

1 H.966

2 Representative X moves that the bill be amended by inserting Sec.11a after
3 Sec.11 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 11a. HOUSING, RENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT

5 SERVICES; CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND; APPROPRIATION

6 (a) The sum of \$16,061,600.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
7 Fund to the Department for Children and Families in fiscal year 2021 to fund
8 programs and services that support safe, stable housing opportunities for
9 Vermont households experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19
10 public health emergency and related administrative costs. The programs and
11 services funded by this appropriation may include:

12 (1) expanding the Vermont Rental Subsidy program to provide homeless
13 families with temporary rental assistance through December 30, 2020 as a
14 bridge to public housing vouchers;

15 (2) providing or arranging for housing navigation and case management
16 services, such as identifying housing barriers, needs, and preferences;
17 developing and implementing plans to find and secure housing; conducting
18 outreach to potential landlords; assisting with relocation logistics; developing
19 permanent housing support crisis plans; and identifying other services
20 necessary for households to maintain permanent housing;

1 (3) providing financial assistance to Vermont households who are living
2 in motels to help them rapidly resolve their homelessness and enter into safe
3 housing arrangements;

4 (4) supplementing the General Assistance motel voucher program to
5 address the immediate housing needs of households who are currently living in
6 motels or hotels around the State and whose motel or hotel lodging is related to
7 a disruption to their previous housing situation as a result of the COVID-19
8 public health emergency; and

9 (5) capitalizing a housing risk pool for landlords to encourage rentals to
10 individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, which would
11 help landlords lessen their risk of exposure to financial loss through December
12 20, 2020, while renting to households that have poor or no rental housing
13 history as result of financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health
14 emergency.

15 (b) The General Assembly determines that the expenditure of monies from
16 the Coronavirus Relief Fund as set forth in this section is necessary to secure
17 safe, stable housing opportunities for Vermont households experiencing
18 homelessness, many of whom have been disproportionately impacted by
19 unemployment, business closures, or business interruptions as a result of the
20 COVID-19 public health emergency. The number of families living in State-
21 supported motels or hotels grew from approximately 300 to 1,400 over the

1 course of two months. The COVID-19 pandemic has rendered housing in
2 shelters incompatible with maintaining public health; increased the number of
3 households experiencing homelessness and in need of housing supports to
4 obtain or maintain safe, stable housing; and created a demand for diverse social
5 services to safely house these vulnerable Vermonters.

6 (c) The provision of housing programs and services is not compensable
7 under this section to the extent that the same costs or expenses have been or
8 will be covered by other federal funds.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE