



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Room 10 and Zoom

[Meeting available by LIVE Stream](#)

**Updated on 7/30/2024 4:05 PM**

- 1:00 p.m. Call to Order and approve minutes from February 27, 2024  
**[Approved]**
- 1:05 p.m. A. Administrations Fiscal Updates  
*Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management*  
*Hardy Merrill, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management*
1. [FY 2024 preliminary close-out: Education, General, and Transportation Fund.](#)
  2. [Unencumbered balance transfer report](#) [Cite: Sec. D.101(b)(2) of Act 78 of 2023 as amended by Sec. 55 of Act 87 of 2024]
- 1:15 p.m. B. Medicaid Year-end [Report](#)
1. Medicaid Year-end Report [Cite: 32 V.S.A. Sec. 305a]  
*Nolan Langweil, Principal Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office*
- 1:25 p.m. C. July 2024 [Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update](#)  
*Tom Kavet, Legislature's Economist, Kavet, Rockler & Associates LLC*
- 2:00 p.m. D. ARPA Update  
*Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, State of Vermont*
- 2:15 p.m. E. Flood Update [Cite: Act 78 of 2024]
1. Municipal grants related to the 2023 flood  
*Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, State of Vermont*
  2. General (2023 and 2024) Flood Update  
*Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, State of Vermont*

2:30 p.m.

F. Housing Update

1. Status of Initiatives to make additional housing units available, expand emergency shelter [Cite: Sec 9 of Act 81 of 2023] ([DCF Report](#)) ([VHIP Presentation](#)) ([MHIR Presentation](#))

*Jayme Bauer, Community Development Specialist, Department of Housing & Community Development*

*Scott Sharland, Grants Management Specialist, Department of Housing & Community Development*

*Lily Sojourner, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department for Children and Families*

2. Update on Progress of Vermont Council on Housing and Homelessness [Cite: EO No. 01-23]

*David Riegel, Director of Housing Policy and Planning, Agency of Human Services*

*Miranda Grey, Deputy Commissioner, Economic Services Division, Department for Children and Families*

3. Status of Initiatives to make additional housing units available, expand emergency shelter [Cite: Sec. 6(c) of Act 81 of 2023] ([May Report](#)) ([June Report](#)) ([July Report](#)) ([Presentation](#))

*Pollaidh Major, Director of Policy and Special Projects, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board*

3:30 p.m.

G. Grants [Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 5] [**Action Items**]

1. [JFO #3208](#): \$2,310,137.00 to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The funds from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program will be used to strengthen security of the state and local governments' critical electronic infrastructure against cyber-attacks and improve the resilience of these services to the communities they serve. [Received July 11, 2024] [**Approved**]

*Eric Forand, Director of Vermont Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety*

2. [JFO #3209](#): \$1,582,876.00 to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Funds used for the emergency work and repair of disaster damaged facilities during the December 18-19, 2023 storm event in Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor Counties. [Received July 11, 2024] [**Approved**]

*Eric Forand, Director of Vermont Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety*

3. [JFO #3210](#): One (1) limited-service position to the Department of Public Service, Thermal Energy Manager. The funding for this position was approved in JFO #3177, the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The grant was awarded to the Agency of Natural Resources with the expectation that some funds would be sub awards to participating agencies involved in updating Vermont's Climate Action plan. The DPS

will receive a \$500,000.00 sub award to support the limited-service position through 6/30/2027. The Thermal Energy Manager will support the coordination of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan with the Vermont Climate Action plan, as well as administer federal funding to support thermal efficiency measures. *[Received July 11, 2024]*

**[Approved]**

*Kelly Launder, Assistant Director of Efficiency and Energy Resources, Public Service Department*

4. [JFO #3211](#): \$30,000.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The funds will be used by the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historic Sites program to document the history of canal boat wrecks in Lake Champlain which are part of the State's underwater archeological collections. 100% State Match includes a fraction of an existing position to be dedicated to this project (\$4, 399.00) and a matching grant from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (\$25,601.00). *[Received July 11, 2024]* **[Approved]**

*Dan Dickerson, Administrative Services Director, Agency of Commerce and Community Development*

5. [JFO #3212](#): \$62,450,000.00 to the Department of Public Service from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Funds from the Solar For All Zero-Emissions Technology Grant Program will provide community solar, multi-family residential solar and solar for low-income and disadvantaged Vermonters. Funds are awarded over a 5-year period and the Department's 5-year plan is due to the EPA on October 5, 2024. The funds support 3 (three) limited-service positions to manage the large award: Energy Program Manager, Grant Programs Manager and Financial Administrator I, all funded through 8/31/2029. *[Received July 26, 2024]* **[Approved]**

*June Tierney, Commissioner, Public Service Department*

3:50 p.m. H. Fiscal Officer's [Report](#)  
*Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office*

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

## Statutory References to Agenda Items

### **Fund Transfers, Reversions, and Reserves**

[Cite: D.101 of Act 185 of 2022 and further amended by Acts 3 and 78 of 2023](#)

(2) Notwithstanding any other laws related to these special fund balances, the following estimated amounts, which may be all or a portion of unencumbered fund balances, may be transferred from the following funds to the General Fund upon determination of the

Commissioner of Finance and Management that such transfers are integral for the financial closure of the fiscal year. The Commissioner shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its July meeting the final amounts transferred from each fund and certify that such transfers will not impair the agency, office, or department reliant upon each fund from meeting its statutory requirements.

### **Official State Revenue Estimate (Year-end Medicaid)**

Cite: 32 V.S.A. Sec. 305a

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

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

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency Reporting and Oversight**

Cite: Act 78 of 2024

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at each of its scheduled meetings in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 on funding received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and associated emergency relief and assistance funds match for the damages due to the July 2023 flooding event.

### **Acceptance of Grants**

Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 5

3) Legislative review.

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

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

(ii) When the General Assembly is in session, within 30 days of receipt of the copy of an approval and related information required under subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a member of the Committee requests that such grant, gift, loan, sum of money, or thing of value be held for legislative approval. If a copy of an approval and related information is received when the

General Assembly is in session, but before the members of the Joint Fiscal Committee are appointed, one of the statutorily appointed members of the Committee may request to hold a grant for legislative approval. Legislative approval under this subdivision may be granted by legislation or resolution.

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

## Reports

**Proceedings and activities; personnel**  
[Cite: 30 V.S.A. § 20](#)

[PSD Report Link](#)  
[ANR Report Link](#)

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

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

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

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

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

**§ 511. Excess receipts**  
[Cite: 32 V.S.A. § 511. Excess Receipts](#)

[Report Link](#)

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

### **Vermont Strong Motor Vehicle Plates**

[Cite: Act 87 of 2024](#)

[Report Link](#)

(2) A The Vermont Strong Commemorative Plate Fund is established. The Fund shall be under the control of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee and shall consist of all receipts from the sales of Vermont Strong commemorative plates and bundled promotional items. The Commissioner shall account for all proceeds of sales of commemorative plates and bundled promotional items and all receipts into and disbursements from the Fund; shall track the number of plates and bundled promotional items distributed and sold; and shall track and collect payments owed for plates distributed. The Commissioner shall transfer funds from the Fund in accordance with subsection (d) of this section no not less often than once per month. The Department shall report its accounting of Fund receipts and disbursements, plate inventory, and uncollected payments for plates distributed to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and the Joint Fiscal Committee not later than May 1, 2024.

### **Implementation of Department of Motor Vehicles Modernization Project; General Assembly Oversight**

[Cite: Act 41 of 2023](#)

[Report Link](#)

(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall file three written reports on the design and implementation of the driver services module of the DMV Core System Modernization project with the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the House and Senate Committees on Transportation. The first shall be due on or before July 31, 2024, the second shall be due on or before October 15, 2024, and the third shall be due on or before January 15, 2025.

### **Cannabis Regulation Fund Transfer**

[Cite: 7 V.S.A. § 845](#)

[Report Link](#)

(d) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall do the following not later than July 31 each year: (1) transfer the unexpended and unobligated balance of the Cannabis Regulation Fund to the General Fund at the close of the prior fiscal year; and (2) report the amount of the transfer made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to the Joint Fiscal Committee.