

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
July 16, 2003

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Neal Kurk, Chairman
Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk
Representative Beverly Rodeschin
Representative Edwin Smith
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Senator Thomas Eaton
Senator Richard Green, Vice Chairman
Senator Robert Clegg
Senator Bob Odell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman Kurk opened the meeting at 1:15p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the minutes of the June 23, 2003 meeting. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

The following tabled items were withdrawn at the request of the respective agencies: FIS 02-251 Department of Environmental Services, FIS 03-043 and FIS 03-212 Department of Health and Human Services and FIS 03-067 and FIS 077 Department of Safety.

On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Smith, that request FIS 03-098 from the Department of Safety be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Smith that the Committee approve request FIS 03-098 from the Department of Safety to transfer \$70,370. MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Note: A poll of the members was taken which came out five to three in favor and two members were either unable to be contacted or not interested in voting, so the request is now before the full Committee.

FIS 03-127 Department of Environmental Services - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Environmental Services to transfer \$171,500. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

FIS 03-125 Department of Education - On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Education to establish a Consultant position through June 30, 2004. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 212, LAWS OF 2003 - A RESOLUTION MAKING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES AND ENCUMBRANCES OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:

FIS 03-124 Sweepstakes Commission - On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Sweepstakes Commission for authorization to purchase instant game tickets in an amount not to exceed \$1,328,278 for distribution from July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEMS:

FIS 03-132 Department of Resources and Economic Development - George Bald, Commissioner and Kenneth Plourde, Business Administrator presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Resources and Economic Development for authorization to exceed the 3/12th limitation for accounts as listed on their attached analysis, and as specified in their letter dated July 10, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-135 Fish and Game Department - Dan Lynch, Assistant Director and Major Timothy Acerno, Law Enforcement Division 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 Fish and Game Department for authorization to exceed the 3/12th limitation for accounts as listed on the attached addendum to their letter dated July 7, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-136 Community Technical College System - Tom Wisbey, Deputy Commissioner and David Lee, Chief Financial Officer 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 Community Technical College System for authorization to exceed the 3/12th limitation for the federally funded accounts, as specified in their letter and attachments dated July 14, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:17-d TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS, SUPREME COURT:

FIS 03-128 Administrative Office of the Courts - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that this request

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RSA 9:17-d TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS, SUPREME COURT (continued):

be tabled. MOTION ADOPTED.

Senator Green requested that the Committee receive and have time to review the report that is due from the courts by August 1st relative to the courts budget and expenditures before action is taken on this item.

Eileen Fox, Clerk of the Court, Judicial Branch responded that they are working on this report and will make it available as soon as it is completed.

Senator D'Allesandro questioned Ms. Fox on the responses due from the court relative to the LBAO audit of the court system. Senator Eaton stated that there were 35 findings to the system and LBA has only had four replies to these findings since January. Senator Eaton further noted that the court is also overdue on 22 fiscal note worksheet replies to LBA.

Ms. Fox stated Howard Zibel is working on the fiscal note worksheets and they will be delivered as soon as possible and the court is in the process of putting together responses to the audit findings. Ms. Fox did not know what the timing on these responses would be but she would report to the court that it's important that they respond as quickly as possible.

RSA 186-C:20 - SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER:

FIS 03-126 Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Juvenile Justice Services - Tricia Lucas, Assistant Director, Juvenile Justice Services and Jeff Chierepko, Facilities Engineer presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Smith, that the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Juvenile Justice Services for authorization to expend \$271,960 in agency income. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 266, LAWS OF 2003 (HB 577) - AN ACT RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002:

FIS 03-129 Department of State - Anthony Stevens, Assistant Secretary of State and Orville Fitch, Assistant Attorney General presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee amend and approve the request of the Department of State for approval of the federal share only of the proposed budget for implementation of the Help America Vote Act for FY 2004 and FY 2005, as specified in their letter dated July 8, 2003 and revised handout presented to the Committee on July 16, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 223, LAWS OF 2003 - TRANSFERRING STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MANAGEMENT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

FIS 03-131 Office of the Governor, Office of Information Technology - Governor Craig Benson and Robert Anderson, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee. Don Hill, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services was also present to respond to questions.

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Committee amend and approve the request of the Office of the Governor, Office of Information Technology to transfer 315 positions from various state agencies, and transfer amounts for FY 2004 only at the 3/12ths spending level as authorized under the provisions of Chapter 212, Laws of 2003 (HJR3), as specified in their letter dated July 7, 2003 and handouts dated July 16, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

Senator Green requested that Mr. Anderson provide him with copies of documentation that shows that all nine agencies involved, either by letters of support from them or verbal commitments from them, that they are 100 percent onboard with their IT resources coming into the Office of Information Technology.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Don Hill, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services responded to questions of the Committee relative to self-insurance for state employees and retirees. Mr. Hill explained that this program is set to begin within the next 30 days.

Senator Green requested that Mr. Hill come to the Fiscal Committee to explain exactly how he is going to implement the self-insurance plan before any contract is signed. Senator Green noted that there has never been any discussion on how employee benefits may be impacted as a result of this self-insurance plan and that is of concern to him.

Representative Rodeschin requested that Mr. Hill provide more detailed information on the Department of Administrative Services follow-up report on the LBA audit of the Sweepstakes Commission. Representative Rodeschin had questions relative to vehicles, information technology, legislation to change the logo and background checks for new employees (how about current employees)?

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee will be on Wednesday, August 13, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211. (Future meeting dates are September 17 and October 15.)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk