

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

January 15, 2003

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, January 15, 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 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 9:19 a.m. and recognized Governor Craig Benson for a presentation of a request for an Executive Order.

Governor Benson presented Executive Order #2003-1, "an order directing a hiring freeze to reduce the rate of state general fund expenditures", and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee accept Executive Order #2003-1 as presented by the Governor. MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Chairman Kurk requested that each request be considered individually since there were questions on one of the items listed under this section on the agenda.

FIS 03-002 Liquor Commission - Craig Bulkley and George Tsiopras presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request from the Liquor Commission to transfer \$212,354. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-005 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Finance - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Finance to transfer \$120,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 100-a:41-a,II SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES:

FIS 03-001 N.H. Retirement System - On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that the Committee approve the following amounts for COLAs for the employee groups as follows:

State Employees - 2%
Teachers - 2%
Policemen - 2%
Firemen - 3%

On a 5 yes, 5 no vote, the MOTION FAILED.

On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the following amounts for COLAs for the employee groups as follows:

State Employees - 2%
Teachers - 2%
Policemen - 2%
Firemen - 3.5%

MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 02-266 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Knowledge Management and Decision Support - Kathleen Sgambati, Acting Commissioner and James Fredyma, Comptroller 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 of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Knowledge Management and Decision Support to accept and expend \$50,000 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-003 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health - Kathleen Sgambati, Acting Commissioner and James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health to accept and expend \$320,000 in federal funds.

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

FIS 03-004 Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Hospital - On a motion by Representative Wallner, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Hospital to accept and expend \$52,726.44 in revenue from the operation of the Transitional Housing Program. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 02-260 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Health Planning & Medicaid - Kathleen Sgambati, Acting Commissioner and James Fredyma, Comptroller presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded Representative Wallner, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Health Planning & Medicaid for authorization to carry forward \$41,076 in previously authorized but unexpended federal funds, accept and expend \$250,000 in federal funds, and continue one (1) Program Specialist III position and one (1) Administrative Secretary position through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-006 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health - Kathleen Sgambati, Acting Commissioner and Brook Dupee presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded Senator Clegg, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community & Public Health to accept and expend \$304,071 in federal funds and establish a Public Health Nurse Consultant position through June 30, 2003. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 009 Department of Transportation - Douglas Scamman, Director of Administration presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Transportation to transfer \$350,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the minutes of the December 18, 2002 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

APPOINTMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET ASSISTANT:

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Eaton, that Michael L. Buckley be re-appointed as the Legislative Budget Assistant pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

AUDITS:

The Fidelity Advisor 529 Plan Sponsored by the State of New Hampshire Managed by Fidelity Investments Annual Report September 30 2002 and The UNIQUE College Investing Plan Managed by Fidelity Investments Annual Report September 30, 2002 - Ann Kennedy, Partner and Lori Walsh, PricewaterhouseCoopers presented the reports and responded to questions of the Committee. Michael Ablowich, State Treasurer was also present to respond to questions.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Green, that these reports be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

State of New Hampshire, Department of Corrections, Inmate Health Care Performance Audit Report January 2003 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Philip Stanley, Commissioner, Les Dolecal, Assistant Commissioner and Robert McLeod, Administrative Director, Medical and Forensic Services were also present and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that this report be accept, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

State of New Hampshire Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year 2002 and New Hampshire Sweepstakes Commission Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2002 - Chairman Kurk noted that these reports will be formally presented at the February Fiscal Committee meeting.

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that these reports be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Kurk requested the Committee go into non-public session to discuss legal and contractual matters. (No decisions were made during this session.)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee was set for Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211. (A meeting was also set for Wednesday, March 19, 2003.)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk