

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
MINUTES
March 21, 2025

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Ken Weyler, Chairman
Representative Keith Erf, Clerk
Representative Jess Edwards
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Peter Leishman
Representative Karen Ebel (Alternate)
Representative Gerald Griffin (Alternate)
Senator James Gray, Vice Chairman
Senate President Sharon Carson
Senator Regina Birdsell
Senator Cindy Rosenwald
Senator Tara Reardon (Alternate)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

On a motion by Senator Gray, seconded by Senator Carson, that the New Hampshire Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund late item (FIS 25-075) be special ordered to the end of the agenda after the Informational items. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Senator Carson, seconded by Senator Rosenwald, that the Committee approve the minutes of the February 21, 2025 meeting as written. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT CALENDAR

As announced by the Chair, the following item was removed from the Consent Calendar to be acted on individually;

Tab 5 Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI.
FIS 25-065

On a motion by Senator Carson, seconded by Senator Birdsell, that the Committee approve all the remaining requests as submitted under the Consent Calendar, Tabs 3, 4 and 5. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No) [TAB 3 pursuant to RSA 9:16-a., FIS 25-062 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$515,000 in general/highway /turnpike funds among accounts through June 30, 2025, and FIS 25-071 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$85,000 in turnpike/highway funds among accounts through June 30, 2025 ; and TAB 4 pursuant to RSA 9:16-c, FIS 25-063 Department of Safety – authorization to transfer \$655,000 in federal funds in and among classes within an accounting unit through June 30, 2025, and TAB 5 pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI., FIS 25-064 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – authorization to accept and expend \$1,665,000 in federal funds through June 30, 2025]

RSA 14:30-a, VI FISCAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OVER \$100,000 FROM ANY NON-STATE SOURCE:

CONSENT CALENDAR

FIS 25-065 Department of Safety – Amy Newbury, Director of Administration, and Lieutenant Christopher Storm, Support to Special Services and the Office of Highway Safety, Department of Safety responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Senator Rosenwald, seconded by Senator Birdsell, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Safety to accept and expend \$214,109 in other funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 228:12 TRANSFERS FROM HIGHWAY SURPLUS ACCOUNT:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 25-072 Department of Transportation – Danielle Chandonnet, Director of Finance, and Alan Hanscom, State Maintenance Engineer, Department of Transportation responded to questions of the Committee.

On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Representative Edwards, that the Committee approve the request of the Department of Transportation to transfer \$4,295,000 in highway funds from the Highway Surplus Account to fund winter maintenance activities through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

RSA 604-A:1-b ADDITIONAL FUNDING:

REGULAR CALENDAR

FIS 25-066 Judicial Council – On a motion by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Judicial Council to receive an additional appropriation from funds not otherwise appropriated in the total amount of \$240,000 in general funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

FIS 25-067 Judicial Council – On a motion by Representative Leishman, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee approve the request of the Judicial Council to receive an additional appropriation from funds not otherwise appropriated in the total amount of \$400,000 in general funds through June 30, 2025. MOTION ADOPTED. (10-Yes; 0-No)

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS:

Senator Rosenwald asked a question, on behalf of Senator Watters, pertaining to; FIS 25-069 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department – RSA 206:42, Search and Rescue – Quarterly Report of Expenditures for the period October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, specifically if the funds from the Hike Safe Card cover the cost of Search and Rescue. Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant, will follow-up with the Department for the history of the Hike Safe Card.

Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer, and Chris Santaniello, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services responded to questions of the Committee pertaining to; FIS 25-070 Department of Health and Human Services – Operating Statistics Dashboard SFY25 report through January 31, 2025, with the exception of data for the Division for Children, Youth and Families staffing data, Mental Health, SUD Caseload and BDS Early Supports and Services which is through December 31, 2024.

Senator Rosenwald inquired if the figures on Table 9, under the Nursing Homes Beds column, are the budgeted number of beds or number of licensed beds? They Department stated it was for the number of beds budgeted but will confirm if that is correct.

The Department will provide written follow-up, in response to Representative Edwards question regarding numbers listed on Table 8, Operating Statistics for Clients Served by Community Mental Health Centers.

LATE ITEM:

FIS 25-075 Late Item New Hampshire Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund - pursuant to RSA 21-M:11-a, XII(a) and (c), request authorization to receive an additional appropriation from general funds not otherwise appropriated in the amount of \$15,000,000 for FY 2025 through June 30, 2025.

On a motion by Senator Gray, that the Committee enter into a Non-Public Session to discuss ongoing legal matters and matters which if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself unless that person requests an open meeting.

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

Representative Edwards – Yes
Representative Erf – Yes
Representative Leishman – Yes
Representative Wallner – Yes
Senator Gray – Yes
Senator Carson – Yes
Senator Birdsell – Yes
Senator Rosenwald – Yes
Senator Reardon (Alternate) – Yes
Representative Weyler – Yes (10-Yes; 0-No)
MOTION ADOPTED.

The Committee exited for a Non-Public Session at 11:24 a.m., and reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

Representative Erf did not return from the closed session and Representative Griffin sat in as alternate for the clerk.

On a motion by Senator Gray, that the Committee come out of the Non-Public Session.
MOTION ADOPTED.

Senator Gray stated for the record the minutes should reflect that; the Committee reviewed the process, the funds provided and available to the process, reviewed the awards provided, and those awards anticipated. An explanation was given of the structure of the awards, including how the attorney fees and any loans that the individuals had would be affected by the Committee actions.

On a motion by Representative Griffin, seconded by Senator Gray, that the Committee **approve as amended** the request of the New Hampshire Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund, pursuant to RSA 21-M:11-a, XII(a) and (c), to receive an additional appropriation from general funds not otherwise appropriated in the amount of ~~\$15,000,000~~ **\$5,000,000** for FY 2025 through June 30, 2025.

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

Representative Edwards – Yes
Representative Erf – Not Present

Representative Leishman – Yes
Representative Wallner – No
Representative Griffin (Alternate) – Yes
Senator Gray – Yes
Senator Carson – Yes
Senator Birdsell – Yes
Senator Rosenwald – No
Senator Reardon (Alternate) – No
Representative Weyler – Yes (7-Yes; 3-No)
MOTION ADOPTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. to be held in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

The Chair moved that the meeting adjourn. (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.)



Representative Keith Erf, Clerk