

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT

MINUTES

June 23, 2023

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Ken Weyler, Chairman
Representative Maureen Mooney (Alternate)
Representative Jess Edwards
Representative Mary Heath (Alternate)
Representative Peter Leishman
Representative David Huot (Alternate)
Senator James Gray
Senate President Jeb Bradley
Senator Regina Birdsell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senator Cindy Rosenwald

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the minutes of the May 19, 2023 meeting as written. MOTION ADOPTED. (9-Yes; 0-No; 1-Abstained)

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 3 Pursuant to RSA 9:16-a, I.
FIS 23-180
- Tab 5 Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI.
FIS 23-185
- Tab 6 Pursuant to ARPA RSA 14:30-a, VI.
FIS 23-200

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the remaining requests under the Consent Calendar, Tabs 3, 4, and 6, as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [TAB 3 pursuant to RSA 9:16-a, I, FIS 23-177 Department of Administrative Services – authorization to transfer \$300,000 in other funds through June 30, 2023, FIS 23-178 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$80,000 in turnpike/highway funds among accounts through June 30, 2023, FIS 23-179 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$50,000 in other funds through June 30, 2023, and FIS 23-196 Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food – authorization to transfer \$51,612 in other funds in and among classes within an accounting unit through June 30, 2023; TAB 4 pursuant to RSA 9:16-c, I, FIS 23-181 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to transfer \$175,000 in federal funds between class lines through June 30, 2023; and TAB 6 pursuant to ARPA RSA 14:30-a, VI., FIS 23-183 Department of Education – authorization to amend an accept and expend item of federal funds approved by the Governor pursuant to RSA 4:45, RSA 21-P:43, and Section 4 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16, 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-21, 2020-23, 2020-24, 2020-25, 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-04, 2021-05, and 2021-06 as extended to allow the Department to extend the end date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and to modify and reallocate the budget by transferring \$71,458 in federal ESSER II - CRRSA Act 2021 funds between classes (originally presented to Fiscal (FIS 21-130) on May 21, 2021 and amended (FIS 22-396) on November 18, 2022), FIS 23-184 Department of Education – authorization to amend an accept and expend item of federal funds approved by the Governor pursuant to RSA 4:45, RSA 21-P:43, and Section 4 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16, 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-21, 2020-23, 2020-24, 2020-25, 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-04, 2021-05, and 2021-06 as extended to allow the Department to extend the end date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and to modify and reallocate the budget by transferring \$43,495 in federal GEER II - CRRSA Act 2021 funds between classes (originally presented to Fiscal (FIS 21-131) on May 21, 2021), FIS 23-201 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – authorization to accept and expend \$1,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) through June 30, 2025, and FIS 23-202 Department of Administrative Services – authorization to accept and expend \$2,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) through June 30, 2025]

RSA 9:16-a, I. TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED:

CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 23-180 Department of Transportation – Danielle Chandonnet, Director of Finance, Department of Transportation, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation to transfer \$886,768 in federal/general/other/highway funds between various accounting units and classes through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

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 23-185 Department of Health and Human Services – Morissa Henn, Associate Commissioner, and Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to amend FIS 22-152, approved April 15, 2022, by reallocating \$150,000 in other funds through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

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
CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 23-200 Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery – Taylor Caswell, Executive Director, Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery responded to questions of the Committee. Chief Justice Gordon MacDonald, New Hampshire Supreme Court, and Judge Ryan Guptill, New Hampshire Circuit Court, were also present to respond to Committee questions.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery to accept and expend \$1,867,861 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) through June 30, 2024. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:16-a. I. TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED, AND RSA 9:17-a. III. LIMITATIONS:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-182 Department of Health and Human Services – Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, and Patricia Tilley, Director, Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer \$320,300 in general funds between accounting units through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 14:30-a. VI. FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE, RSA 124:15 POSITIONS AUTHORIZED, AND RSA 21-I:42. VI. (e) DIVISION OF PERSONNEL:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-186 Department of Administrative Services – On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Administrative Services on behalf of State Agencies to amend the accept and expend of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), for the previously approved Recruitment Incentive Program for the Department of Safety and Department of Corrections, by extending the end date for funding, from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (originally approved (FIS 22-320) on September 9, 2022). MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 21-I:42. VI. DIVISION OF PERSONNEL:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-187 Department of Administrative Services – On a motion by Senator Bradley, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Administrative Services to extend the Recruitment Incentive Program for eligible new hires at the Department of Corrections and Department of Safety through June 30, 2024. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 23-197 Department of Administrative Services – On a motion by Senator Rosenwald, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Administrative Services to retroactively extend the Sununu Youth Services Center Staffing Incentive Program through June 13, 2024 (originally approved (FIS 22-371) October 14, 2022). MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 216-A:3-g FEES FOR PARK SYSTEM:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-199 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – John DeVivo, General Manager Franconia Notch State Park and Cannon Mountain Ski Area, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for approval of the fee package for the marquee winter 2023/24 season pass products at Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway & Ski Area. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 90. LAWS OF 2021. AGENCY FOOTNOTE. AND RSA 9:16-a. TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-188 Department of Corrections – Helen Hanks, Commissioner, and Benjamin Carbone, Chief Pharmacist, Department of Corrections responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Corrections through June 30, 2023; 1) for authorization of additional funding in the amount of \$479,030 in general funds for prescription drug expenses to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of state fiscal year 2023, and 2) permission to transfer \$286,136 in general funds among accounts to reallocate appropriations and cover estimated shortfalls in Class 100 Prescription Drugs. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 91:70. LAWS OF 2021. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: TRANSFER AUTHORITY:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-189 Department of Corrections – Helen Hanks, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, 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 Department of Corrections to transfer \$6,611,895 in general funds among accounts to reallocate appropriations and cover overtime shortfalls through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 91:121. LAWS OF 2021. NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS' HOME: TRANSFER AMONG ACCOUNTS AND CLASSES:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-198 New Hampshire Veterans Home – On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the New Hampshire Veterans Home to transfer \$2,500 in general/federal/other funds between expenditure classes through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 23-204 Department of Education – Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, and Tammy Vaillancourt, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education responded to questions of the Committee. Taylor Caswell, Executive Director, Governor's Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery was also present to respond to Committee questions.

On a motion by Representative Heath, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee table the request of the Department of Education to accept and expend \$7,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to offset costs associated with capital improvements of the Crotched Mountain School campus building and facilities through June 30, 2025. MOTION FAILED. (4-Yes; 6-No)

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Education to accept and expend \$7,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to offset costs associated with capital improvements of the Crotched Mountain School campus building and facilities through June 30, 2025. MOTION APPROVED. (6-Yes; 4-No)

MISCELLANEOUS:

FIS 23-203 Office of Legislative Budget Assistant – Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant, requested in accordance with the provisions of sections 181 and 182 of HB 2 of the 2023 Session, and contingent upon said sections becoming law, approval is requested to grant the following salary increases to the employees of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Effective July 14, 2023 10.00% and Effective July 12, 2024 2.00%.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant in accordance with the provisions of sections 181 and 182 of HB 2 of the 2023 Session, and contingent upon said sections becoming law, grant the following salary increases to the employees of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Effective July 14, 2023 10.00% and Effective July 12, 2024 2.00%. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, Katja Fox, Director, Division for Behavioral Health, and Marie Noonan, Interim Director, Division for Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee pertaining to FIS 23-194 Department of Health and Human Services – Operating Statistics Dashboard SFY23 report through April 30, 2023, with the exception of the Division for Children, Youth and Families staffing data, which are through March 31, 2023, and the Division for Behavioral Health mental health, substance use disorder financial, and substance use disorder caseload data which are through February 28, 2023, March 31, 2023, and December 31, 2022 respectively.

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

AUDITS:

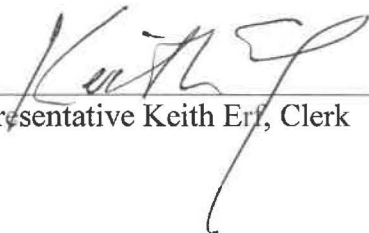
State of New Hampshire, Department of Revenue Administration, Financial Audit Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022 – Stephen Smith, Director of Audits, and Christine Young, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Lindsey Stepp, Commissioner, Department of Revenue Administration was present to respond to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Mooney, seconded by Senator Bradley, that the audit report be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Birdsell, that the meeting adjourn. (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.)



Representative Keith Erf, Clerk