

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

One Granite Place, Room 230

Concord, NH

Friday, May 15, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chair

Representative Keith Erf

Representative Maureen Mooney

Representative Karen Ebel

Representative Peter Leishman

Senator James Gray

Senate President Sharon Carson

Senator Regina Birdsell

Senator Cindy Rosenwald

Senator David Watters

(1) Acceptance of Minutes of April 17, 2026 meeting

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham

County, District #14: Okay. We're all here. Being ten o'clock on May 15th, I'll call the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting to order, and number one on the agenda is the acceptance of minutes of April 17th.

** JAMES GRAY, State Senator, Senate District #06:

So move.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves.

DAVID WATTERS, State Senator, Senate District

#04: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Watters seconds that we -- they be accepted as written. Any further discussion?

Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(2) Old Business:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: No business under Old Business.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(3) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized:

(4) RSA 9:16-c, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds:

(5) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:

(6) RSA 124:15 Positions Authorized:

American Rescue Plan 2021 Consent Calendar

(7) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: So we have a Consent Calendar that goes from Tab 3 through 7. I have request to remove from Consent under Tab 5 items 089 and 097, and the rest of them remain still on the Consent Calendar. I'll entertain a motion to adopt the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

** SEN. GRAY: So moved.

SEN. PRESIDENT SHARON CARSON, State Senator,

Senate District #14: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves, Senator Carson seconds that we accept the rest of the Consent Calendar. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no?

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We'll move to Tab 5 and item number 097. 089 first. We'll do 089 first. I believe it's Senator Rosenwald has a question.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

AMY NEWBURY, Director of Administration, Department of Safety: Good morning. Amy Newbury, Director of Administration at the Department of Safety.

ROB BUXTON, Director, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Safety: Good morning. Rob Buxton, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Really nice last night. So I'm paraphrasing, but your explanation said something about digital marketing or social media. And we got a response back saying no, you weren't doing that; but could you just please tell us what this money is doing?

MR. BUXTON: Yeah. So this -- this project is actually a mandatory set aside for Homeland Security Grant funds, and it's two-phased. One phase of it is training, which is the Active Shooter Incident Management Advance Program, and the Save-Em Program where we are going to be training public safety officials in incident management for active shooter events and working with the school districts on reunification and incident management within the schools.

Additionally from that, we are -- um -- utilize the marketing piece. And we do not have a contract for social media marketing. We do that internally. So we're just using those platforms and the equipment list that you see there supports the marketing of the trainings.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So, what kind of marketing are you doing and how are you measuring the success of it? What are the outcomes you're looking for?

MR. BUXTON: Uh -- thank you for the question. Um -- so I'm going to kind of rewind the machine here a little bit. And we are working to adopt a platform that will be consistent across the state for responding to active shooter incidents. We started last fall with C3 Pathways to start with a basic ASIM Program where we trained over 500 public safety

officials to adopt a standard platform for incident management. And then we not only trained public safety officials, we did train the trainers to make sure that the program was sustainable. So we trained them within their own public safety agencies.

This is a very similar model. This is the next step to that. Happy to report we haven't had to do anything other than train it and exercise it to this point. Um -- but we want to make sure we have a consistent platform as each community relies on another community to support them in these types of incidents.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So are you marketing to first responder --

MR. BUXTON: Yeah.

SEN. ROSENWALD: -- agencies?

MR. BUXTON: Yeah.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And, again, how are you -- what -- what are the outcomes and how are you measuring that?

MR. BUXTON: Yeah. So, we do. We utilize our social media to push our training schedule to make sure that we're hitting all of the public safety agencies, the school districts and -- and we fill those classes.

I will share with you when you ask about outcomes, both of these pro -- all of these programs will fill up probably with the first day of open registration, right? So, I look at it as how many -- how many people we putting within the program. The C3 Pathways Advance Program is a hundred twenty open seats, and those will be filled from across public safety within a couple of days.

On the Save-Em Program, that is also about a hundred trainers -- about hundred people that will be able to participate with about 20 trainers, and those will also fill up. We're trying to fill a gap that's been identified to make sure that our preparedness levels at the local level are raised up.

** SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. I move the item.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And Senator Rosenwald moves to adopt FIS 26-089, seconded by Senator Birdsell. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to FIS 26-097, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources. Introduce yourselves, please. Make sure the light is on, the red light. There you go.

BEN WILSON, Director, Division of Historical Resources, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: Ben Wilson, Director of Division of Historical Resources.

CHRISTOPHER MARINO, Chief of Administration, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: Chris Marino, Chief of Administration, Department of Natural and Historical Resources.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Welcome. Representative Mooney for a question.

MAUREEN MOONEY, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #12: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for being here. I appreciate it. I really appreciate the thoroughness of this request. And when I see it almost 30 pages, I thought perhaps it's good to get a verbal summary of what exactly this entails.

In addition to that, I notice on Page 2 of the request it says you have an increase in required program activities as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act. Curious as to the reasoning behind that. So that's my two-fold question for you.

MR. WILSON: Thank you for the question. Um -- so over the last, I would say ten years, we've seen a large increase in reviews, both Section 106 and -- and state reviews

coming into our office. We do about between a thousand and fifteen hundred reviews a year. Um -- and a lot of those reviews are -- um -- required by natural disasters, such as culvert repairs, enlarging culverts, road repairs, other -- um -- disasters related to our forests through the National Forest Service. And -- um -- those continue to -- to happen.

So, we had an opportunity to apply for this grant to help build capacity and to be able to handle those extra reviews within our office.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further questions from Committee?

**

SEN. GRAY: Move to approve.

REP. MOONEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves to approve FIS 26-097, Representative Mooney seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

REGULAR CALENDAR

(8) RSA 228:12 Transfers from Highway Surplus Account:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. We're moving on now to Tab 8 under the Regular Calendar. And we have the Department of Transportation up. We got a couple of transfers from fuel,

I see. Representative Leishman for a question.

PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative,
Hillsborough County, District #33: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
So welcome and thanks for taking my question.

I see on Page 3 at the bottom, the fund balance which we show it in 2023 of 113 million, and then with the last budget going down to 35 million, it shows at least to me a disturbing trend that the fund balance continues to decline significantly. And if you carry the number from the last time through the next budget, it may be down to about zero based on how it's trending. Are you concerned with that or do you have any plans to bring that in another direction, a more positive direction?

WAYNE GARDNER, Financial Administrator II,
Division of Finance, Department of Transportation: Uh -- I'm Wayne Gardner, Financial Administrator II from the Department of Transportation. Yes. There is concern in the Department. Um -- I think this in large scale we've been looking at toll rate increases because of capital commitments required on the Turnpike System and the growing expenses. We're seeing the expenses continue to climb and the revenue staying flat to moderate.

REP. LEISHMAN: Further question?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Someone else wants to --

DANIELLE CHANDONNET, Director of Finance,

Department of Transportation: Yes, I like to add. I'd like to

--

REP. LEISHMAN: Oh, thank you, thank you.

MS. CHANDONNET: Hi, I'm Danielle Chandonnet, the Director of Finance. So, yes, we are trending that. I'm looking at a lapse currently that looks like it's going to be over the minimum lapse that we have on that surplus. So that will offset some of the costs that have been taken this year. It looks like maybe around 50 million where we're looking where our target's around 35. So that will mitigate some of that; not all of it, but some of it. And, unfortunately, we had a more -- we had a rougher winter than what was expected, so there were more draws on the -- on the Highway Fund because of winter maintenance for this year.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: If you sit at that table in case we have further questions and turn that mic on so you won't have to be bending over there. Further questions? Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I think I may have asked this the last time you were in for a transfer. Do you see a problem in meeting any of the

obligations with projects that have been approved and have started with completing those projects or should we not see any interruption?

MS. CHANDONNET: I'm not hearing any interruptions tied to this, the fuel issue.

REP. LEISHMAN: Okay. Thanks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And any improvement in the registration fee income coming to the Agency? I was hoping that would improve with what we've done.

MS. CHANDONNET: I believe the last time I looked I thought it was static; but I'll go back and check on that.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We looked and saw that it hadn't been increased in over 25 years. Heard from a few people that are paying a few more bucks and complaining about it. So --

MS. CHANDONNET: I'll check on it. I thought -- I thought the last time I looked at the revenue report that it was relatively static, but I'll verify that and bring it back.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Electric vehicles, what percentage of your revenue do you think is coming from them from the Highway Funds?

MS. CHANDONNET: Probably not high; but I would have to check with Safety on that, Department of Safety.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yeah, they're the ones that collect it.

MS. CHANDONNET: Yep.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yeah, so if -- if we're getting -- we want -- we want to do something before we get in a deep problem. And if you have any suggestions, please come forward to Division II and Finance Committee, and we'll see what we can start planning on. But we need to have some figures and some ideas of what's going on. I know as everybody's gone up in their mileage, it means we don't pay as much gas tax, which is good; but it doesn't help the roads.

MS. CHANDONNET: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And I -- and -- and the electric vehicles when we made that -- that amount that we put on them, I don't think we calculated. They almost double the weight of a vehicle, which is more wear and tear. And I think we just looked at what they would have paid if they'd been burning gasoline, which wasn't quite as accurate as if you're putting twice the weight on the road. So that's something that we want to -- we want to look at again and appreciate your help on that, so.

MS. CHANDONNET: No problem.

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: Mr Chairman, {Inaudible}
Senator Rosenwald.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald has a
question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Thank you. So --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Excuse me. Are you finished?

REP. LEISHMAN: {Inaudible}. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thanks for taking my question.
So, it seems like the -- you have to pay more for fuel because
of the war in Iran. Do you have a projection for Fiscal Year
27 what your extra cost might be?

MS. CHANDONNET: I don't think that we've gone
that far. This has been a relatively short-term problem right
now. So we're trying to get through the '26 period. I believe
we have an agreement with the fuel vendor for a period of time,
but I defer back to -- um -- Alan.

ALAN HANSCOM, Administrator, Bureau of Highway
Maintenance, Department of Transportation: Hi. My name is
Alan Hanscom. I'm the Administrator of the Bureau Highway
Maintenance and Fuel Distribution Bureau is under, you know, in
our Bureau. Um -- unfortunately, we -- we pay the going rate,

wholesale rate for fuel and the official projections from U.S. Energy are, you know, we're at the top, and it's going to go back down, and we're just kind of riding the wave, but we don't know how long that's going to last. But we pay market rate for the contract that's in place. So we're kind of -- it's -- it's wholesale, but we're still paying the rate.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Watters for a question.

SEN. WATTERS: Yes, thanks. On that point, I'm remembering under Commissioner Clement that we used to hedge -- hedge the cost of diesel, and we don't do that anymore.

MR. HANSCOM: We had a fixed price, fixed rate up until Fall of 2022. And at that time it was determined that the locked-in rate was -- was higher than we could have been paying if we just -- just paid the going rate. So we went off our locked-in price three and a half years ago. And -- and up until recent months, it was the cheaper way to go. If we had known and locked-in back at Christmas, we'd been in great shape right now.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. WATTERS: Yes. Just I ask particularly because I was talking with a very, very large New Hampshire --

very -- New Hampshire purchaser of very large amounts of diesel, you know, maybe 40,000 gallons every month or so, who said that they're hedged the contract at two and a quarter a gallon.

MR. HANSCOM: Hm-hum.

SEN. WATTERS: And recalled for me that that's what Commissioner Clement used to do.

So, you have the authority to do that if you think it makes sense in the future?

MR. HANSCOM: Yes. Yeah, we do.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you.

MR. HANSCOM: And we -- we do monitor and sometimes the vendor suggests now might be the time; but so far we have not heard that.

MR. WATTERS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further questions on the item?

**

REP. LEISHMAN: Move to approve.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Representative Leishman moves to adopt FIS 26-101, second was I think Senator --

SEN. GRAY: Rosenwald.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: -- Rosenwald. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Any opposed? The item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(9) Miscellaneous:

(10) Informational Materials:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Moving on to Miscellaneous. Any questions on the other items that we have in our books?

MICHAEL KANE, Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Mr. Chairman, we just have an action item under Tab 9 to request to fill a position at the LBA.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Tab 9, we need to have a vote to fill a position in the LBA. I'll entertain a motion to approve that.

SEN. GRAY: {Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion to approve by Senator Gray.

REGINA BIRDSELL, State Senator, Senate District #19: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Seconded by Senator Birdsell. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

MR. KANE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Any other things on the Miscellaneous and Informational items?

SEN. ROSENWALD: Just a question. Um -- we had asked last month for the Attorney General to be at last month's meeting to ask questions about the YDC Claims Report. He said he couldn't make April, but he would be here in May. Then now he said he couldn't make May, but he'll be here in June. So, just could you please remind him that we'd like to see him. And I understand that the new claims administrator will be coming to introduce himself as well.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I'm looking forward to that, and I'll push it from my end to make sure that they're here in June.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: They didn't show up in May, but thank you for the reminder. So, all right. Anything further on the agenda here? The next thing would be the next meeting.

KEITH ERF, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #28: {Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. What was that?

REP. ERF: Who seconded the last thing, the last vote?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Birdsell.

SEN. GRAY: Yeah, Birdsell.

REP. ERF: Got it. Okay. Keep going. Sorry.

(12) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. So, the next meeting we at one point gone to the fourth Friday, but now we're suggesting going back to the third Friday in June, Friday, the 19th. Is that going to work out for everybody? It shouldn't be that busy. 19th of June. {Inaudible}. Eleven o'clock good? That work for everybody? Eleven o'clock, Friday the 19th.

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: Yep. {Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. All right. So that will be published as our next Fiscal meeting, and there's no audits before us. Is there anything else, Mr. Kane, that we need to bring to our attention?

MR. KANE: No.

REP. LEISHMAN: Mr. Chair. I do have one thing on the information items that as the Chair knows I'm sometimes critical of the Liquor Commission from time to time. But I want to say I'm glad to see the action item report and thank Mr. Kane and his department for making a number of corrections

and changes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Put that in the record. Thank you, Mr. Kane, and thanks to your folks. Anything further? Entertain a motion to adjourn in record time.

**

SEN. GRAY: So move.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All in favor say aye? We are adjourned.

(The meeting adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the official YouTube audio/video recording. I was not physically present and have transcribed said audio/video recording to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and belief.



Cecelia A. Trask
Cecelia A. Trask, RPR, RMR
New Hampshire LCR #00047