https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.966
https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT137/ACT137%20Act%20Summary.pdf

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Act No. 137 (H.966). COVID-19; Coronavirus Relief Fund; housing; economic relief; broadband; utilities; information technology

An act relating to COVID-19 funding and assistance for broadband connectivity, housing, and economic relief

This act appropriates $213,200,000 from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover necessary broadband connectivity, information technology, housing, and economic relief expenses incurred due to, or as a result of, the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 6 appropriates $106,000,000 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and other recipients to provide economic grants and assistance to businesses affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 7 appropriates $13,000,000 to the Agency of Administration for the purpose of issuing grants to units of local government to reimburse eligible COVID-19 expenses.

Section 9 appropriates $2,000,000 to the Agency of Administration to provide grants to eligible municipalities for the purpose of assisting those municipalities in digitizing land records for online public access during municipal office closures due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 11 appropriates $46,000,000 to the Department of Housing and Community Development and other partners to provide housing grants and assistance to Vermonters affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 12 appropriates $16,000,000 to the Department for Children and Families to fund programs and services that support safe, stable housing opportunities for Vermont households experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related administrative costs.

Section 13 appropriates $17,433,500 to the COVID-Response Accelerated Broadband Connectivity Program, which funds the COVID-Response Line Extension Customer Assistance Program; the Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative; the COVID-Response Temporary Broadband Lifeline Program; the Connectivity Initiative; and Wi-Fi deployment.

Section 14 appropriates $800,000 to the COVID-Response Connected Community Resilience Program.

Section 15 appropriates $500,000 to the COVID-Response Telecommunications Recovery Plan, and Sec. 16 specifies that the 2017 Telecommunications Plan is due June 30, 2021.

Section 17 appropriates $800,000 to the COVID-Response Telehealth Connectivity Program administered by the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.

Section 18 appropriates $466,500 for the State's PEG access media organizations, and Section 19 instructs the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to conduct a study of the financial stability and viability of PEG access television in Vermont.

Section 20 appropriates $8,000,000 for utility ratepayer arrearages.

Section 21 appropriates $2,000,000 to the Agency of Digital Services to fund efforts to mitigate cybersecurity risks to the State.

Section 21a appropriates $200,000 to the Enhanced-911 Fund.

Effective Date: July 2, 2020