

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
December 2, 2021

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Karen Umberger, Chairman
Representative Jess Edwards
Representative Tracy Emerick
Representative Keith Erf
Representative Peter Leishman
Representative Bob Lynn (Alternate)
Representative Joseph Pitre (Alternate)
Senator Gary Daniels
Senate President Chuck Morse
Senator Bob Giuda
Senator Donna Soucy (Alternate)
Senator Suzanne Prentiss (Alternate)

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

NEW BUSINESS:

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

FIS 21-362 Department of Health and Human Services – Lori Shibinette, Commissioner, and Kerrin Rounds, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Representative Edwards, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to; 1) transfer \$26,511,374 in other funds between class lines through April 1, 2022, and 2) accept and expend \$43,500,000 in other funds through June 30, 2023.

A roll call was taken, and the results were as follows:

Representative Edwards – Yes
Representative Emerick – Yes
Representative Erf – Yes
Representative Leishman – Yes
Senator Daniels – Yes
Senator Morse – Yes
Senator Giuda – No

Senator Soucy (Alternate) – Yes
Senator Prentiss (Alternate) – Yes
Representative Umberger – Yes (9-Yes; 1-No)
MOTION ADOPTED

Representative Edwards stated that although he realizes the hurried, emergent nature of getting the funding, normally advertising that the program is going to be there because of the expectation of the money being there should not come before the actual vote as a rule.

RSA 14:30-a, VI, FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE
AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN 2021

FIS 21-363 Department of Health and Human Services – Lori Shibinette, Commissioner, and Kerrin Rounds, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Representative Edwards, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$20,462,940 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through June 30, 2023. (Discussion, comments, statements, and questions are found on the recording beginning at 35:40 and ending at 54:34)

Representative Edwards asked the Department if they have anticipated a goal for a benefit in their objective of making bed capacity more flexible with more options to address future needs, and asked how they would describe what success looks like at the end of this effort?

Discussion was held on the number of healthcare staff who left their jobs due to the vaccine mandate, and the Committee inquired if strike team members will be required to be vaccinated?

Representative Erf inquired what the analysis is on the upward or downward trend of the Delta COVID variant and was told that Dr. Chan, the State Epidemiologist would get back to the Committee with that information.

Corrected to read “Senator Giuda commented he voted against the first item as it was geared towards prevention and would support this measure if it was for treatment.”

On a motion by Senator Giuda, seconded by Senator Soucy, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$20,462,940 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through June 30, 2023.


A roll call was taken, and the results were as follows:

Representative Edwards – Yes
Representative Emerick – Yes
Representative Erf – Yes
Representative Leishman – Yes
Senator Daniels – Yes
Senator Morse – Yes
Senator Giuda – Yes
Senator Soucy (Alternate) – Yes
Senator Prentiss (Alternate) – Yes
Representative Umberger – Yes (10-Yes; 0-No)
MOTION ADOPTED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The Chair announced the next meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Friday, December 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.



Representative Tracy Emerick, Clerk