

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
July 20, 2005

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 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 Elizabeth Hager
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Peter Franklin
Senator Robert Clegg
Senator Robert Flanders
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman King opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Franklin, that the minutes of the June 15, 2005 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 05-082 Letter from Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chairman of the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee relative to the recommendation of the following audit topic: Financial Impact on the State and Local School Districts from the Federal No Child Left Behind Act Requirements - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Franklin, that the Committee approve the performance audit topic and the preliminary scope issues for No Child Left Behind. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 14:30-a, III AUDIT TOPIC RECOMMENDATION BY LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the following performance audit topics:

- Department of Environmental Services - Permitting Functions, and
- New Hampshire Insurance Department - Consumer Protection Function. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

FIS 05-120 and FIS 05-121 Department of Safety - On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve these two requests as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 21-P:23 HIGHWAY FUND SURPLUS:

FIS 05-123 Department of Safety -- Wesley Colby, Director of Administration presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Hager, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Safety to transfer \$77,500 from the Highway Surplus account to purchase new "Plea by Mail Complaint Forms". MOTION ADOPTED.

Senator Clegg requested that the Department of Safety save the old forms since there is a move from House members to change the law back again. This would save some printing costs if that in fact happens. Mr. Colby stated he would pass this information on to Department of Safety officials.

RSA 228:12 TRANSFERS FROM HIGHWAY SURPLUS ACCOUNT:

FIS 05-124 Department of Transportation - Carol Murray, Commissioner presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Transportation to transfer \$257,438 from the Highway Surplus account to fund position #9U342, Director of Public Works and Transportation, and further that Commissioners Hill and Murray prepare an organizational chart, with job descriptions, for their respective agencies to see how these positions are going to fit into their agencies under the provisions of HB 644. MOTION ADOPTED.

Discussion ensued on E-Z Pass.

On a motion by Senator Morse, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Fiscal Committee request that Commissioner Murray meet with the Capital Budget Overview Committee, within the next 30 days, to present the turnpike system and E-Z Pass progress. MOTION ADOPTED.

Commissioner Murray stated that she felt it would be important to include the State Treasurer in this presentation to the Capital Budget Overview Committee.

CHAPTER 177:116, LAWS OF 2005 - MEDICIAD HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT RATES:

FIS 05-125 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid Business & Policy - John Stephen, Commissioner presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee. Stephen Norton, Director, Medicaid Business & Policy was also present to respond to questions.

On a motion by Representative Hager, seconded by Senator Morse, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid Business & Policy for authorization to revise reimbursement rates paid to certain outpatient

hospitals from 91.27% of Medicare allowable costs to 81.24% of Medicare allowable costs, effective August 1, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Senator D'Allesandro stated that the Department of Administrative Services is required to report every 60 days on the progress and implementation of the capital appropriation for the Enterprise Resource Planning as directed in the Capital Budget that was recently passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. Chairman King requested that the Legislative Budget Assistant follow up on Senator D'Allesandro's request.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational materials were accepted and placed on file.

AUDIT:

Chairman King stated that the Employee Benefit Fund Financial and Compliance Audit will be presented next month since Commissioner Hill is out of town for this meeting.

State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Financial and Compliance Audit Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2004 - William Mitchell, Audit Supervisor, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the report, and responded to questions of the Committee. Commissioner Michael Nolin and Assistant Commissioner Michael Walls were also present to respond to questions.

(This report was accepted, released and placed on file at the June 15, 2005 meeting of the Fiscal Committee.)

REQUEST TO FILL POSITION IN OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET ASSISTANT, AUDIT DIVISION:

Michael Buckley, Legislative Budget Assistant requested authorization to fill an Information Technology Manager's position in the Audit Division.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee authorize the Legislative Budget Assistant to fill an Information Technology Manager position in the Audit Division. MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee will be on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. (Whereupon the meeting adjourned.)

Representative Joseph Stone, Clerk