299,526 |
| Grants | 10,254,679 |
| Total | 13,922,850 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 2,378,766 |
| Federal funds | 11,444,134 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 99,950 |
| Total | 13,922,850 |

Sec. B.906.1 Transportation - environmental policy and sustainability

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 14,855,456 |
| Operating expenses | 89,082 |
| Total | 14,944,538 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 371,589 |
| Federal funds | 11,025,693 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,141,695 |
| Local match | 2,405,561 |
| Total | 14,944,538 |

Sec. B.907 Transportation - rail

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 8,671,804 |
| Operating expenses | 51,567,606 |
| Grants | 50,000 |
| Total | 60,289,410 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 12,548,774 |
| TIB fund | 1,000,000 |
| Federal funds | 34,688,907 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 6,854,052 |
| Local match | 5,197,677 |
| Total | 60,289,410 |

Sec. B.907.1 Transportation - Rail Trails Program

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 3,577,763 |
| Operating expenses | 57,266 |
| Total | 3,635,029 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 478,272 |
| Federal funds | 1,769,326 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,387,431 |
| Total | 3,635,029 |

Sec. B.908 Transportation - public transit

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 136,840 |
| Operating expenses | 71,582 |
| Grants | 57,646,725 |
| Total | 57,855,147 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 9,947,447 |
| Federal funds | 46,607,700 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 1,300,000 |
| Total | 57,855,147 |

Sec. B.909 Transportation - central garage

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 6,345,376 |
| Operating expenses | 19,725,126 |
| Total | 26,070,502 |
| Source of funds | |
| Internal service funds | 26,070,502 |
| Total | 26,070,502 |

Sec. B.910 Department of motor vehicles

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 39,906,668 |
| Operating expenses | 11,738,708 |
| Total | 51,645,376 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 46,545,599 |
| Federal funds | 4,978,081 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 121,696 |
| Total | 51,645,376 |

Sec. B.911 Transportation - town highway structures

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 7,394,400 |
| Total | 7,394,400 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 7,394,400 |
| Total | 7,394,400 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 439,752 |
| Operating expenses | 28,700 |
| Grants | 13,000 |
| Total | 481,452 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 121,452 |
| Federal funds | 360,000 |
| Total | 481,452 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 8,832,200 |
| Total | 8,832,200 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 8,832,200 |
| Total | 8,832,200 |

Sec. B.914 Transportation - town highway bridges

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 9,168,000 |
| Operating expenses | 19,830,382 |
| Grants | 1,280,000 |
| Total | 30,278,382 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| TIB fund | 2,774,564 |
| Federal funds | 25,604,186 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 255,672 |
| Local match | 1,643,960 |
| Total | 30,278,382 |

Sec. B.915 Transportation - town highway aid program

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 31,240,042 |
| Total | 31,240,042 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 31,240,042 |
| Total | 31,240,042 |

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

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants | 1,150,000 |
| Total | 1,150,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 1,150,000 |
| Total | 1,150,000 |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 500,000 |
| Operating expenses | 50,000 |
| Grants | 3,450,000 |
| Total | 4,000,000 |
| Source of funds | |
| Federal funds | 4,000,000 |
| Total | 4,000,000 |

Sec. B.919 Transportation - municipal mitigation assistance program

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 137,500 |
| Operating expenses | 310,500 |
| Grants | 5,695,000 |
| Total | 6,143,000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 715,000 |
| Special funds | 4,000,000 |
| Federal funds | 1,428,000 |
| Total | 6,143,000 |

Sec. B.921 Transportation board

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal services | 176,096 |
| Operating expenses | 19,208 |
| Total | 195,304 |
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 195,304 |
| Total | 195,304 |

Sec. B.922 Total transportation

| | |
|---|---|
| Source of funds | |
| Transportation fund | 331,542,355 |
| TIB fund | 18,350,000 |
| Special funds | 4,280,000 |
| Federal funds | 515,369,691 |
| Internal service funds | 26,070,502 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 21,591,799 |
| Local match | 19,198,626 |
| Total | 936,402,973 |

Sec. B.1000 Debt service

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

Sec. B.1001 Total debt service

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

* * * Fiscal Year 2027 One-Time Appropriations * * *

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration Secretary’s office. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $110,000 General Fund for the Office of Racial Equity to continue for an additional year the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Vermont program.

(2) $900,000 General Fund to complete the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

(b) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $300,000 General Fund and $2,700,000 federal funds for information technology updates resulting from the 2025 federal H.R.1 Medicaid changes.

(2) $1,210,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants.

(3) $3,708,562 Global Commitment for enhanced rates to primary care providers pursuant to Sec. E.306.3 of this act.

(c) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $21,183,809 General Fund for the provision of services, implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum, shelter development and operation, emergency housing in hotels and motels, grants to municipalities, emergency cold weather shelters, and supportive services, including case management, staffing, grants, and contracts to be allocated as follows:

(A) $14,118,880 for emergency housing in hotels and motels;

(B) $2,064,929 for staffing, grants, and contracts;

(C) $3,000,000 for shelter development;

(D) $500,000 for grants to municipalities pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2209(a); and

(E) $1,500,000 for emergency cold-weather shelters.

(2) $164,500 General Fund and $29,873 Global Commitment for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

(3) $180,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Parent Child Center Network for concrete supports programs.

(4) $200,000 General Fund for a grant to End Homelessness Vermont to continue providing statewide housing navigation, case management, service coordination, technical assistance, appeals, and permanent housing support for individuals living with complex needs and disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

(5) $130,000 General Fund for distribution to supervised visitation programs pursuant to Sec. E.317 of this act.

(6) $4,000,000 General Fund for a temporary secure treatment facility for youth.

(7) $550,000 General Fund for direct aid to the Vermont Foodbank's network partners through an equitable statewide distribution of food or subgrants, or both.

(8) $293,866 Global Commitment for post permanency adoption services.

(d) Agency of Human Services Secretary's office. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $200,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Legal Aid for an immigration attorney.

(2) $500,000 General Fund and $692,464 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (k)(2) of this section to support Meals on Wheels programs.

(3) $12,526 General Fund and $17,347 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (c)(2) of this section for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for nurturing parenting programs.

(4) $1,555,000 General Fund and $2,153,562 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (b)(3) of this section for enhanced rates to primary care providers pursuant to Sec. E.306.3 of this act.

(5) $123,218 General Fund and $170,648 federal funds for the Global Commitment appropriation in subdivision (c)(8) of this section for post permanency adoption services.

(6) $56,000 General Fund, $44,000 federal funds, and $100,000 Global Commitment for a grant to Vermont Legal Aid for the Vermont Legal Aid Helpline.

(e) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $200,000 General Fund for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative grants.

(2) $300,000 General Fund for the Serve Learn Earn Program.

(f) Department of Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $800,000 General Fund for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program.

(2) $1,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont State Housing Authority for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 45.

(3) $100,000 General Fund for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency First Generation Homebuyer Program.

(4) $25,000 General Fund for a grant to the South Hero Service Committee to design and construct a building.

(5) $50,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission for the 250th celebration.

(6) $250,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Council on Rural Development for municipal technical assistance.

(g) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $150,000 General Fund for maintaining the current contract with the Canadian International Economic Development Partnership to provide in-market services to Montreal-based businesses seeking to expand into Vermont.

(2) $75,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Professionals of Color Network.

(3) $2,000,000 General Fund for the Rural Industry Development Program.

(4) $100,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Law and Graduate School for its public education offerings and free legal support to small businesses through its Vermont Small Business Law Center.

(5) $150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Small Business Development Center to support the continuation of its work in helping Vermonters start, acquire, and grow businesses and to increase business advising and educational workshops to meet increasing demands of entrepreneurs and small business owners post pandemic.

(h) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $1,360,069 Transportation Fund for the FEMA 428 project relocating the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin.

(2) $1,347,107 PILOT Special Fund, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), for grants to municipalities that would have otherwise been eligible for federal aid if a presidential disaster declaration had been approved for damage incurred in Caledonia County during July 2025. Grants shall be provided on a reimbursement basis for actual costs incurred under the following conditions:

(A) Awards shall be for repairs made to infrastructure included in damage estimates conducted by the Agency of Transportation in March 2026 for the July 2025 disaster.

(B) Awards shall be for up to 50 percent of the repair costs estimated by the Agency of Transportation in March 2026.

(C) The repair conducted is compliant with all applicable Vermont statutes and regulations.

(D) The recipient agrees to maintain documentation as required by the Agency of Transportation.

(E) The recipient accepts other award terms and conditions as determined by the Agency of Transportation and required by Agency of Administration Bulletin 5 to ensure the funds are spent appropriately and effectively.

(3) $300,000 General Fund for supplemental nonemergency medical transportation funding.

(4) $3,000,000 PILOT Special Fund, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), to provide additional grants through the general State aid to town highways program pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306(a). The amount appropriated pursuant to this subdivision shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease any amounts appropriated pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 306(a) in fiscal year 2027.

(i) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $140,000 General Fund for the Vermont State Youth Council.

(2) $150,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials for Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak, natural disaster, or other public health emergency.

(j) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $160,000 General Fund for a grant to the Howard Center for the Community Outreach Program.

(k) Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

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

(2) $1,192,464 Global Commitment to support Meals on Wheels programs.

(3) $100,000 General Fund for a grant to support the start-up costs of a new adult day program in Washington or Rutland county or to support the cost of an existing adult day program to expand its capacity to serve more individuals.

(l) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $350,000 General Fund for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs.

(2) $300,000 General Fund for grants to Vermont's 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts.

(3) $250,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program.

(m) Office of the Secretary of State. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $90,000 General Fund for the Vermont Access Network Community Radio Program.

(2) $450,000 General Fund to support the costs of elections in calendar year 2026.

(3) $50,000 General Fund for awards to support local civic journalism.

(n) Department of Labor. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $200,000 General Fund for a grant to Advance Vermont.

(o) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $157,000 General Fund to provide healthy meals and snacks to children and adults receiving supervised care services.

(2) $150,000 General Fund for automated external defibrillators and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in schools.

(3) $700,000 General Fund for the Read Vermont Program.

(p) [Deleted.]

(q) Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, $2,320,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, which shall be considered a reduction to the principal for the purposes of the calculations in 16 V.S.A. § 2885(c) and (d), for Freedom and Unity grants.

(r) Office of the State Treasurer. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $150,000 General Fund for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

(2) $75,000 General Fund for costs associated with the Pension and Benefits Funding Task Force.

(s) General Assembly. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $15,000 General Fund to support the work of the County and Regional Governance Study Committee.

(t) Vermont State Colleges. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, $600,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, which shall be considered a reduction to the principal for the purposes of the calculations in 16 V.S.A. § 2885(c) and (d), for the development of the new 30-unit, three-story housing complex on the Johnson Campus.

(u) [Deleted.]

(v) [Deleted.]

(w) [Deleted.]

(x) University of Vermont. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1)(A) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, $2,000,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, which shall be considered a reduction to the principal for the purposes of the calculations in 16 V.S.A. § 2885(c) and (d), and $10,000,000 General Fund for the Multi-Purpose Center Project approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019.

(B) Any contract awarded for construction that is paid for with this spending authority shall adhere to the higher of:

(i) the prevailing wage requirements established in 29 V.S.A. § 161(b); or

(ii) the prevailing local wage requirements as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act or related federal acts or regulations.

(C) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this appropriation be a contribution to the remaining fundraising effort, estimated to be a total of $101,000,000, for the project. If the University of Vermont has not received new donations for the project totaling $89,000,000 or more between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2029, it is the intent of the General Assembly that future appropriations beginning in fiscal year 2030 be reduced over a reasonable number of fiscal years to recoup an amount equal to this appropriation and any interest accrued without causing undue financial harm to the institution.

(D)(i) In fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029, as part of its budget presentation and as requested, to the extent that the fundraising effort for the project is ongoing, the University of Vermont shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of the fundraising effort.

(ii) In fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029, to the extent that the fundraising effort for the project is ongoing, the University of Vermont shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting and as requested on the status of the fundraising effort.

(y) Department of Corrections. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $50,000 General Fund for a grant to Jenna's Promise to support reentry services.

(z) Center for Crime Victim Services. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) $350,000 Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund for grants to the member organizations of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Sec. B.1101 FISCAL YEAR 2026 CLOSEOUT; FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONTINGENT TRANSACTIONS

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2026 closeout, the Department of Finance and Management shall execute the requirements of 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103(a)(1)(D), as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 55 and further amended by Sec. C.102 of this act; 32 V.S.A. § 308; and 32 V.S.A. § 308f. The Department of Finance and Management shall then, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c, calculate the maximum number of contingent transactions that can be funded, in the order provided in subsection (b) of this section, and reserve that money for such purpose in fiscal year 2027. Any residual balance shall be reserved in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, any contingent reserve established per subsection (a) of this section shall be unreserved and the following transactions shall be executed in the following order. In the event that the contingent reserve is insufficient to fully fund the following transactions, the Department of Finance and Management shall execute the transactions to the greatest extent possible, including partial funding:

(1) $9,547,596.39 is transferred to the Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951).

(2) $30,000,000 is reserved for future appropriation or transfer by the General Assembly for addressing federal funding shortfalls, Vermont Medicaid and other human services needs, property tax relief, permanent housing initiatives, or any other uses determined to be in the best interests of the public.

Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS; FISCAL YEAR 2027 ONE-TIME CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2027, $23,418,454.70 is appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments for the following:

(1) Department of Buildings and General Services:

(A) $1,781,174.60 for statewide major maintenance;

(B) $225,000 for statewide physical security enhancements;

(C) $3,600,000 for Asa Bloomer roof replacement;

(D) $900,000 for Rutland multimodal garage renovation;

(E) $3,000,000 for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs;

(F) $1,050,000 for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC upgrades at correctional facilities;

(G) $225,000 for the Agency of Human Services for statewide correctional facilities security upgrades;

(H) $2,700,000 for the Agency of Human Services for St. Johnsbury, Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) door control system replacements;

(I) $1,000,000 for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern State Correctional Facility boiler replacement;

(J) $500,000 for the Agency of Human Services for Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility sprinkler system upgrades;

(K) $500,000 for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other correctional facilities utilized in response to overcrowding for the incarcerated women's population;

(L) $772,557.10 for the Agency of Human Services for the Department for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility;

(M) $500,000 for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility; and

(N) $1,600,000 for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River Junction courthouse.

(2) Department of Environmental Conservation:

(A) $2,498,000 for the State match for federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; and

(B) $150,000 for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns.

(3) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

(A) $400,000 for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance.

(4) Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(A) $200,000 for dam maintenance and safety planning.

(5) Judiciary:

(A) $500,000 for the Essex County Courthouse connector project.

(6) Vermont Historical Society:

(A) $566,724 for the replacement of a climate control unit.

(7) Department of Corrections:

(A) $750,000 to work with the Agency of Digital Services to develop a plan for providing network connectivity in State correctional facilities that modernizes processes and reduces reliance on paper; improves staff efficiency and addresses workforce challenges, such as staff retention; supports real-time data-driven operations; lays the foundation for future capabilities, such as wearable technology and mobile device–supported operations; and ensures secure, compliance connectivity in key facilities, each as outlined in the *Business Transformation Project Recommendations Report* issued by the Agency.

Sec. B.1104 MEDICAID AND SNAP BENEFIT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

(a) Notwithstanding 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(3), in fiscal year 2027, $3,500,000 of the amount reserved in the General Fund pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(3) shall be unreserved and an equal amount shall be appropriated to the Agency of Human Services for a grant program for benefit assistance services provided by community-based organizations throughout the State, including by the parent child centers, community action agencies, recovery centers, Vermont 211, area agencies on aging, and designated and specialized service agencies. In developing this grant program, the Agency shall collaborate with Hunger Free Vermont and the Office of the Health Care Advocate on program design and the selection of the community-based organizations receiving grants. The Agency shall provide an update on program design and grant recipient selection at the Joint Fiscal Committee's July 2026 meeting. The Agency shall distribute grants on or before September 1, 2026.

(b)(1) Funds appropriated in this section shall be used to issue new or augment existing or planned grants to organizations to assist clients with navigating Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid eligibility, application processes, and benefit maintenance, respectively, through the use of benefit assisters. The Agency shall ensure that benefit assisters at the grant recipient organizations are providing accurate information. Vermont 211 shall conduct outreach to all organizations receiving a grant pursuant to this section to ensure that appropriate referrals are made and information about benefit assistance services is available to the public.

(2) The Agency shall work with organizations receiving a grant pursuant to this section to develop communications and outreach strategies to proactively connect with households. Such strategies shall include plain language mailings, phone and text message scripts, email scripts, and press release communications. The Agency shall work with organizations receiving

a grant pursuant to this section to reduce the administrative burden on applicants and participants by sharing information when permissible to verify SNAP and Medicaid requirements.

(3) Beginning in September 2026 through June 2027, the organizations receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall submit quarterly reports to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Agency regarding:

(A) the number of organization employees trained as benefit assisters to assist with navigating SNAP or Medicaid requirements, respectively;

(B) the total number of eligible individuals who received assistance from benefit assisters each quarter, including those receiving repeat application assistance, repeat benefit maintenance assistance, and enrollment assistance;

(C) the number of individuals referred to other service providers or enrolled in other State or federal benefit programs as a result of an interaction with a benefit assister; and

(D) qualitative information regarding how outreach is conducted to inform individuals that benefit assistance services are available.

(4) Beginning in September 2026 through June 2027, Vermont 211 shall submit quarterly reports to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding its outreach efforts and the number of referrals made to the organizations receiving a grant pursuant to this section.

(c) Any spending authority designated for the purpose provided in this section that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall be carried forward for the same purpose for which it was originally designated.

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Adjustments, Appropriations, and Amendments * * *

Sec. C.100 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 83(e) is amended to read:

(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 and, ~~notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, transfer~~ an amount of funds equal to the deficiency shall be appropriated to the Agency of Human Services.

Sec. C.101 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.325(b), as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 81, is further amended to read:

(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:

* * *

Sec. C.102 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.103, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 55, is further 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~~ $78,037,622 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.

* * *

Sec. C.103 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 32 is amended to read:

Sec. 32. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; TRANSFORMATION APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION GRANTS

(a) The sum of ~~$2,865,000.00~~ $3,647,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work as follows:

(1) ~~$200,000.00~~ $982,000.00 for the purpose of awarding transition grants to support ~~school boards transitioning~~ the work required to transition to new governance and administrative models ~~as contemplated in this act~~ pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and in light of the continued analysis of the work necessary in the field to transition to new, operational school districts;

(2) $562,500.00 for positions established in Sec. 33 of this act; and

(3) $2,102,500.00 for contracted services, subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (c) of this section, to ~~support~~ facilitate school ~~districts~~ boards to study the advisability of forming union school districts, as well as to support districts with administrative activities relating to consolidation, including accounting, budget and operational practice, and to support education quality activities including the alignment of curricula, instructional materials, and teaching activities.

(b) The Agency shall use the funds appropriated in subdivision (a)(1) of this section to award transition facilitation grants to support the work required to transition to new governance and administrative models.

(c) The appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(1) While this appropriation may be used to contract for data analysis necessary to support school districts with the administrative activities related to consolidation, it shall also be used for developing data analysis tools to support merger committees in consultation with the Department of Taxes.

(2) This appropriation shall be used to provide direct support to school boards for the business processes that are required to be completed before new school districts become operational. Support and training for school business officials and other school district personnel shall be funded solely through the appropriation contained in subdivision (a)(1) of this section and the corresponding grants created in subsection (b) of this section.

(3) This appropriation may be used to support the special education strategic plan required pursuant to Sec. 30 of this act. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the strategic plan addresses the supports and processes needed to be in place for the transition to the weighted funding model for special education as such funding model is contemplated in this act and as may be further amended by an act of the General Assembly after consideration of the report required pursuant to Sec. 45a of this act. Any work or analysis done by the Agency regarding alternatives to the base amount or weights contained in this act shall not be funded from this appropriation.

Sec. C.104 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.127.2 is amended to read:

Sec. E.127.2 FEDERAL FUNDING; CALCULATION OF APPROPRIATION REDUCTION; SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION; JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Unduplicated function total" means the individual function totals set forth in this act excluding Global Commitment funds, Interdepartmental Transfer funds, and Internal Service funds. For purposes of this section, the determination of an unduplicated function total shall not include Education Funds.

(2) "Governmental function unit" refers to the governmental function areas set forth in Sec. A.108 of this act.

(b) In fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, in each instance that a reduction in federal revenues to the State results in a decrease of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit by:

(1) Less than 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total or $2,000,000, whichever threshold amount is greater, the Secretary of Administration shall notify the Joint Fiscal Committee and may prepare and implement a spending authority reduction plan without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee, provided that any total reductions in appropriations and transfers of funds are not greater than the reduction in the federal revenues. If the Secretary's plan consists of reductions greater than five percent to the total amount appropriated in any section or subsection of any appropriations act, such plan shall only be implemented in the manner provided for in 32 V.S.A. § 704(b)(2).

(2) Greater than $2,000,000 and 0.5 percent of the unduplicated function total for any governmental function unit, but less than 25 percent or $50,000,000, whichever threshold amount is lower:

(A) the Secretary of Administration shall prepare a spending authority reduction and transfer plan for consideration and approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to the same process established in 32 V.S.A. § 704(e), notwithstanding the reference to subdivision (b)(1) of this section, provided that the total reductions to federal spending authority are not greater than the reductions in federal revenues; and

(B) to maintain a balanced State budget, to minimize the impact to Vermonters and to abide by the legislative intent set forth by the General Assembly in this act or future fiscal year appropriations acts, or both, the Joint Fiscal Committee may make a recommendation to the Emergency Board to:

(i) utilize the appropriation in Sec. B.1101(b)(2) of this act to support impacted programs at not more than the current fiscal year funding level until the General Assembly is in session;

(ii) revert any unexpended and unobligated funds; and

(iii) make such reductions or transfers in appropriations necessary to support the priorities of the General Assembly.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for the purpose of calculating any appropriation reduction that triggers the actions set forth in this section, the baseline federal funding amounts shall be the federal funding set forth in ~~this act~~ the general appropriations act for the fiscal year in which the reduction occurs. The Secretary of Administration shall monitor any changes in federal funding as the difference between the baseline federal funding amount ~~for use in fiscal year 2026~~ and any updated State federal funds revenue forecast adopted by the Emergency Board and shall calculate the percent reduction of the unduplicated function totals for each governmental function unit.

Sec. C.105 3 V.S.A. § 118 is amended to read:

§ 118. COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF REVENUE

(a) There is hereby created a Secretary of State Services Fund. The Fund shall be used to provide appropriations for the operations of the Office of the Secretary of State, with the exception of those operations provided for in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title. The Fund shall be administered as a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. ~~At the end of each fiscal year, the unobligated balance in this Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.~~

(b) All revenues collected by the Secretary of State shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Services Fund except for the following revenues:

(1) any revenues collected by the Office of Professional Regulation set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title; and

(2) any revenues collected pursuant to subsection 117(k) of this title.

(c) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to collect and deposit into the Secretary of State Services Fund revenues generated from optional services offered in the normal course of business, including for one-time or periodic sales of data by subscription or other contractual basis.

(d) The Secretary of State or designee shall report annually to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its September meeting on the prior fiscal year Fund balance at closeout. The report shall include projected revenues to and expenditures from the Fund in future fiscal years.

Sec. C.106 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 79 is amended to read:

Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

* * *

(d) A housing authority shall notify the Department for Children and Families of its intent to request funds and submit a report on its financial need, including evidence that the request conforms to applicable HUD requirements and is a necessary and proper expense, to the Department ~~on or before April 15, 2026~~ within 10 business days after receiving official notice from HUD of its federal fiscal year 2026 funding amount.

(e) ~~On or before May 1, 2026~~ Not more than 20 business days after official notice from HUD of federal fiscal year 2026 funding amounts for housing authorities in Vermont, the Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, 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) establish guidelines to ensure that funds are distributed based upon need.

* * *

Sec. C.107 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1102(c) is amended to read:

(c) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of $50,000,000 General Fund is appropriated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB):

(1) $10,000,000 to provide support and enhance capacity for emergency shelter and permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness or who need supportive housing. The funds shall be used to expand Vermont's shelter capacity, provide homes for those experiencing homelessness, create housing for individuals eligible to receive Medicaid-funded developmental disabilities services, and decrease reliance on the General Assistance Emergency Housing hotel and motel program. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall consult with the Agency of Human Services to ensure new investments in homes and shelters are paired with appropriate support services for residents, including services supported through Medicaid. Funded projects may utilize a range of housing options, including the expansion of shelter capacity, the conversion of hotels to housing, the creation of permanent supportive housing, and the utilization of manufactured homes on infill sites.

* * *

Sec. C.108 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.110, as amended by 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. C.105, is further amended to read:

Sec. C.110 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; REVERSION AND REALLOCATION

(a) The Secretary of Administration may reimburse up to $14,300,000 of prior fiscal year federal funds expended through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee pursuant to Grant Request #3034 with new General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments appropriations transferred from existing State programs that meet the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Treasury. These programs shall receive an amount of spending authority from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 Fund equal to the amount of General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments appropriation transferred.

(b) To the extent that qualifying General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments expenditures already incurred are transferred onto the spending authority established in subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A.

§ 706, transfer an equivalent amount of General Fund or Other Infrastructure, Essential Investments, and Reserves Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments spending authority to support programs established through Grant Request #3034 and subsequent Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant approvals by the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. C.109 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 51, is further 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:

* * *

(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. Any remaining funds may be used, if necessary, to ensure that the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution for the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System is 100 percent funded in fiscal year 2026. The appropriation made in Sec. B.104.1 of this act pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 473(c)(8) shall not be considered for the purposes of determining whether fiscal year 2026 appropriations are 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.

Sec. C.110 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE; REPORT

* * *

(i) Appropriations.

* * *

(2) The sum of ~~$100,000.00~~ $28,310.70 is appropriated to the Agency of Digital Services from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 to cover costs associated with supporting the Task Force, or, if necessary, for the purposes of hiring one or more consultants to provide support to the Task Force.

* * *

Sec. C.111 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.338, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 41, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.338 Corrections - correctional services

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Personal services | ~~184,910,113~~ | 184,260,113 |
| Operating expenses | 26,227,109 | 26,227,109 |
| Grants | 801,823 | 801,823 |
| Total | ~~211,939,045~~ | 211,289,045 |
| Source of funds | | |
| General fund | ~~203,987,089~~ | 203,337,089 |
| Special funds | 990,963 | 990,963 |
| Federal funds | 516,600 | 516,600 |
| Global Commitment fund | 6,048,078 | 6,048,078 |
| Interdepartmental transfers | 396,315 | 396,315 |
| Total | ~~211,939,045~~ | 211,289,045 |

Sec. C.112 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.347, as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 44, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Source of funds | | |
| General fund | ~~1,461,126,849~~ | 1,460,476,849 |
| Special funds | 232,655,939 | 232,655,939 |
| Tobacco fund | 23,088,208 | 23,088,208 |
| State health care resources fund | 31,074,772 | 31,074,772 |
| Federal funds | 1,993,089,108 | 1,993,089,108 |
| Global Commitment fund | 2,213,122,801 | 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 | ~~5,987,280,620~~ | 5,986,630,620 |

Sec. C.113 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115 and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 49, is further amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(b) $11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

* * *

(3)(A) $2,490,000 shall be immediately available to the Department of Public Safety for a grant to create and implement the Regional Communications System Upgrade Project to enable the Capital Fire simulcast dispatch cell as shown in the *Vermont Public Safety Communications System Design Concept and Recommendations* report of January 2026.

(B) The grant shall only be issued to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and as the fiscal agent for the Capital Fire simulcast dispatch cell if, in the determination of the Department of Public Safety and the Public Safety Communications Task Force, the pilot project shall position the State positively for implementing a statewide simulcast emergency communications system and shall allow the State to prove that the desired vision is not only possible but also practical and serves to gain stakeholder buy-in when implementing change on a larger scale. The pilot project shall enable the standards authority to make iterative improvements and adjust option parameters based on lessons learned during the pilot project, increasing the odds for long-term success.

(C) To obtain the grant funding described in this subdivision (3), the Planning Commission shall first submit a pilot project proposal on or before

October 2, 2026, that includes, to the satisfaction of the Department and Task Force:

(i) full designs and engineering plans for an initial construction date in 2027;

(ii) detailed descriptions of project phases, goals, and benchmarks, and how these are met;

(iii) detailed descriptions of project budgeting, including mechanisms for tracking of expenses, record maintenance, and auditing of project finances, a cost quote from a qualified contractor as part of the budget, and a showing of how the cost-sharing requirement described in subdivision (D) of this subdivision (3) will be met; and

(iv) an explanation of how the pilot project aligns with and furthers the development of a statewide public safety communications system as reported by the Public Safety Communications Task Force, as established by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114.

(D) To obtain the grant funding described in this subdivision (3), the Planning Commission shall first agree that it will be responsible for 30 percent of the project costs and provide proper documentation that it is able to finance its share of project costs, in its entirety, prior to commencing any phase of the project or expending any grant funds awarded by the Department.

(E) $50,000 shall be immediately available to the Department of Public Safety to hire a technical consultant to evaluate the pilot project proposal requirements described in subdivision (C) of this subdivision (3).

(F) If the Planning Commission satisfies the conditions of subdivisions (B)–(E) of this subdivision (3), the Department shall issue the grant to the Planning Commission on or before November 2, 2026.

(G) The Department shall report on or before January 31, 2027, and again on or before January 31, 2028, to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Government Operations with details pertaining to the progress of the project, including grant funds dispensed, and detailed descriptions of project phases, goals, and benchmarks, and how these have or have not been met.

(H) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this Regional Communications System Upgrade Project be a pilot project that shall enable the State to determine an effective and efficient manner in which to implement similar projects in other regions of the State, with the ultimate goal of building a statewide public safety communications system.

(4) Any remaining amounts not obligated pursuant to subdivisions (1) ~~and,~~ (2), and (3) of this subsection shall remain unobligated and unexpended until approval to expend the funds is authorized by further enactment of the General Assembly.

* * *

Sec. C.114 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 13, as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.8, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 2, and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.136.1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 13. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCE SURCHARGE; REPEAL

(a) Surcharge.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c) setting forth the purpose and rate of charges collected in the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund, in fiscal year 2018 and thereafter, a surcharge ~~of up to 2.3 percent, but~~ no greater than the cost of the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this act, on the per-position portion of the charges authorized in 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c)(2) shall be assessed to all Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices and shall be paid by all assessed entities solely with State funds.

(2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of funding the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this act.

(b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~July 1, 2025~~ July 1, 2027.

Sec. C.115 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. D.101(b), as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 53, is further amended to read:

(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:

* * *

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): ~~$8,994,314~~ $16,144,149.

* * *

* * * Fiscal Year 2026 Fund Transfers and Reserve Allocations * * *

Sec. D.100 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ALLOCATIONS

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

(1) The sum of $608,137 is allocated from the Current Use Administration Special Fund to the Department of Taxes for administration of the Use Tax Reimbursement Program. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c), amounts in excess of $608,137 from the property transfer tax deposited into the Current Use Administration Special Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 312, amounts in excess of $37,653,750 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 (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 2027 appropriation of $37,653,750 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 $10,179,975 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 $10,179,975 shall be allocated as follows:

(A) $7,838,580 for disbursement to regional planning commissions in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b);

(B) $1,323,397 for disbursement to municipalities in a manner consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 4306(b); and

(C) $1,017,998 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

Sec. D.101 FUND TRANSFERS

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

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

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): $73,797,962.

(B) Capital Infrastructure Subaccount in the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments (#21952): $17,016,160.

(C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): $4,650,000.

(D) Education Fund (#20205): $100,908,097.

(E) Vermont State Police Radio Equipment and Firearm Replacement Special Fund: $500,000.

(F) Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund (#21926): $350,000.

(2) From the Transportation Fund (#20105) to the:

(A) General Obligation Bonds Debt Service Fund (#35100): $294,775.

(B) Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvements Fund (#21575): $523,966.

(3) From the Education Fund (#20205) to the:

(A) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): $1,550,000.

(4) From the Clean Water Fund (#21932) to the:

(A) Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund (#21933): $11,897,381.

(B) Lake in Crisis Response Program Special Fund (#21938): $120,000.

(5) From the Agency of Human Services Central Office Earned Federal Receipts (#22005) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $5,000,000.

(6) From the AG-Fees and Reimbursement-Court Order Special Fund (#21638) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $2,000,000.

(B) Miscellaneous Fines & Penalties Fund (#21054): $1,538,600.

(7) From the Insurance Reserve Fund (#21335) to the:

(A) Transportation Fund (#20105): $1,360,069, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 135.

(8) From the State PACE Reserve Fund (#21943) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $60,806.73, notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 3270.

(9) From the Technology Modernization Special Fund (#21951) to the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $9,547,596.39, notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. § 3306.

(b) The following transfers shall be in accordance with the citations provided. Transfer estimates are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget and do not supersede the actual fiscal 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): $42,837,511.

(B) 9 V.S.A. § 5613(c). Securities Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085): $23,762,455.

(C) 27 V.S.A. § 1543. Unclaimed Property Fund (#62100): $10,464,702.

(2) 8 V.S.A. § 6017(b). To the Captive Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Fund (#21085) from the:

(A) General Fund (#10000): $143,318.

(c) Transfers from the following enterprise funds to the General Fund (#10000), shall not exceed the actual fiscal year-end profits earned by the enterprise net of any amount necessary to absolve the fund of a deficit. The following estimated transfers are for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget only.

(1) From the Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund (#50250): $6,700,000.

(2) From the Liquor Control Fund (#50300): $20,871,297.

Sec. D.102 REVERSIONS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1100892208 | AOA-VT Housing Finance Agency | 1,000,000.00 |
| 1100892310 | AOA-FEMA COVID Match | 890,937.34 |
| 1100892402 | AOA-High-Risk FEMA Denial Resv | 5,184,452.41 |
| 1100892401 | AOA-ORE-Language Access Plan | 150,000.00 |
| 2200892301 | AAFM-Ecosystems Services | 100,000.00 |
| 2200892307 | AAFM-Conservation Districts | 16,513.42 |
| 2200892408 | AAFM-Dairy Risk Mgmt | 35,496.73 |
| 2240892204 | PSD-Affordable Comm Scale Ren | 200,000.00 |
| 2240892404 | PSD-SHARE | 195,000.00 |
| 3150892302 | DMH-Howard Center | 790.68 |
| 3400892204 | AHSCO-Workforce Retention | 300,000.00 |
| 3400892304 | AHS-Nurse Preceptor Grants | 189,984.00 |
| 3410892502 | DVHA-Technical Analysis | 21,601.25 |
| 3440891905 | Child Dev Assoc Credential | 29,752.09 |
| 3440892401 | DCF-Reach Ahead 2 Year Pilot | 498.63 |
| 3480892501 | DOC-Data Contract | 300,000.00 |
| 5100892308 | AOE-Universal Income Dec. | 99,990.00 |
| 6140892402 | DEC-Emissions Repair Program | 362,416.60 |
| 7110892406 | HCD-Mobile Home Condemnation | 831,043.50 |
| 7110892106 | HCD - Tech Serv Local Gov | 1,056.73 |
| 7110892306 | HCD-Designated Area Report | 5,342.36 |
| 7120892204 | ACCD-Technology Related Grants | 100,000.00 |

Sec. D.103 RESERVES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the following reserve transactions shall be implemented for the funds provided:

(1) General Fund.

(A) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, $6,550,000 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2027.

(B) The $30,000,000 General Fund reserved pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(4) is unreserved.

* * * General Government * * *

Sec. E.100 POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of six permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2027 for the following:

(1) Permanent classified positions:

(A) Office of the State Treasurer:

(i) one Program Technician III; and

(ii) one Policy and Research Manager.

(B) Vermont Pension Investment Commission:

(i) one Financial Director III.

(C) Office of the Secretary of State:

(i) one RIM Specialist; and

(ii) one Business Services Administrator.

(2) Permanent exempt positions:

(A) Vermont Labor Relations Board:

(i) one Mediator.

(b) The establishment of one limited service exempt Staff Attorney position is authorized at the State Ethics Commission in fiscal year 2027.

(c) The conversion of four limited service positions to permanent classified status is authorized in fiscal year 2027 as follows:

(1) Office of the Attorney General:

(A) one Assistant Director of Court Diversion and Pretrial Services; and

(B) one Home Improvement Specialist.

(2) Office of the Secretary of State:

(A) one Administrative Services Coordinator IV.

(3) Department of Public Service:

(A) one Financial Director IV.

(d) The conversion of 26 limited service positions to permanent exempt status is authorized in fiscal year 2027 as follows:

(1) Judiciary:

(A) one Database Administrator;

(B) two IT Help Desk Analysts;

(C) two Centralized Service Analysts;

(D) 10 Judicial Assistants; and

(E) 11 Judicial Officer II's.

Sec. E.100.1 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

(a) In fiscal ~~year~~ years 2026 and 2027, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of appropriations made from the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(b) In fiscal ~~year~~ years 2026, 2027, and 2028, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on a quarterly basis, and upon the request of the Committee, on the status of any spending authority established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106.

(1) Reports shall include information on:

(A) the original amounts appropriated;

(B) outstanding obligations against appropriations; and

(C) any remaining spending authority.

(c) Any spending authority established pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.106(a) ~~and (c)~~ that remains unexpended and unencumbered on December 31, 2027~~,~~ shall revert to the General Fund. Any unallocated balance resulting from this reversion shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve.

* * *

Sec. E.100.2 SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION; REPORT ON STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDS

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July, September, and November 2026 meetings, and at other meetings as requested, on any reductions to federal revenues to the State and the status of any appropriations impacted by such reductions.

Sec. E.100.3 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 9, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY; RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY PANEL; FUNDING SOURCE; SURCHARGE; REPEAL

(a) Surcharge.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c) setting forth the purpose and rate of charges collected in the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund, in fiscal year 2019, a surcharge ~~of up to 1.65 percent, and in fiscal year 2020 and thereafter, a surcharge of up to 3.3 percent, but~~ not greater than the cost of both the Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the ~~position of Executive Director~~ activities of the Office of Racial Equity set forth in Sec. 3 of this act, on the ~~perposition~~ per-position portion of the charges authorized in 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c)(2) shall be assessed to all Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices and shall be paid by all assessed entities solely with State funds.

(2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of funding the Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the position of the Executive Director of Racial Equity set forth in Sec. 3 of this act.

(b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~June 30, 2024~~ July 1, 2027.

Sec. E.105.1 AGENCY OF DIGITAL SERVICES; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; DEFICIT MITIGATION PLAN

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Digital Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a written plan to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on how to reduce the fund deficit in the Information Technology Internal Service Fund established by 3 V.S.A. § 3304, including any recommended changes to Fund sources, uses, and transfers. The report shall include information on revenues to and expenditures from the Fund and the Fund's balance at the fiscal year closeout for the previous 10 fiscal years. The report shall also include the most current available information Fund sources, uses, transfers, and the estimated Fund balance at the fiscal year 2027 closeout.

(b) On or before February 15, 2027, the Agency of Digital Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on the approach and assumptions used for estimating sources and uses for the Core Enterprise Services Fund (#58100), Enterprise Offerings Fund (#58110), Professional Services Fund (#58120), and Customized Services Fund (#58130) for the purposes of building the fiscal year 2027 budget. The report shall include information on the Agency's adaptation to and compliance with new procedures on the part of various State agencies and departments and any managerial or organizational advantages to the fiscal year 2027 budgeting approach.

(c) On or before February 15, 2027, the Department of Finance and Management shall provide a report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Institutions on the establishment and consistent use of the State's Chart of Accounts to uniformly track expenditures associated with major IT projects by agency and department. It is the intent of the General Assembly that project-level tracking include contracts with IT implementation vendors, business process contracts that support project delivery, and internal staffing and operating costs.

Sec. E.106 32 V.S.A. § 307(b) is amended to read:

(b) The budget shall also include in detail definite recommendations of the Governor relative to the amounts that should be appropriated to each of the activities referred to under this section. It shall also include definite recommendations of the Governor relative to the financing of the expenditures recommended and the appropriate amounts to be raised from ordinary revenue, direct taxes, bonds, or loans. The financing of the expenditures recommended, as proposed by the Governor, shall not include the funds from the Budget Stabilization Reserve as established in section 308 of this title. With the budget, the Governor shall submit to the General Assembly such messages, statements, or supplemental data with reference to the same, as the Governor may deem expedient; however, budget documentation shall include to the extent possible the following:

* * *

(5) A document outlining reversions and approved carryforward by appropriation for those funds subject to the Secretary of Administration's carryforward authority or containing automatic carryforward provisions as designated by the General Assembly.

Sec. E.108 STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION STUDY; DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Human Resources shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action on how and whether to amend the statutes governing State employee compensation, including what State employee salary information should be set forth in statute and the method of determining appropriate pay increases for State employees. The report and recommendations shall be based on the Department's review and analysis of the following:

(1) those exempt position titles that set forth the associated salary in statute and the exempt position titles that do not set forth salary in statute;

(2) how the annual rate of adjustment is determined and applied for exempt employee salaries and how it compares to the annual rate of adjustment determination and application for classified employee salaries; and

(3) the salary advancement structure for exempt employees as compared to the salary advancement structure for classified employees.

Sec. E.108.1 3 V.S.A. § 2283 is amended to read:

§ 2283. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

* * *

(c)(1) There is established in the Department of Human Resources a Human Resource Services Internal Service Fund to consist of revenues from charges to agencies, departments, and similar units of Vermont State government and to be available to fund the costs of the consolidated human resource, Office of Racial Equity, and State Ethics Commission services in the Department of Human Resources.

(2) The rate of the charges shall be proposed by the Commissioner of Human Resources, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration. Proposed rates of charges shall be based upon the cost of operations associated with human resource, Office of Racial Equity, and State Ethics Commission services provided to agencies, departments, and similar units of Vermont State government.

Sec. E.111 DEPARTMENT OF TAXES; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.111 of this act, $135,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Business Analyst position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.127 JOINT FISCAL OFFICE; SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Management, provide a report with a general overview of special funds and their uses to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on or before December 15, 2026.

(b) In addition to the report outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the Joint Fiscal Office shall, in consultation with the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Department of Finance and Management, submit the following reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

(1) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "general government," "labor," "general education," "commerce and community development," and "transportation." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2026.

(2) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "human services" and "natural resources." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2027.

(3) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that fall within function areas of government identified by the Department of Finance and Management's accounting system as "protection to persons and property." The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2028.

(4) A report with detailed information on all special funds in existence the prior fiscal year that did not fall within any function areas of government identified in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection or that would fall within those function areas of government but were established after the relevant report was submitted. The report shall be submitted on or before December 15, 2029.

(c) The reports required by subsection (b) of this section shall include, for each special fund identified, the following information, if available:

(1) the authorizing statute for the fund, its date of enactment, and any amendments to the statute;

(2) a description of sources, uses, transfers, and reservations, including stated purposes of uses, transfers, and reservations;

(3) the prior fiscal year fund balance at closeout; and

(4) other relevant information on the general management and oversight of the fund.

Sec. E.127.1 FISCAL YEAR 2027 FEE REPORT; HUMAN SERVICES; NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) Fiscal year 2027 fee information. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices that receive appropriations in Secs. B.300–399 and B.700–799 of this act shall, in collaboration with the Joint Fiscal Office, prepare a comprehensive fee report for each fee that is in effect in fiscal year 2027. The fee report shall contain the following information for each fee:

(1) the statutory authorization and termination date, if any;

(2) the current rate or amount of the fee and the date the fee was last set or adjusted by the General Assembly or Joint Fiscal Committee;

(3) the Fund into which the fee revenues are deposited;

(4) the amount of the revenues derived from the fee in each of the five fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2027;

(5) the number of times that the fee was paid in each of the two fiscal years preceding fiscal year 2027;

(6) a projection of the fee revenues in fiscal years 2027 and 2028;

(7) a description of the service or product provided or the regulatory function performed by the agency, department, board, or office supported by the fee;

(8) the amount of the fee if adjusted for inflation from the last time the fee amount was modified using an appropriate index chosen in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office. The inflation adjustment shall be calculated as the percentage change between the value of the index in the July of the year the fee was last adjusted by the General Assembly and July 2026;

(9) if any portion of the fee revenue is deposited into a special fund, the percentage of the special fund's revenues that the fee represents;

(10) any available information regarding comparable fees in other jurisdictions;

(11) any policies or trends that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and

(12) any other relevant considerations for setting the fee amount.

(b) Reports.

(1) The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide guidance as necessary to the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section on the methodology to be used for compiling the information requested in the fee reports. On or before October 15, 2026, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a draft report of the information required in subdivisions (a)(1)–(12) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Office for review. Agencies, departments, boards, and offices shall work with the Joint Fiscal Office to finalize the report before submitting the report described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) On or before December 15, 2026, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a final report to the Joint Fiscal Office.

(3) On or before January 15, 2027, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a consolidated report consisting of the final reports submitted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Finance.

(4) If any of the information requested in this section cannot be provided for any reason, the agencies, departments, boards, and offices described in subsection (a) of this section shall include in both the draft and final reports a written explanation for why the information cannot be provided.

(c) As used in this section, as it pertains to Executive Branch agencies, departments, boards, and offices, "fee" means any source of State revenue classified by the Department of Finance and Management Accounting System as "fees," "business licenses," "nonbusiness licenses," and "fines and penalties."

(d) Executive Branch fee report moratorium. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605, in fiscal year 2027, the Governor shall not be required to submit the consolidated Executive Branch fee annual report and request to the General Assembly.

Sec. E.131 HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND; USES; REPORT

(a) In calendar year 2026, as part of the annual financial report on the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund required by 16 V.S.A. § 2885(e), the Office of the State Treasurer shall, in consultation with the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council and the respective student government associations of the University of Vermont, Community College of Vermont, and Vermont State University, on each item listed below, include recommendations on the following:

(1) any changes to Fund sources, uses, and transfers, including any expanded uses of the Fund and adjustments to the current statutory allocation structure;

(2) mechanisms, including requiring consultation with the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council, for ensuring appropriate fiduciary oversight of the use of the Fund to ensure that the endowed funds, including principal and interest earnings, are available for the intended purpose of providing scholarships to Vermont students;

(3) how to expand or modify the membership of the Council to include student representatives of the recipient institutions of higher education; and

(4) how to expand the scope of scholarship awards, including award amounts, types of degrees covered, and institutions of higher education included in the scholarship program.

Sec. E.131.1 STATE PACE RESERVE FUND; REPEAL

(a) 24 V.S.A. § 3270 (State PACE Reserve Fund) is repealed and any balance remaining shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $3,768,126 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, $2,526,938 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,241,188 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $2,207,870 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, $1,765,361 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $442,509 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. E.135 3 V.S.A. § 922 is amended to read:

§ 922. OFFICE SPACE; EMPLOYEES; MEDIATOR

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall, upon request by the State Labor Relations Board, allow the Board the responsible use of public buildings under ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's control and furnish heat, light, and furniture for any meeting or hearing called by the Board.

(b) The Board may employ such employees and agents as it deems necessary and may employ a reporter for taking and transcribing testimony in hearing before it.

(c)(1) The Board may employ a mediator to provide free mediation services to public and private sector collective bargaining units and employers upon reaching an impasse during collective bargaining.

(2) If the mediator has capacity, the mediator may provide free mediation services to public and private sector collective bargaining units and employers on grievances and unfair labor practice charges.

(3) The Board shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that all confidential mediation information is maintained separately and insulated from access by members of the Board or other employees of the State Labor Relations Board so as to protect the integrity of the mediation process.

Sec. E.136.1 STATE ETHICS COMMISSION; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the State Ethics Commission shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on its organizational structure, workload, and capacity.

(b) The report shall include information on the Commission's:

(1) current personnel and management structure with two full-time equivalents; and

(2) recommendations for reducing or eliminating duties given to it through prior legislative enactment to align its workload with its fiscal year 2027 personnel capacity.

Sec. E.136.2 STATE ETHICS COMMISSION; POSITION FUNDING

(a) The $150,000 General Fund and $214,306 internal service fund appropriated in Sec. B.136.1 of this act may be used by the State Ethics Commission for personal services costs for up to two full-time equivalents to fund positions established at the Commission, including the Executive Director and the Staff Attorney established by Sec. E.100 of this act.

Sec. E.136.3 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 171 (2024 Ethics Act), Sec. 24, as amended by 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 4, is further amended to read:

Sec. 24. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) Sec. 13 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1230, Commission procedure, rulemaking) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, except that the Commission may adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. § 1230(b) prior to July 1, 2028;

(2) Sec. 22 (creating Municipal Code of Ethics) shall take effect on January 1, 2025;

(3) Sec. 7 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1221(a), describing expansion of Commission powers) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028;

(4) Sec. 8 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1222; title redesignation) shall take effect on July 1, 2025;

(5) Sec. 9 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1223, Commission procedure for accepting and referring complaints) shall take effect on September 1, 2025~~.~~;

(6) Secs. 10 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1227, Commission investigations), 11 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1228, Commission hearings), 12 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1229, Commission warnings, reprimands, recommended actions, and agreements), and 14 (adding 3 V.S.A. § 1231, Commission public records regarding complaints) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028; and

(7) Sec. 1 (amending 17 V.S.A. § 2414, candidate disclosures) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Sec. E.136.4 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) Sec. 1 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1223, Commission procedure for accepting and referring complaints) shall take effect on September 1, 2025, and shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 171, Sec. 9 that amended 3 V.S.A. § 1223 and that conflict with the language in this act;

(2) Sec. 2 (amending future version of 3 V.S.A. § 1223) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028; and

(3) Sec. 3 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 1231, Commission public records regarding complaints) shall take effect on ~~September 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2028, and shall supersede those provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 171, Sec. 14 that amended 3 V.S.A. § 1231 and that conflict with the language in this act.

Sec. E.138 RENTER REBATE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BASE INCREASE; ONE-TIME

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the $4,000,000 increase to the appropriation in Sec. B.138 of this act be a one-time increase in fiscal year 2027 that shall not recur in future fiscal years.

Sec. E.139 GRAND LIST LITIGATION ASSISTANCE

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), of the appropriation in Sec. B.139 of this act, $70,000 shall be provided to the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review and used with any remaining funds from the amount previously transferred for final payment of expenses incurred by the Department or towns in defense of grand list appeals regarding the reappraisals of the hydroelectric plants and other expenses incurred to undertake utility property appraisals in Vermont.

Sec. E.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. E.142 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

(a) This appropriation is for State payments in lieu of property taxes under 32 V.S.A. chapter 123, subchapter 4, and the payments shall be calculated in addition to and without regard to the appropriations for correctional facilities elsewhere in this act. Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.144 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

(a) Payments in lieu of taxes under this section shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.200 ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit, is authorized to retain, subject to appropriation, one-half of the State share of any recoveries from Medicaid fraud settlements, excluding interest, that exceed the State share of restitution to the Medicaid Program. All such designated additional recoveries retained shall be used to finance Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit activities.

(b) Of the revenue available to the Attorney General under 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b)(4), $2,263,600 is appropriated in Sec. B.200 of this act.

Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Sheriff.

Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY; STATE POLICE

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, $35,000 shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue Team, which is composed of the State Police, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, county sheriffs, and local law enforcement personnel in Bennington, Windham, and Windsor Counties, for snowmobile enforcement.

(b) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, $405,000 is allocated for grants in support of the Drug Task Force. Of this amount, $190,000 shall be used by the Vermont Drug Task Force to fund three town task force officers. These town task force officers shall be dedicated to enforcement efforts with respect to both regulated drugs as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4201(29) and the diversion of legal prescription drugs. Any unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to fund the work of the Drug Task Force or carried forward.

(c) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209 of this act, $2,100,000 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles.

Sec. E.209.1 20 V.S.A. § 1913a is added to read:

§ 1913a. VERMONT STATE POLICE RADIO EQUIPMENT AND FIREARM REPLACEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont State Police Radio Equipment and Firearm Replacement Special Fund, to be administered by the Department of Public Safety in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Monies in the Fund shall be used for the purchase of Vermont State Police radio equipment and firearms in accordance with the life cycle replacement schedule as approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred to it by the General Assembly; and

(2) the proceeds from the sale of any existing radio equipment and firearms.

(c) Fund balance. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the Fund.

(d) Receipts. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may anticipate receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

Sec. E.212 PUBLIC SAFETY; FIRE SAFETY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.212 of this act, $55,000 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the purpose of designing dry hydrants.

Sec. E.215 MILITARY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.215 of this act, $1,219,834 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

Sec. E.217 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; FEDERAL FUNDING

(a) Of the federal funds appropriated in Sec. B.217 of this act, $442,247 shall be the 75 percent federal share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper.

Sec. E.218 MILITARY; POSITION POOL; STATE FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.218 of this act, $147,411 shall be the 25 percent State share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialists II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper.

Sec. E.219 MILITARY; VETERANS' AFFAIRS

(a) Of the General Fund appropriated in Sec. B.219 of this act, $1,000 shall be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; $2,000 shall be used for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council; $7,500 shall be used for the Veterans Day parade; $10,000 shall be granted to the American Legion for the Green Mountain Boys' State and Green Mountain Girls' State programs; and $10,000 shall be used for the USS Vermont Support Group.

Sec. E.232 SECRETARY OF STATE; VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK BUDGET

(a) The Secretary of State shall grant the $1,800,000 General Fund appropriation provided in Sec. B.232 of this act to the Vermont Access Network to maintain current operations and programming.

Sec. E.233 30 V.S.A. § 202d is amended to read:

§ 202d. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

* * *

(f) The Department shall adopt a new Plan every ~~three~~ five years pursuant to the procedures established in subsection (e) of this section. The Plan shall outline significant deviations from the prior Plan. For good cause or upon request by a joint resolution passed by the General Assembly, an interim review and revision of any section of the Plan may be made after conducting public hearings on the interim revision. At least one hearing shall be held jointly with committees of the General Assembly designated by the General Assembly for this purpose.

Sec. E.233.1 30 V.S.A. § 209 is amended to read:

§ 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE

* * *

(e) Thermal energy and process fuel efficiency funding.

(1) Each of the following shall be used to deliver thermal energy and process fuel energy efficiency services in accordance with this section for unregulated fuels to Vermont consumers of such fuels. In addition, the Commission may authorize an entity appointed to deliver such services under subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section to use monies subject to this subsection for the engineering, design, and construction of facilities for the conversion of thermal energy customers using fossil fuels to district heat if the majority of the district's energy is from biomass sources, the district's distribution system is highly energy efficient, and such conversion is cost effective.

(A) Net revenues above costs associated with payments from the New England Independent System Operator (ISO-NE) for capacity savings resulting from the activities of the energy efficiency utility designated under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (e) ~~that are not transferred to the State PACE Reserve Fund under 24 V.S.A. § 3270(c)~~. These revenues shall be deposited into the Electric Efficiency Fund established by this section. In delivering services with respect to heating systems using the revenues subject to this subdivision (A), the entity shall give priority to incentives for the installation of high efficiency biomass heating systems and shall have a goal of offering an incentive that is equal to 25 percent of the installed cost of such a system. Provision of an incentive under this subdivision (A) for a biomass heating system shall not be contingent on the making of other energy efficiency improvements at the property on which the system will be installed.

* * *

Sec. E.234 REPORT ON REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKET CONDITIONS; PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Public Utility Commission shall prepare a written report on projected regional renewable electric generation market conditions. In developing the report, the Commission shall examine the cost and availability of new regional renewable electric generation resources during the years 2027–2035.

(b) In preparing the report, the Commission shall provide an opportunity for written input from interested stakeholders, including retail electricity providers, renewable energy developers, regional transmission organizations, consumer advocates, and any other members of the public. In addition, the Commission may consult with the Department of Public Service and other relevant state, regional, or federal entities, as the Commission deems appropriate. Preparation of the report is not subject to the contested case procedures established under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(c) The Commission shall submit the report to the House Committees on Environment and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

Sec. E.236 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.236 of this act, $130,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, exempt Staff Attorney Investigator position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.300 FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE, VERMONT LEGAL AID

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.300 of this act:

(1) $2,450,406 shall be for the contract with the Office of the Health Care Advocate;

(2) $1,717,994 shall be for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty Law Project and mental health services; and

(3) $650,000 shall be for the purposes of maintaining current Vermont Legal Aid program capacity and addressing increased requests for services, including eviction prevention and protection from foreclosure and consumer debt.

Sec. E.300.1 HIGH-END SYSTEM FACILITIES FOR YOUTH

(a) At the August, October, and December 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall report on their plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, before the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services approve design documents for construction and prior to approval of the lease for the facility, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall submit their approved design to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Health and Welfare. At the same time, the Department for Children and Families shall submit a draft operating budget.

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

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall use the funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act for payment required under the intergovernmental agreement between the Agency of Human Services and the managed care entity, the Department of Vermont Health Access, as provided for in the Global Commitment to Health Waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

(b) In addition to the State funds appropriated in Sec. B.301 of this act, a total estimated sum of $28,368,715 is anticipated to be certified as State matching funds under the Global Commitment as follows:

(1) $25,158,000 certified State match available from local education agencies for eligible special education school-based Medicaid services under Global Commitment. This amount, combined with $34,842,000 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 School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 33 V.S.A. § 1904a.

(2) $3,210,715 certified State match available from local designated mental health and developmental services agencies for eligible mental health services provided under Global Commitment.

(c) Up to $4,997,210 is transferred from the Agency of Human Services Federal Receipts Holding Account to the Interdepartmental Transfer Fund consistent with the amount appropriated in Sec. B.301 (Secretary's Office; Global Commitment) of this act.

Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFER; REPORT

(a) To facilitate fiscal year 2027 closeout, the Secretary of Human Services, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, may make transfers among the appropriations authorized for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver program expenses, including Global Commitment appropriations outside the Agency of Human Services. At least three business days prior to any transfer, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Office a proposal of transfers to be made pursuant to this section. A final report on all transfers made under this section shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2027 meeting. The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency with limited authority to modify the appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

Sec. E.301.2 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72a, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. C.105, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.2, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.300.2, and 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.301.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS PLAN)

* * *

(f) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (e) of this section obligated in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and~~ 2026, and 2027 for the purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal years 2024, 2025, ~~and~~ 2026, and 2027, respectively. The funds appropriated in subsections (b), (c), and (e) of this section may be transferred on a net-neutral basis in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and~~ 2026, and 2027 in the same manner as the Global Commitment appropriations in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.301. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in September 2023, September 2024, September 2025, ~~and~~ September 2026, and September 2027, respectively, on transfers of appropriations made and final amounts expended by each department in fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, ~~and~~ 2026, and 2027, respectively, and any obligated funds carried forward to be expended in fiscal years 2024, 2025, ~~and~~ 2026, and 2027, respectively.

Sec. E.301.3 GLOBAL COMMITMENT WAIVER AMENDMENT

(a) The Secretary of Human Services is authorized to seek an extension of Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration for the period of January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2032, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sec. E.306.1 MEDICARE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(a) Effective July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access shall terminate any contract for services for the Medicare Advocacy Program under 33 V.S.A. chapter 67 consistent with the provisions of 33 V.S.A. § 6703(b).

Sec. E.306.2 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.306 of this act, $497,077 of General Fund and $497,077 of federal funds shall be for the following permanent, classified positions to be taken from the position pool: one Health Care Assistant Administrator I; one Digital Communications Specialist II; one Business Project Manager; four Vermont Healthcare Service Specialist I's; and five Vermont Healthcare Service Specialist II's.

Sec. E.306.3 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS IN PRIMARY CARE PLUS PROGRAM

(a) In order to preserve access to primary care services, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide enhanced primary care rates and enhanced encounter rates, as applicable, to primary care providers in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. E.307 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 2959a to the contrary, the payments ordinarily made by the Secretary of Education pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2959a(c) and (d) shall instead be made by the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access.

Sec. E.307.1 33 V.S.A. § 1900 is amended to read:

§ 1900. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter, unless otherwise indicated:

* * *

(12) "Supervisory union" has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11 and includes a supervisory district.

Sec. E.307.2 33 V.S.A. § 1904 is added to read:

§ 1904. MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM

(a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State of Vermont maximize its receipt of federal reimbursement for medically related services provided to students who are eligible under Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act.

(2) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that Vermont's School-Based Medical Assistance Program shall comply with all federal Medicaid requirements. As the State Medicaid agency, the Agency of Human Services shall have sole responsibility for determining and maintaining program compliance.

(b) The Agency of Education shall be responsible for coordination of the School-Based Medical Assistance Program with statewide education policy and objectives and for communicating with supervisory unions.

(c) The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to identify the services that are available through the School-Based Medical Assistance Program and to set forth the requirements for supervisory union participation. The rules shall include State and federal requirements for:

(1) Medicaid reimbursement;

(2) participation in a Random Moment Time Study and an electronic health records system;

(3) Medicaid cost reports;

(4) provider enrollment and trainings;

(5) service documentation;

(6) Medicaid eligibility; and

(7) any other provisions necessary for compliance with the Medicaid program.

(d)(1) The Agency of Human Services shall support supervisory unions by funding and providing the technical elements of the Program necessary for federal compliance.

(2) Supervisory unions delivering medically related services pursuant to the Medicaid School-Based Services Program shall participate in a Random Moment Time Study and an electronic health records system as directed by the Agency of Human Services to enable Medicaid billing of direct health services and Medicaid administrative claiming activities.

Sec. E.307.3 33 V.S.A. § 1904a is added to read:

§ 1904a. SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUND

(a) The School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund is established as a special fund to receive federal reimbursements for medically related services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program described in section 1904 of this chapter. Monies received by the State pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund, which shall be administered by the Agency of Human Services, and Fund receipts shall be allocated in accordance with this section.

(b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall pay 55 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by the medically related services delivered in each supervisory union pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program to the supervisory union based on the Medicaid cost reports, service claims, and Medicaid administrative costs submitted by the supervisory union.

(c)(1) Up to 25 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program shall be available for the administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, operations, and reporting of school-based medical assistance programs and statewide programs.

(2) The Agencies shall enter into a memorandum of understanding setting forth the processes by which Medicaid reimbursement monies available for administrative costs and statewide programs are allocated to the Agencies.

(3) The Secretaries of Education and of Human Services shall expend monies from the Fund only as appropriated by the General Assembly. The provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 511 shall not apply to this Fund.

(d) At the close of each fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transfer to and deposit any unencumbered available cash balance remaining in the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund net of accounts payable into the Education Fund.

Sec. E.307.4 33 V.S.A. § 1904a is amended to read:

§ 1904a. SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUND

* * *

(c)(1) Up to ~~25~~ 20 percent of the federal reimbursement monies generated by services delivered pursuant to the Medicaid school-based services program shall be available for the administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, operations, and reporting of school-based medical assistance programs and statewide programs.

* * *

Sec. E.307.5 16 V.S.A. § 2959a is amended to read:

§ 2959a. ~~EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS~~ MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM; SUPERVISORY UNIONS AND SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

~~(a)~~ It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State of Vermont ~~shall~~ maximize its receipt of federal ~~Medicaid dollars available for~~ reimbursement ~~of~~ for medically related services provided to students who are ~~Medicaid~~ eligible under Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) each supervisory union identify special education and other students eligible for Medicaid reimbursement and, to the extent possible, submit ~~Medicaid bills for services reimbursement~~ Medicaid-compliant cost reports and service claims; and

(2) the Agencies of Education and of Human Services work with local school districts to maximize reimbursements, including services to non-IEP students.

~~(b) A Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund is established within the Agency of Education. Funds received by the State under this section shall be transferred to the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund. The Fund receipts shall be allocated in accordance with this section.~~

~~(c) At least annually, the Secretary of Education shall pay to each supervisory union submitting Medicaid bills under this section 50 percent of the reimbursed funds generated by the supervisory union's bill, excluding claims generated by State-placed students. Unless the supervisory union has agreed to use the funds to operate a supervisory unionwide program or to distribute the funds in a different manner, upon receipt, the supervisory union shall distribute the funds to its member school districts based on how the funds were generated. The Secretary may withhold payment due a supervisory union pursuant to section 2950 of this title for a Medicaid-eligible State-placed student if the supervisory union has not submitted a Medicaid claim for reimbursable services for that student.~~

~~(d) If the amount of Medicaid reimbursement funds received for services provided in the prior State fiscal year exceeds $25,000,000.00, in addition to the 50 percent of the funds paid to supervisory unions submitting Medicaid bills, 25 percent of the amounts in excess of the $25,000,000.00 shall be paid into an incentive fund created in the Agency of Education. These funds shall be used for an incentive payment to supervisory unions with student participation rates of over 80 percent in accordance with a formula to be developed by the Agency, in consultation with the Vermont Superintendents Association. For any incentive payments made subsequent to fiscal year 2007, the $25,000,000.00 threshold of this subsection shall be increased by the percentage increase of the most recent New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index, as of November 15, for state and local government purchases of goods and services from fiscal year 2005 through the fiscal year for which the payment is being determined, plus an additional one-tenth of one percent.~~

~~(e) Supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section to pay for reasonable costs of administering the Medicaid claims process, and school districts or supervisory unions shall use funds received under this section for prevention and intervention programs in prekindergarten through grade 12. The programs shall be designed to facilitate early identification of and intervention with children with disabilities and to ensure all students achieve rigorous and challenging standards approved and adopted by the State Board or locally adopted standards. A supervisory union shall provide annual written justification to the Secretary of Education on how it or its member districts used the funds. Such annual submission shall show how the funds' use is expressly linked to those provisions of the supervisory union's action plan that directly relate to improving student performance. A supervisory union shall include in its annual report the amount of the prior year's Medicaid reimbursement revenues and the use of Medicaid funds consistent with the purposes set forth in this subsection.~~

~~(f) Up to 30 percent of Medicaid reimbursements received under this section shall be available for administrative costs of the Agencies of Education and of Human Services related to the collection, processing, and reporting of education Medicaid reimbursements and statewide programs. The Secretaries of Education and of Human Services shall expend monies from the Fund only as appropriated by the General Assembly.~~

~~(g) Remaining reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the Education Fund.~~

Sec. E.307.6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with the Agency of Education, Vermont Association of School Business Officials, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, and school district officials in implementing changes to the Medicaid school-based services program in accordance with this act, including:

(1) providing structured opportunities for input during the phased implementation process in order to address challenges and risks in a timely manner and minimize disruptions; and

(2) focusing on geographic diversity to ensure that the implementation process is responsive to regional variations in needs and capacity.

Sec. E.307.7 SPECIAL FUND BALANCE TRANSFER

(a) Any outstanding fund balances, assets, or liabilities remaining in the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2959a shall be transferred to the School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement Fund established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1904a prior to the elimination of the Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund by Sec. E.307.5 of this act.

Sec. E.307.8 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; FAMILY PLANNING CODE IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

(a) On or before September 15, 2026, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall review its implementation of family planning codes in the Medicaid program to ensure that all expenditures for family planning services and supplies that are eligible for federal match at a 90 percent federal medical assistance percentage are receiving that enhanced rate.

(b) On or before October 1, 2026, the Department shall provide a progress report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on:

(1) the Department's findings to date from its review;

(2) an estimate of any reductions in General Fund expenditures that can be realized by maximizing usage of the family planning codes to obtain the 90 percent federal match for qualifying services and supplies; and

(3) proposals for ways in which the estimated savings can be reinvested into rate increases for family planning services and supplies as part of the fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment.

Sec. E.311 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155, Sec. 7a, as amended by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec E.311.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 7a. ~~SUNSET~~

~~18 V.S.A. § 33 (medical students; primary care) is repealed on July 1, 2027.~~ [Deleted.]

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided in this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $475,000 in AIDS Medication Rebates special funds to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations for client-based support services. The Department of Health AIDS Program shall meet at least quarterly with the Community Advisory Group with current information and data relating to service initiatives. The funds shall be allocated according to a request for proposal process.

(2) In fiscal year 2027 and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $340,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: $165,000;

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

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

(3) Ryan White Title II funds for AIDS services and the Vermont Medication Assistance Program shall be distributed in accordance with federal guidelines. The federal guidelines shall not apply to programs or services funded solely by the General Fund.

(A) The Secretary of Human Services shall immediately notify the Joint Fiscal Committee if at any time there are insufficient funds in the Vermont Medication Assistance Program to assist all eligible individuals. The Secretary shall work in collaboration with persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop a plan to continue access to Vermont Medication Assistance Program medications until such time as the General Assembly can take action.

(B) As provided in this section, the Secretary of Human Services shall work in collaboration with the Vermont Medication Assistance Program Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of not less than 50 percent of members who are living with HIV/AIDS. If a modification to the Program's eligibility requirements or benefit coverage is considered, the Committee shall make recommendations regarding the Program's formulary of approved medication, related laboratory testing, nutritional supplements, and eligibility for the Program.

(4) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $400,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services on or before September 1, 2026. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of Health and the Vermont AIDS service organizations and other Vermont HIV/AIDS prevention providers.

(5) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall not reduce any grants to the Vermont AIDS service and peer-support organizations or syringe service programs from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS services to levels below those in fiscal year 2026 without receiving prior approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Sec. E.313 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is amended to read:

§ 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund is established and managed by the Vermont Department of Health in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 for the purpose of funding substance misuse prevention programming, including school-based prevention programming.

(b) Thirty percent of the revenues raised by the cannabis excise tax imposed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 7902, not to exceed $10,000,000.00 per fiscal year, shall be deposited into this fund ~~for substance misuse prevention costs~~.

* * *

Sec. E.313.1 REPORT; RECOVERY RESIDENCES AND RECOVERY CENTERS; INFLATION

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of Health shall present the following information to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare:

(1) base appropriations to recovery residences and recovery centers during the previous 10 fiscal years; and

(2) what each of those base appropriations would have been had each kept up with inflation.

Sec. E.316 REPORT; REACH UP

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department for Children and Families shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare evaluating the Reach Up Program, including any inefficiencies or gaps in services; an actionable, phased plan that estimates the amount needed to remove the ratable reduction in the Reach Up program; and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. E.316.1 33 V.S.A. § 3702 is amended to read:

§ 3702. FUNDING

(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall disperse a joint allocation for all parent child center services to the Parent Child Center Network, which shall distribute funding to each authorized parent child center.

(b) The Agency shall consult with the Parent Child Center Network to develop appropriate measures and methods of accountability for authorized members of the Network. The Network and authorized parent child centers shall provide any previously agreed upon information to enable the Secretary to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect of services on consumers, and an accounting of the expenditure of grant funds.

(c) Annually, as part of its budget presentation, the Agency shall inform the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare of the cost of adding a one percent base increase over the previous fiscal year's base appropriation for the Parent Child Center Network.

Sec. E.316.2 REPORT; PARENT CHILD CENTERS; INFLATION

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department for Children and Families shall present the following information to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare:

(1) base appropriations to the Parent Child Center Network during the previous 10 fiscal years; and

(2) what each of those base appropriations would have been had each kept up with inflation.

Sec. E.316.3 SNAP AND MEDICAID REQUIREMENTS; REPORTING

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on the implementation of federal H.R.1 SNAP work requirements and, to the extent applicable, Medicaid work requirements.

(1) On or before September 15, 2026, with regard to SNAP benefits, the Agency shall submit a report that includes to the extent practicable:

(A) the number of individuals who have become ineligible for benefits or experienced a loss or reduction in benefits due to federal changes to work requirements, including specifically by adults between 55 and 64 years of age, individuals experiencing homelessness, and adults with a child between 14 and 18 years of age;

(B) the number of individuals who lost benefits due to federal changes to work requirements and immediately reapplied for benefits and any related administrative costs;

(C) the estimated total amount of benefit loss to individuals due to federal changes to work requirements;

(D) the reasons individuals are determined ineligible for benefits;

(E) the Agency's use of discretionary exemptions, including those expiring in September 2026, and the remaining balance to offset benefit loss and reductions;

(F) the number of individuals who received assistance from the Agency due to federal changes to work requirements, including the number of individuals who did not lose or experience a reduction in benefits after receiving assistance from the Agency;

(G) payment error rate percentages for the current federal fiscal year, including an analysis on Agency and client errors; and

(H) any other pertinent information.

(2) On or before March 1, 2027, with regard to Medicaid, the Agency shall submit a report that includes to the extent practicable:

(A) the number of individuals who are subject to work requirements due to federal changes;

(B) the number of individuals each month who were required to re-enroll from January through June of 2026;

(C) the number of individuals each month who will be required to re-enroll from January through June of 2027;

(D) an outline of the Agency's plan for automating data-matching for eligibly redeterminations and assessing compliance with work requirements; and

(E) a summary of the two-year plan to recertify Vermont Medicaid providers, including a list and timeline for providers requiring recertification and any changes in Vermont Medicaid.

(3) Both reports shall also include:

(A) information regarding outreach, stakeholder coordination, and other efforts undertaken to support impacted households and community partners in assisting households to obtain and maintain benefits, including the provision of sample notices, automated calls, text scripts, and other communications with individuals; and

(B) the number of applications supported by outreach partners, benefit assisters, or other community service providers.

(4) In calendar years 2027 and 2028, the Agency shall, on a quarterly basis, provide an update to the reports required by this subsection to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare while the General Assembly is in session and to the Joint Fiscal Committee while the General Assembly is not in session.

Sec. E.316.3 33 V.S.A. § 1703 is amended to read:

§ 1703. CHANGES TO PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

(a)~~(1)~~ The Department shall report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare ~~and~~, community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, any other interested stakeholders, and, if the General Assembly is adjourned, the Joint Fiscal Committee, within 30 days after any substantive change in the federal law governing SNAP that:

~~(A)~~(1) restricts or improves eligibility;

~~(B)~~(2) increases or reduces barriers or creates or eliminates hardships to access; ~~or~~

(3) identifies anticipated impacts on the administrative burden or costs to the Department, community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, or federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont; or

~~(C)~~(4) inhibits or increases benefit usage.

~~(2)~~(b) ~~Within~~ Not less than 90 days ~~after~~ prior to the implementation of a substantive voluntary change ~~described pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection~~ to Vermont's SNAP program, the Department shall ~~provide an analysis to the Chairs of any anticipated administrative costs to the Department and any impacts on SNAP applicants and participants as a result of the change.~~:

(1) convene a meeting with community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, and any other interested stakeholders to describe the proposed change to Vermont's SNAP program, including the anticipated impact on eligibility, benefit level, administrative burden or costs, and any other relevant impact of the proposed change; and

(2) consult with and consider input from community partners under contract with the Department to provide outreach services, federally authorized retailers operating in Vermont, and any other interested stakeholders on the impacts of the Department's voluntary change to Vermont's SNAP program.

~~(b) The Commissioner may convene a meeting of interested stakeholders to discuss a change listed in subsection (a) of this section.~~

Sec. E.316.4 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADMINISTRATION; VERMONT HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CONTINUUM BASE FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.316 of this act, $1,100,000 shall be for staffing, grants, and contracts relating to the implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum.

(b) Any spending authority designated for the purposes provided in subsection (a) of this section that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall be carried forward for the same purpose for which it was originally designated.

Sec. E.317 SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS

(a)(1) $137,500 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act, the $130,000 General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(c)(5) of this act, and $100,000 of the federal funds appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act shall be granted by the Department for Children and Families to supervised visitation programs as follows:

(A) $367,500 to the six existing community-based supervised visitation sites.

(2) The Department shall work with the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence to develop a funding formula for supervised visitation sites, to identify the community partners to develop two new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027, and to begin planning for the creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.

Sec. E.318 CHILD CARE; TUITION RATES

(a) Notwithstanding 33 V.S.A. § 3517, in fiscal year 2027, the Commissioner for Children and Families may authorize a nonprofit child care provider that did not rebase tuition rates pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 76 to increase annual tuition in excess of 1.5 times the most recent annual increase in NAICS Code 611, Educational Services, upon a finding of financial hardship. Prior to authorization, the Commissioner shall determine that the child care provider has experienced a loss of revenue and is reasonably likely to continue to experience a loss of revenue absent the requested tuition increase. The child care provider shall furnish any information requested by the Commissioner in support of such a determination.

Sec. E.321 END HOMELESSNESS VERMONT; GRANT; HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CONTINUUM

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont ranks fourth per capita in the United States for homelessness;

(2) Vermont's unhoused population has risen dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) Vermont's shelter, housing, and supportive services capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of its unhoused population;

(4) repeated changes in program scope and eligibility requirements for programs, including emergency housing provided through General Assistance program, have made it difficult for Vermonters seeking housing assistance to access and maintain support;

(5) the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum may not be fully implemented in fiscal year 2027; and

(6) End Homelessness Vermont has provided essential services to unhoused Vermonters, including service navigation and coordination from crisis through housing stability, technical assistance, and concrete supports.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the grant to End Homelessness Vermont in Sec. B.1100(c)(4) of this act support its continued statewide work of providing essential services to individuals living with complex needs and disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Sec. E.321.1 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GENERAL ASSISTANCE; VERMONT HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CONTINUUM BASE FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.321 of this act, $9,251,120 shall be for emergency housing in hotels and motels relating to the implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum.

(b) Any spending authority designated for the purposes provided in subsection (a) of this section that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall be carried forward for the same purpose for which it was originally designated.

(c) Any spending authority designated for General Assistance emergency housing that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall be carried forward for investment in the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. E.322 33 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

§ 2605. BENEFIT AMOUNTS

* * *

(h) ~~Households~~ A household receiving benefits from 3SquaresVT ~~whose head of household~~ that is not otherwise eligible for a fuel benefit under this section shall be eligible for a nominal annual Home Heating Fuel Assistance benefit of $21.00 if a member of the household is elderly or disabled under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program regulations.

Sec. E.323 REACH FIRST; REPEAL

(a) 33 V.S.A. chapter 10 (Reach First) is repealed.

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, $38,251,696 shall be used by the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to issue grants to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services, or increasing resources available statewide. These funds may be granted alone or in conjunction with federal Emergency Solutions

Grants funds. Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development–recognized Continuum of Care programs.

Sec. E.325.1 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; VERMONT HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CONTINUUM BASE FUNDING

(a) Of the appropriations in Sec. B.325 of this act, $38,251,696 General Fund, $830,422 federal funds, and $202,488 Global Commitment shall be for Housing Opportunity Grant Program operations, $778,987 General Fund and $3,421,013 Global Commitment shall be for permanent supportive housing and family supportive housing, $500,000 General Fund shall be for the Community Resource Center, $2,400,000 General Fund shall be for case management, $3,000,000 General Fund shall be for rental assistance, $1,400,000 General Fund shall be for shelter development, and $314,618 federal funds shall be for other expenses relating to the implementation of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum.

(b) Any spending authority designated for the purposes provided in subsection (a) of this section that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall be carried forward for the same purpose for which it was originally designated.

(c) Any spending authority designated for the Housing Opportunity Grant Program that remains unexpended at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall be carried forward for investment in the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. E.326 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

(a) Of the special fund appropriation in Sec. B.326 of this act, $750,000 is for the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

Sec. E.329 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKING GROUP; ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; REPORT

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with Vermont Care Partners, shall convene a working group to support the ongoing coordination and a shared understanding of the designated and specialized service agency support system, including the system's functioning and capacity. The Agency, Vermont Care Partners, and the working group shall meet at least twice during fiscal year 2027. The Agency and Vermont Care Partners shall jointly develop the agenda in advance of each meeting.

(1) The meetings may include a discussion of State and federal requirements, system operations and service delivery, workforce and provider capacity, fiscal pressures, administrative burden, the definition of essential services, and the extent to which evolving community needs and system reforms have affected the responsibilities and long-term sustainability of designated and specialized service agencies.

(2) At the first meeting, the Agency and Vermont Care Partners shall develop a transparent process to communicate about and implement changes necessitated by State or federal requirements, including changes related to funding, staffing, operational feasibility, and service delivery.

(3) The working group shall discuss alignment with the State's health care delivery system planning efforts, including ongoing hospital and health system transformation work.

(4) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with Vermont Care Partners, shall provide an update to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding the activities of the working group.

(b) On or before January 15, 2028, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, in consultation with the Departments of Health and of Mental Health and the Office of Health Care Reform, shall submit a plan to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare for developing and conducting a data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies that conforms with the Statewide Health Delivery Strategic Plan developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9403. Development of the plan shall include participation by individuals who reflect Vermont's diversity with regard to race, income, age, and disability status. Specifically, the plan shall include:

(1) hearing from and sharing data, information, trends, and insights with communities about the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies;

(2) providing opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of the engagement process by current, former, and prospective clients of the designated and specialized service agencies and health care providers, including employees of designated and specialized service agencies;

(3) providing the data, information, and analysis necessary to support the engagement process, including information and trends relating to the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies and the workforce challenges encountered by the agencies; and

(4) establishing mechanisms to assess the impact of any changes on the designated and specialized service agencies, including on workforce recruitment and retention initiatives.

(c) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living may include a request for an appropriation to hire one or more consultants to support the engagement process recommended pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. E.329.1 CHOICES FOR CARE; FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall report to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on appropriations for the Choices for Care Program in the prior five fiscal years, including detailed information on expenditures for home- and community-based services and skilled nursing facility services.

Sec. E.329.2 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.329 of this act, $130,000 General Fund shall be for a permanent, classified Disabilities Housing Coordinator position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.338 CORRECTIONS; CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 3709(a), the special fund appropriation of $152,000 for the supplemental facility payments to Newport and Springfield shall be paid from the PILOT Special Fund under 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

Sec. E.500 AGENCY OF EDUCATION; BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

(a) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment and fiscal year 2028 budget presentations, the Agency of Education shall include:

(1) a comprehensive account of fiscal year 2027 appropriations, including information on amounts expended or obligated at the time of the presentation's submission;

(2) a comprehensive account of anticipated fiscal year 2027 carryforward, including information on the reasons for expenditures being lower than anticipated;

(3) information on all third-party contract agreements the Agency entered into in fiscal year 2027;

(4) organizational charts reflecting the current structure of the Agency and each division within the Agency;

(5) written explanation of any changes to the Agency's organizational structure and personnel;

(6) a comprehensive account of any vacancies within the Agency, including information on the duration of each position vacancy and any recommendations for the elimination or redesignation of positions; and

(7) information on any changes to federal funding, rules, or policy that may affect the Agency and any action the Agency has taken or may take to address those changes.

Sec. E.500.1 EDUCATION; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

(a) The Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.501 of this act shall be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized Education Programs. These services are intended to increase access to quality health care for uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sec. E.500.2 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 33 is amended to read:

Sec. 33. EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION; POOL POSITIONS

The General Fund appropriation in Sec. 32 of this act shall fund five ~~limited service~~ permanent classified positions taken from the position pool. The pool positions shall be used to establish the following ~~limited service~~ permanent classified positions at the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2026 to support education transformation work:

(1) one Business Operations Support Specialist;

(2) one Data Integration Support Specialist;

(3) one Curriculum and Education Quality Standards Integration Specialist;

(4) one Learning and Teaching Integration Specialist; and

(5) one School Facilities Field Support Specialist.

Sec. E.500.3 16 V.S.A. § 51 is amended to read:

§ 51. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be managed by the Agency of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Fund shall be used as follows:

(1) To establish a grant program that supports the expansion of universal afterschool and summer programs with a focus on underserved areas of the State.

(2) Cannabis sales tax revenue shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

(A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

(B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

(C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require that a grantee does not discriminate, and prohibits its employees, agents, subcontractors, and other service providers from discriminating, on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

(D) The Agency may use up to ~~$500,000.00~~ five percent of annually forecasted revenues for administrative costs to allow for the support of the grant program and technical assistance to communities. This could include subcontracts to support the grant program.

* * *

Sec. E.502 EDUCATION; SPECIAL EDUCATION; FORMULA GRANTS

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed $5,336,200 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

(b) Of the appropriation authorized in Sec. B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed $2,000,000 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 as funding for 16 V.S.A. § 2975. In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

Sec. E.503 EDUCATION; STATE-PLACED STUDENTS

(a) The Independence Place Program of ANEW Place shall be considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of education costs.

Sec. E.504 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, $4,349,673 General Fund shall be granted to adult education and literacy providers, pursuant to the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 945.

Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION; FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, of the Education Fund appropriation in Sec. B.504.1 of this act, the amount of:

(1) $921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);

(2) $2,400,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;

(3) $400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants;

(4) $4,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 947(b); and

(5) $2,899,782 is available for the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program.

(b) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, $921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

Sec. E.504.2 16 V.S.A. § 4021 is added to read:

§ 4021. ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Local adult education and literacy provider" has the same meaning as in section 942 of this title.

(2) "Statewide AEL student count" means the average annual number of students statewide who complete the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program over the previous two completed fiscal years.

(3) "Statewide AEL student-hours" means the average annual number of student-hours of instruction provided statewide for adult education and literacy activities over the previous two completed fiscal years.

(b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount multiplied by the statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall appropriate 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the funds from the General Fund.

(c) Payment allocations.

(1) Beginning in fiscal year 2029, the Secretary shall determine payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-county basis according to this subdivision.

(A) The Secretary shall first allocate $80,000.00 to each county.

(B) The Secretary shall then allocate the remaining funds among the counties according to each county's share of the statewide AEL student count.

(2) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to each local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program the amount determined pursuant to this section for each county in which the local adult education and literacy provider provides the county's adult education and secondary credential program.

(3) For each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the Secretary shall determine payments from the appropriation under subsection (b) of this section on a per-county basis according to this subdivision.

(A) The Secretary shall first allocate $80,000.00 to each county.

(B) The Secretary shall then allocate among the counties 85 percent of the remaining funds according to each county's share of the statewide AEL student count and 15 percent of the remaining funds according to each county's share of the statewide AEL student-hours.

Sec. E.504.3 REPEAL

16 V.S.A. § 4021(c)(3) (adult education funding transition language) is repealed on July 1, 2028.

Sec. E.504.4 16 V.S.A. § 4011(f) is amended to read:

(f) ~~Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of the previous two completed fiscal years. Forty percent of the payment required~~

~~under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. E.504.5 16 V.S.A. § 4021(b) is amended to read:

(b) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for adult education and literacy activities in an amount equal to 26 percent of the categorical base ~~education~~ amount multiplied by the statewide AEL student count. The General Assembly shall appropriate 40 percent of the funds from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the funds from the General Fund.

Sec. E.507.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS; CATEGORICAL AID

(a) The funds appropriated in Sec. B.507.1 of this act shall be used to provide categorical aid to school districts for English Learner services, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4013.

Sec. E.511.1 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATON; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriated in Sec. B.511.1 of this act, $130,000 shall be for a limited service exempt position to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.514 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System shall be $220,905,084, of which $212,905,084 shall be the State's contribution and $8,000,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, $43,739,011 is the "normal contribution," and $177,166,073 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $4,178,569 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, $2,879,269 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,299,300 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System.

Sec. E.515 RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2) and 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(h)(1), the annual contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits plan shall be $99,834,595, of which $90,834,595 shall be the State's contribution and $9,000,000 shall be from the annual charge for teacher health care contributed by employers pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944d. Of the annual contribution, $30,987,156 is the "normal contribution," and $68,847,439 is the "accrued liability contribution."

Sec. E.600 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.600 of this act to the University of Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, $380,362 shall be transferred to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.602 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay 1/12 of the appropriation in Sec. B.602 of this act to the Vermont State Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, $427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center to comply with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.603 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; ALLIED HEALTH

(a) If Global Commitment Fund monies are unavailable, the total grant funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the General Fund or other State funding sources.

(b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.603 of this act to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs that graduate approximately 315 health care providers annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons.

Sec. E.605 VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

(a) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act:

(1) $25,000 shall be deposited into the trust fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845;

(2) not more than $400,000 may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational initiative to serve one or more high schools; and

(3) not less than $1,000,000 shall be used to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program established in 2022 Act and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 14.

(b) Of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act that remain after accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, not less than 93 percent shall be used for direct student aid.

(c) After accounting for the expenditures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, up to seven percent of the funds appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605 of this act or otherwise currently or previously appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or provided to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation by an agency or department of the State for the administration of a program or initiative may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for its costs of administration. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation may recoup its reasonable costs of collecting the forgivable loans in repayment. Funds shall not be used for indirect costs. To the extent that any of these funds are federal funds, allocation for expenses associated with administering the funds shall be consistent with federal grant requirements.

Sec. E.605.1 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the $41,225 Education Fund and $41,225 General Fund appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation in Sec. B.605.1 of this act is for dual enrollment and need-based stipend purposes to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially disadvantaged students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(b) On or before January 15, 2027, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. E.606 16 V.S.A. § 2885 is amended to read:

§ 2885. VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

(a) A Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:

(1) ~~appropriations~~ transfers made by the General Assembly;

* * *

Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 2807 is amended to read:

§ 2807. LANDS AND FACILITIES TRUST FUND

(a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly finds and determines:

(1) The public lands, facilities, and recreational assets of Vermont represent both a priceless inheritance from the past and an enduring legacy for future generations.

(2) The lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by the ~~Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ Agency of Natural Resources are held as public assets for the citizens of Vermont, and require proper management to ensure that these natural resources and facilities remain viable and available for this and all future generations.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) ~~"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or the Commissioner's designee~~ "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee.

(2) "Eligible activity" means any activity undertaken, initiated, or supported by the ~~Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ Agency of Natural Resources, for State lands under the ownership of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, that provides for the management of ~~State~~ lands, facilities, ~~and~~ recreational assets, including administrative support. "Eligible activity" includes but is not limited to: repair and maintenance of State parks; contract surveys and mapping; maintenance of State lands, including boundaries, roads, trails, and facilities; contract inventories of State land natural resources; repair of State-owned dams; ~~repair, replacement, and maintenance of conservation camps; and~~ timber management in accordance with U.S.D.A. silvicultural guidelines; project management; contract development and administration; and business office support. "Eligible activity" does not include the acquisition of land.

(3) "Fund" means the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund.

(c) Creation and use of Fund.

(1) There is established in the State Treasury an income-producing fund to be known as the Lands and Facilities Trust Fund, to be managed by the State Treasurer, and from which expenditures shall be made by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary in accordance with appropriations by the General Assembly for the benefit of lands, facilities, and recreational assets owned or managed by the Agency. Payments from the Fund may be made to meet costs for eligible activities ~~that are not covered in operating budgets for management of Agency lands, facilities, and recreational assets~~.

(2) The Fund shall be administered as part of the trust investment account established in 32 V.S.A. § 434. After the first three years of the Fund's existence, on July 1 of each year, the Treasurer ~~shall~~ may distribute from the Fund ~~five~~ up to eight percent of the moving average of the market value of the Fund over the prior 12 quarters with the approval of the House and Senate, provided that the Fund balance does not go below the prior fiscal year's ending fund balance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the first three years of the Fund's existence, expenditures for immediate needs, not to exceed five percent of the principal, may be authorized by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, provided that such expenditures are consistent with the priorities established by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary, pursuant to this section, and shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

(3) ~~Annual expenditures from the Fund shall be limited to projects approved by the Commissioner and shall be in accordance with appropriations of the General Assembly. Project priorities shall be determined in accordance with criteria established by the Commissioner and shall include consideration of at least the following:~~ The Secretary may make expenditures from the Fund for eligible projects with a consideration towards cost; availability of funds; condition of the resource, facility, or infrastructure; level of use; level of public need; the stated intent of the donor, when donated property is involved; and the ability to protect or enhance a public investment or public resource.

(4) There shall be deposited in the Fund monies received by the Agency that are related to management and administrative support of Agency lands, facilities, and recreational assets and that are received from a variety of public and private sources pertinent to the purposes of the Fund, including donations; grants; special use permits; federal funds specifically designated for uses compatible with the intent of the fund; timber sale receipts received after June 30, 2001, from State forestland and all Agency lands otherwise not restricted; and such sums as may be ~~appropriated~~ transferred to the Fund by the General Assembly. The Agency may solicit and accept aid or contributions consistent

with the stated intent of the donor and deposited with the State Treasurer. Income earned by the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund, and all balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward and remain part of the Fund.

* * *

Sec. E.700.1 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section C.110 is amended to read:

Sec. C.110 IMPLEMENTATION OF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

* * *

(b) Recommendations of the Commission and actions taken on them include:

* * *

~~(5) Electrify the transportation system: The direction concerning the use of Environmental Mitigation Trust monies resulting from the Volkswagen litigation set forth in Sec. E.700 of this act is designed to increase electrification of transportation.~~

Sec. E.700.2 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Section E.700 is amended to read:

Sec. E.700 VOLKSWAGEN LITIGATION; ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION TRUST FOR STATE BENEFICIARIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Appendix D-2" means Appendix D-2 to the Environmental Mitigation Trust, entitled "Eligible Mitigation Actions and Mitigation Action Expenditures."

(2) "Environmental Mitigation Trust" or "Trust" means the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries filed on October 2, 2017 in In re: Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, 3:16-CV-00295-CRB, MDL No. 2672 CRB (JSC) (N.D. Cal.).

(3) "Mobile source" means any vehicle, freight switcher, ferry, tug, vessel, or equipment that qualifies under an eligible mitigation action listed in Appendix D-2.

(b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall administer Environmental Mitigation Trust monies pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 554(15) ~~and, in administering the Trust monies appropriated under Sec. B.710 of this act, shall:~~

~~(1) Dedicate at least 15 percent of those monies for the purchase of light duty electric supply equipment and associated allowable administrative costs in accordance with Appendix D-2~~.

~~(2) Dedicate the remainder of the monies to the replacement of mobile sources that consume fossil fuels with all-electric mobile sources or the repowering of mobile sources that consume fossil fuels with all-electric engines, or both, and associated allowable administrative costs.~~ The expenditures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Appendix D-2.

Sec. E.702 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUNDING; FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET PRESENTATION

<u>(a) As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall include information on the cost and schedule of radio equipment and firearm life cycle replacement and any recommendations for future funding, including the establishment of a designated special fund for that purpose.</u>

Sec. E.711 AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

<u>(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.711 of this act, $300,000 General Fund shall be for two permanent, classified Environmental Analysts to be taken from the position pool to support the work required pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121.</u>

Sec. E.801 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. F.8 is amended to read:

Sec. F.8 ~~RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM~~

~~(a) Creation; purpose.~~

~~(1) A Rural Industry Development Grant Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to provide grant funding through local development corporations for business relocation and expansion efforts, including the purchase, demolition, and renovation of property for industrial use.~~

~~(2)(A) To the extent funding is appropriated, the Agency shall make grants through the Program to assist local development corporations with business relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.~~

~~(B) The Agency shall ensure an accounting of the respective State and Grantee shares of investment in any property be maintained to refund to the State an appropriate share of any net proceeds resulting from future sale or transfer of such property acquired or improved through a grant awarded under this program.~~

~~(b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall consider:~~

~~(1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including nonprofit organizations, in the applicant's region;~~

~~(2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;~~

~~(3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a grant award; and~~

~~(4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.~~

~~(c) Eligible applicants; priority.~~

~~(1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this State.~~

~~(2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.~~

~~(d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient may use funding for the following:~~

~~(1) to purchase land for potential industrial use;~~

~~(2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing infrastructure for property the recipient owns;~~

~~(3) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 3; or~~

~~(4) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant consistent with this section.~~

~~(e) Application; market assessment.~~

~~(1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth opportunities.~~

~~(2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to begin and complete the proposed project:~~

~~(A) community and regional support for the project;~~

~~(B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;~~

~~(C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a plan for fiscal viability; and~~

~~(D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the project and a plan for obtaining the permits.~~

~~(f) Awards; amount.~~

~~(1) An award shall not exceed the lesser of $1,000,000 or 20 percent of the total project cost.~~

~~(2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other sources.~~

~~(3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.~~

~~(4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but eligible use.~~

~~(g) Deed restrictions; property sales. The Agency shall include deed restrictions that require the return of the principal amount to the state and may require the payment of a percentage of the sales profit.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. E.801.1 10 V.S.A. § 6 is added to read:

§ 6. RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Creation; purpose.

(1) The Rural Industry Development Grant Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to provide grant funding through local development corporations for the purpose of business relocation and expansion activities set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

(2) To the extent funding is appropriated, the Agency shall make grants through the Program fund to assist local development corporations with business relocation and expansion efforts throughout Vermont.

(3) As used in this section, "federally impacted property" means real property that is:

(A) owned by the United States or by any federal agency or an instrumentality thereof; or

(B) under the custody or control of a federally appointed receiver, trustee, or conservator, and includes property subject to federal court jurisdiction.

(b) Grant considerations. In making grant awards, the Agency shall consider:

(1) the real estate needs of growing and relocating businesses, including nonprofit organizations, in the applicant's region;

(2) the ability of the proposed project to meet the site-specific needs of businesses considering whether to expand or locate in this State;

(3) the funding that the applicant has identified, or secured, to leverage a grant award; and

(4) the readiness of an applicant to move a project forward.

(c) Eligible applicants; priority.

(1) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a local development corporation, as defined in subdivision 212(10) of this title, located within this State.

(2) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may designate projects and agreements as first priority based on rural communities that continue to experience insufficient economic and grand list growth.

(d) Eligible activities. A grant recipient shall use any funding provided through this section only for the following:

(1) to purchase real property for potential industrial, commercial, or, in the case of a federally impacted property, residential use;

(2) for the costs of site development, permitting, or providing infrastructure for property the recipient owns;

(3) for a project that supports future commercial or industrial development as outlined in a development agreement;

(4) for the equity investment required for a loan transaction through the Vermont Economic Development Authority under 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 3;

(5) for the matching requirement of another State or federal grant consistent with this section; or

(6) for the purchasing, holding, and renovation of property for the repurposing or redevelopment of a federally impacted property.

(e) Application; market assessment.

(1) An applicant shall include in its application a local and regional market assessment that demonstrates reasonable need for the proposed development and identifies imminent, potential, or existing business growth opportunities.

(2) An applicant shall submit the following to demonstrate a readiness to begin and complete the proposed project:

(A) community and regional support for the project;

(B) that grant funding is needed to complete the proposed project;

(C) an ability to manage the project, with requisite experience and a plan for fiscal viability; and

(D) a description of the permitting required to proceed with the project and a plan for obtaining the permits.

(f) Awards; amount.

(1)(A) An award shall not exceed the lesser of $1,000,000.00 or 50 percent of the total project cost, subject to the exception in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1).

(B) An award may exceed $1,000,000.00 but shall not exceed $2,000,000.00 if the property is classified as a federally impacted property and the Secretary certifies that the project is located in:

(i) a designated downtown development district; and

(ii) a rural economic area partnership program (REAP Zone); or

(iii) a federally declared natural disaster area, provided the declaration was made not more than five years from the application date.

(2) A recipient may combine grant funds with funding from other sources.

(3) The Agency shall release grant funds upon determining that the applicant has met all application conditions and requirements.

(4) A grant recipient may apply for additional grant funds if future amounts are appropriated for the Program and the funds are for a separate but eligible use.

(g) Deed restrictions. Any deed restriction requiring a Rural Industry Development Grant Program award recipient to return to the State the principal amount of the grant or a percentage of the sales profit is void and shall not be enforced.

Sec. E.801.2 INTENT AND RETROACTIVITY

(a) The intent of Secs. E.801 and E.801.1 of this act is to move the Rural Industry Development Grant Program from its original placement in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. F.8 to Title 10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. The move is intended to increase the visibility of the Program. Any applicant that was awarded a grant through the Program before the effective date of this act shall:

(1) not have its award rescinded solely due to the Program language being moved to Title 10;

(2) if the award has not been fully paid out, be eligible to have the applicant's invoices that are submitted on or after the effective date of this act to the Agency reimbursed at a rate of 50 percent; and

(3) not be eligible for an increased total award amount.

Sec. E.915 32 V.S.A. § 3709 is amended to read:

§ 3709. PILOT SPECIAL FUND

(a) There is hereby established a PILOT Special Fund consisting of local option tax revenues paid to the State Treasurer pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. This Fund shall be managed by the Commissioner of Taxes pursuant to chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title. Notwithstanding subdivision 588(3) of this title, all interest earned on the Fund shall be retained in the Fund for use in meeting future obligations. The Fund shall be exclusively for payments required under ~~chapter 123,~~ subchapters 4 and 4C of this ~~title~~ chapter, ~~and~~ for any additional State payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities, and as provided in subsection (c) of this section. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts.

* * *

(c) If the local option tax cash receipts deposited in the PILOT Special Fund, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138, in any State fiscal year exceed the sum of all cash disbursements made under subchapters 4 and 4C of this chapter; payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities; and grand list and appraisal assistance during that same fiscal year, then an amount of PILOT Special Funds equal to three-fourths of the surplus annual operating cash receipts shall be transferred by the Commissioner of Finance and Management to the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund, established pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306b, as part of the annual fiscal year close out process.

Sec. E.915.1 19 V.S.A. § 306b is added to read:

§ 306b. LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL FUND

(a) The Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund is established in the Agency of Transportation and shall be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. The purpose of the Fund is to provide additional State aid for town highways pursuant to the provisions of section 306 of this chapter.

(b) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) transfers from the PILOT Special Fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709(c);

(2) any gifts, grants, or contributions made to the Fund;

(3) any amounts transferred to the Fund by the General Assembly; and

(4) all interest earned on Fund balances.

(c)(1) The Secretary may seek and accept gifts, donations, and grants from any source, public or private, for deposit into the Fund.

(2) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall anticipate receipts to the Fund and shall issue warrants based on the anticipated amounts.

(3)(A) The Fund shall be used solely to provide State aid to municipalities pursuant to subsections 306(a), (e), and (h) of this chapter and for any administrative costs of administering the Fund.

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections 306(a), (e), and (h) of this chapter to the contrary, the aggregate amount of appropriations from the Fund pursuant to those subsections in any given State fiscal year shall not exceed 95 percent of the anticipated cash receipts to the Fund for that fiscal year.

Sec. E.915.2 19 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(3) The funds appropriated shall be distributed to towns as follows:

(A) Six percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 1 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 1 town highways of the total class 1 town highway mileage in the State.

(B) Forty-four percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 2 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 2 town highways of the total class 2 town highway mileage in the State.

(C) Fifty percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 3 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 3 town highways of the total class 3 town highway mileage in the State.

(D) Monies apportioned under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection (a) shall be distributed to each town in quarterly payments beginning July 15 in each year.

(E) Each town shall use the monies apportioned to it solely for town highway construction, improvement, and maintenance purposes or as the nonfederal share for public transit assistance. These funds may also be used for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes and sidewalks. The members of the selectboard shall be personally liable to the State, in a civil action brought by the Attorney General, for making any unauthorized expenditures from money apportioned to the town under this section.

(4)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (a), a portion of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for class 1, 2, and 3 town highways in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter. Amounts appropriated shall be apportioned, distributed, and used in the same manner as provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection (a).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (4) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (a) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection (a).

* * *

(e) State aid for town highway structures.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for maintenance ~~(~~, including actions to extend life expectancy~~)~~, and for construction of bridges and culverts; for maintenance and construction of other structures, including causeways and retaining walls, intended to preserve the integrity of the traveled portion of class 1, 2, and 3 town highways; and for alternatives that eliminate the need for a bridge, culvert, or other structure, such as the construction or reconstruction of a highway, the purchase of parcels of land that would be landlocked by closure of a bridge, the payment of damages for loss of highway access, and the substitution of other means of access. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(5) Funds received as grants for State aid for town highway structures may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

(6)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), a portion of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for town highway structures in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter. Amounts appropriated shall be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as provided pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (5) of this subsection (e).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (6) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection (e).

* * *

(h) Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program.

(1) There shall be an annual appropriation for grants to municipalities for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of paved or unpaved class 2 town highways. Municipalities that have no State highways or class 1 town highways within their borders may use the grants for such activities with respect to both class 2 and class 3 town highways. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage change as the following, whichever is less, or shall remain at the previous fiscal year's appropriation if either of the following are negative or zero:

* * *

(4) In a given fiscal year, should expenditures in the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program exceed the amount appropriated, the Agency shall advise the Governor of the need to request a supplemental appropriation from the General Assembly to fund the additional project cost, provided that the Agency has previously committed to completing those projects.

(5) Funds received as grants for State aid under the Class 2 Town Highway Roadway Program may be used by a municipality to satisfy a portion of the matching requirements for federal earmarks, subject to subsection 309b(c) of this title.

(6)(A) In addition to the amounts appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (h), a portion of the Local Option Municipal Transportation Special Fund may be appropriated for town highway structures in each State fiscal year in an amount that is consistent with the provisions of subdivision 306b(c)(4) of this chapter. Amounts appropriated shall be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as provided pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (5) of this subsection (h).

(B) Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subdivision (6) shall be supplemental to and shall not supplant or decrease the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (h) or be subject to the annual inflationary adjustment provided for in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection (h).

* * *

Sec. E.923 19 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. TRANSPORTATION FUND

The Transportation Fund shall comprise the following:

* * *

(8) other miscellaneous sources, including the sale of maps, plans, and reports~~,~~; fees collected by the Travel Information Council~~,~~; leases for property at State-owned airports and railroads~~,~~; proceeds from the sale of State surplus property under the provisions of 29 V.S.A. §§ 1556 and 1557~~,~~; and proceeds from the sale of recycled materials; and

(9) all interest earned in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308a(e) and interest earned upon the nondedicated component of the Transportation Fund.

Sec. E.923.1 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

No transportation funds shall be appropriated for the support of government other than for the Agency, the Board, Transportation Pay Act Funds, construction of transportation capital facilities, transportation debt service, the purchase of level 1 and 2 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) charging ports by the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes provided in 23 V.S.A. § 361, and the operation of information centers by the Department of Buildings and General Services.

* * * Pay Act * * *

Sec. F.100 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS; FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

(a) Fiscal year 2027. This act fully funds the first year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2027 an average 1.9 percent step increase and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on July 12, 2026, and a 2 percent across-the-board increase on January 10, 2027, for a total average increase of 5.9 percent for those employees receiving step increases during the fiscal year.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. This act fully funds the second year of the collective bargaining agreements between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association and the State and the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028. The collective bargaining agreements for most classified employees provide in fiscal year 2028 an average 1.9 percent step increase and a 3.0 percent across-the-board increase for a total average increase of 4.9 percent for those employees receiving step increases during the fiscal year.

* * * Exempt Employees; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 * * *

Sec. F.101 EXEMPT EMPLOYEES; PERMITTED SALARY INCREASES; FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

(a) Fiscal year 2027. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2027 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. The Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches may extend the fiscal year 2028 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements that are funded by this act to employees not covered by the bargaining agreements as they determine to be appropriate and in accordance with the appropriations provided to each branch.

Sec. F.102 EXECUTIVE BRANCH; EXEMPT AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS, DEPUTIES, AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS; ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND SPECIAL SALARY INCREASE OR BONUS

(a) Fiscal year 2027. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b) and 1020(b), "the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement" shall be, in fiscal year 2027, 5.9 percent.

(b) Fiscal year 2028. For purposes of determining annual salary adjustments, special salary increases, and bonuses under 32 V.S.A. §§ 1003(b) and 1020(b), "the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement" shall be, in fiscal year 2028, 4.9 percent.

* * * Executive Branch; Miscellaneous Statutory Salaries;

Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 * * *

Sec. F.103 32 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE OFFICERS

(a) Each elective officer of the Executive Department is entitled to an annual salary as follows:

| | ~~Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024~~ | ~~Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025~~ |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(1) Governor~~ | ~~$222,371~~ | ~~$234,379~~ |
| ~~(2) Lieutenant Governor~~ | ~~$94,392~~ | ~~$99,489~~ |
| ~~(3) Secretary of State~~ | ~~$141,003~~ | ~~$148,617~~ |
| ~~(4) State Treasurer~~ | ~~$141,003~~ | ~~$148,617~~ |
| ~~(5) Auditor of Accounts~~ | ~~$141,003~~ | ~~$148,617~~ |
| ~~(6) Attorney General~~ | ~~$168,837~~ | ~~$177,954~~ |

| | Annual Salary as of July 12, 2026 | Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027 | Annual Salary as of July 11, 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Governor | $243,520 | $248,390 | $260,561 |
| (2) Lieutenant Governor | $103,369 | $105,436 | $110,602 |
| (3) Secretary of State | $154,413 | $157,501 | $165,219 |
| (4) State Treasurer | $154,413 | $157,501 | $165,219 |
| (5) Auditor of Accounts | $154,413 | $157,501 | $165,219 |
| (6) Attorney General | $184,894 | $188,592 | $197,833 |

(b) The Governor may appoint each officer of the Executive Branch listed in this subsection at a starting salary ranging from the base salary stated for that position to a salary that does not exceed the maximum salary unless otherwise authorized by this subsection. The maximum salary for each appointive officer shall be 50 percent above the base salary. Annually, the Governor may grant to each of those officers an annual salary adjustment subject to the maximum salary. The annual salary adjustment granted to officers under this subsection shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect. In addition to the annual salary adjustment specified in this subsection, the Governor may grant a special salary increase subject to the maximum salary, or a bonus, to any officer listed in this subsection whose job duties have significantly increased, or whose contributions to the State in the preceding year are deemed especially significant. Special salary increases or bonuses granted to any individual shall not exceed the average rate of adjustment available to most classified employees under the collective bargaining agreement then in effect.

(1) Heads of the following Departments and Agencies:

| | ~~Base Salary as of July 14, 2024~~ | ~~Base Salary as of July 13, 2025~~ |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(A) Administration~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(B) Agriculture, Food and Markets~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(C) Financial Regulation~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(D) Buildings and General Services~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(E) Children and Families~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(F) Commerce and Community Development~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(G) Corrections~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(H) Defender General~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(I) Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(J) Economic Development~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(K) Education~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(L) Environmental Conservation~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(M) Finance and Management~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(N) Fish and Wildlife~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(O) Forests, Parks and Recreation~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(P) Health~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(Q) Housing and Community Development~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(R) Human Resources~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(S) Human Services~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(T) Digital Services~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(U) Labor~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(V) Libraries~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(W) Liquor and Lottery~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(X) [Repealed.]~~ | | |
| ~~(Y) Mental Health~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(Z) Military~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(AA) Motor Vehicles~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(BB) Natural Resources~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(CC) Land Use Review Board Chair~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(DD) Public Safety~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(EE) Public Service~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(FF) Taxes~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(GG) Tourism and Marketing~~ | ~~$114,031~~ | ~~$120,189~~ |
| ~~(HH) Transportation~~ | ~~$134,466~~ | ~~$141,727~~ |
| ~~(II) Vermont Health Access~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |
| ~~(JJ) Veterans' Home~~ | ~~$125,706~~ | ~~$132,494~~ |

| | Base Salary as of July 12, 2026 | Base Salary as of January 10, 2027 | Base Salary as of July 11, 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (A) Administration | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (B) Agriculture, Food and Markets | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (C) Financial Regulation | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (D) Buildings and General Services | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (E) Children and Families | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (F) Commerce and Community Development | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (G) Corrections | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (H) Defender General | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (I) Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (J) Economic Development | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (K) Education | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (L) Environmental Conservation | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (M) Finance and Management | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (N) Fish and Wildlife | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (O) Forests, Parks and Recreation | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (P) Health | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (Q) Housing and Community Development | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (R) Human Resources | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (S) Human Services | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (T) Digital Services | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (U) Labor | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (V) Libraries | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (W) Liquor and Lottery | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (X) [Repealed.] | | | |
| (Y) Mental Health | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (Z) Military | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (AA) Motor Vehicles | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (BB) Natural Resources | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (CC) Land Use Review Board Chair | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (DD) Public Safety | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (EE) Public Service | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (FF) Taxes | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (GG) Tourism and Marketing | $124,876 | $127,374 | $133,615 |
| (HH) Transportation | $147,254 | $150,199 | $157,559 |
| (II) Vermont Health Access | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |
| (JJ) Veterans' Home | $137,661 | $140,414 | $147,294 |

(2) [Repealed.]

(3) If the Chair of the Land Use Review Board is employed on less than a full-time basis, the hiring and salary maximums for that position shall be reduced proportionately.

(4) When a permanent employee is appointed to an exempt position, the Governor may authorize such employee to retain the present salary even though it is in excess of any salary maximum provided in statute.

* * *

(d) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the Defender General shall not receive compensation in excess of the compensation established for the Attorney General in this section.

(e) Notwithstanding the maximum salary established in subsection (b) of this section, the maximum salary for the Commissioner of Health shall not exceed 100 percent above the base salary for this position.

* * * Judicial Branch; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 * * *

Sec. F.104 32 V.S.A. § 1003(c) is amended to read:

(c) The officers of the Judicial Branch named in this subsection shall be entitled to annual salaries as follows:

| | ~~Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024~~ | ~~Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025~~ |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court~~ | ~~$214,024~~ | ~~$225,581~~ |
| ~~(2) Each Associate Justice~~ | ~~$204,264~~ | ~~$215,294~~ |
| ~~(3) Chief Superior Judge~~ | ~~$204,264~~ | ~~$215,294~~ |
| ~~(4) Each Superior Judge~~ | ~~$194,185~~ | ~~$204,671~~ |
| ~~(5) [Repealed.]~~ | | |
| ~~(6) Each Magistrate~~ | ~~$146,413~~ | ~~$154,319~~ |
| ~~(7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer~~ | ~~$146,413~~ | ~~$154,319~~ |

| | Annual Salary as of July 12, 2026 | Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027 | Annual Salary as of July 11, 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Chief Justice of Supreme Court | $234,379 | $239,067 | $250,781 |
| (2) Each Associate Justice | $223,690 | $228,164 | $239,344 |
| (3) Chief Superior Judge | $223,690 | $228,164 | $239,344 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (4) Each Superior Judge | $212,653 | $216,906 | $227,534 |
| (5) [Repealed.] | | | |
| (6) Each Magistrate | $160,337 | $163,544 | $171,558 |
| (7) Each Judicial Bureau hearing officer | $160,337 | $163,544 | $171,558 |

Sec. F.105 32 V.S.A. § 1141 is amended to read:

§ 1141. ASSISTANT JUDGES

(a)(1) Each assistant judge of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive compensation in the amount of ~~$224.47 a day as of July 14, 2024 and $236.59 a day as of July 13, 2025~~ $245.82 a day as of July 12, 2026, $250.74 a day as of January 10, 2027, and $263.03 a day as of July 11, 2027, for time spent in the performance of official duties and necessary expenses as allowed to classified State employees. Compensation under this section shall be based on a two-hour minimum and hourly thereafter.

(2)(A) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the State except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2).

(B) The compensation paid to an assistant judge pursuant to this section shall be paid by the county at the State rate established in subdivision (a)(1) of this section when an assistant judge is sitting with a presiding Superior judge in the Civil or Family Division of the Superior Court.

(b) Assistant judges of the Superior Court shall be entitled to receive pay for such days as they attend court when it is in actual session or during a court recess when engaged in the special performance of official duties.

Sec. F.106 32 V.S.A. § 1142 is amended to read:

§ 1142. PROBATE JUDGES

(a) The Probate judges in the several Probate Districts shall be entitled to receive the following annual salaries, which shall be paid by the State in lieu of all fees or other compensation:

| | ~~Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024~~ | ~~Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025~~ |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(1) Addison~~ | ~~$76,555~~ | ~~$80,689~~ |
| ~~(2) Bennington~~ | ~~$96,776~~ | ~~$102,002~~ |
| ~~(3) Caledonia~~ | ~~$67,891~~ | ~~$71,557~~ |
| ~~(4) Chittenden~~ | ~~$161,506~~ | ~~$170,227~~ |
| ~~(5) Essex~~ | ~~$18,966~~ | ~~$19,990~~ |
| ~~(6) Franklin~~ | ~~$76,555~~ | ~~$80,689~~ |
| ~~(7) Grand Isle~~ | ~~$18,966~~ | ~~$19,990~~ |
| ~~(8) Lamoille~~ | ~~$53,443~~ | ~~$56,329~~ |
| ~~(9) Orange~~ | ~~$63,554~~ | ~~$66,986~~ |
| ~~(10) Orleans~~ | ~~$62,110~~ | ~~$65,464~~ |
| ~~(11) Rutland~~ | ~~$137,221~~ | ~~$144,631~~ |
| ~~(12) Washington~~ | ~~$105,441~~ | ~~$111,135~~ |
| ~~(13) Windham~~ | ~~$85,221~~ | ~~$89,823~~ |
| ~~(14) Windsor~~ | ~~$115,555~~ | ~~$121,795~~ |

| | Annual Salary as of July 12, 2026 | Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027 | Annual Salary as of July 11, 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Addison | $83,836 | $85,513 | $89,703 |
| (2) Bennington | $105,980 | $108,100 | $113,397 |
| (3) Caledonia | $74,348 | $75,835 | $79,551 |
| (4) Chittenden | $176,866 | $180,403 | $189,243 |
| (5) Essex | $20,770 | $21,185 | $22,223 |
| (6) Franklin | $83,836 | $85,513 | $89,703 |
| (7) Grand Isle | $20,770 | $21,185 | $22,223 |
| (8) Lamoille | $58,526 | $59,697 | $62,622 |
| (9) Orange | $69,598 | $70,990 | $74,469 |
| (10) Orleans | $68,017 | $69,377 | $72,776 |
| (11) Rutland | $150,272 | $153,277 | $160,788 |
| (12) Washington | $115,469 | $117,778 | $123,549 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (13) Windham | $93,326 | $95,193 | $99,857 |
| (14) Windsor | $126,545 | $129,076 | $135,401 |

(b) Probate judges shall be entitled to be paid by the State for their actual and necessary expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees. The compensation for the Probate judge of the Chittenden District shall be for full-time service.

(c) All Probate judges, regardless of the number of hours worked annually, shall be eligible to participate in all employee benefits that are available to exempt employees of the Judicial Department.

* * * Sheriffs; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 * * *

Sec. F.107 32 V.S.A. § 1182 is amended to read:

§ 1182. SHERIFFS

(a) The sheriffs of all counties except Chittenden shall be entitled to receive salaries in the amount of ~~$104,010.00 as of July 14, 2024 and $109.627.00 as of July 13, 2025~~ $113,902.00 as of July 12, 2026, $116,180.00 as of January 10, 2027, and $122,873.00 as of July 11, 2027. The Sheriff of Chittenden County shall be entitled to an annual salary in the amount of ~~$110,070.00 as of July 14, 2024 and $116,014.00 as of July 13, 2025~~ $120,539.00 as of July 12, 2026, $122,950.00 as of January 10, 2027, and $128,975.00 as of July 11, 2027.

(b) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by 10 percent for any sheriff who has Level II but not obtained Level III law enforcement officer certification under 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

* * *

* * * State's Attorneys; Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 * * *

Sec. F.108 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:

§ 1183. STATE'S ATTORNEYS

(a) The State's Attorneys shall be entitled to receive annual salaries as follows:

| | ~~Annual Salary as of July 14, 2024~~ | ~~Annual Salary as of July 13, 2025~~ |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(1) Addison County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ~~(2) Bennington County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(3) Caledonia County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(4) Chittenden County~~ | ~~$147,087~~ | ~~$155,030~~ |
| ~~(5) Essex County~~ | ~~$105,521~~ | ~~$111,219~~ |
| ~~(6) Franklin County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(7) Grand Isle County~~ | ~~$105,521~~ | ~~$111,219~~ |
| ~~(8) Lamoille County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(9) Orange County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(10) Orleans County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(11) Rutland County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(12) Washington County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(13) Windham County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |
| ~~(14) Windsor County~~ | ~~$140,691~~ | ~~$148,288~~ |

| | Annual Salary as of July 12, 2026 | Annual Salary as of January 10, 2027 | Annual Salary as of July 11, 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Addison County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (2) Bennington County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (3) Caledonia County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (4) Chittenden County | $161,076 | $164,298 | $172,349 |
| (5) Essex County | $115,557 | $117,868 | $123,644 |
| (6) Franklin County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (7) Grand Isle County | $115,557 | $117,868 | $123,644 |
| (8) Lamoille County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (9) Orange County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (10) Orleans County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (11) Rutland County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (12) Washington County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (13) Windham County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |
| (14) Windsor County | $154,071 | $157,152 | $164,852 |

(b) In settlement of their accounts, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall allow the State's Attorneys the expense of printing briefs in cases in which the State's Attorney has represented the State and their necessary and actual expenses under the rules pertaining to classified State employees.

Sec. F.108.1 32 V.S.A. § 1183 is amended to read:

§ 1183. STATE'S ATTORNEYS

* * *

(c) Compensation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by 30 percent for any State's Attorney who is not licensed or authorized to practice law in the State pursuant to the administrative orders issued by the Vermont Supreme Court.

* * * Appropriations * * *

Sec. F.109 PAY ACT APPROPRIATIONS; FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

(a) Executive Branch. The first and second years of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the Defender General, Non-Management, Supervisory, and Corrections bargaining units, and, for the purpose of appropriation, the State's Attorneys' offices bargaining unit, for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028; the collective bargaining agreement with the Vermont Troopers' Association for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028; and salary increases for employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows:

(1) Fiscal year 2027.

(A) General Fund. The amount of $23,918,820.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of $3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are $27,184,607.00 from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

(2) Fiscal year 2028.

(A) General Fund. The amount of $24,974,632.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to departments to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(B) Transportation Fund. The amount of $3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Secretary of Administration for distribution to the Agency of Transportation to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act.

(C) Other funds. The Administration shall provide additional spending authority to departments through the existing process of excess receipts to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreements and the requirements of this act. The estimated amounts are $28,362,343.00 from a special fund, federal funds, and other sources.

(D) Transfers. With due regard to the possible availability of other funds, for fiscal year 2028, the Secretary of Administration may transfer from the various appropriations and various funds and from the receipts of the Liquor Control Board such sums as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act to the various agencies supported by State funds.

(3) This section shall include sufficient funding to ensure administration of exempt pay plans authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 1020(c).

(b) Judicial Branch.

(1) The Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court may extend the provisions of the Judiciary's collective bargaining agreement to Judiciary employees who are not covered by the bargaining agreement.

(2) Fiscal year 2027. The first year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of $3,800,867.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of $277,316.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2027 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

(3) Fiscal year 2028. The second year of the two-year agreements between the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Employees' Association for the judicial bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028, and salary increases for employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements shall be funded as follows: the amount of $2,466,396.00 is appropriated from the General Fund and the amount of $179,952.00 is provided from other sources to the Judiciary to fund the fiscal year 2028 collective bargaining agreement and the requirements of this act.

(c) Legislative Branch.

(1) For the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of $914,634.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.

(2) For the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028, the General Assembly, including all Legislative Branch employees, shall be funded as follows: the amount of $778,939.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Branch.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. C.100, C.101, C.102, C.103, C.104, C.105, C.106, C.107, C.108, C.109, C.110, C.111, C.112, C.113, C.114, C.115, E.504.2, E.504.3, E.504.4, E.801, E.801.1, E.801.2, E.915, and F.108.1 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. E.307.1, E.307.2, E.307.3, and E.307.5 shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

(c) Secs. E.307.4 and E.923 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(d) Sec. E.504.5 shall take effect upon the occurrence of the contingencies set forth in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 70(f).

(e) Sec. E.100.3 shall take effect retroactively on June 30, 2024.

(f) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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.

*SEN. ANDREW J. PERCHLIK*
*SEN. VIRGINIA V. LYONS*
*SEN. RICHARD A. WESTMAN*

*Committee on the part of the Senate*

*REP. ROBIN P. SCHEU*
*REP. MARTHA A. FELTUS*
*REP. TIFFANY BLUEMLE*

*Committee on the part of the House*

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate accept and adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, was decided in the affirmative.

**Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

**H. 933, H. 955.**

**Rules Suspended; Bill Delivered**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended, and the following bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith:

**S. 313.**

**Rules Suspended; Immediate Consideration; Rules Suspended; Appointments Confirmed**

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Collamore, the rules were suspended in order to take up the following confirmations for immediate consideration and the following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed as a group by the Senate, without reports given by the Committees to which they were referred and without debate:

Benoit, John of Barre - Member Electricians' Licensing Board - July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Furman, Sarah of Rutland - Member Vermont Economic Development Authority - July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2032.

Winters, Debbie of Swanton - Member Vermont Municipal Bond Bank - April 15, 2026 to January 31, 2028.

**Recess**

On motion of Senator Lyons the Senate recessed until four o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon.

**Called to Order**

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

**Rules Suspended; Immediate Consideration; Rules Suspended; Appointment Confirmed**

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Collamore, the rules were suspended in order to take up the following confirmation for immediate consideration and the following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, without report given by the Committee to which it was referred and without debate:

Nesbitt, Thomas of Waterbury Center - Member Plumbers' Examining Board - April 15, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

**Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

**J.R.S. 56.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

Offered by Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 56.** Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2026.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives***:

That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives adjourn their respective houses *sine die* on the twenty-ninth or thirtieth day of May, 2026.

**Rules Suspended; Action Messaged**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended, and the action on the following bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

**H. 951.**

**Bills Delivered**

Senator Lyons moved that pursuant to Joint Rule 15 that all bills passed by both the Senate and the House be ordered to the Governor.

Which was agreed to.

**Secretary Directed to Inform the House of Completion of Business**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the Secretary was directed to inform the House that the Senate has completed the business of the session and is ready on its part to adjourn *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 56.

**Committee Appointed to Inform Governor of Completion of Business**

On motion of Senator Lyons, the President appointed the following four Senators as members of a Committee to wait upon His Excellency, Philip B. Scott, the Governor, and inform him that the Senate has completed the business of the session and is ready on its part to adjourn *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 56:

Senator Clarkson
Senator Mattos
Senator Ram Hinsdale
Senator Beck

**Report of Committee**

The Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, to inform him that the Senate had, on its part, completed the business of the session and was ready to adjourn *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 56, performed the duties assigned to it and escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he delivered his remarks in person.

**Remarks of Governor**

The Honorable Philip B. Scott, Governor of the State of Vermont, was escorted to the rostrum and briefly addressed the Senate.

**Departure of Governor**

The Governor, having completed the delivery of his message, was escorted from the Chamber by the Committee appointed by the Chair.

**Final Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Lyons, at five o'clock and fifty-two minutes in the evening (5:52 P.M.), the Senate adjourned *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 56.

## Messages Received After Adjournment

After final adjournment, the following messages were received by the Secretary:

## Message from the House No. 88

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Courtney Reckord, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered Senate proposals of amendment to the following House bills:

**H. 211.** An act relating to data brokers and personal information.

**H. 931.** An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education law.

**H. 935.** An act relating to emergency management.

**H. 942.** An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

And has severally concurred therein.

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

**H. 639.** An act relating to genetic data privacy.

**H. 710.** An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities.

**H. 933.** An act relating to miscellaneous administrative and policy changes to the tax laws.

**H. 944.** An act relating to the fiscal year 2027 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

**H. 949.** An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance.

**H. 951.** An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government.

**H. 952.** An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

**H. 955.** An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system.

And has severally adopted the same on its part.

The House has considered the Governor's veto on House bill of the following title:

**H. 727.** An act relating to sustainable data center deployment.

And has sustained the Governor's veto.

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

**J.R.S. 56.** Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2026.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

### Message from the House No. 89

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House has on its part completed the business of the second half of the Biennial session and is ready to adjourn *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 56.

### Message from the Governor

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

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the eighth day of June, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

**S. 179.** An act relating to the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act.

**S. 214.** An act relating to the provision of prekindergarten education in geographically isolated school districts.

**S. 227.** An act relating to creating immigration protocols in Vermont schools.

**S. 232.** An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries.

**S. 298.** An act relating to voter protections.

**S. 327.** An act relating to economic development.

### Message from the House No. 90

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 8, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 171.** An act relating to criminal justice agency protocols for an officer-involved shooting.

**H. 293.** An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the Department of Health's reporting and programming requirements.

**H. 550.** An act relating to gender equity within Vermont's correctional facilities.

**H. 578.** An act relating to penalties and procedures for animal cruelty offenses.

**H. 588.** An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

**H. 611.** An act relating to miscellaneous provisions affecting the Department of Vermont Health Access.

**H. 841.** An act relating to miscellaneous animal welfare procedures.

**H. 902.** An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre.

**H. 930.** An act relating to addressing and preventing chronic absenteeism.

**H. 953.** An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of Panton.

### Message from the Governor

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

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the sixteenth day of June, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

**S. 71.** An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

**S. 189.** An act relating to establishing a process for the elimination of certain hospital services.

**S. 193.** An act relating to establishing a forensic facility for certain criminal justice-involved persons.

**S. 198.** An act relating to the regulation of tobacco products and tobacco substitutes.

**S. 202.** An act relating to plug-in photovoltaic devices.

**S. 209.** An act relating to prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations.

**S. 243.** An act relating to distributing funds to the Vermont Language Justice Project.

**S. 325.** An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction.

**S. 326.** An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws relating to motor vehicles.

**Message from the Governor**

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

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the sixteenth day of June, 2026, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

**S. 190.** An act relating to reference-based pricing and the Green Mountain Care Board.

**Text of Communication from Governor**

The text of the communication to the Senate from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 190** to the Senate is as follows:

"June 16, 2026

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning unsigned and without my approval, in the time permitted by the Constitution, S.190, *An act relating to reference-based pricing and the Green Mountain Care Board.*

All Vermonters are impacted by Vermont’s health insurance costs – individuals, small and large businesses, public employee plans, and non-profits – and the Legislature must focus on system-wide savings for all, consistent with the GMCB’s statutory purpose. By vetoing S.190, the savings generated by the Board’s 2027 hospital revenue reductions will apply to all Vermonters paying for insurance, including those few who benefit from the passage of this bill.

This basic concern for fairness is the primary reason for this veto. Title 18 VSA 9372 clearly expresses the purpose of the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) in five succinct points. This bill is at odds with two of them. First, the law plainly states that reductions should apply “across all payers.” Second, it calls for “achieving administrative simplification in healthcare financing and delivery.” Yet this bill would exclude most payers from the affordability gains achieved in FY2027 and, in doing so, add unnecessary complexity, inequity, and cost.

Advocates for this bill have claimed it would generate significant healthcare savings. According to analysis by the Department of Financial Regulation, those claims do not hold up. The GMCB has authority to control or reduce hospital prices and revenue, so this bill is unnecessary to achieve both and Act 68 of 2025, the bipartisan bill I signed last year, already codified Reference Based Pricing.

Last year, for example, the Board reduced hospital revenues by nearly $100 million and expressed those savings in lower insurance rate increases. This year, its guidance calls for an additional $40 million in revenue reduction. I urge the GMCB to follow-through with that policy and generate the same level of savings it otherwise would have achieved while ensuring those savings benefit all payers. They should also be cognizant of the concerns our rural, critical access hospitals have raised, several of which are opposed to S.190.

It’s important for Vermonters to know that broader and meaningful healthcare affordability reforms were offered to the Legislature this session. My administration proposed a comprehensive package through H.585 and supported multiple efforts by the minority to advance these reforms through other legislation. These proposals included proven approaches that expanded affordable choices in other states. Organizations representing many of Vermont’s small and independent businesses described H.585 as “…a sweeping package (H.585) to improve affordable health coverage options …” and recognized it as a “serious attempt at health insurance reform.” Yet these proposals – and the concerns of Vermont’s small businesses – were largely ignored by the legislative majority. We also supported the proposal from the Vermont School Boards Association, which they advocated would have lowered VEHI healthcare costs and thus property tax pressure. Unfortunately, this proposal was also rejected by the majority in Legislature.

While reasonable people may disagree on the best path forward, Vermont will not solve its affordability crisis by directing savings to some payers while excluding others. Lasting progress will require structural reforms that expand affordability, increase choices, and ensure savings are shared broadly across the system. For these reasons, I intend to advance several key provisions of H.585 through executive action. The remaining changes will require a more moderate Legislature willing to move beyond the policies and politics of the past (see failed single payer and some of what was left behind).

Vermonters need quality healthcare and affordable insurance options. Rising costs are putting pressure on patients, providers, hospitals, employers, and taxpayers alike. Our focus must remain on delivering improvements to everyone paying into the system. By vetoing S.190, the savings generated by the GMCB's revenue reductions can be applied fairly and consistently across *all* Vermonters paying for health insurance, including those the bill sought to unfairly favor.

Sincerely,
Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp“

**Message from the House No. 91**

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 15, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 527.** An act relating to extending the sunset of 30 V.S.A. § 248a.

**H. 542.** An act relating to testing of schools in Vermont for polychlorinated biphenyls.

**H. 567.** An act relating to unclaimed property, State retirement systems, and capital debt.

**H. 577.** An act relating to establishing the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program.

**H. 583.** An act relating to clinical decision making.

**H. 606.** An act relating to firearms relinquishment and storage procedures.

**H. 639.** An act relating to genetic data privacy.

**H. 657.** An act relating to various programming and requirements within the Department for Children and Families.

**H. 921.** An act relating to alcoholic beverages.

**H. 957.** An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Williston.

**Message from the House No. 92**

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 16, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 211.** An act relating to data brokers and personal information.

**H. 294.** An act relating to telecommunications services and wages in correctional facilities.

**H. 642.** An act relating to youthful offender proceedings.

**H. 648.** An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities.

**H. 660.** An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund and Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund appropriations.

**H. 938.** An act relating to establishing the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum.

**H. 951.** An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government.

**Message from the Governor**

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

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the eighteenth day of June, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

**S. 64.** An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists.

**S. 142.** An act relating to a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians.

**S. 197.** An act relating to reform for primary care.

**S. 212.** An act relating to potable water supply and wastewater system connections.

**S. 223.** An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont.

**S. 278.** An act relating to cannabis.

**S. 313.** An act relating to transforming Vermont's career technical education system.

**S. 323.** An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

**S. 328.** An act relating to housing and common interest communities.

**Message from the Governor**

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

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the eighteenth day of June, 2026 he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

**S. 230.** An act relating to fair employment practices.

**Text of Communication from Governor**

The text of the communication to the Senate from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 230** to the Senate is as follows:

"June 18, 2026

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning unsigned and without my approval, in the time permitted by the Constitution, S.230, *An act relating to fair employment practices.*

This bill was in response to the Vermont State Employees Association's (VSEA) desire to limit the access of other labor organizations to Department of Corrections (DOC) employees for union organizing purposes. This legislative intervention blatantly favoring one union over others would circumvent the rights of DOC employees to form and join a union of their own choosing.

While I do not understand why this bill passed in the first place, the Legislature had the foresight to add previously agreed upon provisions within S.230 to S.313, in anticipation of my objection to being pulled into the gamesmanship between unions. As a result, and as the Legislature was made aware, this bill is completely unnecessary.

For these reasons I'm vetoing S.230.

Sincerely,
Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp"

**Message from the House No. 93**

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 17, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 686.** An act relating to expanding identification of certain lobbying advertisements.

**H. 757.** An act relating to manufactured homes and limited equity cooperatives.

**H. 816.** An act relating to regulating the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of mental health services.

**H. 907.** An act relating to legislative review of reporting requirements.

**H. 915.** An act relating to establishing an extended producer responsibility program for beverage containers.

**H. 928.** An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes.

**H. 931.** An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education law.

**H. 932.** An act relating to the regulation of forestry under Act 250.

**H. 935.** An act relating to emergency management.

**H. 952.** An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

The Governor has informed the House that on June 17, 2026, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the House of the following title:

**H. 710.** An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities.

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. H. 710** to the House is as follows:

"June 17, 2026

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning unsigned and without my approval, in the time permitted by the Constitution H.710, *An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities*.

Working towards a cleaner and more resilient energy future is important to Vermont's economy, security, and environmental goals. However, we must do so in a manner that respects Vermont communities and the people most directly affected by industrial energy projects.

This is why for the last 10 years, my Administration has been clear, our local communities should be given great weight in both legislation and with the PUC when the expansion of industrial wind on Vermont's ridgelines could be the outcome.

This bill is framed as a change needed to simplify the definition of a "plant," but it goes too far. Its practical effect is to treat multiple renewable electricity generating facilities using the same technology and located on the same or contiguous parcels of land as a single facility, regardless of when those facilities are built. This means Vermont law would encourage the expansion of existing industrial wind developments on our ridgelines in areas like Lowell, Sheffield, Searsburg, Readsboro, Milton and Georgia with fewer opportunities for scrutiny by residents. This will also affect communities like Pownal, Manchester, and Dorset which have already seen the development of massive solar fields.

For these reasons, I'm unable to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp"

The Governor has informed the House that on June 17, 2026, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the House of the following title:

**H. 817.** An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer supports in schools.

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. H. 817** to the House is as follows:

"June 17, 2026

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning unsigned and without my approval, in the time permitted by the Constitution, H.817, *An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer supports in schools.*

This bill requires the Department of Mental Health, together with the Agency of Education, to make a proposal in its fiscal year 2028 budget for funding mental health literacy and peer-to-peer programming. As the Legislature knows, the Legislature cannot dictate to the Governor what will be funded in the Governor's proposed budget. This is a clear separation of powers violation.

Fortunately, the Department of Mental Health and the Agency of Education, which support the development of mental health literacy and peer-to-peer programming in schools, can make policy and budget recommendations to the Governor in connection with the 2028 budget development process without legislative direction.

Further I'm directing the Department of Mental Health, working together with the Agency of Education, to prepare an inventory of existing mental health programming and services in schools, with recommendations for integrating mental health literacy and peer-to-peer programming into existing programming and services. This will be provided to the Legislature as requested in Section 3 of H.817.

Sincerely,
Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp"

**Message from the House No. 94**

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 18, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 933.** An act relating to miscellaneous administrative and policy changes to the tax laws.

**H. 937.** An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

**H. 941.** An act relating to municipal regulation of agriculture.

**H. 942.** An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

**H. 944.** An act relating to the fiscal year 2027 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

**H. 949.** An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance.

**H. 955.** An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system.

**Appointments Received After Adjournment**

**Appointment of Senate Member to the Sister State Program Committee**

Pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2479, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Sister State Program Committee for a term of two years:

Senator Hardy

**Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Legislative Environmental Oversight Committee**

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 1031, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Legislative Environmental Oversight Committee:

Senator Beck
Senator Bongartz
Senator Watson

**Appointment of Senate Member to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee**

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 V.S.A. § 4772, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee during this biennium:

Senator Gulick