

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

September 15, 2004

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Neal Kurk, Chairman
Senator Richard Green, Vice Chairman
Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Clerk
Representative Edwin Smith
Representative Joseph Stone
Representative Marjorie Smith
Senator Robert Flanders
Senator Robert Boyce
Senator Robert Odell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman Kurk opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Boyce, that the minutes of the August 11, 2004 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS:

RSA 9:16-a - TRANSFER AUTHORIZED:

FIS 04-172 New Hampshire Retirement System - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Boyce, that the Committee approve the request from the N.H. Retirement System to transfer \$153,500. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 04-168 Department of Environmental Services, Water Management Bureau, FIS 04-179 Community Technical College System, FIS 04-181 Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles, FIS 04-182 Office of the Adjutant General, and FIS 04-183 Office of the Adjutant General - On a motion by Representative Edwin Smith, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve all the requests under this section as submitted, with the exception of FIS 04-181 from the Department of Safety should be **approved through June 30, 2005, not September 30, 2005.** MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:16-a - TRANSFER AUTHORIZED AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 04-178 Department of Education - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Education to transfer \$12,862.49 and establish Consultants through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 188-F:32-b TRANSFER OF UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS:

FIS 04-173 Police Standards & Training Council - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Police Standards & Training Council for authorization to expend \$130,000 from the Penalty Assessment Fund to cover the costs of renovating a lecture hall. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 223, LAWS OF 2003 - OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ESTABLISHED:

FIS 04-176 Office of Information Technology - Richard Bailey, Chief Information Officer presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Office of Information Technology for the transfer of information technology staff and other related appropriations (\$142,585) from the Department of State effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-177 Office of Information Technology - Richard Bailey, Chief Information Officer presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Boyce, that the Committee approve the request from the Office of Information Technology for the transfer of information technology staff and other related appropriations (\$5,982,841) effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 319:1, II, LAWS OF 2003, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - ADDITIONAL REVENUES:

FIS 04-174 Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Edwin Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services to accept and expend \$687,974 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-180 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services - On a motion by Senator Odell, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services to budget and expend \$89,675 of the unexpended federal fund balance from the previous fiscal year's Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth in Sentencing Act grant program. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 04-186 Department of Environmental Services - Michael Nolin, Commissioner and Rich Chormann from the NH Geological Survey 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 from the Department of Environmental Services to establish one (1) Hydrogeologist II position through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

Senator Green requested presentations and additional information on the following informational items:

Legislative Budget Assistant - Projection of Surplus/Deficit for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2005 - Michael Buckley, Legislative Budget Assistant gave the Committee a presentation on the projected surplus/deficit for the biennium ending June 30, 2005 and responded to questions of the Committee.

FIS 04-184 Department of Corrections - (Chapter 318:12, Laws of 2003) FY 2004-2005 Budget Reduction Plan - Stephen Curry, Commissioner and Robert Mullen, Director of Fiscal Administration presented the plan and responded to questions of the Committee.

Senator Green requested that the following informational items be presented and discussed at the October Fiscal Committee meeting:

FIS 04-170 Department of Health and Human Services - (Chapter 319:30, Laws of 2003) Medicaid Program Audit Follow-up Status Report

Senator Green also requested an update or report on where the Department is on the reorganization of Medicaid.

Chairman Kurk stated that Commissioner Stephen is in the process of preparing a preliminary proposal on Medicaid modernization that will be distributed to members of this Committee prior to the next meeting of the Fiscal Committee.

FIS 04-175 Office of Information Technology - (Chapter 223:15, Laws of 2003) Report on cost savings resulting from the reorganization of information technology employees and functions - September 2004

FIS 04-185 Department of Administrative Services - (Chapter 319:32, Laws of 2003) Implementation Report on State Employee Self-Insured Health Plan

The remainder of the informational items were accepted and placed on file.

AUDIT:

State of New Hampshire, Department of Administrative Services
Financial and Compliance Audit Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June
30, 2003 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits presented the
report and responded to questions of the Committee. Donald Hill,
Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services also responded to
questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator
D'Allesandro, 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 is scheduled for
Wednesday, October 20th. (Future meetings are also set for Wednesday,
November 17th and Wednesday, December 15th.)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Clerk