

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill  
3 No. 159 entitled “An act relating to community and economic development  
4 and workforce revitalization” respectfully reports that it has considered the  
5 same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the Report of  
6 the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs be  
7 amended as follows:

8 First: By striking out Sec. 15, appropriations, in its entirety and inserting in  
9 lieu thereof the following:

10 Sec. 15. APPROPRIATIONS

11 (a) Reversion. In fiscal year 2022, of the amounts appropriated in 2021  
12 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G. 300(a)(13), from the American Rescue Plan  
13 Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Agency of  
14 Commerce and Community Development for the Economic Recovery Grant  
15 Program, \$25,500,000.00 shall revert to the American Rescue Plan Act  
16 (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

17 (b) Recruitment and marketing. In fiscal year 2023, the following amounts  
18 are appropriated from the sources, to the recipients, and for the purposes  
19 specified:

20 (1) Worker recruitment. The amount of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated  
21 from the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community

1 Development for worker recruitment activities and for the relocated and  
2 remote worker program.

3 (2) Tourism and marketing; relocation. In fiscal year 2023, the  
4 following amounts are appropriated from the General Fund to the Department  
5 of Tourism and Marketing, which the Department shall expend over two years:

6 (A) \$1,200,000.00 to support a regional relocation network; and

7 (B) \$3,000,000.00 for marketing and promotion.

8 (c) VEDA Short-Term Forgivable Loan Program. In fiscal year 2022, the  
9 amount of \$20,000,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act  
10 (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Vermont Economic  
11 Development Authority for the VEDA Forgivable Loan Program, provided  
12 that the Authority shall transfer \$5,000,000.00 to the Vermont Arts Council to  
13 provide funding to businesses and organizations in the creative sector as  
14 provided in H.624 (2022) if that bill is enacted.

15 (d) Workforce development. It is the intent of the General Assembly to  
16 provide \$26,900,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) –  
17 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds and the State General Fund to be  
18 allocated for workforce investment initiatives to address critical needs in  
19 nursing and the skilled trades and to provide training opportunities for young  
20 adult Vermonters seeking to acquire skills. The specific programs to be funded

1 shall be included in H.703 or other legislation passed in the 2022 legislative  
2 session.

3 (e) Downtown development. Of the amounts appropriated to the Agency  
4 of Commerce and Community Development in fiscal year 2023 for the Better  
5 Places Program, Think Vermont initiative, or other programs that promote  
6 downtown development, the Agency may allocate not more than \$485,000.00  
7 to provide funding to one or more nonprofit organizations that sponsor a  
8 downtown designation to:

9 (1) expand the ability of the downtown organizations to educate, guide,  
10 and partner with businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to  
11 strengthen downtown models and leverage State funding to incentivize broader  
12 participation;

13 (2) support marketing, content development, and increased digital reach  
14 for downtown organizations, individually and collectively; and

15 (3) support communication within the coordinated effort of these State-  
16 mandated organizations to leverage successes.

17 (f) Community-based economic development. It is the intent of the  
18 General Assembly that up to \$11,000,000.00 of funding be provided in fiscal  
19 year 2023 in other legislation for two community-based economic  
20 development initiatives:



1 Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ee is amended to read:

2 § 5930ee. LIMITATIONS

3 Beginning in fiscal year ~~2023~~ 2025 and thereafter, the State Board may  
4 award tax credits to all qualified applicants under this subchapter, provided  
5 that:

6 (1) the total amount of tax credits awarded annually, together with sales  
7 tax reallocated under section 9819 of this title, does not exceed ~~\$4,350,000.00~~  
8 ~~with up to \$1,000,000.00 awarded to qualified projects in neighborhood~~  
9 ~~development areas~~ \$3,000,000.00;

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 20. FY 2024 DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER TAX CREDIT

12 PROGRAM OFFSET

13 In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$1,350,000.00 shall be carried forward  
14 within the General Fund to be available in fiscal year 2024 to provide onetime  
15 increased fiscal capacity for the Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit  
16 Program.

17 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

18 Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

19 (a) Sec. 4 (Capital Investment Grant Program), Sec. 5 (VEDA Short-Term  
20 Forgivable Loan Program), and Sec. 15(b)–(d) (appropriations) shall take  
21 effect on passage.

1        (b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 14e (repeal of prior  
2        unemployment insurance supplemental benefit) shall take effect retroactively  
3        on October 7, 2021.

4        (c)(1) Sec. 14f (temporary unemployment insurance supplemental benefit)  
5        shall take effect on July 1, 2022 and shall apply to benefit weeks beginning  
6        after that date.

7        (2) Secs. 14g (special fund), 14h (appropriation for temporary  
8        unemployment insurance supplemental benefit), and 14i (sunset of  
9        Unemployment Insurance Supplemental Benefit) shall take effect on July 1,  
10       2022.

11       (d) Sec. 14j (increase in unemployment insurance weekly benefit amount)  
12       shall take effect on July 1, 2024 and shall apply to benefit weeks beginning  
13       after that date.

14       (e) Sec. 14l (prospective repeal of unemployment insurance benefit  
15       increase) shall take effect upon the payment of a cumulative total of  
16       \$92,000,000.00 in additional benefits pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1338(e) when  
17       compared to the rate at which benefits would have been paid under the formula  
18       set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 1338(e) on June 30, 2024 and shall apply to benefit  
19       weeks beginning after that date.

20       (f) Sec. 14k (report on implementation of change to unemployment  
21       insurance weekly benefit) shall take effect on passage.

1           (g) Sec. 19 (32 V.S.A. § 5930ee) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

2           (h) All remaining sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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10           (Committee vote:\_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

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