H.883 – Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act
As Recommended by the Committee of Conference

Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>($ millions)</th>
<th>General Funds</th>
<th>Federal Funds</th>
<th>Transportation Funds</th>
<th>Education Funds</th>
<th>All Other funds</th>
<th>Unduplicated Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2024 BAA</td>
<td>2,409.9</td>
<td>3,195.1</td>
<td>357.0</td>
<td>2,146.5</td>
<td>559.9</td>
<td>8,668.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Change</td>
<td>(223.4)</td>
<td>(96.2)</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>177.8</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>(98.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2025 Total</td>
<td>2,186.5</td>
<td>3,098.9</td>
<td>373.7</td>
<td>2,324.3</td>
<td>586.8</td>
<td>8,570.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: amounts reflect unduplicated appropriations and only includes bills directly tied to the Big Bill, such as the T-bill (H.868) and the Capital bill. Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

REVENUE OVERVIEW
- In fiscal year 2025, General Fund revenues are forecasted to be $2.1B – $17.9M below fiscal year 2024 revenues.
- In fiscal years 2024 and 2025, General Fund revenues are forecasted to be a cumulative $111.1M below fiscal year 2023 revenues.
- This budget includes a $114M in contingent General Fund appropriations, if revenue available

OVERVIEW
- This budget fills all statutorily required reserves, meets all pension obligations, and makes essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, and the environment.
- General Fund appropriations total $2.2B. All funds (unduplicated) appropriations total $8.6B.
- General Fund appropriations in this budget are $10.0M, or 0.46%, higher than the Governor’s Recommend.

BASE APPROPRIATIONS
- Provides 3% rate increase to community providers including Designated Agencies, Specialized Service Agencies, Adults Day Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, and Enhanced Residential Care ($19M all funds)
- Provides $1.3M GC to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to increase reimbursement rates for skilled nursing to Medicare Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rate
- Provides $1.3M GC for nonemergency medical transport
- Provides nearly $11M GC to DAIL for Developmental Services (DS) caseload and DS Public Safety/Act 248 (1987) caseload
- Provides $4.9M GC for statutory nursing home rate increase
- Provides $1M GF for startup costs for the youth inpatient facility funded by Act 78 (2023)
- Provides $1.8M GF to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to support S.213 initiatives relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety
- Provides $1M GF to the Secretary of State to support the Vermont Access Network
- Provides $1.4 GF to Vermont State Colleges (VSC) for 3% increases and $1.5M GF for deficit reduction
- Provides $30.6M GF and $2.5M TF to support the State Employees collective bargaining agreement
- Provides three Regional Emergency Management Program Coordinators at the Department of Public Safety (DPS)

1 The full Big Bill web report is available at: https://ljfo.vermont.gov/custom_reports/webreports/webreports/web/FY2025%20Big%20Bill%20Web%20Report%205-7-2024%20%209_40_39%20AM.html
HOUSING
• Provides $7.5M GF for Emergency Housing in addition to a $16.5M GF one-time appropriation and a $20M GF contingent appropriation
• Provides $7.2M GF to the Department for Children and Families’ (DCF) Office of Economic Opportunity for shelter bed expansion
• Provides additional $753K to support programs for homeless youth
• Provides a $10M contingent appropriation for shelter beds and permanent supportive housing
• Provides $25.8M to DCF for the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP)
• Provides $900K GF for the State Refugee Office to support transitional housing for refugees

PUBLIC HEALTH
• Directs $2M from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund for opioid antagonist distribution
• Directs $4.1M from the Opioid Abatement Fund for substance use prevention and treatment
• Directs the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to expand eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs starting in fiscal year 2026
• Directs $1.2M from the Opioid Abatement Fund for recovery residences, including two new residences

JUSTICE INVESTMENTS
• Provides $1.86M GF to the Office of the Defender General for caseload relief
• Provides $2.86M GF to the Judiciary for new positions to address the criminal justice system backlog and court security in addition to three new superior court judges
• Provides $297K GF to court diversion to address increased caseload
• Provides $661K GF to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the pretrial supervision and electronic monitoring programs as outlined in S.195
• Provides $300K for Community Justice Centers

WORKFORCE
• Provides $500K GF and a $1.5M contingent appropriation to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the Serve, Learn, and Earn Program
• Provides carryforward authority in statute for education loan repayment programs for health care professionals
• Provides $1M GF for the Community College of Vermont (CCV) Tuition Advantage Program
• Provides funding for the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) 802Opportunity program that provides free tuition to certain Vermonters at CCV
• Provides $1.3M to VSAC for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program
• Provides up to $1M GF to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program
• Provides authority for VSAC to use up to $300K GF for student aspirational initiatives at one or more high schools
HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES

FLOOD AND NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION

- Provides $12.5M GF to match Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Flood Hazard Mitigation grants
- Provides $500K GF for State match for the Water Resources Development Winooski Study
- Provides $1.75M GF to support S.213 initiatives relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety
- Provides $1M GF for financial assistance to logging contractors to ensure water quality protection and climate adaptation practices are followed
- Provides $1M GF for local economic damage grants and transfer to the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund to support communities affected by the August and December federally-declared disasters
- Provides $250K GF to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the Urban Search and Rescue Team
- Contingently appropriates:
  - $3.5M GF to the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund for structure elevation grants
  - $3M GF to the Dam Safety Revolving Loan Fund

HOUSING

- Provides $16.5M GF to DCF for Emergency Housing
- Provides $1M GF to extend 10 DCF positions to support Emergency Housing
- Provides $1M GF to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program
- Contingently appropriates:
  - $20M GF to DCF for Emergency Housing
  - $6M GF to DHCD for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP)
  - $4M GF to DEC for the Healthy Homes Initiative
  - $10M GF to DCF for shelter beds and permanent supportive housing

AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides $835K GF for the Bridges to Health Program
- Provides $3M GF contingent appropriation for the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) and additional $3M if funds are available at Agency of Human Services (AHS) fiscal year 2024 closeout
- Provides $332K GF for 2-1-1 to operate 24/7
- Provides $500K GF contingent appropriation to skilled nursing facilities and $500K GF contingent appropriation for Medical Director recruitment and retention grants

OTHER

- Provides $300K GF and balance of Act 84 (2024) appropriation to the Office of the Secretary of State for 2024 elections
- Provides $240K GF and $60K contingent appropriation to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs
- Provides $550K GF to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (F&W) to support the Salisbury Fish Hatchery
- Provides $10M GF to VSC for transformation bridge funding
- Provides $300K GF to DOC to fund a data partnership
• Provides $254K GF to the Center for Crime Victim Services for a grant to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
• Provides $1.3M GF contingent appropriation to DCF for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank and its network partner food shelves and pantries
• Provides $750K GF contingent transfer to the Court Technology Fund

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
• Provides $25M GF transfer to the Education Fund to provide property tax relief to Vermonters

CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME
• Appropriates $9.6M in Sec. B.1103 from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments

ARPA REALLOCATIONS
• If previous American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriations will not meet required obligation deadlines, funds will revert and be reallocated as follows:
  o $36M to DPS for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) match and municipal support for hazard mitigation
  o $4M to the Agency of Administration (AoA) for anticipated ARPA audit response
  o $30M to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for the production and preservation of affordable rental and homeownership units
  o $25M to DHCD for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) for the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, the Vermont Rental Revolving Loan Fund, and the First Generation Homebuyer Program
  o Remaining funds will be reallocated, with the authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee (JFC), to existing ARPA programs