

H. 924: FY 2019 Conference Committee Budget Highlights – May 12, 2018

	FY 2018 BAA+Chgs	1 yr % Growth	Conference Proposed Budget*				<i>As passed</i>	<i>As passed</i>
			FY2019 Budget	1 yr % Growth	1 yr w/o EF struc	5 yr % Growth	<i>House</i>	<i>Senate</i>
<i>(in millions)</i>								
General Fund (GF)	\$1,563.7	1.5%	\$1,294.5	-17.2%	2.5%	-1.4%	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>
All State Funds	\$2,504.2	2.0%	\$2,206.9	-11.9%	0.5%	-0.3%	<i>1.2%</i>	<i>0.7%</i>
Grand Total (unduplicated)	\$5,811.9	1.0%	\$5,843.0	0.5%	0.9%	2.0%	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>0.9%</i>

PROTECTING VULNERABLE VERMONTERS

- Reverses Administration's proposed cuts to Developmental Services Program, restores \$4.3M total (\$2M GF)
- Reverses Administration's proposed elimination of attendant care services to people with severe disabilities (e.g. quadriplegia, paraplegia, MS)
- Provides a 2% which is a \$1.8M total reimbursement increase to community service providers like the visiting nurses that enable elderly or individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities (includes Adult Day, Meals on Wheels, Homemaker, Respite, Companion Services, Choices for Care, Hospice, Personal Care, and Enhanced Residential Care)
- Provides funding for evaluation of PFOA cleanup options for Bennington and blood draw clinics for affected residents
- Funds strategic reform in the adjudication of Child Welfare cases to better protect children and assist families, and Increases judicial system resources to respond to growing child welfare workloads related to the opioid epidemic
- Reverses Administration's proposed cuts to Primary Care doctors and Community Health Clinics
- Provides funding for Brattleboro Retreat to make capital improvements to add 12 Level 1 mental health beds
- Funds Medication Assisted Treatment for inmates; improves re-entry support for inmates
- Provides \$1M in funds for tobacco control programs with special focus on reducing smoking prevalence among pregnant women
- Provides \$200,000 for supportive housing vouchers in mental health

AFFORDABILITY INITIATIVES

- Reverses proposed elimination of loan repayment to make it economically attractive for medical professionals to practice in VT
- Maintains cost sharing assistance for health insurance deductibles and out of pocket costs for 6,100 working families
- Increases child care provider reimbursement for infants and toddlers; maintains grant program to providers with high volume of subsidized children and for infant care; updates income eligibility standards to current Federal Poverty Level
- Increases funding for Individual Development Accounts for low-income workers

* Conference Bill reflects the restructuring of revenue and expenditure in the General and Education Fund in FY2019

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Adds \$4.3M to increase compensation to mental health clinical and direct service staff at Designated Agencies
- Increases funding to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to serve more out-of-school youth
- Provides \$5M to fund an initiative to address the workforce shortage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals
- Funds tuition for National Guard members at UVM, or other public and private colleges.
- Recognizes the financial plight of Vermont's dairy sector by providing interest buy-down assistance on VEDA loans and premium assistance under the new federal Margin Protection Program that will leverage federal funds on 1:3.6 ratio
- Provides funding for the Micro-Business development support program
- Provides \$500,000 to UVM to fund financial assistance to Vermont students pursuing health careers
- Funds the final payment of \$350,000 for the unification of Johnson and Lyndon to create Northern Vermont University
- Increases funding of the Working Lands Program to \$700,000
- Authorizes Treasurer to utilize \$5M revolving state funds to expand weatherization and related home improvement activities
- Assistance and training to Vermont employers to support compliance workplace requirements
- Supports remote worker initiative
- Provides funding for an additional year of state marketing efforts
- Supports Vermont Outdoor Recreation initiative

IMPROVING VERMONT'S FISCAL HEALTH

- Pays down retired teachers' pension liability by \$34.5M which will save Vermont taxpayers over \$100M in interest payments.
- Pays off the Vermont Life Magazine Enterprise fund deficit and refunds paid subscriptions for a total of \$3.886M.
- Strengthens Vermont's fiscal reserves:
 - Statutory 5% reserves full; Caseload Reserve is at \$100.4M; 27/53 Reserve at \$12.5M
 - Rainy Day Reserve at \$12.5M w/ potential addition of FY 2018 surplus funds
 - FY2019 reserves projected at \$203M total approximately 11% of combined GF and State Health Care Resources Fund spending
 - Consolidates disparate reserve funds to improve visibility to rating agencies and usefulness to the state
 - Provides \$9.8M to bring Education Fund reserve to the 5% statutory level in FY 2018 and FY 2019
- Restructures and simplifies Education and General funds by eliminating the General Fund transfer and reallocating revenues and expenditures