



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda
Thursday, July 31, 2025
Room 11, State House
[Meeting available by Live Stream](#)

Updated on 8/5/2025 8:52 AM

- 1:00 p.m. Call to order and approve the minutes from January 31, 2025.
[**Approved**]
- 1:05 p.m. A. Administrations Fiscal Updates
1. [FY 2025 preliminary close-out: Education, General, and Transportation Funds](#)
Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management
 2. [Unencumbered Balance Transfer Report](#)
Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management
 3. [ARPA Update](#)
Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, State of Vermont
- 1:20 p.m. B. [Medicaid Year-end Report](#) [Cite: 32 V.S.A. Sec. 305a]
Nolan Langweil, Principal Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office
- 1:30 p.m. C. [July 2025 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update](#)
Tom Kavet, Legislature's Economist, Kavet, Rockler & Associates LLC
- 2:00 p.m. D. Federal Funds
1. Update – Joint Fiscal Office ([Presentation](#))
 - a. Rescission Language
Emily Byrne, Deputy Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
Brynn Hare, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
 - b. Overview of the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act
Joint Fiscal Office and Legislative Counsel Staff

- 2:45 p.m. 2. Federal Fund Status ([Presentation](#))
Sarah Clark, Secretary, Agency of Administration
 a. Agency of Human Services ([Presentation](#))
 Jenney Samuelson, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
 DVHA Staff
 b. Education Funding ([Presentation](#))
 Zoie Saunders, Secretary, Agency of Education
 c. Other
- 3:15 p.m. 3. Overview of the Federal Process
Kathryn Van Haste, State Director, Office of Senator Bernie Sanders
Robin Lunge, Outreach Representative, Office of Senator Peter Welch
Jessica Nordhaus, Director of Operations, Office of Congresswoman
Becca Balint
 a. Federal Bills and Proposals
 b. Federal and State Collaboration (*How will Federal Delegation be working with General Assembly moving forward?*)
- 3:30 p.m. E. Housing Update
Miranda Gray, Deputy Commissioner, ESD, Department for Children and Families
 1. Status of Individuals Exited from GA Program
 2. Status of Individuals approaching 80-Day Limit
 3. Transitioning from GA Hotel/Motel Program
- 3:50 p.m. F. DS Payment Reform [[Cite: Sec. E.333 of Act 27 of 2025](#)]
 ([Memo](#)) ([Testimony](#))
Tonya Mason, Director of Developmental Services, Howard Center
Carrie Hathaway, Director of Financial Management, Howard Center
Julie Cunningham, Executive Director, Families First
Jill Bowen, Commissioner, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
Jessica Bernard, Deputy Director, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
Jennifer Garabedian, Division Director, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
- 4:05 p.m. G. Grants and Other [[Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 5](#)]
 1. [Public Safety Funding Request](#) [Act 87 of 2024] [[Approved](#)]
 Jennifer Morrison, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
 Barbara Neal, Executive Director, VT E-911 Board
 Daniel Batsie, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
 Richard Hallenbeck, Director of Administration/Finance, Department of Public Safety

2. Grants

[JFO #3261](#): \$63,212.00 to the VT Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Funds to inventory landslides in ten (10) VT counties, for the purpose of predicting future landslides. **[Approved]**

Tracy LaFrance, Financial Director, Department of Environmental Conservation
Ben DeJong, State Geologist, Department of Environmental Conservation

- 4:25 p.m. H. [Fiscal Officer's Report](#)
Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
- 4:30 p.m. I. Public Comment – Community Partners and Loss of Federal Funding
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Statutory References to Agenda Items

[Official State Revenue Estimate \(Year-end Medicaid\)](#) **[Cite: 32 V.S.A. Sec. 305a](#)**

(c)(1)(A) The January estimates shall include estimated caseloads and estimated per-member per-month expenditures for the current and next succeeding fiscal years for each Medicaid enrollment group as defined by the Agency and the Joint Fiscal Office for State Health Care Assistance Programs or premium assistance programs supported by the State Health Care Resources and Global Commitment Funds, and for the programs under any Medicaid Section 1115 waiver.

(2) In July, the Administration and the Joint Fiscal Office shall make a report to the Emergency Board on the most recently ended fiscal year for all Medicaid and Medicaid-related programs, including caseload and expenditure information for each Medicaid eligibility group. Based on this report, the Emergency Board may adopt revised estimates for the current fiscal year and estimates for the next succeeding fiscal year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

[Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program](#) **[Cite: Act 27 of 2025](#)**

b) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not approve the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Agency shall evaluate potential opportunities to obtain federal matching funds in future fiscal

years to provide greater support to the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program during its implementation stage, including matching State dollars as a Global Commitment investment, as a graduate medical education expenditure, or through another mechanism.

(c) The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July 2025 meeting on whether the Agency was successful in receiving approval for federal matching funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and, if not, its findings and recommendations regarding future federal matching fund opportunities pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Spending Authority for Public Safety Communications Task Force

Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 5

(1) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the retention of technical experts to assist the Public Safety Communications Task Force with the analysis and planning required by Sec. C.112 of this act 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114 and to fund the administrative expenses incurred by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. If the Task Force determines in calendar year 2023 that additional funding is necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to an additional \$1,000,000.

Acceptance of Grants

Cite: Act 87 of 2024

3) Legislative review.

(A) The Governor's approval in subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall be final, except as follows:

(i) When the General Assembly is not in session, within 30 days of receipt of the copy of an approval and related information required under subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a member of the Committee requests such grant, gift, loan, sum of money, or thing of value be placed on the Committee's agenda; or

(ii) When the General Assembly is in session, within 30 days of receipt of the copy of an approval and related information required under subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a member of the Committee requests that such grant, gift, loan, sum of money, or thing of value be held for legislative approval. If a copy of an approval and related information is received when the General Assembly is in session, but before the members of the Joint Fiscal Committee are appointed, one of the statutorily appointed members of the Committee may request to hold a grant for legislative approval. Legislative approval under this subdivision may be granted by legislation or resolution.

(B) In the event of a request to hold a grant made pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection (b), the grant shall not be accepted until approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee or the General Assembly.

Reports

Developmental Services Payment Reform

[Report Link](#)

Cite: Sec. E.333 of Act 27 of 2025

(a)(1) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall submit a written progress report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's July 2025 meeting regarding the Department's design of a developmental services payment reform model for potential implementation on October 1, 2025, with a final written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in advance of the Committee's September 2025 meeting. The final report shall explain the methodology and identify how the model:

(A) meets all federal conflict-free case management requirements and aligns funding mechanisms with assessed needs; and

(B) ensures standardized rates for providers that are reasonable and adequate and reflect the cost of service delivery to achieve the required outcomes for the populations served.

§ 511. Excess receipts

[Report Link](#)

Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 511. Excess Receipts

If any receipts including federal receipts exceed the appropriated amounts, the receipts may be allocated and expended on the approval of the Commissioner of Finance and Management. If, however, the expenditure of those receipts will establish or increase the scope of the program, which establishment or increase will at any time commit the State to the expenditure of State funds, they may only be expended upon the approval of the General Assembly. Excess federal receipts, whenever possible, shall be utilized to reduce the expenditure of State funds. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee quarterly with a cumulative list and explanation of the allocation and expenditure of such excess receipts. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Medicaid Global Commitment Waiver Closeout Adjustments

[Report Link](#)

Cite: Act 113 of 2024 Sec. E301.1 and E 300.2

(a) To facilitate the end-of-year closeout for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Human Services, with approval from 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 sent to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review at the Committee's September 2025 meeting. The purpose of this section is to provide the Agency of Human Services with limited authority to modify appropriations to comply with the terms and conditions of the Global Commitment for Health Section 1115 demonstration waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

June 30th Housing Report (DCF)

[Report Link](#)

[Cite: Act 113 of 2024, Sec. E321\(g\)](#)

(g) On or before the last day of each month from July 2024 through June 2025, the Department for Children and Families, or other relevant agency or department, shall continue submitting a similar report to that due pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6(b) to the Joint Fiscal Committee, House Committee on Human Services, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. Additionally, this report shall include the Department's monthly expenditure on General Assistance Emergency Housing.

Health Care Spending Reduction Report

[Report Link](#)

[Cite: Act 68 of 2025](#)

b) The Agency of Human Services shall report on the proposed reductions that it has approved pursuant to this section, including applicable timing and appropriate accountability measures, to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before July 1, 2025. On or before the first day of each month of hospital fiscal year 2026, beginning on October 1, 2025, the Agency shall provide updates to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session, and to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare when the General Assembly is in session, regarding progress in implementing and achieving the hospital spending reductions identified pursuant to this section.

Proceedings and activities; personnel

[PSD Report Link](#)

[Cite: 30 V.S.A. § 20](#)

[ANR Report Link](#)

(a)(1) The Board or the Department of Public Service may authorize or retain legal counsel, official stenographers, expert witnesses, advisors, temporary employees, and other research, scientific, or engineering services:

(2) The agency of natural resources may authorize or retain legal counsel, official stenographers, expert witnesses, advisors, temporary employees, and other research, scientific or engineering services to:

(C) assist the Board or the Department of Public Service in any proceedings described in subdivisions (b)(9) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and (11) (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) of this section. Allocation of agency of natural resources costs under this subdivision (C) shall be in the same manner as provided under subdivisions (b)(9) and (11) of this section. The agency of natural resources shall report annually to the joint fiscal committee all costs incurred and expenditures charged under the authority of this subsection with respect to proceedings under subdivision (b)(9) of this section and the purpose for which such costs were incurred and expenditures made.

(b) Proceedings, including appeals therefrom, for which additional personnel may be retained are:

(9) Proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which involve Vermont utilities or which may affect the interests of the State of Vermont. Costs under this subdivision shall be charged to the involved electric or natural gas companies pursuant to subsection 21(a) of this title. In cases where the proceeding is generic in nature the costs shall be allocated to electric or natural gas companies in proportion to the benefits sought for the customers of such companies from such advocacy. The Public Service Board and the Department of Public Service shall report quarterly to the Joint Fiscal Committee all costs incurred and expenditures charged under the authority of this subsection, and the purpose for which such costs were incurred, and expenditures made.

Acceptance of grants and procedures (Small Grants)

[Report Link](#)

Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 314

(4) Exceptions.

(B)(i) Notification required. The receiving agency shall promptly notify the Secretary of Administration and Joint Fiscal Office of the source, value, and purpose of any items received under this subdivision; provided, however, that no notification is required for an item received under this subdivision with a value of less than \$1,500.00.

(ii) The Joint Fiscal Office shall report all items received under this subdivision to the Joint Fiscal Committee quarterly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision