

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

February 19, 2003

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.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 Marjorie Smith
Senator Thomas Eaton
Senator Richard Green, Vice Chairman
Senator Bob Odell

Chairman Kurk opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairman Kurk stated that the minutes were approved using the chairman's prerogative, which expedites matters and doesn't require a formal vote, as long as no one objects.

OLD BUSINESS:

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator Eaton, that request FIS 02-251 from the Department of Environmental Services be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Environmental Services to establish a Systems Development Specialist IV position through June 30, 2003.

Frank Catanese, IT Manager and Chris Simmers, Project Manager presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator Green, that this request be tabled. MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator Green, that all the requests listed on the agenda under this section be approved as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. (FIS 03-034 and FIS 03-036)

OLD BUSINESS:

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Weyler, that request FIS 03-003 from the Department of Health and Human Services be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Weyler, that request FIS 03-003 from the Department of Health and Human Services be denied. MOTION ADOPTED. (5 yes, 2 no)

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

FIS 03-019 Department of Environmental Services - Paul Currier, Administrator presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator Green, that the Committee amend and approve the request of the Department of Environmental Services to establish an Environmentalist III position through June 30, 2003, not July 1, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-022 Department of Safety - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee amend and approve the request of the Department of Safety to establish two (2) Word Processor Operator I positions through June 30, 2003, not April 30, 2004. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-026 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health - Brook Dupee presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Marjorie Smith, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health to establish a Counter Clerk III position through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-035 Department of Corrections - Larry Blaisdell, Director Field Services presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that this request be tabled. MOTION FAILED. (4 Yes, 4 No)

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Corrections to establish one (1) Program Specialist IV position, two (2) Corrections Counselor/Case Manager positions, and one (1) Secretary II position through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-037 Fish and Game Department - Daniel Lynch, Assistant Director presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR (continued):

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that the Committee approve the request of the Fish and Game Department to establish three (3) Biologist II positions and three (3) Biological Technician positions through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 03-011 Department of Transportation - Christopher Morgan, Administrator, Bureau of Rail and Transit presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit to expend an amount not to exceed \$55,000 from the Special Railroad Fund to reimburse the Plymouth and Lincoln Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, New Hampshire Central Railroad and New England Southern Railroad for weed and brush control on various portions of the state-owned railroad lines. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-032 Department of Transportation - On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit to expend an amount not to exceed \$195,000 from the Special Railroad Fund to purchase railroad crossties and other track materials for the continued maintenance of active state-owned railroad lines. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-033 Department of Transportation - On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator Green, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit to expend an amount not to exceed \$88,000 to reimburse the Plymouth & Lincoln Railroad Corp. for purchasing ballast and hiring a contractor to surface, line and dress 7.5 miles of state-owned Concord to Lincoln Railroad line between Plymouth and Campton. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 7:12 ASSISTANTS:

FIS 03-027 Department of Justice - Michael Walls presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Justice to expend up to \$45,000 from the general fund to pay for autopsies conducted pursuant to RSA 611:7. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-030 Department of Justice - Michael Walls presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Justice to

RSA 7:12 ASSISTANTS (continued):

expend up to \$300,000 from the general fund to cover expenses incurred in the defense of the State and the prosecution of criminal law.
MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 158:43, LAWS OF 2001 - ADDITIONAL REVENUES; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

FIS 03-012 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Elderly & Adult Services - On a motion by Representative Marjorie Smith, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Elderly & Adult Services to accept and expend \$15,517 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-013 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health - On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health to accept and expend \$10,000 in additional revenue from a civil monetary penalty from the Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-015 Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth & Families - Nancy Rollins, Director, Children, Youth and Families and James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth & Families to accept and expend \$193,358 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-025 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance - James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Marjorie Smith, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance to accept and expend \$583,315 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-028 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Elderly & Adult Services - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Elderly & Adult Services to accept and expend \$262,495 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 158:43, LAWS OF 2001 - ADDITIONAL REVENUES; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (continued):

FIS 03-038 Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth & Families - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children,

Youth & Families to accept and expend \$145,698 in federal funds.
MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 158:43, LAWS OF 2001 - ADDITIONAL REVENUES; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED:

FIS 03-014 Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth & Families - James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Representative Marjorie Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth & Families to accept and expend \$91,491.68 from the N.H. Department of Education, and transfer \$91,491.68. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 158:43, LAWS OF 2001 - ADDITIONAL REVENUES; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 03-016 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health - James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health to accept and expend \$820,904 in federal funds and establish one (1) Program Planner III position, one (1) Program Specialist III position and one (1) Statistical Assistant position through June 30, 2003.
MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 03-039 Community Technical College System - John O'Donnell, Commissioner and David Lee, Finance Director presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request from the Community Technical College System for authorization to expend \$5,639,992 in excess revenue and to establish adjunct faculty positions through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

AUDITS:

State of New Hampshire Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year 2002 - Thomas Martin, State Comptroller and Karen Farrell and Shawn Warren, KPMG presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee.

This report was accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner on January 15, 2003.

New Hampshire Sweepstakes Commission Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2002 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Rick Wisler, Executive Director and Georges Roy from the Sweepstakes Commission were also present to respond to questions of the Committee.

This report was accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner on January 15, 2003.

State of New Hampshire, Department of Safety Revenues Collected by the Criminal Records and Permits and Licensing Units Audit Report For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2002 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. John Stephen, Assistant Commissioner, Jeff Kellard and Pat Poirier were also present to respond to questions.

Chairman Kurk requested that Assistant Commissioner Stephen report to the Committee on how long it will take the Department of Safety to resolve all the prior audit findings and reportable conditions, as well as the current findings.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the report be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee was set for Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211. (Meetings were also set for April 16th, May 21st and June 18th.)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk