

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT  
MINUTES  
October 20, 2004

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, October 20, 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 9:10 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the minutes of the September 15, 2004 meeting be accepted as written. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 9:16-a - TRANSFER AUTHORIZED:

FIS 04-192 Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards/EMS and FIS 04-196 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance - On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Stone, that these requests be approved as submitted. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 124:15 POSITIONS RESTRICTED:

FIS 04-191 Department of Education - On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Wallner, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Education to establish a Program Assistant I position through June 30, 2005. MOTION ADOPTED.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIS 04-170 Department of Health and Human Services - (Chapter 319:30, Laws of 2003) Medicaid Program Audit Follow-up Status Report (Senator Green requested this item be tabled until the October 2004 Fiscal Committee meeting - Commissioner John Stephen and Steve Mosher were present to respond to questions. After conferring with Senator Green, Chairman Kurk stated that they had no questions.

FIS 04-175 Office of Information Technology - (Chapter 223:15, Laws of 2003) Report on cost savings resulting from the reorganization of information technology employees and functions - September 2004 (Senator Green requested this item be tabled until the October 2004 Fiscal Committee meeting) No discussion.

OLD BUSINESS (continued):

FIS 04-185 Department of Administrative Services - (Chapter 319:32, Laws of 2003) Implementation Report on State Employee Self-Insured Health Plan (**Senator Green requested this item be tabled until the October 2004 Fiscal Committee meeting**) No discussion.

RSA 9:17-d TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS, SUPREME COURT:

FIS 04-197 Administrative Office of the Courts - On a motion by Representative Stone, seconded by Senator Eaton, that the Committee approve the request from the Administrative Office of the Courts to transfer \$15,000. MOTION ADOPTED.

RSA 186-C:20 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER, CHAPTER 319:1,II, ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND CHAPTER 319:1,IV TRANSFER AMONG ACCOUNTS:

FIS 04-195 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services - Commissioner John Stephen and James Fredyma presented the request and responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Green, seconded by Representative Wallner, that this request be tabled. MOTION FAILED. (vote was 4-yes 6-no)

On a motion by Senator Clegg, seconded by Representative Smith, that the Committee approve the request from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services to accept and expend \$225,000 of agency income that has accumulated in the Special Education Revenue Account and transfer \$225,000 in general funds from the Special Education Program to Juvenile Field Services and Rehabilitative Programs. MOTION ADOPTED.

(Senator Green wished to be on the record as opposing this motion.)

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

FIS 04-190 Department of Transportation - Brian Lombard, Railroad Operations Engineer, Bureau of Rail and Transit 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 of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit for authorization to expend up to \$100,000 to pay Commercial Paving & Recycling Co. for the disposal of 15,000 old railroad crossties and other creosote wood products removed from state-owned railroad rehab projects. MOTION ADOPTED.

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

FIS 04-187 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services - On a motion by Senator Eaton, seconded by Representative Stone, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services to accept and expend \$41,437 in other funds from the Endowment for Health. MOTION ADOPTED.

FIS 04-189 Department of Health and Human Services - On a motion by Senator Odell, seconded by Representative Smith that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept and expend \$28,941,679.50 in additional revenue from the Nursing Facility Quality Assessment Funds and \$28,970,621.18 in federal Medicaid revenue. MOTION ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman Kurk stated that it is his understanding that some time in November, the Department of Health and Human Services will be coming forward with its Medicaid Modernization Plan, and in preparation for that he wished to distribute copies of a handout from the Georgetown University, Health Policy Institute entitled Financing Under Federal Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers: Federal Policy and Implications for New Hampshire by Cindy Mann, J.D, Research Professor.

Chairman Kurk explained that this report by Cindy Mann has been available on the Web and was financed by the Endowment for Health, and it may inform some of our discussions when the Commissioner comes forward in November. Chairman Kurk also referred to an interesting article on the same subject by Bob Sanders on page 19a of the November 17<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Business Review.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

The informational materials were accepted and placed on file.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> but Chairman Kurk noted that Legislative Orientation is scheduled for that day. Chairman Kurk requested that the next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Kurk also set Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for a briefing of the Fiscal Committee by Commissioner Stephen on the Medicaid Modernization Plan. (A future meeting has also been set for Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.) (Whereupon the Committee adjourned.)

Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Clerk