

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
August 11, 2004

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, August 11, 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 9:27 a.m.

Chairman Kurk noted that request FIS 04-156 from the Department of Health and Human Services has been withdrawn as specified in the letter from Commissioner Stephen which was distributed to each member.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Odell, that the minutes of the June 16, 2004 meeting be accepted as written.
MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

FIS 04-141 Letter from Representative Sheila Francoeur, Vice Chairman of the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee - Senator John Barnes, Chairman of the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee explained that the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee is seeking approval for a change in performance audit topics from insurance broker fee performance audit, which was approved on May 20th by the Fiscal Committee, to state insurance procurement practices.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the new performance audit topic of state insurance procurement practices, as presented by Senator Barnes, Chairman of the Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee.
MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 04-138 Department of Justice and FIS 04-151 Fish and Game Department - Lee Perry, Executive Director, Fish and Game Department responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve both requests as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 223, LAWS OF 2003 - OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ESTABLISHED:

FIS 04-139 Office of Information Technology - Richard Bailey, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Office of Information Technology for continuation of the transfer of information technology staff and other related appropriations effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-160 Office of Information Technology - Richard Bailey, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology 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 from the Office of Information Technology for continuation of the transfer of information technology staff and other related appropriations effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 12-G:42,XI - ADOPTION OF RULES:

FIS 04-136 Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors - Geno Marconi, Director, Division of Ports and Harbors and Robert Cheney, Special Counsel, Pease Development Authority presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Smith, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Committee approve the request from the Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors relative to rules for setting fees for mooring permits. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-137 Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors - Geno Marconi, Director, Division of Ports and Harbors and Robert Cheney, Special Counsel, Pease Development Authority 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 Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors relative to rules for setting fees for Port Captains, Pilots and Pilotage. MOTION ADOPTED.

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RSA 215-A:23,IX - OHRV - REGISTRATION FEES:

FIS 04-158 Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Odell, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation for authorization to expend \$618,555.04 in unbudgeted revenues due to excess registrations in FY 2004. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 216-A:3-g - FEES FOR THE PARK SYSTEM:

FIS 04-133 Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation - Richard McLeod, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation 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 from the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation regarding rate changes for Cannon Mountain. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 502-A:19-b,V - DISTRICT COURTS - PLEAS BY MAIL; PROCEDURES:

FIS 04-143 Administrative Office of the Courts - On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Administrative Office of the Courts relative to revisions to the Uniform Fine Schedule which contains the usual fines for violations of Fish and Game laws. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-144 Administrative Office of the Courts - Donald Goodnow, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, Marta Modigliani, Attorney, and David Barrett, Director, Division of Safety Services, Department of Safety presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee. Ms. Modigliani distributed copies of the current and proposed fee structure schedule and responded to questions of the committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request from the Administrative Office of the Courts relative to revisions to the Uniform Fine Schedule which contains the usual fines for violations of Department of Safety, Division of Safety Services laws. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-145 Administrative Office of the Courts - Donald Goodnow, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts and Phillip Bryce, Director, Division of Forestry, Department of Resources and Economic Development presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Administrative Office of the Courts relative to revisions to the Uniform Fine

Schedule which contains the usual fines for violations of Department of Resources and Economic Development forestry laws. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 318:1, LAWS OF 2003 - PAU 02-13-04-03, CLASS 98 - RELOCATION/REHABILITATION FUND:

FIS 04-154 Liquor Commission - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Liquor Commission for authorization to expend \$70,000 for the relocation of New Hampshire State Liquor Stores throughout FY 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

CHAPTER 318:16,V, LAWS OF 2003 - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; PROVIDER PAYMENTS AND RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURES:

FIS 04-155 Department of Health and Human Services - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize a one-time payment for catastrophic care claims that have accumulated over the past few years, paying \$10 million to discharge \$18 million in claims, reduce the limit for catastrophic care services from 7% of inpatient services to 5%, and eliminate the carrying forward of amounts above the percentage limit into future years. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 04-157 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Green, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services to accept and expend \$36,978 in federal funds. MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational items were accepted and placed on file.

Chairman Kurk noted that there was an extensive review and update on Medicaid Modernization prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services. Members should review this information and if questions should arise they can be answered at the September Fiscal Committee meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Senator D'Allesandro recognized the absence of Paula O'Regan, stating that she has resigned from the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant to relocate to Central America. Senator D'Allesandro commended her for her many years of dedicated service to the Legislature and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

Chairman Kurk noted that Senator D'Allesandro's statements represented the sentiments of the entire Committee and wished them to be a permanent part of the record.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2004. (Future meeting dates were also set for Wednesday, October 20th, Wednesday, November 17th, and Wednesday, December 15th.)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Clerk