

1 Introduced by Committee on Appropriations

2 Date:

3 Subject: Appropriations; local government; supervisory unions; COVID-19

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to appropriate  
5 sums from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Secretary of Administration and  
6 the Secretary of Education to fund reimbursement of expenses incurred by  
7 local government and elementary and secondary schools in response to the  
8 COVID-19 public health emergency.

9 An act relating to emergency funding for local government and schools

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

11 Sec. 1. COVID-19 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT; LOCAL

12 GOVERNMENT

13 (a) In fiscal year 2020, \$16,000,000.00 shall be appropriated from the  
14 Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Agency of Administration for the purpose of  
15 issuing grants to units of local government to reimburse eligible COVID-19  
16 expenses incurred on or before December 30, 2020, including hazard pay,  
17 supplies and equipment, sanitation, facility alterations, overtime compensation,  
18 redirection of staff for first response needs, and any other eligible COVID-19  
19 expenses not covered by other funding sources, including funding provided by  
20 the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To be eligible for

1 reimbursement under this section, COVID-19 expenses shall be consistent with  
2 the uses authorized in section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and  
3 Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No.116–136 (the CARES Act), as may be  
4 amended, and any guidance or regulations issued pursuant to that section.

5 (b) The Secretary of Administration shall develop grant guidelines for  
6 determining eligibility of COVID-19 expenses and requirements for  
7 reimbursement for units of local government.

8 (c) From the amount appropriated to the Agency of Administration under  
9 this section, the Secretary shall allocate:

10 (1) \$14,750,000.00 to Vermont cities, towns, and incorporated villages  
11 in grants for reimbursement of eligible COVID-19 expenses. Grants allocated  
12 under this subdivision shall not exceed \$25.00 per person as determined from  
13 the 2019 town census data published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

14 (2)(A) \$1,000,000.00 to other units of local government, except school  
15 districts and educational entities eligible for State aid for capital construction  
16 costs under 16 V.S.A. chapter 123, in grants for reimbursement of eligible  
17 COVID-19 expenses. The Secretary may determine any limitations to the  
18 amount of the grants allocated under this subdivision.

19 (B) As used in this subdivision (2), “other unit of local government”  
20 means a fire district, a union municipal district; created under an  
21 intermunicipal agreement entered into and approved as provided in 24 V.S.A.

1 chapter 121, subchapter 3; a regional mass transportation authority created  
2 under 24 V.S.A. chapter 127; a local housing authority created under  
3 24 V.S.A. § 4003; a consolidated water or sewer district created under  
4 24 V.S.A. chapter 91 or chapter 105; an unorganized town or gore, and any of  
5 the unified towns and gores of Essex County.

6 (3) An amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 may be used to contract for  
7 technical assistance to be provided to units of local government in identifying  
8 and documenting eligible COVID-19 expenses. Notwithstanding any other  
9 contrary provision of law, the contract may be a sole source contract. This  
10 allocation may be combined with an allocation by the Agency of Education for  
11 technical assistance to supervisory unions and school districts.

12 (4) In the event that applications for reimbursements exceed the amounts  
13 allocated, grants may be prorated.

14 (d) On or before August 15, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall  
15 report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on program development and eligible  
16 COVID-19 expenses reimbursed pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall  
17 provide recommendations for any legislative action, including reallocation of  
18 funds for reimbursement of eligible local government COVID-19 expenses.

1       Sec. 2. COVID-19 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT; ELEMENTARY AND  
2                   SECONDARY SCHOOLS

3           (a) In fiscal year 2020, \$12,000,000.00 shall be appropriated from the  
4           Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of issuing  
5           grants to supervisory unions and their school districts to reimburse eligible  
6           COVID-19 expenses incurred on or before June 30, 2020 by elementary and  
7           secondary schools. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section,  
8           COVID-19 expenses shall be consistent with the uses authorized in section  
9           5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L.  
10          No.116–136 (the CARES Act), as may be amended, and any guidance or  
11          regulations issued pursuant to that section.

12          (b) The Secretary of Education shall develop grant guidelines for  
13          determining eligibility of COVID-19 expenses and requirements for  
14          reimbursement for supervisory unions and their school districts.

15          (c) The Secretary may use an amount not to exceed five percent of the funds  
16          appropriated under this section to contract for technical assistance to be provided  
17          to supervisory unions and school districts in identifying and documenting  
18          eligible COVID-19 expenses incurred by elementary and secondary schools.

19          (d) On or before August 15, 2020, the Secretary of Education shall report  
20          to the Joint Fiscal Committee on program development and eligible COVID-19  
21          expenses reimbursed pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall provide

1 recommendations for any legislative action, including reallocation of funds for  
2 reimbursement of eligible COVID-19 expenses incurred by elementary and  
3 secondary schools.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.