

1 Introduced by Committee on Appropriations

2 Date:

3 Subject: Appropriations; local government; 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 or  
6 designee to fund reimbursement of expenses incurred by local government in  
7 response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

8 An act relating to emergency funding for local government

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

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

11 GOVERNMENT

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

1 the uses authorized in section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and  
2 Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No.116–136 (the CARES Act), as may be  
3 amended, and any guidance or regulations issued pursuant to that section.

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

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

9 (1) \$14,850,000.00 to Vermont cities, towns, and incorporated villages,  
10 in grants for reimbursement of eligible COVID-19 expenses, including those  
11 incurred by fire districts, consolidated water districts created under 24 V.S.A.  
12 chapter 91, and consolidated sewer districts created under 24 V.S.A. chapter  
13 105 therein. Grants allocated under this subdivision shall not exceed \$25.00  
14 per person as determined from the 2019 town census data published by the  
15 U.S. Census Bureau, provided that any recipient under this subdivision with  
16 expenses that exceed \$25.00 per person and \$25,000.00 in total shall receive a  
17 minimum payment of \$25,000.00.

18 (2) \$1,000,000.00 to counties, unorganized towns or gores, and any of  
19 the unified towns and gores of Essex County in grants for reimbursement of  
20 eligible COVID-19 expenses. The Secretary or designee may determine any  
21 limitations to the amount of the grants allocated under this subdivision.

1           (3) An amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 may be used to contract with  
2           one or more regional planning commissions for technical assistance to be  
3           provided to units of local government in identifying and documenting eligible  
4           COVID-19 expenses. Notwithstanding any other contrary provision of law,  
5           the contract may be a sole source contract.

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

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

13           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14           This act shall take effect on passage.