

## **H.138 - FY 2021 Adjustment Bill**

### **Highlights of Senate Appropriations Committee Proposal of Amendment**

Overview: Mid-year adjustment to keep current year (FY 2021) budget in balance and continuation of Pandemic Response.

This proposal for the FY 2021 Budget Adjustment bill addresses several issues that have resulted from the COVID-19 epidemic and is supported with Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), FEMA funds, federal funds, and carry forward funds. It also funds initiatives approved in FY 2021. What follows is a list of budget adjustment highlights.

#### Agency of Human Services

- Appropriates CRF funds to match federal FEMA funds for emergency food, hotel leases for the homeless, security, and general COVID-19 response.
- Supports the cost of electronic filing fees at VT Legal Aid with CRF, provides the VT Veteran's Home with \$643,000 CRF for COVID-19-related costs.
- Funds increased caseloads in Medicaid, sub-adoption caseload, the high-acuity mental health caseload in Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the burials caseload in General Assistance (GA).
- Identified caseload savings in Reach Up and Child Care Subsidy programs in DCF.
- Funds renovation costs for secure facility for youths in DCF custody.
- Provides funding to make the Vermont Spay and Neuter Program solvent thru FY21.
- Funds AFSCME collective bargaining agreement in Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL).
- Carries forward general fund savings from the 6.2% increased Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages (FMAP) bump for second half of the year to address FY 2022 pressures.
- Corrects disallowed indirect cost allocation from CRF to general funds.

#### Agency of Education

- Partially funds Burlington High School relocation costs with Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER2) funds that were part of the CARES Act.

#### Higher Education

- Addresses needs resulting from COVID-19 at the Vermont State Colleges by appropriating \$3.6 million CRF, \$800k CRF contingent and \$600k of CRF carryforward.

#### Agency of Natural Resources

- Forest, Parks and Recreation: Transfers \$1.2 million general funds to the Parks Revolving Fund to approximate the amount of refunds for pre-paid reservations that required cancellation due to COVID-19.
- Provides \$1 million general funds to support required technical assistance to implement the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020.

#### Agency of Commerce and Community Development:

- Continues to fund the Everyone Eats program with CRF and FEMA funds through June 2021.
- Provides additional resources for assistance with rental arrearage, supporting applications received during the month of December 2020.

#### Agency of Transportation

- Increases federal funds for paving and leveling projects.
- Identifies savings in the rail program due to the suspension of Amtrak service.
- Provides CRF funds in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for COVID-19 related costs.
- Removes the ending date for implementation of the State's vehicle incentive programs associated with the MileageSmart and emissions repair voucher programs.

#### Broadband

- Authorizes continued funding for any broadband projects contracted for prior to December 20, 2020 and not completed on or before December 30, 2020.
- Provides two additional months of temporary broadband subsidies to Vermonters.

#### Public Safety

- Funds acquisition of body cameras in DMV, F&W and Liquor Control but makes deployment dependent on adoption of policy for use and training.
- Provides funds to cover costs associated with State Police use of force training to be conducted by July 1, 2021.