

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

November 15, 2024

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, November 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Ken Weyler, Chairman
Representative Keith Erf, Clerk
Representative Jess Edwards
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Peter Leishman
Representative Gerald Griffin (Alternate)
Senator James Gray, Vice Chairman
Senate President Jeb Bradley
Senator Regina Birdsell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senator Debra Altschiller (Alternate)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Birdsell, that the Committee approve the minutes of the October 18, 2024 meeting as written. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT CALENDAR

As announced by the Chair, the following items were removed from the Consent Calendar to be acted on individually;

Tab 6 Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI.
FIS 24-388, FIS 24-389

Tab 7 Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI. and RSA 124:15
FIS 24-404, FIS 24-412

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve all the remaining requests as submitted under the Consent Calendar, Tabs 3, 4, 5, and 6. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No) [TAB 3 pursuant to RSA 9:16-a., FIS 24-381 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to transfer \$306,442 in other funds in and among classes within an accounting unit through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-382 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$27,000 in highway/other funds and create a new expenditure class through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-383 Department of Transportation – authorization to transfer \$570,000 in highway funds between various accounting units and classes through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-384 State Treasury – authorization to transfer \$820,024 in general funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-407 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$116,354 in other funds in and among class codes within accounting units through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-408 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$176,000 in other funds through June 30, 2025, and FIS 24-409 NH Council on Developmental Disabilities – authorization to transfer \$4,738 in federal funds and create new expenditure class codes through June 30, 2025; TAB 4 pursuant to RSA 9:16-a. and RSA 9:16-c., FIS 24-395 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to transfer \$10,899,844 between various accounting units through June 30, 2025; TAB 5 pursuant to RSA 9:16-c, I., FIS 24-410 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to transfer \$695,600 in federal funds in and among classes within an accounting unit and create a new expenditure class through June 30, 2025; and TAB 6 pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI., FIS 24-375 Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food – authorization to accept and expend \$209,507 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-376 Deferred Compensation Commission – authorization to accept and expend \$144,000 in other funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-377 Department of Justice – authorization to accept and expend \$1,160,904 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-378 Department of Justice – authorization to accept and expend \$795,809 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-385 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to accept and expend \$237,951 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-386 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to accept and expend \$9,030,167 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-387 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to accept and expend \$231,260 in federal/other funds and budget state matching funds of \$46,252 through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-390 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization through June 30, 2025 to; 1) budget and expend \$14,473,415 in prior year other funds, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, accept and expend matching federal funds in the amount of \$14,487,888, FIS 24-391 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization through June 30, 2025 to; 1) budget and expend \$31,480,149 in prior year other funds, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, accept and expend matching federal funds in the amount of \$31,511,629, FIS 24-392 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$187,540 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-393 Department of Revenue Administration – authorization to accept and expend \$644,500 in other funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-394 Department of Safety – authorization to accept and expend \$1,183,621 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 24-403 Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food – authorization to amend FIS 23-206, approved August 11, 2023, by extending the current end date from December 31, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (Originally approved (FIS 23-006) on January 27, 2023), and FIS 24-411 Department of Environmental Services – authorization to amend FIS 23-036, approved January 27, 2023, with subsequent approval on (FIS 23-167) May 19, 2023 and (FIS 23-298) October 19, 2023, by accepting and expending \$523,202 in federal funds and budgeting state matching funds of \$53,175 through June 30, 2025]

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:

CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 24-388 Department of Health and Human Services – Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, and Iain Watt, Director of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

Representative Edwards requested the Department email him the actual headcount attributable to the program and what job skill requirements are required. He also requested what the standard is and what metrics are used to show success and results for the New Hampshire Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program.

On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$177,442 in federal funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

FIS 24-389 Department of Health and Human Services – Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, Reuben Hampton, Director, Office of Health Equity, and Ann Landry, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

Representative Erf requested Refugee counts and data become part of the Operating Statistics Dashboard; to include all of the different categories under which refugees are to be considered legally allowed to be here, what year that permission was granted and the length of stay granted, and under what categories. He also requested to include counts of Child versus Adult and gender, to which the Department replied they do not provide and release publicly data based on; sex assigned at birth or gender. They can provide data on nationality and by year and can provide data on Humanitarian Parolees versus Refugees and will share what data they can publicly share.

On a motion by Representative Erf, seconded by Representative Leishman, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$120,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE, AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS AUTHORIZED:

CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 24-404 Department of Health and Human Services – Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, and Melissa Hardy, Director of Long Term Supports and Services, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

Representative Erf confirmed that the Department would provide program reports as available and that they be sent to the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant.

On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services through June 30, 2025 to; 1) accept and expend \$1,680,986 in federal funds, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, authorization to establish three (3) full-time temporary positions consisting of; position numbers 9T3367 (Housing Continuum Administrator), 9T3368 (Quality Assurance Coordinator), and 9T3369 (Person-Centered Planning Liaison). MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

FIS 24-412 Insurance Department – D.J. Bettencourt, Commissioner, and Michelle Heaton, Director of Life and Health, Insurance Department responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Insurance Department through June 30, 2025 to; 1) accept and expend \$610,871 in federal funds, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, authorization to establish Class 046-Consultants. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 9:16-a, TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED, RSA 9:16-c, TRANSFER OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS, RSA 14:30-a, VI, FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE, AND RSA 9:17-a, III, LIMITATIONS:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 24-402 Department of Health and Human Services – On a motion by Senator Bradley, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer \$17,333,401 in general funds between various class lines, increase and decrease Federal revenues resulting in a net decrease of \$1,146,760, increase and decrease Other revenues resulting in a net change of \$0, and create new expenditure class codes through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 106-H:9-I(e), FUNDING; FUND ESTABLISHED:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 24-396 Department of Safety – On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Safety to budget

and expend \$610,839 in other funds from the Prior Year Carry Forward Balance through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 206-33-b TRANSFERS FROM FISH AND GAME FUND:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 24-397 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department – On a motion by Senator Bradley, seconded by Senator Birdsell, that the Committee approve the request of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to transfer \$51,500 from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Fund Reserve to the Fish and Game FY 2025 Operating Budget through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 21-I:8, II, (a), DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 24-414 Department of Administrative Services – On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Administrative Services for an extension of the public release of the Fiscal Year 2024 State of New Hampshire Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (“ACFR”) from December 31, 2024 to January 31, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

MISCELLANEOUS:

None

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

Lori Weaver, Commissioner, and Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee pertaining to; FIS 24-398 Department of Health and Human Services – Operating Statistics Dashboard SFY25 report through September 30, 2024, with the exception of data for the Division for Children Youth & Families staffing data, and Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Caseloads, which is through August 31, 2024, and further data for the Developmental Disabilities, Acquired Brain Disorders, and In-Home Supports waitlist through June 30, 2023. Melissa Hardy, Director of Long Term Supports and Services, Department of Health and Human Services was also present to respond to questions.

The Committee recognized and thanked Senate President Jeb Bradley and Senator Lou D’Allesandro for their long service to the State of New Hampshire.

Senator Gray suggested for the upcoming session that the Fiscal Committee consider moving away from binders with copies of the items to electronic items and a Chromebook.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee will be at the Call of the Chair. On a motion by The Chair the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keith Erf", is written over a horizontal line.

Representative Keith Erf, Clerk