No. XXX. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

(H. XXX)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * 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 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 which 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 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. 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) "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.

(2) "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.

(3) "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.

(4) "Personal services" means wages and salaries, fringe benefits, per diems, and 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 of Vermont and designated as federal in this and other acts of the 2026 session of the Vermont 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) The 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 section contains effective dates applicable to the act itself or specific sections withing this act .

* * * Fiscal Year 2027 Base Appropriations * * *

Budget data for Secs. B.100 through B.1000 transmitted electronically to the Joint Fiscal Office

* * * 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 federal (H.R.1) Medicaid changes.
(2) $2,000,000 General Fund for Provider Stabilization Grants.

(c) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:
(1) $15,183,809 General Fund for the temporary emergency housing program.
(2) $4,000,000 General Fund for a temporary secure treatment facility for youth
(3) $6,000,000 General Fund for planning and start-up costs for new shelters

(d) University of Vermont. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:
(1) $15,000,000 Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2885, for the Multi-Purpose Center Project approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019.

(e) Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:
(1) $500,000 General Fund for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grants.

(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.

(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 Canadian International Economic Development Partnership to provide in-market services to Montreal based businesses seeking to expand into Vermont.

(h) Agency of Transportation. In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated for the following:
(1) $1,360,036 Transportation Fund for the FEMA 428 project relocating the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin.

EXPLANATION:
(a)(1): Continues the IDEAL program in the Secretary of Administration's Office of Racial Equity for an additional year.

(a)(2): Provides funding for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final 10 months of operations.

(b)(1): Information technology modifications needed to accommodate bi-annual eligibility, redeterminations, work requirements, and immigration status.

(b)(2): Continue addressing the emergent and exigent circumstances affecting the financial stability of health care providers.

(c)(1): Funding for staff processing eligibility verifications and to operate the temporary Emergency Housing and Accountability program

(c)(2): Continue funding services provided at the Red Clover temporary facility while Green Mountain Youth Campus is being constructed.

(c)(3): Continue expanding shelter capacity to reduce reliance on hotel/motel housing options.

(d)(1): Leverages the University of Vermont's $70 million investment to secure additional philanthropic funding pledged by donors to complete the project.

(e)(1): Maintain the VOREC grant program for an additional year.

(f)(1): Maintain the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program for an additional year. This appropriation is offset by a reversion from the Mobile Home Condemnation appropriation in Sec. D. 102 of this act.

(g)(1): Extends the current contract with the Canadian International Economic Development Partnership for an additional year.

(h)(1): Provides funding in an agreement between the Agency of Transportation and FEMA for relocating the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin. The current location was destroyed by the July 2023 flood.

* * * 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 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 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);

(C) $1,017,998 to the Agency of Digital Services for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.

EXPLANATION:
The January consensus revenue forecast estimated total annual property transfer tax receipts of $82,000,000.

(a)(1): Following the $2,500,000 reduction per 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d)(1); 32 V.S.A. § 9610(c) allocates 1.5% of the $79,500,000 net amount, $1,192,500 to the Current Use Administration Special Fund for the administrative costs of the Property Valuation and Review Division of the Vermont Department of Taxes. The Property Valuation and Review Division only requires $608,137 to meet its administrative requirements. The $584,363 surplus property transfer tax receipts are, therefore, being transferred to the General Fund.

(a)(2): The $82,000,00 January consensus property transfer tax estimate is reduced by $2,500,000, per 32 V.S.A. § 9610(d)(1), for Vermont Housing Finance Agency bond servicing and then by 1.5% of the net receipts $1,192,500, per 32 V.S.A. 9610(c), for the Vermont Department of Taxes Property Valuation and Review Division administrative costs. Of the $78,307,500 net property transfer taxes available for distribution 50%, or $39,153,750, is allocated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board per 10 V.S.A. § 312. An additional $1,000,000 is allocated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board from the property transfer tax surcharge, per 32 V.S.A. § 9602a, for a total of $40,153,750. The language in this

section notwithstands these requirements and finances the $2,500,000 due to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency by redirecting the $1,000,000 property transfer tax surcharge and $1,500,000 of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's property transfer tax allocation to the General Fund. The resulting net allocation for appropriation to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board is $37,653,750.

(a)(3): The remaining $39,153,750 available, after the 50% allocation to the Vermont Housing Conservation Board per 10 V.S.A. § 312, is split $28,793,775 (37%) to the General Fund per 32 V.S.A. § 435(b)(10) and $10,179,975 (13%) to the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund per 32 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(2). Of the $10,179,975 provided to the Municipal and Regional Planning and Resilience Fund, $1,017,998 (10%) is provided to the Vermont Center for Geographic Information per 32 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3)(A). The language provided notwithstands the $2,035,996 (20%) allocation to municipalities per 32 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3)(C) and $7,125,986 (70%) allocation to Regional Planning Commissions per 32 V.S.A. § 4306(a)(3)(B) at the request of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development so that grants can be distributed more in accordance with actual demand.

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 Fund (#21952): $17,016,160.

(C) Tax Computer System Modernization Fund (#21909): $4,650,000

(D) Education Fund (#20205): $114,908,097.53

(E) Vermont State Police Radio Equipment Replacement Special Fund: $500,000

(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): $4,641,960

(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.

(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): $7,500,000

(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

EXPLANATION:
(a)(1)

(A): Annual transfer from the General Fund to pay its allocated debt service obligations.. In FY27, the required debt service obligation of $77,670,806 is offset by an existing cash balance of $3,872,844 in the General Obligation Debt Service Fund, resulting in a net transfer from the General Fund of $73,767,962 [$77,670,806 - $3,872,844 = $73,797,962].

(B): Annual transfer, per 32 V.S.A. 1001b(b)(1)(A), at maximum statutory amount.

[$2,367,174,155 FY25 Total General Fund Appropriations * 4% = $94,686,966]

[$94,686,966 - $77,670,806 FY27 General Obligation Debt Service Need = $17,016,160]

(C): Annual transfer from the General Fund to pay its allocated costs per 32 V.S.A. § 3209(b).

(D): Transfer to stabilize average statewide property tax rates during education transformation ($104.9 million), and to replace the reduction in the Purchase & Use Tax amount ($10 million) redirected from the Transportation Fund into the Education Fund.

(E): $500,000 first annual transfer to ensure the Department of Public Safety has the money necessary to purchase replacement radio equipment in accordance with its life cycle replacement schedule. In the FY2026 budget there was $500k General Fund in the DPS-State Police base appropriation for this purpose; in FY2027 the $500k has been removed from the base appropriation and replaced with this transfer to the new special fund.

(a)(2)

(A): Annual transfer from the Transportation Fund to pay its allocated debt service obligations.

(B): Annual transfer to support municipal grants provided in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2796.

(a)(3)

(A): Annual transfer from the Education Fund to pay its allocated costs per 32 V.S.A. § 3209(b).

(a)(4)

(A): Annual transfer recommended by the Clean Water Board in their fiscal year 2027 budget.

(B): Annual transfer recommended by the Clean Water Board in their fiscal year 2027 budget.

(a)(5)

(A): Annual transfer for fiscal year 2027.

(a)(6)

(A): Annual transfer for fiscal year 2027.

(B): Transfer requested by the Attorney General to meet the 25% match requirement on the State Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit federal grant.

(a)(7)

(A): Funds the Transportation Fund one-time appropriation for the FEMA 428 project that relocates the Central Garage to Paine Turnpike in Berlin. The authority to execute this transfer

is provided to the Emergency Board and this language notwithstands that provision to allow this transfer by the General Assembly.

(b) Multiple sections

Provides estimated transfer amounts for the purpose of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget but clarifies that fiscal year actual transfer amounts shall be in accordance with existing codified statute.

(c) Multiple sections

Provides estimated transfer amounts for the purpose of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget but clarifies that fiscal year actual transfer amounts shall not exceed net profits earned by an enterprise operation after accounting for any necessary deficit mitigation.

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
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
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

EXPLANATION:
Reversions, totaling $9,502,459.14, from balances of one-time General Fund appropriations made in prior fiscal years.

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 Budget Stabilization Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308. For purposes of developing this budget, $9,111,511.40 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2027.

(B) The General Fund 27/53 Reserve shall be adjusted in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308e. For purposes of developing this budget, $6,550,000.00 is expected to be reserved in fiscal year 2027.

(C) The $30,000,000 of General Funds reserved pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100(b)(4) is unreserved.

(D) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308c; any General Fund balance that would otherwise have been subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 308c shall instead be reserved for use in the subsequent fiscal year for providing property tax relief, permanent housing initiatives, or any other uses determined to be in the best interest of the public.

EXPLANATION:
(a)(1)(A): Ensures the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve is adjusted in accordance with codified law. Provides the current fiscal year end estimated adjustment amount for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget.

(a)(1)(B): Ensures the General Fund 27/53 Reserve is adjusted in accordance with codified law. Provides the current fiscal year end estimated adjustment amount for purposes of developing the fiscal year 2027 budget.

(a)(1)(D): Unreserves the $30,000,000 million reserved by the General Assembly in 2027 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(4).

(a)(1)(D): Reserves any General Fund balance that would otherwise have been subject to the provisions of the Balance Reserve for mitigating property tax pressures, housing relief or other needs in fiscal year 2028.

* * * General Government * * *

Sec. E.106 32 V.S.A. § 308c is amended to read:

§ 308c. General Fund and Transportation Fund Balance Reserves

(a) There is hereby created within the General Fund a General Fund Balance Reserve, also known as the "Rainy Day Reserve." After satisfying the requirements of section 308 of this title,

~~and~~ after other reserve requirements have been met, and after fulfilling any applicable requirements pursuant to 16 V.S.A. 3444(b)(3); any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year General Fund surplus shall be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve. The General Fund Balance Reserve shall not exceed 10 percent of the appropriations from the General Fund for the prior fiscal year without legislative authorization.

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EXPLANATION:
(a)(1): Adds the transfer of any estate taxes exceeding 125% of the July consensus revenue forecast to be executed, provided the necessary conditions pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 3444(b)(3) have been met, before implementing the Balance Reserve requirements under 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

Sec. E.133 VERMONT STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET, SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $3,602,722 appropriated in Sec. B.133 of this act, $2,472,608 constitutes the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,130,114 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

EXPLANATION: Annual language to differentiate the portion of the VSERS admin appropriation that support operations in the State Treasurer's Office versus the portion that supports VPIC.

Sec. E.134 VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $2,155,545 appropriated in Sec. B.134 of this act, $1,732,301 constitutes the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System operating budget, and $423,244 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System

EXPLANATION: Annual language to differentiate the portion of the VMERS admin appropriation that support operations in the State Treasurer's Office versus the portion that supports VPIC.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Revised standard language adding notwithstanding clause for appropriation conversion from General Fund to PILOT Special Fund, and removing the $9,000 transfer to the Attorney General.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Annual language clarifying that these payments are in addition to, and separate from, those appropriated elsewhere in the Act for corrections facilities.

Sec. E.142.1 32 V.S.A. § 3436(e) is amended to read:

§ 3436. Assessment education

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(e) A sum not to exceed $100,000.00 each year shall be paid from the ~~Education Fund~~ PILOT Special Fund to the Division of Property Valuation and Review for the purpose of providing assessment education for municipal listers and assessors. The Director is authorized to establish guidelines and requirements for education programs to be provided using the funds described in this section. Education programs provided using funds described in this section shall be provided at no cost or minimal cost to the municipal listers and assessors. In addition to providing the annual education programs described in this section, up to 20 percent of the amount available for education programs may be reserved as a scholarship fund to permit municipal listers and assessors to attend national programs providing education opportunities on advanced assessment topics. All applications for scholarships shall be submitted to and approved by the Director.

EXPLANATION:
Changes the funding source for Lister and Assessor Education in Sec. B.139 of this act from the Education Fund to the PILOT Special Fund. This ensures that funds raised from municipal enactment of local option taxes are fully used by the state as aid for municipalities and state General Fund is used for state purposes. Note that while the existing language states Education Fund, it does not reflect actual current practice of payments being made from the General Fund.

Sec. E.142.2 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, subsections 3436(e), 4041a(a), and 5405(f) of this title, and for any additional State payments in lieu of taxes for correctional facilities. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts.

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EXPLANATION:
Adds the following as authorized uses of the PILOT special fund: (1) Lister and Assessor Education funding from 32 V.SA. §3436(e); (2) $8.50 per parcel payment for Reappraisal and Listing assistance from 32 V.SA. §4041a(a), and (3) $1.00 per parcel payment for the Equalization Study from 32 V.SA. §5405(f). Ensures receipts generated from municipal adoption of local option taxes are used for state assistance for municipalities, and state General Fund is used for other purposes.

Sec. E.142.3 32 V.S.A. § 4041a is amended to read:

§ 4041a. Reappraisal

(a) A municipality shall be paid $8.50 per grand list parcel per year from the ~~General~~ PILOT Special Fund to be used only for reappraisal and costs related to reappraisal of its grand list properties and for maintenance of the grand list.

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EXPLANATION:
Changes the funding source for the Reappraisal and Listing payments in Sec. B.139 of this act from General Fund to PILOT Special Fund. This ensures that funds raised from municipal enactment of local options taxes are fully used by the state as aid for municipalities and frees up state General Fund for other purposes.

Sec. E.142.4 32 V.S.A. § 5405 is amended to read:

§ 5405. Determination of equalized education property tax grand list and coefficient of dispersion

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(f) Within the limits of the resources available for that purpose, the Commissioner may employ such individuals, whether on a permanent, temporary, or contractual basis, as shall be necessary, in the judgment of the Commissioner, to aid in the performance of duties under this section. The Commissioner shall pay from the PILOT Special Fund to each municipality the sum of $1.00 per grand list parcel in the municipality for services provided to the Commissioner in connection with the performance of duties under this section. Each municipality shall deposit payments received under this subsection into a special fund that shall be used to support the preparation of the education property tax grand list.

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EXPLANATION:
Changes the funding source for the Equalization Study payments in Sec. B.139 of this act from General Fund to PILOT Special Fund. This ensures that funds raised from municipal enactment of local options taxes are fully used by the state as aid for municipalities and frees up state General Fund for other purposes.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

Sec. E.209 PUBLIC SAFETY – STATE POLICE

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.209, $35,000 shall be available to the Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue Team, which is comprised 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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

Sec. E.209.1 20 V.S.A. § 1913a is added to read:

§ 1913a Vermont State Police Radio Equipment Replacement Special Fund

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont State Police Radio Equipment Replacement Special Fund, to be administered by the Vermont 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 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.

(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.

EXPLANATION:
Vermont State Police radios and their supporting equipment must all be replaced simultaneously to ensure effective communication between officers. This language creates a fund into which multiple sources can be accumulated over time to facilitate the periodic large purchase of such radios and their supporting equipment. This reduces the uncertainty and risk associated with their replacement. Radios can be sold outside of the surplus property process by the Commissioner of Public Safety per 20 V.S.A. § 1876.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard language.

Sec. E.215 MILITARY - ADMINISTRATION

(a) $1,219,834 of the General Funds appropriated in Sec. B.215 of this act shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

EXPLANATION:
Standard language.

Sec. E.217 MILITARY – POSTION POOL; FEDERAL FUNDING

(a) Of the Federal Funds appropriated in Sec. B.217 of this act, $442,247 shall be the 75% federal share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialist II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper .

EXPLANATION:
Designates a portion of the Federal Fund appropriation for the named positions to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.218 MILITARY – POSTION POOL; GENERAL FUNDING

(a) Of the General Funds appropriated in Sec. B.218 of this act, $147,411 shall be the 25% state share for the following six classified limited service positions to be taken from the position pool: four Military Maintenance Specialist II; one Military Building Construction Specialist; and one Military Storekeeper .

EXPLANATION:
Designates a portion of the General Fund appropriation for the named positions to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.219 MILITARY – VETERANS' AFFAIRS

(a) Of the General Funds 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 Boys' State and Girls' State programs; and $10,000 shall be used for the USS Vermont Support Group.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

Sec. E.222 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS – POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.222 of this act $95,740 of General Fund, $27,353 of Special Funds, and $13,677 of Federal Funds shall be for a permanent, classified Administrative Services Manager III position to be taken from the position pool.

EXPLANATION:
Designates a portion of the appropriations provided for the named positions to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.232 SECRETARY OF STATE; VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK BUDGET

(a) The Secretary of State shall grant the $1,350,000 General Fund appropriation, provided in section B.232 of this act, to the Vermont Access Network to maintain current operations and programming.

EXPLANATION:
Specifies the purpose of the $1,350,000 General Fund appropriation in B.232.

Sec. E.233 PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT; POSITION CONVERSION

(a) The Department of Public Service shall convert one limited service classified Financial Director IV position to a permanent classified Financial Director IV position.

EXPLANATION:
Converts the Public Service Department's limited service Financial Director IV classified position to permanent.

Sec. E.233.1 30 V.S.A. § 202d is amended to read:

§ 202d. Telecommunications Plan

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(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.

EXPLANATION:
Extends the window for Telecommunications Plan review and revision from three to five years, which is necessary given that three years is too frequent to ensure the stability of long-term

telecommunications planning. In fiscal year 2027, the expense savings from this change will be applied to the required Comprehensive Energy Plan update.

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) $2,000,406 shall be used for the contract with the Office of the Health Care Advocate.

(2) $1,717,994 for Vermont Legal Aid services, including the Poverty Law Project and mental health services; and

(3) $650,000 is 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.

EXPLANATION:
Annual language required pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 53(c), with the addition of VT Legal Aid subsections which the General Assembly added in fiscal year 2024.

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 for 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 Medicaid Reimbursement Special Fund created in 16 V.S.A. § 2959a.

(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.

EXPLANATION:
Annual language required to clarify the source of IDT funds in the AHS Global Commitment appropriation, as well as to update estimated appropriations and available certified State match as proposed in the fiscal year 2027 budget. The reference to 16 V.S.A. § 2959a in (b)(1) above is subject to change contingent upon the outcome of a policy proposal to transfer sole authority over the Medicaid school-based services program to the Agency of Human Services.

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 for Health Section 1115 demonstration approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language. Medicaid services are included in numerous appropriations within AHS, and outside of AHS. While best efforts are made accurately to project expenditures in each appropriation in the Big Bill, and refined again in the BAA, there is always a need at the end of the year to true-up to actual expenditures and activities. The annual JFC reporting requirement ensures that the legislature is made aware of these adjustments.

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:

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(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.

EXPLANATION:
The federal government has extended HCBS fund availability until September 2026. To make use of all funds, to the fullest extent, AHS requires HCBS Global Commitment Fund transfer flexibility language to be extended into FY2027.

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 January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2032 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

EXPLANATION:
The Agency of Human Services plans to submit an extension request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for its Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver: Global Commitment to Health. The Global Commitment Demonstration provides greater program flexibility in the use of Medicaid resources, allowing the State to better meet the needs of Vermont's uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid beneficiaries. Originally approved in September 2005 and effective October 1, 2005, the Global Commitment Demonstration has undergone multiple extensions and amendments over the past 20 years. This extension request will be submitted by December 31, 2026 for the period January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2032. Prior to submission, a complete draft extension request, including financial data, will be posted for a 30-day public comment period.

Sec. E.306.1 AUTHORIZATION FOR § 1332 WAIVER

(a) The Vermont Department of Health Access, in consultation with the Department of Financial Regulation, shall submit a state innovation waiver application under § 1332 of the Affordable Care Act to establish a program for reinsurance and seek Federal pass-through funding under § 26B of the Internal Revenue Code and § 1402 of the Affordable Care Act.

EXPLANATION:
Language to authorize DVHA to submit a § 1332 waiver.

Sec. E.306.2 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187, Sec. 5, 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.1, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 144, Sec. 11, is further amended to read:

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(10) Secs. 48–51 (health care claims tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and Sec. 52 (Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

EXPLANATION:
Extends the sunset of the Vermont Health IT-Fund.

Sec. E.306.3 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 75, 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.2, and 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 144, Sec. 12, is further amended to read:

Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES
(b) Sec. 73 (further amending 32 V.S.A. § 10402) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

EXPLANATION:
Extends the provision removing the Health Care Claims tax as a source of revenue for the Health IT-Fund, contained in 32 V.S.A. § 10402, from July 1, 2026 to July 01, 2027.

Sec. E.306.4 MEDICARE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(a) Effective July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of the Department 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).

EXPLANATION:
Language to authorize DVHA to terminate contracts for services for the Medicare Advocacy Program. The state fiscal year 2027 Governor's Recommended budget eliminates funding for the existing contract for these services due to poor performance.

Sec. E.306.5 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; and five Vermont Healthcare Service Specialist II .

EXPLANATION:
Designates a portion of the appropriations provided for the named positions to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.307 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; EDUCATION MEDICAID RECEIPTS

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 2959a; the payments ordinarily made by the Secretary of Education, pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, shall instead be made by the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access.

EXPLANATION:
The Education Medicaid program is transitioning from the Agency of Education to the Department of Vermont Health Access beginning the second quarter of fiscal year 2027. This language allows the Department of Vermont Health Access to make the first quarter payment to maintain payor consistency, from the state to local education agencies, and to avoid any confusion associated with a first quarter change.

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 HIV 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) Ryan White Title II funds for HIV 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 state's 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.

EXPLANATION:
Annual language that provides guidance to the Department of Health and Agency of Human Services about the allocation and administration of funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and services. Harm reduction language previously included in Sec. E.312 has been moved to Sec. E.313 to align with VDH organizational and budget changes.

Sec. E.312.1 HEALTH; SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

(a) Harm Reduction funding:

(1) In fiscal year 2027, and as provided in this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $295,000 from the General Fund for Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: $140,000;

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

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

(2) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of $400,000 General Fund for Harm Reduction Services not later than September 1, 2026. The method by which these prevention funds are distributed shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Department of Health and harm reduction program providers.

(3) In fiscal year 2027, the Department of Health shall not reduce any grants to peer-support organizations or syringe service programs from funds appropriated for Harm Reduction Services to levels below those in fiscal year 2026 without receiving prior approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee.

EXPLANATION:
Annual language that provides guidance to the Department of Health and Agency of Human Services about the allocation and administration of funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and services. Harm reduction language previously included in Sec. E.312 has been moved to Sec. E.313 to align with VDH organizational and budget changes.

Sec. E.322 33 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

§ 2605. Benefit amounts

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(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.

EXPLANATION:
Changes state statute to conform with recent changes to federal law which reduce the number of 3SquaresVT households eligible for the nominal annual Home Heating Fuel Assistance benefit.

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, $32,145,972 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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language which authorizes spending on the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP).

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language which authorizes spending on the replacement and repair of home heating equipment.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language which provides DOC with specific funding from the PILOT Special Fund for payments to municipalities.

Sec. E.338.1 CORRECTIONS – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; POSITION POOL; FUNDING

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.338 of this act, $200,000 General Fund shall be added to existing prior year funding for seven permanent, classified Probation and Parole Officer II positions to be taken from the position pool. These positions will be dedicated to the Department of Corrections Pre-Trial Supervision Program.

EXPLANATION:

Designates a portion of the General Fund appropriated for the named positions to be taken from the position pool.

Sec. E.501 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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language that makes clear that Global Commitment funds will be used for appropriate Global Commitment purposes. This language reflects allowable uses under the 1115 Global Commitment Waiver.

Sec. E.501.1 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.

EXPLANATION:
Converts established positions from limited service to permanent.

Sec. E.501.2 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~~ 5% 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.

EXPLANATION:
(b)(1): Provides the Agency of Education a fixed percentage of forecasted receipts to be used annually for overhead costs as opposed to an unindexed fixed amount.

Sec. E.501.3 16 V.S.A. § 3444 is amended to read:

§ 3444. School Construction Aid Special Fund

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(b) Funds. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) any amounts transferred ~~or appropriated~~ to it by the General Assembly; ~~and~~

(2) any interest earned by the Fund~~.~~;

(3) funds raised by the estate tax levied under 32 V.S.A. chapter 190 that are more than 125 percent of the amount projected by the Emergency Board in the July annual forecast made pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 305a provided the requirements of 32 V.S.A. §§ 308, 308b and 308e have all been fulfilled and prior to the execution of 32 V.S.A. § 308c.

EXPLANATION:
(b)(1): Technical correction. Appropriations provide spending authority for expenditures. They are never sources to a fund.

(b)(3): Redirects estate tax receipts in excess of 125% of the July consensus revenue forecast from the Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund to the School Construction Aid Special Fund provided the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve, Human Services Caseload Reserve and

27/53 Reserve requirements have all been met and prior to the execution of the Balance Reserve requirements.

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).

EXPLANATION:
The language establishes how much of the special education funding formula will be used for 16 V.S.A Sec 2967(b)(2)-(6) and 16 V.S.A. 2975.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

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; and

(4) $4,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 947(b).

(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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language ensures that education funds are paid to help fund the dual enrollment program created in 16 V.S.A Sec 944, and to support distance learning in Vermont schools.

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.

EXPLANATION:
Standard annual language.

Sec. E.514 STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) 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."

EXPLANATION: Standard annual language with allows the normal contribution to be funded with Education funds. The $8,000,000 local contribution mentioned in subsection (a) reduces the Education Fund component of the normal contribution by $1,583,993 and the General fund component of the accrued liability contribution by $6,416,007.

Sec. E.514.1 VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION; OPERATING BUDGET; SOURCE OF FUNDS

(a) Of the $4,015,592 appropriated in Sec. B.514.1 of this act, $2,824,955 constitutes the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System operating budget, and $1,189,637 constitutes the portion of the Vermont Pension Investment Commission's budget attributable to the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System.

EXPLANATION: Standard annual language to differentiate the portion of the VSTRS admin appropriation that support operations in the State Treasurer's Office from the portion that supports VPIC.

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 $90,834,595,

of which $81,834,595 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, $28,193,691 is the "normal contribution," and $62,640,904 is the "accrued liability contribution."

EXPLANATION: Standard annual language which allows the normal contribution to be funded with Education funds. The $9,000,000 new teacher health care annual charge contribution reduces the Education fund component of the normal contribution by $2,793,465 and the General fund component of the accrued liability contribution by $6,206,535.

Sec. E.516 16 V.S.A. § 4025(a) is amended to read:

§ 4025. Education Fund

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

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(5) ~~one-third 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); the amount received from the purchase and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 219 shall be as follows: $41,900,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026; $31,900,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2027; $21,900,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2028; and, $11,900,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2029.

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EXPLANATION:

Transitions the current one-third Purchase & Use Tax, received by the Department of Motor Vehicles and deposited into the Education Fund, back to the Transportation Fund beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. E.516.1 16 V.S.A. § 4025(a)(5) is repealed.

EXPLANATION: Effective July 1, 2030, proceeds from the Motor Vehicle Purchase & Use Tax are no longer directed to the Education Fund.

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.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

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 $300,000 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.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

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.

EXPLANATION:

Standard annual language.

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;

(2) ~~in any fiscal year in which a General Fund surplus exists and the General Fund Stabilization Reserve is funded to its required statutory level, funds raised by the estate tax levied under 32 V.S.A. chapter 190 that are more than 125 percent of the amount projected by the Emergency Board in the July annual forecast made pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 305a; and~~

~~(3)~~ contributions from any other sources.

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EXPLANATION:
(a)(1): Technical correction. Appropriations provide spending authority for expenditures from a fund; appropriations cannot be sources to a fund.

(a)(2): Eliminates the proceeds from the estate tax exceeding 125% of the July consensus forecast. These proceeds are redirected to the School Construction Aid Special Fund.

Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 2807 is amended to read:

(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) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources of the Secretary's designee. ~~"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or the Commissioner'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 ~~which 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 distribute from the Fund ~~five~~ 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. 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) The Secretary may make expenditures from the fund for eligible projects with a consideration towards: ~~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:~~ 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 which are related to management and administrative support of Agency lands, facilities, and recreational assets, ~~and administrative support~~ and which 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 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.

EXPLANATION:

Updates the statute to align management of the fund with the Agency of Natural Resources. Provides clarification that administrative support is an eligible cost. Increases distribution from the fund to 8 percent of the market value of the Fund over the prior 12 quarters, resulting in additional project dollars, while still growing the fund overall.

Sec. E.923 19 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. Transportation Fund

The Transportation Fund shall comprise the following:

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(9) all interest earned by the fund, notwithstanding any provisions of 32 V.S.A. Chapter 7, Subchapter 5 to the contrary.

EXPLANATION:

Establishes that the Transportation Fund shall retain any interest earned by the 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.

EXPLANATION:

Allows the General Assembly to provide the Department of Housing and Community Development a direct Transportation Fund appropriation to increase Vermonters' access to level 1 and 2 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) charging ports at workplaces or multiunit dwellings, or both.

Sec. F.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. E.516.1 shall take effect on July 1, 2030.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.