

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
March 24, 2006

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, March 24, 2006 at 9:00 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 Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Daniel Eaton
Senator Theodore Gatsas
Senator Richard Green
Senator John Barnes, Jr.
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman King opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the minutes of the February 24, 2006 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 06-051 Fish and Game Department - (tabled 2/24/06) - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Hager, that this request be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Hager, that the Committee approve the request of the Fish and Game Department to accept and expend \$50,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-060 Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management, Bureau of Emergency Communications - (tabled 2/24/06) - On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that this request be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Senator Morse, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management, Bureau of Emergency Communications to transfer \$293,350. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-061 Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management, Bureau of Emergency Communications - (tabled 2/24/06) - On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that this request be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management, Bureau of Emergency Communications to transfer \$1,175,508. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-066 Department of Transportation - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Eaton, that this request be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

Carol Murray, Commissioner, Thomas Martin, Director of Finance, and Albert Almasy, E-Z Pass Project Manager responded to questions of the Committee.

Commissioner Murray stated that she wished to withdraw this item and resubmit a new item in the future.

The Committee requested a copy of the contract extension which was approved by Governor and Council this week, as well as copy of the new contract being proposed. Commissioner Murray stated that it will be in draft form since they don't have the authority to enter into it.

Chairman King appointed Senator Morse and Representative Stone to look into this situation further and report back to the Committee.

RSA 9:16-a TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED:

FIS 06-072 Treasury Department, FIS 06-080 Liquor Commission and FIS 06-082 Department of Corrections - On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve all the requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$50,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:

FIS 06-073 Treasury Department, FIS 06-074 Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands, FIS 06-075 Office of the Adjutant General and FIS-083 Department of Education - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Representative Wallner, that all the Committee approve all the requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$50,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 06-070 Office of the Adjutant General - Stephanie Milender, Business Administrator and David Stevens, Program Manager were present to respond to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator Green, that the Committee approve the request from the Office of the Adjutant General to accept and expend \$57,233 and establish one (1) Electronic Technician I position through June 30, 2007. MOTION ADOPTED.

Chapter 177:1, LAWS OF 2005 TRANSFERS AMONG ACCOUNTS; OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

FIS 06-071 Office of Information Technology - Richard Bailey, Chief Information Officer presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Information Technology to transfer \$28,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 7:12 ASSISTANTS:

FIS 06-079 Department of Justice - Orville Fitch, Deputy Attorney General and Linda Hodgdon, Administrator presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Representative Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Justice for authorization to expend a sum not to exceed \$300,000 from the general fund for the purpose of covering projected shortfalls in the general litigation expenses incurred in the defense of the State and the prosecution of criminal law. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 06-084 Administrative Office of the Courts - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Hager, that the Committee approve the request from the Administrative Office of the Courts to transfer \$83,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 206:33-b TRANSFERS FROM FISH AND GAME FUND:

FIS 06-076 Fish and Game Department - Daniel Lynch, Assistant Director presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Representative Hager, that the Committee approve the request from the Fish and Game Department to transfer \$200,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEMS:

FIS 06-086 Department of Health and Human Services - John Stephen, Commissioner and Jonathan McCosh, Financial Manager, Community Based Care Services presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Wallner, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$7,825,000 in Nursing Facility Quality Assessment Funds and \$7,825,000 in Medicaid funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-087 Department of Resources and Economic Development - Kenneth Plourde, Administrator IV and Gail Wolek, Deputy Director, Division of Parks presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Morse, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Resources and Economic Development to accept and expend \$160,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-091 Fish and Game Department - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request from the Fish and Game Department of accept and expend \$60,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 06-088 Department of Safety - Earl Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Representative Eaton, that this request be tabled. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

FIS 06-089 Department of Education, FIS 06-090 Supreme Court and FIS 06-092 Department of Safety - These items were distributed to members.

Chairman King requested that the Supreme Court item FIS 06-090 be discussed further at the next Fiscal Committee meeting.

Senator Green requested that FIS 06-089 from the Department of Education and request FIS 06-085 from the Department of Education, which is listed under the regular informational items on the agenda, be held and discussed at the next Fiscal Committee meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Donald Hill, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services gave the Committee an update on the self-insurance fund which has a cash balance of approximately \$36 millions and continues to grow. Commissioner Hill also reported that from a cash basis our increases next year look like they will be minimal and a rate increase which will be good news for the State of New Hampshire which will be single digit or lower. He further noted he is working with SEA in trying to work some health management and disease management which should also help reduce costs.

Commissioner Hill reported that they are very close to awarding a contract on the ERP, and therefore, to maintain integrity of the bid process, he could not say too much at this point.

Commissioner Hill also wanted to bring the Committee up to date on energy costs. Several of the state agencies are out of money and several agencies have pending bills right now. The State is starting

to incur late charges because these bills have not been paid. He's incurring bills for heat and lights that they don't have.

AUDIT:

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Turnpike System Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Year Ended June 30, 2005
- Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Carol Murray, Commissioner and Thomas Martin, Director of Finance, Department of Transportation were also present to respond to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Eaton, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Turnpike System Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Year Ended June 30, 2005 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 will be on Friday, April 28, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the LOB. (Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Joseph Stone, Clerk