

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT

MINUTES

April 20, 2020

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via audio conference.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman  
Representative Susan Ford  
Representative Lynne Ober  
Representative Peter Leishman  
Representative Erin Hennessey (Alternate)  
Senator Lou D'Allesandro  
Senate President Donna Soucy  
Senator Jay Kahn  
Senator Cindy Rosenwald  
Senator Chuck Morse

Representative Ford, Acting Clerk, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the assistance of Fallon Reed at the Department of Safety and Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant, and recessed until 11:00 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting reconvened and the Chair called the meeting to order.

OFFICIAL AUDIO CONFERENCE MEETING PROCEDURES:

The Chair opened the meeting with the following Right-to-Know checklist;

*“Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended pursuant to Executive Order 2020-05, a public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.”*

*“However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that; 1) we are providing the public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possible by video or other electronic means. We are utilizing VAST Conference for this electronic meeting.”*

*“All Members of the Committee and the staff of State Agencies with agenda items have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through platform and the public has access contemporaneously to listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by dialing the following number: 1-800-356-8278 and the six digit conference code 125563 followed by the pound (#) sign.”*

*“2) Providing public notice of the necessary information of the meeting, we previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting telephonically. Instructions have also been provided in the House and Senate calendar, the Fiscal Committee agenda, and the website of the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/LBA/budget/fiscalcommittee.aspx>.”*

*“3) Providing the mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please e-mail [NHeoc@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHeoc@dos.nh.gov), and adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.”*

#### ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL:

The Chair announced the meeting would start by taking the roll of attendance and that Members state their presence, and state whether there was anyone in the room with them during the meeting as required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Representative Ford, sitting in for Representative Weyler as clerk, called the Roll of voting members.

Representative Wallner – Present/at home in Concord, alone  
Representative Leishman – Present/at home in Peterborough, alone in the living room  
Representative Ford – Present/at home in Easton, alone  
Representative Hennessey (Alternate for Representative Weyler) – Present/at home in Littleton with her two minor children  
Representative Ober – Present/at home, alone  
Senator D’Allesandro – Present/at home, alone  
Senate President Soucy – Present/at home, alone  
Senator Kahn – Present/at home in Keene, alone  
Senator Rosenwald – Present/at home in Nashua, alone  
Senator Morse – Present/at his office in Atkinson, alone

#### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator D’Allesandro, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the minutes of the April 10, 2020 meeting be accepted as written.

A roll call was taken, and the results were as follows:

Representative Leishman – Yes  
Representative Ford – Yes  
Representative Ober – Yes  
Representative Hennessey (Alternate) – Yes  
Senator D’Allesandro – Yes

Senate President Soucy – Yes

Senator Kahn – Yes

Senator Rosenwald – Yes

Senator Morse – Yes

Representative Wallner – Yes

(10-Yes; 0-No)

MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 20-029 Department of Education – authorization through June 30, 2021 to; 1) accept and expend \$10,114,548 in federal funds and 2) establish two (2) full time temporary positions consisting of; a Program Specialist III (LG 23) and an Administrator I (LG 27). **Tabled 2/14/2020**. No Action Taken.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant, presented an update on the United States Department of the Treasury guidance relative to use of Coronavirus Relief Funds under the CARES Act of which New Hampshire is eligible for \$1.25 billion and responded to Committee questions.

On a motion by Senator Rosenwald, seconded by Senator D’Allesandro, that the Committee approve the following motion;

“In light of the Governor's Office statement that the \$26 million in transfers from various programs in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) were for “cash flow” purposes to pay COVID-19 expenses, and the fact that the State has since received \$625 million in CARES Funds on Friday, April 17, 2020, to the extent U.S. Treasury guidance permits, the Fiscal Committee moves to reverse the following transfers made by DHHS:

- \$8 million from Substance Use Disorder rate increases;
- \$4 million from the State Loan Repayment Program for health care workers;
- \$1.7 million from homeless shelter and re-housing;
- \$8.75 million from the new Secure Psychiatric Unit;
- \$2 million from low income senior prescription drug assistance;
- \$750 thousand from congregate housing;
- \$750 thousand in additional transfers for the Secure Psychiatric Unit, and
- \$100 thousand from the Foster Grandparents Program.”

NO ACTION TAKEN.

On a motion by Representative Hennessey, seconded by Senator Morse, that the Committee table Senator Rosenwald’s motion.

A roll call was taken, and the results were as follows:

Representative Leishman – No  
Representative Ford – No  
Representative Ober – Yes  
Representative Hennessey (Alternate) – Yes  
Senator D’Allesandro – No  
Senate President Soucy – No  
Senator Kahn – No  
Senator Rosenwald – No  
Senator Morse – Yes  
Representative Wallner – No (3-Yes; 7-No)  
MOTION FAILED.

A roll call was taken to approve the original motion as made by Senator Rosenwald, and the results were as follows:

Representative Leishman – Yes  
Representative Ford – Yes  
Representative Ober – No  
Representative Hennessey (Alternate) – No  
Senator D’Allesandro – Yes  
Senate President Soucy – Yes  
Senator Kahn – Yes  
Senator Rosenwald – Yes  
Senator Morse – No  
Representative Wallner – Yes (7-Yes; 3-No)  
MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was previously scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Whereupon the meeting recessed at 11:53 a.m.)

/s/ Susan Ford

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Representative Susan Ford, Acting Clerk