

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES

October 15, 2003

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 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 Kenneth Weyler, Clerk
Representative Beverly Rodeschin
Representative Marjorie Smith
Senator Thomas Eaton
Senator Robert Clegg
Senator Bob Odell
Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Chairman Kurk opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the minutes of the September 17, 2003 meeting. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

No actions were taken by the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

RSA 9:16-a TRANSFER AUTHORIZED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

FIS 03-166 Department of Education - This request was withdrawn by the Department.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR:

FIS 03-162 Community Technical College System, Manchester/Stratham - David Lee, Director of Finance presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator Green, that this request be tabled until Mr. Lee gets additional information requested by Committee members. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-163 Community Technical College System, Concord - On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Committee approve the request of the Community Technical College System, Concord to establish a Consultant position through September 30, 2004. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 03-157 Department of Education - Lorraine Patusky, Office of Accountability presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

October 15, 2003

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR (continued):

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Education to hire Consultants and establish one (1) Education Consultant II position and one (1) Program Assistant I position through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 03-164 Department of Transportation - On a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, seconded by Representative Weyler, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit to expend an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the Special Railroad Fund to repair and maintain active state-owned railroad corridors. MOTION ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman Kurk wanted the Committee to know that he has not received the bimonthly report from Mr. Anderson relative to the savings generated by informational technology changes. Chairman Kurk noted that he would be sending a letter to Mr. Anderson to remind him of the fact that the Committee is expecting this report.

AUDIT:

State of New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Financial and Compliance Audit Report for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2003 - Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant presented the audit and responded to questions of the Committee. Thomas Getz, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission was also present to respond to questions.

(Senator Eaton in the Chair on this time.)

On a motion by Representative Weyler, seconded by Senator Clegg, that the Public Utilities Commission Financial and Compliance Audit Report for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2003 be accepted, placed on file and released in the usual manner. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED - CONSENT CALENDAR (continued):

FIS 03-162 Community Technical College System - On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Representative Weyler, that this request be removed from the table. MOTION ADOPTED.

David Lee, Finance Director responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Rodeschin, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the Committee approve the request of the Community Technical College System, Manchester/Stratham to establish a Consultant position through January 31, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

October 15, 2003

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Senator Green requested that the letter from Catherine Provencher, Director of Audits, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant relative to the Communications Services Tax Audit Project be placed on the next agenda for further discussion, as well as FIS 03-170 the follow-up report on the Department of Revenue Administration Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 that was prepared by the Department of Administrative Services. Senator Green requested that Commissioners Hill and Blatsos be at the November meeting to address questions of the Committee.

The remaining informational items were accepted and placed on file.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Michael Buckley, Legislative Budget Assistant gave the Committee a heads up that they should expect two mailings for the November 12th Fiscal Committee meeting. One would be the performance audit of the Judicial Branch. Mr. Buckley explained that due to this report's length, he is going to try and mail this report early, and then the second mailing would be the remaining agenda and backup materials.

(Chairman Kurk back in the Chair.)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211. (A future meeting date was also set from Wednesday, December 17)

(Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk