

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

November 23, 2004

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Tuesday, November 23, 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 Mary Jane Wallner
Senator Thomas Eaton
Senator Robert Clegg
Senator Robert Odell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Odell, that the minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Kurk stated that Senator Green has requested that the items listed under Old Business be removed from the table with no further action required. These items were accepted and placed on file.

RSA 9:16-a - TRANSFER AUTHORIZED:

FIS 04-207 Treasury Department and FIS 04-215 Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Smith, that these requests be approved as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 04-208 Office of the Adjutant General, FIS 04-210 Office of the Adjutant General and FIS 04-209 Department of Environmental Services - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Green, that these requests be approved as submitted, **with the exception of FIS 04-208 was amended to be approved through June 30, 2005, not September 30, 2005.** MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 04-211 Administrative Office of the Courts - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Green, that the Committee approve the request of the Administrative Office of the Courts to transfer \$227,898. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 260:24, LAWS OF 2004, MEDICAL CARE; STATE PLAN; AMENDMENTS:

FIS 04-217 Department of Health and Human Services - John Stephen, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Fiscal Committee adopt the following motion: "The Fiscal Committee supports the continuing efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to find new and innovative ways to provide better and more efficient services under the NH Medicaid Program, and to proceed with further discussions with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concerning any waiver to federal regulations, provided that discussions shall not result in any agreement that shall bind the State of New Hampshire until after a public hearing and legislative action." MOTION ADOPTED.

(Representative Wallner wished to be recorded as voting "no" on the previous motion.)

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

FIS 04-204 Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families - John Stephen, Commissioner presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Wallner, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families to accept and expend \$100,000 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 04-218 Office of the Governor - Governor Craig Benson presented Executive Order #2004-10 and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Office of the Governor for "an order directing a reduction in information technology expenditures" in the amount of \$2,307,541, as specified in Executive Order #2004-10 MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 04-205 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Wallner, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services to accept and expend \$744,196 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 04-213 Fish and Game Department - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Fish and Game Department to transfer \$56,775 of unexpended funds from the undesignated Fish and Game Fund balance for the conversion of the Department's wildlife management database. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 04-220 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance - John Stephen, Commissioner presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance to accept and expend \$66,499 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant requested authorization to fill three of seven vacant positions in the Audit Division.

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, Audit Division to fill three of seven vacant positions. MOTION ADOPTED

AUDIT:

State of New Hampshire, Board of Mental Health Practice Performance Audit Report November 2004 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Ron Dieter, Chairman, Board of Mental Health Practice and Attorney Anne Edwards, Department of Justice were also present to respond to questions.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Board of Mental Health Practice Performance Audit November 2004 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 scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. (Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Clerk