

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
May 18, 2005

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Frederick King, Chairman
Senator Charles Morse, Vice Chairman
Representative Joseph Stone, Clerk
Representative Kenneth Weyler
Representative Daniel Eaton
Representative Peter Franklin
Senator Thomas Eaton
Senator Robert Clegg
Senator Robert Odell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman King opened the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the minutes of the April 19, 2005 and May 4, 2005 meetings be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 05-082 Letter from Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chairman of the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee relative to the recommendation of the following audit topic: Financial Impact on the State and Local School Districts from the Federal No Child Left Behind Act Requirements - On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Representative Franklin, that this request be removed from the tabled. MOTION FAILED. (5-yes, 5-no)

Senator Morse stated that he had concerns with this audit topic, and he feels the Performance Audit and Oversight Committee should produce a scoping on this so that the Fiscal Committee can vote on the scoping. Representative Weyler stated that he would have a scoping statement prepared and bring that back to the Fiscal Committee at the next meeting.

RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Eaton, that all the requests listed on the agenda under this item be approved as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. (FIS 05-089, FIS 05-091, FIS 05-093, FIS 05-094, FIS 05-095, FIS 05-096, FIS 05-098, FIS 099 and FIS 05-102)

CHAPTER 318:1, LAWS OF 2003 PAU 02-16-01-01, CLASS 93 FOOTNOTE AND RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED:

FIS 05-103 Department of Corrections - There was no one present from the agency to present this request and respond to questions of the Committee.

Representative Weyler distributed copies of an information sheet relative to this request prepared by the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Committee approve only the transfer of \$201,767, not the additional \$750,000 in additional general funds until someone from the Department of Corrections can respond to questions of the Committee. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the remainder of this request be tabled. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED AND RSA 228:12 TRANSFERS FROM HIGHWAY SURPLUS ACOCUNT:

FIS 05-092 Department of Transportation - William Watson, Finance Administrator presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Transportation to transfer \$3,220,000 from highway funds and \$175,000 from turnpike funds and \$2,640,000 from highway surplus and \$175,000 from turnpike retained earnings. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 228:69, I(b) APPROPRIATION AND USE OF SPECIAL RAILROAD FUND:

FIS 05-090 Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit - On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit for authorization to expend an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the Special Railroad Fund for the installation of railroad bridge timbers and other related track work on the Merrimack River Bridge and the replacement of a structural timber on an approach trestle in Concord for the continued maintenance of active state-owned railroad lines. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational materials were accepted and placed on file.

LATE ITEMS:

FIS 05-104 Department of Health and Human Services - John Stephen, Commissioner and Steve Norton, Director, Division of Medicaid presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer \$4,981,478.93 of general funds into the uncompensated care fund and accept and expend \$9,600,338.53 in federal funds, and transfer \$4,608,211.50 of the additional federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 05-105 Department of Health and Human Services - John Stephen, Commissioner and James Fredyma presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Representative Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$294,122 in federal funds and transfer \$1,308,411. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 318:1, LAWS OF 2003 PAU 02-16-01-01, CLASS 93 FOOTNOTE AND RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED (continued):

FIS 05-103 Department of Corrections - Stephen Curry, Commissioner, Dr. Benjamin Lewis, Administrator, and Robert Mullen, Director, Division of Administration responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the remainder of this request for an additional \$750,000 in general funds for inmate medical and dental costs. MOTION ADOPTED.

AUDITS:

Management Letter for the State of New Hampshire for the Year Ended June 30, 2004 - Shawn Warren, KPMG presented the management letter and responded to questions of the Committee.

State of New Hampshire Lottery Commission Management Letter For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2004 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the Lottery Commission Management Letter and responded to questions of the Committee. Georges Roy and Kassie Strong were also present to respond to questions.

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the State of New Hampshire Management Letter and Lottery Commission Management Letter be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

May 18, 2005

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee will be on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the meeting adjourn. MOTION ADOPTED.

Representative Joseph Stone, Clerk