

NH Judicial Branch - General Fund & Highway Fund Revenue Projections -- FY2021

7/8/2020

Revenue Description	Revenue		Plan	FY2021 Proj	\$ Var	% Var
	Account	Fund				
Penalty Assessment	404995	General	1,428,346	993,577	-434,769	-30.4%
Court Admin Fees/Safety	402475	General	815,000	724,248	-90,752	-11.1%
Bar Exam Fees	402477	General	6,282	6,406	125	2.0%
Partial Pymt Fines/Doc	402591	General	0	6,176	6,176	0.0%
e-Filing Surcharge	403252	General	300,000	320,376	20,376	6.8%
Guard.Ad Litem-Probate Recovery	405318	General	0	5,328	5,328	0.0%
Interest-Court System	405501	General	4	1	-3	-76.1%
Fines	407308	General	1,288,831	1,146,642	-142,189	-11.0%
Bail Forfeitures	407309	General	94,164	133,806	39,642	42.1%
Entry Fee	407310	General	3,673,615	3,204,520	-469,095	-12.8%
Default Fee	407311	General	92,569	128,750	36,181	39.1%
Other Fees	407312	General	6,430,296	5,679,020	-751,276	-11.7%
Misc. Sales/Revenue	407509	General	4,000	824	-3,176	-79.4%
	Total	General	14,133,107	12,349,675	-1,783,432	-12.6%
Motor Vehicle Fines - Court	403671	Highway	5,601,000	3,722,843	-1,878,157	-33.5%
	Grand Total	GF + HWY	19,734,107	16,072,517	-3,661,589	-18.6%

Revenues for April, May, and June 2020 showed a steady uptick relative to average pre-pandemic levels, from a low of 50% in April to about 77% in June. eFiling surcharges have been relatively unaffected and are expected to exceed Plan. Consequently, FY2021 projections reflect a continued increase in revenues, plateauing at 85% of pre-pandemic levels for September 2020 through the end of the fiscal year. Highway funds lag behind a bit, with June 2020's revenues coming in at 61% of average pre-pandemic levels. Highway funds for FY2021 are projected to plateau at around 75% of pre-pandemic levels.

Revenues for July and August, 2020 have remained somewhat steady at around 75% of average pre-pandemic levels. There are natural increases and decreases that occur month to month in revenue collections, so at this time it is difficult to predict if revenues will remain flat or slowly continue to increase. Revenue figures over the next few months should provide more insight into how they are truly trending. Highway funds in July and August are about 50% of pre-pandemic levels, which is lower than they had been trending for April through June, 2020. Before adjusting revenue projections for this revenue stream, however, we will carefully monitor revenue over the next few months and modify the projections if it seems appropriate.

All Circuit Court judges are working in courthouses every day, with the exception of one marital master. He is working remotely from home, on written recommendation of his physician, but still carrying a full daily docket of hearings. Most hearings are being conducted telephonically, or by WebEx, with some in-person exceptions. Far fewer court staff are out on COVID-19 related leave, with the primary reason being daycare and/or childcare issues for those who are. The vast majority of staff are working every day, mostly in courthouses, with the exception of our Information Center agents, most of whom continue to work remotely. The circuit court points to a number of factors which are likely all contributing to the decrease in fine revenues, in no particular order: The backlog of criminal trials due to courthouse restrictions and other COVID measures, a reduction in criminal cases being filed by the State, lack of ability to pay fines on the part of defendants due to the economy, inability to go to a courthouse to pay a fine, judges and prosecutors may be looking to non-monetary penalties due to lack of ability to pay fines, plea hearings are conducted telephonically which makes collection more difficult since defendant isn't at the courthouse at the time of sentencing, a significant backlog in minor motor vehicle offenses which all get scheduled for pretrial hearings at which most get resolved—there are currently 3,936 cases to schedule. Fine revenues should be increasing as more cases are getting resolved. Although the Governor's stay order has been lifted and landlord/tenant filings have begun coming in at a steady pace, the new CDC moratorium on certain types of evictions will once again slow the filings for the balance of 2020.

With careful planning, the Superior Courts have successfully resumed grand jury proceedings since August. Legislation also passed to allow a statewide grand jury located in Merrimack County that will assist those few Superior Courts that do not have the space to practice appropriate social distancing to clear case backlogs and to conduct investigative grand juries. To date, one such statewide grand jury session has been conducted. Jury trials are also being resumed on a limited basis, with one pilot that was successfully conducted in Cheshire County in August and four more planned in different counties in October. The Superior Courts continue to conduct most hearings by WebEx with in-person hearings being expanded when there is a compelling need.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments via webex video conferencing from late April through early July. Except for three cases in which the attorneys expressed a strong preference for in-person oral arguments at a later date, the Supreme Court was able to complete oral arguments in every case whose scheduling had been disrupted by COVID-19. On September 9, the Supreme Court resumed in-person oral arguments. Several cases were heard in the courtroom that day and on September 16, with additional in-person oral argument sessions currently scheduled through October. Since the time of the Governor's first emergency declaration, Supreme Court justices and staff have maintained operations through a combination of on-site and remote work, aided by the court's electronic filing (e-filing) system and other technology solutions. As a result, the Supreme Court has been able to resolve approximately three appeals for every two appeals being filed. The disposition (or "clearance") rate since the end of March is over 150%. With continued use of technology and a gradual but steady rise in the number of on-site staff, the Supreme Court is well poised to handle the anticipated increase in new appeals that will result from the ongoing

NH Judicial Branch - Unrestricted Revenue - FY2020

	Rev Source Code	Orig Plan Amount	Revised Est Amount	Revised Est Amount	Actual Revenue												Total FY20	Variance fr Revised Est
					Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sep 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020		
General Fund																		
Penalty Assessment	404995	1,428,346			96,491.88	105,913.68	98,441.42	106,275.22	111,834.32	94,823.12	93,474.29	98,905.01	93,576.31	39,260.85	50,960.59	63,850.28	1,053,806.97	-374,539
Court Admin Fees/Safety	402475	815,000			77,350.00	74,600.00	67,750.00	85,550.00	78,800.00	68,700.00	70,450.00	66,100.00	67,650.00	58,650.00	60,650.00	45,400.00	821,650.00	6,650
Bar Exam Fees	402477	6,368			370.00	500.00	680.00	1,000.00	744.00	840.00	350.00	600.00	390.00	170.00	690.00	750.00	7,084.00	716
Partial Pymt Fines/Doc	402591	0			3,976.50	-3,976.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10,974.4	-10,974.4	5,164.01	-5,164.0	0.00	0
e-Filing Surcharge	403252	300,000			27,625.29	29,444.24	28,088.32	30,435.04	28,042.89	29,237.70	28,772.44	31,330.81	46,976.31	22,830.00	26,318.92	31,091.54	360,193.50	60,194
Guard.Ad Litem-Probate Recovery	405318	0			635.22	275.00	150.00	547.00	658.34	1,077.44	160.00	1,154.92	282.96	965.72	136.00	222.65	6,265.25	6,265
Interest-Court System	405501	4			0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.18	0.11	0.11	0.17	0.05	0.17	1.15	-3
Fines	407308	1,441,635			100,566.43	205,152.08	108,725.13	96,646.82	135,552.01	94,929.68	87,947.31	98,888.60	101,977.44	38,924.60	58,978.38	81,910.40	1,210,198.88	-231,436
Bail Forfeitures	407309	98,865			8,461.59	27,310.00	24,460.00	10,060.00	5,875.00	14,550.00	7,850.00	15,660.00	1,400.00	2,810.00	950.00	14,325.00	133,711.59	34,847
Entry Fee	407310	3,709,327			306,674.74	345,611.26	309,106.59	313,539.89	288,926.34	310,326.22	319,174.92	311,547.30	358,008.68	167,648.09	197,812.27	246,173.37	3,474,549.67	-234,777
Default Fee	407311	93,582			11,643.66	14,005.22	10,568.20	13,079.78	13,784.68	11,233.96	13,297.38	13,673.76	15,908.16	5,249.84	8,885.51	7,648.44	138,978.59	45,397
Other Fees	407312	6,430,296			558,129.97	575,336.05	565,290.70	632,515.17	590,848.59	530,114.15	558,887.00	514,561.58	531,345.76	356,071.01	335,473.50	453,423.14	6,201,996.62	-228,299
Misc. Sales/Revenue	407509	4,000			-303.55	-334.33	137.49	44.69	-0.14	34.32	742.36	-253.82	-92.95	-194.38	-109.59	851.05	521.15	-3,479
SubTotal - Court Fines & Fees		12,899,077			1,095,130	1,267,923	1,114,957	1,183,418	1,143,232	1,061,043	1,087,632	1,053,263	1,134,821	642,151	694,949	876,632	12,355,150	-543,927
Subtotal - Penalty Assessment		1,428,346			96,492	105,914	98,441	106,275	111,834	94,823	93,474	98,905	93,576	39,261	50,961	63,850	1,053,807	-374,539
Total - General Fund - FY2020		14,327,423	0	0	1,191,622	1,373,837	1,213,398	1,289,694	1,255,066	1,155,867	1,181,106	1,152,168	1,228,397	681,412	745,910	940,482	13,408,957	-918,466
Highway Fund																		
Motor Vehicle Fines - Court	403671	5,601,000			434,273.35	439,122.08	416,292.40	488,942.90	498,447.33	429,065.26	450,176.33	457,872.86	420,063.18	181,710.97	226,380.22	271,312.76	4,713,659.64	-887,340
														-56.74%	24.58%	19.85%		