

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT

MINUTES

November 8, 2019

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, November 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman  
Representative Ken Weyler  
Representative Susan Ford  
Representative Lynne Ober  
Representative Peter Leishman  
Representative David Huot (Alternate)  
Representative Erin Hennessey (Alternate)  
Senator Lou D'Allesandro  
Senate President Donna Soucy  
Senator Jay Kahn  
Senator Shannon Chandley (Alternate)  
Senator James Gray (Alternate)

Chairman Wallner opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Soucy, that the minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 19-071 NH Business Finance Authority – pursuant to RSA 162-T:5, Informational status report pertaining to the Regenerative Workforce Development Program. Held for future discussion 03/08/19. No Action Taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

RSA 9:16-c, I, TRANSFER OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS:

CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Kahn, that the Committee approve the requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 19-299 Department of Education – authorization to reallocate \$2,326 in federal grant funds, with no increase in funding, through June 30, 2021 and FIS 19-300 Department of Education – authorization to reallocate \$600,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2021]

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

At the request of the Committee, FIS 19-283 Department of Health and Human Services was removed from the Consent Calendar.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Ober, that the Committee approve the remaining requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 19-278 State Treasury – authorization to budget and expend \$477,219 in other funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 19-284 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$300,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 19-285 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$240,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 19-286 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$1,500,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2020, FIS 19-287 Department of Safety – authorization to accept and expend \$136,637 in federal funds through September 30, 2020, FIS 19-288 Department of Safety – authorization to accept and expend \$341,086 in federal funds through September 9, 2020, and FIS 19-302 Office of Strategic Initiatives – authorization to accept and expend \$201,815 in federal funds through June 30, 2020]

FIS 19-283 Department of Health and Human Services – Jeffrey Meyers, Commissioner, and Kerrin Rounds, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Hennessy, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$6,794,951 in federal funds retroactive to September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. 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 AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS AUTHORIZED:

CONSENT CALENDAR

At the request of the Committee, FIS 19-292 Department of Administrative Services and FIS 19-301 Department of Education were removed from the consent calendar.

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Soucy, that the Committee approve the remaining requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 19-289 Department of Safety – authorization to; 1) retroactively accept and expend \$1,431,711 in federal funds for the period of October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, authorization to retroactively amend FIS 19-200, approved August 28, 2019, to continue two (2) existing temporary positions consisting of; a Program Planner II (LG 21) and a Program Assistant II (LG 15) for the period of October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, FIS 19-293 Department of Business and Economic Affairs – authorization through June 30, 2020 to; 1) accept and expend \$113,832 in

federal funds, and 2) create two (2) new part-time positions consisting of; a Program Specialist IV (LG 25) and an Accountant I (LG 16), and FIS 19-294 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification – authorization to retroactively amend FIS 19-197, approved August 28, 2019, by; 1) extending the end date to accept and expend from September 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020, with no increase in funding, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, retroactively extending two (2) temporary part-time positions consisting of; a Compliance Investigator/Inspector (LG 27) and an Assistant Inspector/Program Specialist I (LG 19)]

FIS 19-292 Department of Administrative Services – Charles Arlinghaus, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Representative Ford, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Administrative Services to; 1) retroactively accept and expend \$97,500 in other funds for the period of October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, and 2) contingent upon approval of Request #1, authorization to retroactively amend FIS 19-175, approved July 25, 2019, by extending one (1) temporary part-time Planning Analyst/Data Systems position for the period of October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 19-301 Department of Education – Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, Caitlin Davis, Division Director, and Dr. Nate Greene, Administrator, Department of Education, presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Representative Ober, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Education through June 30, 2021 to; 1) accept and expend \$10,114,548 in federal funds and 2) establish two (2) full time temporary positions consisting of; a Program Specialist III (LG 23) and an Administrator I (LG 27). No Action Taken.

On a motion by Senator Soucy, seconded by Representative Leishman, that the Committee table the request of the Department of Education through June 30, 2021 to; 1) accept and expend \$10,114,548 in federal funds and 2) establish two (2) full time temporary positions consisting of; a Program Specialist III (LG 23) and an Administrator I (LG 27).

At the request of Representative Ober, a roll call was taken, and the results were as follows:

- Representative Leishman – Yes
- Representative Ford – Yes
- Representative Weyler – No
- Representative Ober – No
- Representative Wallner – Yes
- Senator D’Allesandro – Yes
- Senate President Soucy – Yes
- Senator Kahn – Yes

Senator Chandley (Alternate) – Yes  
Senator Gray (Alternate) – No (7-Yes; 3-No)  
MOTION ADOPTED.

The Committee requested the Department provide additional charter school information.

RSA 363:28, III, OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE:

FIS 19-290 Office of Consumer Advocate – D. Maurice Kreise, Consumer Advocate, Office of The Consumer Advocate, presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Senator Kahn, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of The Consumer Advocate to retroactively amend FIS 17-157 (approved September 29, 2017 and subsequently amended (FIS 19-168) on July 25, 2019) by extending the contract expiration date from September 30, 2019 to June 30, 2021 with Optimal Energy, Inc. of 10600 Route 116, Hinesburg, VT 05461 to provide expert services to support participation in proceedings related to energy efficiency and grid modernization before the NH Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC). MOTION ADOPTED. (9-Yes, 1-No)

MISCELLANEOUS:

FIS 19-280 State Treasury – On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request of the State Treasury, on behalf of the College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission, for the release and distribution of the audited financial statements of the UNIQUE College Investing Plan and Fidelity Advisor 529 Plan for the year ended September 30, 2019 upon completion of the audits and prior to the presentation of the audit results to the Fiscal Committee. MOTION ADOPTED.

Office of Legislative Budget Assistant – Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant, requested approval to fill three (3) vacant staff auditor positions in the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, Audit Division.


On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant to fill three (3) vacant staff auditor positions in the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, Audit Division. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.)



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Representative Ken Weyler, Clerk