

1           \* \* \* Property Valuation; Reappraisals; Statewide Program \* \* \*

2           Sec. 1. MORATORIUM ON REQUIRED REAPPRAISALS; FISCAL  
3           YEARS 2023–20XX

4           (a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 4041a(b), for fiscal years 2023–20XX, no  
5           municipality shall be required to reappraise its education grand list properties  
6           or submit a compliance plan to reappraise its education grand list properties  
7           following a determination by the Director of Property Valuation and Review  
8           that a municipality’s education grand list is at a common level of appraisal  
9           below 85 percent or above 115 percent, or has a coefficient of dispersion  
10           greater than 20.

11           (b) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 4041a(c), for fiscal years 2023–20XX, the  
12           failure of a municipality to submit or carry out an acceptable compliance plan  
13           for reappraisal of its education grand list properties shall not be grounds for the  
14           State to withhold the education, transportation, and other funds from the  
15           municipality.

16           Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 4041a is amended to read:

17           § 4041a. ~~REAPPRAISAL~~ ASSESSMENT EDUCATION

18           ~~(a) A municipality shall be paid \$8.50 per grand list parcel per year from~~  
19           ~~the Education Fund to be used only for reappraisal and costs related to~~  
20           ~~reappraisal of its grand list properties and for maintenance of the grand list.~~

21           [Repealed.]

1       ~~(b) If the Director of Property Valuation and Review determines that a~~  
2       ~~municipality's education grand list is at a common level of appraisal below 85~~  
3       ~~percent or above 115 percent, or has a coefficient of dispersion greater than 20,~~  
4       ~~the municipality shall reappraise its education grand list properties. If the~~  
5       ~~Director orders a reappraisal, the Director shall send the municipality written~~  
6       ~~notice of the decision. The municipality shall be given 30 days to contest the~~  
7       ~~finding under procedural rules adopted by the Director, to develop a~~  
8       ~~compliance plan, or both. If the Director accepts a proposed compliance plan~~  
9       ~~submitted by the municipality, the Director shall not order commencement of~~  
10       ~~the reappraisal until the municipality has had one year to carry out that plan.~~

11       [Repealed.]

12       ~~(c) If a municipality fails to submit an acceptable plan or fails to carry out~~  
13       ~~the plan, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the State shall withhold the~~  
14       ~~education, transportation, and other funds from the municipality until the~~  
15       ~~Director certifies that the town has carried out that plan. [Repealed.]~~

16       (d) A sum not to exceed \$100,000.00 each year shall be paid from the  
17       Education Fund to the Division of Property Valuation and Review for the  
18       purpose of providing assessment education for municipal assessing officials.  
19       The Director is authorized to establish guidelines and requirements for  
20       education programs to be provided using the funds described in this section.  
21       Education programs provided using funds described in this section shall be

1 provided at no cost or minimal cost to the municipal assessing officials. In  
2 addition to providing the annual education programs as described in this  
3 section, up to 20 percent of the amount available for education programs may  
4 be reserved as a scholarship fund to permit municipal assessing officials to  
5 attend national programs providing education opportunities on advanced  
6 assessment topics. All applications for scholarships shall be submitted to and  
7 approved by the Director.

8 (e) ~~The Director shall adopt rules necessary for administration of this~~  
9 ~~section.~~ [Repealed.]

10 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 5405(f) is amended to read:

11 (f) Within the limits of the resources available for that purpose, the  
12 Commissioner may employ such individuals, whether on a permanent,  
13 temporary, or contractual basis, as shall be necessary, in the judgment of the  
14 Commissioner, to aid in the performance of duties under this section. The  
15 Commissioner shall pay each municipality the sum of ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.00 per grand  
16 list parcel in the municipality for services provided to the Commissioner in  
17 connection with the performance of duties under this section and for costs  
18 related to the maintenance of the grand list. Each municipality shall deposit  
19 payments received under this subsection into a special fund that shall be used  
20 to support the preparation of the education property tax grand list.

1 Sec. 4. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 163, Sec. 8(2) is amended to read:

2 (2) Sec. 3 (State appraisal and litigation assistance program) shall take  
3 effect on July 1, 2023, ~~provided the General Assembly has, on or before July 1,~~  
4 ~~2023, appropriated funding to cover the Department of Taxes' operating costs~~  
5 ~~required to create, implement, and maintain a new State appraisal and litigation~~  
6 ~~assistance program.~~

7 Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 5413 is amended to read:

8 § 5413. STATE APPRAISAL, REAPPRAISAL, AND LITIGATION  
9 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

10 (a)(1) A State appraisal, reappraisal, and litigation assistance program shall  
11 be created within the Division of Property Valuation and Review of the  
12 Department of Taxes to assist municipalities with the following:

13 (A) valuation of complex commercial or other unique properties  
14 within a municipality's jurisdiction and to assist with any appeals arising from  
15 those valuations; and

16 (B) periodic reappraisals of each municipality's education grand list  
17 properties every  years.

18 (2) The Commissioner of Taxes may contract with one or more  
19 ~~commercial~~ appraisers to provide State appraisal, reappraisal, and litigation  
20 assistance to municipalities under this section. The Commissioner may adopt  
21 rules to administer ~~the provisions of~~ this section.

1 (b) ~~The~~ For complex commercial or other unique properties, the  
2 Commissioner shall:

3 (1) determine the conditions for a property to be eligible for State  
4 appraisal and litigation assistance, including the grand list value or category of  
5 the property or other relevant factors as determined by the Commissioner; and

6 (2) provide a process by which a municipality may apply for appraisal  
7 and litigation assistance ~~under this section~~ for one or more properties.

8 (c) For reappraisals, the Commissioner shall:

9 (1) determine a schedule for periodic reappraisals of municipal  
10 education grand list properties; and

11 (2) notify municipalities of the schedule determined under subdivision  
12 (1) of this subsection (c).

13 (d) Any municipality ~~assisted~~ that is provided State appraisal and litigation  
14 assistance for complex commercial or other unique properties under this  
15 section shall be considered to have followed best practices pursuant to  
16 subdivision 5412(a)(1)(D) of this title.

17 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

18 (a) This section and Secs. 1 (moratorium on required reappraisals) and 4  
19 (contingent effective date) shall take effect on passage.

- 1        (b) Secs. 2 (per parcel fee and reappraisals), 3 (per parcel fee), and 5 (State
- 2        appraisal, reappraisal, and litigation assistance program) shall take effect on
- 3        July 1, 20XX.

DRAFT