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1           IV. Regional economic development corporations shall award one-time grants to support one  
2 or more areas of need, including development of e-commerce capabilities, upgrading business  
3 practices, or maintaining storefront presence. The regional economic development corporations shall  
4 ensure micro enterprises awarded grants pursuant to this subdivision are provided such assistance  
5 as may be necessary to support implementation of any grants awarded.

6           V. For purposes of this subdivision, "micro enterprise" shall mean an entity with 10 or fewer  
7 employees, including any proprietor, that has been in business prior to March 13, 2020, when the  
8 governor signed the first declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 and that has  
9 demonstrated a financial impact during the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as temporary  
10 closure, reduction in workforce, or loss of revenue of 50 percent or greater when compared to the  
11 same time period during the previous year. Financial statements demonstrating losses, closures, or  
12 reduction in workforce shall be supplied as part of the application process.

13           91:439 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Relief Fund.  
14 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

15                   (365) Moneys deposited into the COVID-19 micro enterprise relief fund established  
16 in RSA 12-O:64.

17           91:440 Purpose Statement. Independent live venues are important entertainment hubs and  
18 economic multipliers for New Hampshire's local economies. They serve as critical tax bases as  
19 employers and tourism destinations and as revenue generators for neighboring businesses such as  
20 restaurants, hotels, and retail. The cultural impact of New Hampshire's independent live venues is  
21 difficult to calculate and serves as an important draw for young people to the state. Unfortunately,  
22 these businesses were among the first to close as COVID-19 spread across the country, will likely be  
23 the last to reopen, and will take years to recover if they can stay in business at all. Smaller venues  
24 with a capacity of 300 or less are being impacted the most by the COVID-19 economic and public  
25 health crisis. Sections 441-444 of this act provides targeted assistance and long-term planning  
26 support and recognizes the importance of independent live venues to New Hampshire's economy.

27           91:441 Council on the Arts; Declaration of Policy. Amend RSA 19-A:1 to read as follows:

28           19-A:1 Declaration of Policy. It is hereby found that many of our citizens lack the opportunity to  
29 view, enjoy or participate in living theatrical performances, musical concerts, operas, dance and  
30 ballet recitals, art exhibits, examples of fine architecture, and the performing and fine arts  
31 generally. It is hereby further found that, with increasing leisure time, the practice and enjoyment  
32 of the arts are of increasing importance and that the general welfare of the people of the state will be  
33 promoted by giving further recognition to the arts as a vital aspect of our culture and heritage and as  
34 a valued means of expanding the scope of our educational programs. ***It is hereby further found***  
35 ***that arts organizations and businesses are important entertainment hubs and economic***  
36 ***multipliers for New Hampshire's local economies. They serve as critical tax bases as***  
37 ***employers and tourism destinations and as revenue generators for neighboring businesses***

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1 *such as restaurants, hotels, and retail. The cultural impact of New Hampshire's creative*  
2 *sector is difficult to calculate and serves as an important draw for young people to the*  
3 *state.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to join with private patrons and with  
4 institutions and professional organizations concerned with the arts to insure that the role of the arts  
5 in the life of our communities will continue to grow and will play an ever more significant part in the  
6 welfare and educational experience of our citizens. It is further declared that all activities  
7 undertaken by the state in carrying out this policy shall be directed toward encouraging and  
8 assisting rather than in any ways limiting the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the  
9 well-being of the arts.

10 91:442 Council on the Arts; Report. Amend RSA 19-A:7 to read as follows:

11 19-A:7 Reports. The council shall make biennial reports to the governor and council. *The*  
12 *council's strategic plan and biennial report under this section shall address the activities*  
13 *related to the save our granite stages fund created under RSA 19-A:15.*

14 91:443 New Subdivision; Council on the Arts; Save Our Granite Stages Fund. Amend RSA 19-A  
15 by inserting after section 14 the following new subdivision:

Save Our Granite Stages Fund

17 19-A:15 Save Our Granite Stages Fund. There is hereby established the save our granite stages  
18 fund, which shall be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 to the New Hampshire state council on the  
19 arts for the purpose of providing grants to both non-profit and for-profit live venues that did not  
20 receive a grant from the federal Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) program, which was established  
21 by Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act (P.L. 116-260). The fund  
22 shall be nonlapsing and kept separate and distinct from all other funds. Notwithstanding any other  
23 provision of law, any discretionary federal funds received by the state in response to the COVID-19  
24 public health emergency may be deposited into the fund. In addition to state appropriations, the  
25 council may accept grants, gifts, and donations for deposit in the fund.

26 91:444 New Subparagraph; Dedicated Funds; Save our Granite Stages Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,  
27 I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

(365) Moneys deposited in the save our granite stages fund under RSA 19-A:15.

29 91:445 Repeal; 2023. RSA 19-A:15 and RSA 6:12, I(b)(365), relative to the save our granite  
30 stages fund, as inserted by this act, are repealed.

31 91:446 Effective Date.

32 I. Section 445 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2023.

33 II. Sections 437 through 444 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

34 91:447 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Protective Service Worker Positions;  
35 Appropriation.

36 I. The sums of \$727,388 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and \$779,983 for the fiscal  
37 year ending June 30, 2023 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services