

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

December 15, 2023

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, December 15, 2023, 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 Keith Erf, Clerk
Representative Gerald Griffin (Alternate)
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Peter Leishman
Representative Mary Heath (Alternate)
Representative David Huot (Alternate)
Senator James Gray, Vice Chairman
Senator Ruth Ward (Alternate)
Senator Keith Murphy (Alternate)
Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senator Shannon Chandley (Alternate)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcoming Senators Ward, Murphy and Chandley filling in for Senate President Bradley, Senator Birdsell and Senator Rosenwald respectively, and Representative Griffin filling in for Representative Edwards.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting as written. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

OLD BUSINESS:

Jennifer Foley, General Counsel for Youth Development Center Claims Administration Settlement Fund, and Jennifer Ramsey, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, presented an update and responded to Committee questions pertaining to; FIS 23-327 New Hampshire Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund – for Administrator's Quarterly Report for the YDC Claims Administration and Settlement Fund 2023 Quarter Three. No action required as this was an informational item held over from the November 9, 2023 meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

As announced by the Chair, the following items were removed from the Consent Calendar to be acted on individually;

- Tab 3 Pursuant to RSA 9:16-a, II.
FIS 23-364
- Tab 4 Pursuant to RSA 9:16-c, I.
FIS 23-341
- Tab 5 Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI.
FIS 23-344

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve all the remaining requests under the Consent Calendar, Tabs 3, 4, 5, and 6, as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED. [TAB 3 pursuant to RSA 9:16-a, II, FIS 23-348 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$240,000 in federal funds and create a new expenditure class code through June 30, 2024, and FIS 23-349 Department of Administrative Services – authorization to transfer \$150,000 in other funds through June 30, 2024; TAB 4 pursuant to RSA 9:16-c, I, FIS 23-350 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$88,125 in federal funds in and among classes and to establish a new class within an accounting unit through June 30, 2025; TAB 5 pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI., FIS 23-342 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$444,093 in federal funds through September 30, 2024, FIS 23-343 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to accept and expend \$167,827 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 23-345 NH Fish and Game Department – authorization to accept and expend \$879,122 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, FIS 23-346 NH Fish and Game Department – authorization to accept and expend \$196,196 in federal funds through June 30, 2025, and FIS 23-362 Department of Health and Human Services – authorization to; 1) amend FIS 21-365, approved January 14, 2022, with subsequent approval (FIS 23-167) on May 19, 2023, by extending the end date from July 31, 2024 to June 30, 2025, and 2) accept and expend \$3,047,474 in federal funds through June 30, 2025; and TAB 6 pursuant to ARPA RSA 14:30-a, VI, FIS 23-347 Department of Education – authorization to amend FIS 23-167, approved May 19, 2023, by accepting and expending \$575,573 in federal Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program funds through June 30, 2025 (Originally approved (FIS 23-081) on March 24, 2023)]

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 23-364 Department of Health and Human Services – Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, and Chris Santaniello, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee.

The Committee requested a copy of the preliminary ruling issued by the New Hampshire Supreme Court pertaining to payment for services provided by the Judge Rothenberg Educational Center (JRC).

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer \$900,000 in general funds, reduce federal funds in the amount of \$900,900, and create new expenditure class code through June 30, 2024. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:16-c, I. TRANSFER OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS:
CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 23-341 Department of Education – Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, Department of Education, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Representative Erf, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Education to transfer \$165,000 in federal funds in FY 24 through June 30, 2024. MOTION ADOPTED. (8-Yes; 2-No)

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

FIS 23-344 Department of Business and Economic Affairs – Taylor Caswell, Commissioner, and Chase Hagaman, Director of Economic Development, Department of Business and Economic Affairs responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Representative Leishman, that the Committee table the request of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to accept and expend \$444,366 in federal funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 106-H:9, I. (e) FUNDING; FUND ESTABLISHED:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-351 Department of Safety – Melanie Carraher, Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Safety responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Safety to budget and expend \$645,000 in other funds from the Prior Year Carry Forward Balance of the Enhanced 911 System Fund through June 30, 2024. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 216-A:3-g., FEES FOR PARK SYSTEM:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-363 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Sarah Stewart, Commissioner, and Brian Wilson, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to amend the

previously approved schedule for campground fees by increasing selected fee categories, effective February 1, 2024 (Originally approved (FIS 12-139) on April 13, 2012). MOTION ADOPTED. (9-Yes; 1-No)

RSA 362-F:10, I., RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 23-352 Department of Energy – Joshua Elliott, Direct of Policy and Programs, and Leonard Rautio, Financial Manager, Department of Energy, responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Energy to create one temporary full-time Utility Analyst IV position. MOTION ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS:

FIS 23-365 Office of Legislative Budget Assistant – Michael Hoffman, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant requested approval to accept, place on file, and release to the public in the usual manner the following annual financial reports for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 when they become available: 1) State of New Hampshire Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2) New Hampshire DOT Turnpike System Annual Financial Report, 3) New Hampshire Lottery Commission Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and 4) New Hampshire Liquor Commission Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

On a motion by Representative Erf, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant to accept, place on file, and release to the public in the usual manner the following annual financial reports for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 when they become available: 1) State of New Hampshire Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2) New Hampshire DOT Turnpike System Annual Financial Report, 3) New Hampshire Lottery Commission Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and 4) New Hampshire Liquor Commission Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 23-366 Office of Legislative Budget Assistant – Michael Hoffman, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant requested approval to fill two (2) Financial Auditor vacancies in the LBA, Audit Division.

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Representative Erf, that the Committee approve the request of the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant to fill two (2) Financial Auditor vacancies in the LBA, Audit Division. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

No discussion was held. The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to be held in the Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211.

On a motion by Representative Erf, seconded by Senator Gray, that the meeting adjourn.
(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.)



Representative Keith Erf, Clerk