Recent Legislative Action Affecting Education Fund Revenues

Income-Based Education Tax Study Committee Abby Shepard, Legislative Counsel October 24, 2022

Education Fund Revenue Changes

Revenue Allocations

- General Fund transfer to Ed Fund repealed.¹
- Sales and Use Tax revenues dedicated entirely to Ed Fund (previously 64% General Fund; 36% Ed Fund).²
- Meals and Rooms Tax revenues split 75% General Fund; 25% Ed Fund (previously dedicated entirely to General Fund).³

¹<u>2018 Acts and Resolves (Spec. Sess.), No. 11</u>, Sec. H.8. ² *Id.*, Secs. H.8 and H.9. ³ *Id.*, Secs. H.8 and H.9.

Education Fund Revenue Changes

Sales and Use Tax Revenue Increases

Wayfair and Remote Sellers

- June 2018: U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Wayfair* overruled the physical presence requirement of 1992 case *Quill*, allowing states to require certain remote sellers to collect state sales tax.¹
 - 2016: Vermont had enacted a remote seller collection requirement that only took effect when certain conditions were met, including overruling *Quill*. The *Wayfair* decision triggered Vermont's remote seller collection requirement to start in mid-2018.²

Marketplace Facilitators

 Required online platforms (marketplaces) that facilitate sellers' retail sales of tangible personal property, taxable services, or digital goods to collect Vermont sales tax.³

Retail Cannabis Sales

• Sales tax applied to retail sales of cannabis.⁴

¹ South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc., 138 S.Ct. 2080 (2018); Quill v. North Dakota, 504 U.S. 298 (1992).

- ² 2016 Acts and Resolves, No. 134, Secs. 27 and 41(5); <u>32 V.S.A. § 9701(9)(F)</u>.
- ³ 2019 Acts and Resolves, No. 46, Secs. 3 and 4; <u>32 V.S.A. § 9701(9)(J)</u>.

⁴ 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164.

Education Fund Revenue Changes

Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Increases

Online travel ("booking") agents

 Applied rooms tax to online travel agent charges for booking rooms.¹

Online taxable meal facilitators

• Applied meals tax to meal delivery and other meal facilitator charges for online ordering.²

Education Fund Expense Changes

Expenses

Teacher pensions

Normal cost added to allowable uses of Ed Fund.¹

Other postemployment benefits (OPEB)

- \$14M reserve in Ed Fund (prefunding) for OPEB.²
- Normal cost spent; added to allowable uses of Ed Fund.³

Special Education Funding

 Changed State special education funding model from a reimbursement model to a census-based model.⁴

Universal school meals

 \$29M for universal school meals in FY 2023 and study on potential future funding sources.⁵

- ³ 2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 114, Secs. 25 and 28; <u>16 V.S.A. § 4025(b)(4)</u>.
- ⁴ 2018 Acts and Resolves, No. 173.
- ⁵ 2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 151, Sec. 5.

¹<u>2017 Acts and Resolves, No. 85</u>, Sec. E.500.2; <u>16 V.S.A. § 4025</u>(b)(4).

² 2021 Acts and Resolves, No. 74, Sec. C.101.

Education Fund Expense Changes

Reserves, Studies, and Reports Regarding Future Funding

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - \$32M reserves for PCB investigation, testing, assessment, remediation, and removal.¹
 - Requires multi-agency plan for disbursement due in 2023. Authorizes certain emergency uses.
- Career technical education (CTE)
 - \$15M in FY 2023 to VHCB.2
 - Requires study and reporting on CTE funding and governance models.³

School construction

2022 study on school facilities inventory. Additional conditions assessment due in 2023.⁴

¹ <u>2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 178</u>, Secs. 2-3.
² <u>2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 183</u>, Sec. 16.
³ <u>2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 127</u>, Sec. 17.
⁴ 2021 Acts and Resolves, No. 72; Sec. 3; 2022 Acts and Resolves, No. 166, Sec. 9.

Education Fund Expense Changes

Sales and Use Tax

Expenditures (sales tax exemptions) decrease sales tax revenue to the Ed Fund

- "Cloud" tax exemption.¹
- Menstrual products exemption.²
- Wood pellets added to residential energy exemption.³
- Cannabis and small cannabis cultivators.⁴

³ 2021 Acts and Resolves, No. 73, Sec. 11a; 2021 Acts and Resolves, No. 54, Sec. 21; <u>32 V.S.A. § 9741(26)</u>.
⁴ 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Sec. 16; 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 158, Sec. 2; <u>32 V.S.A. § 9741(3)</u>, (25), (50), and (55).

¹ 2015 Acts and Resolves, No. 51, Sec. G.8.

² 2021 Acts and Resolves, No. 73, Secs. 11-11a; 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Secs. 27a-27b; 32 V.S.A. § 9741(56).