

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
June 18, 2021

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, June 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Ken Weyler, Chairman
Representative Lynne Ober
Representative Tracy Emerick
Representative Mary Jane Wallner (Alternate)
Representative Karen Umberger
Representative Jess Edwards (Alternate)
Representative Keith Erf (Alternate)
Senator Gary Daniels
Senator Regina Birdsell (Alternate)
Senator Bob Giuda
Senator Cindy Rosenwald
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and announced that Representative Wallner was sitting in as an alternate for Representative Leishman and Senator Birdsell as an alternate for Senate President Morse.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Giuda, that the Committee approve the minutes of the May 21, 2021 meeting as written. MOTION ADOPTED (9-Yes; 1-Abstained)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

RSA 9:16-a, II, TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED:

CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Daniels, that the Committee approve the requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 21-147 Department of Education – authorization to transfer \$235,000 in general funds within an accounting unit through June 30, 2021, FIS 21-148 Department of Labor – authorization to transfer \$29,159 in other funds between class lines through June 30, 2021, and FIS 21-149 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification – authorization to transfer \$470,839 in other funds between various classes and among accounting units and establish one (1) new class through June 30, 2021]

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:
CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 21-151 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$125,000 in other funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 21-153 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – authorization to budget and expend \$1,359,933 in other funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 21-154 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – authorization to accept and expend \$1,692,990 in other funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 21-155 State Treasury – authorization to accept and expend up to \$1,500,000 of Land and Community Heritage Investment Program funds through June 30, 2021, FIS 21-159 Department of Administrative Services – authorization to accept and expend \$164,992 in federal funds through June 30, 2021, and FIS 21-164 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – authorization to budget and expend \$1,500,000 in other funds through June 30, 2021]

RSA 228:69, I (b), APPROPRIATION AND USE OF SPECIAL RAILROAD FUND:

FIS 21-157 Department of Transportation – On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation to enter into agreements with Railroad Operators for an amount not to exceed \$1,432,590 in other funds from the Special Railroad Fund for the maintenance and repair of State-owned railroad lines effective July 1, 2021, contingent upon the availability of funds in FY 2022 and FY 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 346:46, LAWS OF 2019, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: TRANSFER AUTHORITY:

FIS 21-158 Department of Corrections – On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Representative Emerick, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Corrections to transfer \$7,087,928 in general funds among accounts to reallocate appropriations and cover overtime shortfalls through June 30, 2021. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN 2021
CONSENT CALENDAR

At the request of the Committee all items under this section were removed from the Consent Calendar.

FIS 21-150 Department of Health and Human Services – Kerrin Rounds, Chief Financial Officer, and Christine Santaniello, Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

Upon completion of the grant a follow-up status report was requested by the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$47,657,076 in federal Child Care Stabilization grant funds available for SFY 2021 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 “ARPA 2021” through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 21-152 Department of Health and Human Services – On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of the Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$29,736,767 in federal funds available for SFY 2021 to administer the Child Care Development Fund Program under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 “ARPA 2021” through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 21-166 Department of Transportation – Marie Mullen, Director of Finance, and Patrick Herlihy, Director, Division of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit, Department of Transportation responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Senator Daniels, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation to accept and expend \$21,184,482 in federal funds awarded under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) and administered via the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Boston Urbanized Area Program, Section 5311 Rural Area Program, and Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, upon approval through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 21-168 Department of Justice – John Formella, Attorney General, Department of Justice responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Justice to accept and expend \$2,000,000 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the purpose of subgranting funds to state agencies and municipalities to aid with activities related to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED. (9-Yes; Senator Giuda voted No)

RSA 14:30-a. VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE AND RSA 124:15 POSITIONS AUTHORIZED:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN 2021
CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 21-156 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department – On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Representative Ober, that the Committee approve the request of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 to; 1) accept and expend \$161,939 in other funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) and 2) subject to approval of request #1, authorization to establish one (1) full-time temporary Biologist I position. MOTION ADOPTED.

LATE ITEMS - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN 2021 PURSUANT TO RSA 14:30-A, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN 2021
CONSENT CALENDAR

At the request of the Committee FIS 21-170 NH Employment Security and FIS 21-173 Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery were removed from the Consent Calendar.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Representative Emerick, that the Committee approve the remaining requests under this section as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [FIS 21-169 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$2,219,102 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund additional support to the Bureau of Family Assistance Call Center when the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) comes to an end effective upon approval through June 30, 2023, FIS 21-171 Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery – authorization to accept and expend \$56,104,386.50 in federal Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) made available under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), to eligible units of local government, referred to as nonentitlement units (NEUs), for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and FIS 21-172 Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery – authorization to accept and expend \$7,707,237 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF), to fund the administration of ARPA funds effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023]

FIS 21-170 New Hampshire Employment Security – George Copadis, Commissioner, Richard Lavers, Deputy Commissioner, and Jill Revels, Business Administrator, New Hampshire Employment Security responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the request of the New Hampshire Employment Security to accept and expend \$10,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) in a new accounting unit, to fund the Summer Stipend – Return to Work Bonus Program effective upon approval through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED. (7-Yes; 3-No)

The Committee requested the Department provide an update on the number of individuals that take advantage of the Return to Work Bonus Program.

FIS 21-173 Governor's Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery – Taylor Caswell, Executive Director, and Chase Hagaman, Deputy Director, Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery responded to questions of the Committee and explained that the program criteria for this program is still to be designed and that the funds are specific to individual homeowners.

Senator Giuda submitted that requiring the mortgagor to cosign the cheque in order to ensure the funds get to the intended destination and asked if that was possible.

On a motion by Senator Giuda, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief And Recovery to accept and expend \$3,005,500 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF), to fund COVID-19 homeowner and homeownership hardships, retroactively effective June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. MOTION ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS:

None

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

Lori Shibinette, Commissioner, and Kerrin Rounds, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, responded to questions of the Committee pertaining to FIS 21-167 Department of Health and Human Services – Operating Statistics Dashboard SFY21 report through May 31, 2021, and as requested by the Committee will follow-up with more updated figures.

AUDITS:

State of New Hampshire, Single Audit of Federal Financial Assistance Programs For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 – Stephen Smith, Director of Audits, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, and Brock Romano, KPMG Partner, presented the report and responded to questions of the Committee. Charles Arlinghaus, Commissioner, and Dana Call, State Comptroller, Department of Administrative Services were also present to respond to Committee questions.

On a motion by Representative Umberger, seconded by Representative Ober, that the report be accepted, placed on file, and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

AUDIT INFORMATIONAL MATERIEALS:

FIS 21-163 Department of Education – Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, and Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education responded to Committee questions pertaining to the monthly progress update report of the Department of

Education-Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation February 2021 LBA audit findings, dated May 21, 2021.

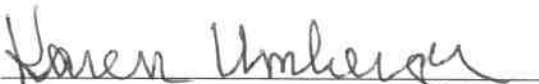
On a motion by Representative Emerick, seconded by Senator Giuda, that the Committee change the monthly reporting requirement to quarterly reports, with the next report due in September. MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair scheduled the next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee for Friday, August 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to be held in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

On a motion by Representative Ober, seconded by Senator Daniels, that the next meeting be scheduled for August 20, 2021 as needed, but are available to the call of the Chair if ARPA money is needed. MOTION ADOPTED.

On a motion by Senator Daniels, and by Committee consensus the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.


Representative Karen Umberger, Clerk