

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE**

1 Granite Place, Room 320  
Concord, New Hampshire  
Friday, October 17, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chair  
Representative Keith Erf  
Representative Gerald Griffin  
Representative Mary Jane Wallner  
Representative Peter Leishman  
Representative Gary Daniels (Alt.)  
Senator James Gray  
Senator Regina Birdsell  
Senator Cindy Rosenwald  
Senator David Watters

(Meeting convened at 11:04 a.m.)

**(1) Acceptance of Minutes of the September 5, 2025 meeting**

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham

County, District #14, and Chairman: Good morning. We'll call the Fiscal Committee meeting to order on Friday, October 17th. First item on the agenda is the acceptance of the minutes of September 5th.

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

So moved.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion by Senator Gray, second by Senator Birdsell, to accept the minutes of September 5th. Further -- further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The minutes are adopted.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative,  
Hillsborough County, District #33: One abstention, Mr.  
 Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. So noted.

(2) Old Business:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. Moving on to the  
 Consent Calendar. We have no Old Business under Tab 2.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (3) RSA 9:16-a, transfers Authorized:
- (4) RSA 9:16-c, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds and RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:
- (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 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required For Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source and 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: We'll move on to Tabs 3  
 through 7 are the Consent Calendar. At this point, we have

three bills removed from the Consent Calendar. Under Tab 4, item 25-252, DNCR. Under Tab 5, two items are removed, 25-251 and 25-253.

KEITH ERF, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #28: 25-248.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Oh, there's another one?

Okay.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13: {Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: 25-248. Four items to be removed. 25-248 is also under Tab 5. I'll entertain a motion to --

**\*\*** SEN. GRAY: Move to accept the rest of the items that are still on the Consent Calendar.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I'm sorry, could you please repeat each item {Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Under Tab 4, 25-252.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yep.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Under Tab 5, now there's three items. 25-248, Department of Safety; 25-251, Department of Administrative Services; and 25-253, Department of Health and Human Services.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. GRAY: And I'll repeat my motion to approve the remaining items.

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

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Second. Motion by Senator Gray, second by Senator Birdsell, to adopt the rest of the Consent Calendar. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That's adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: So we'll move on now to item under Tab 4, 25-252, and that will be the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Is there someone here from the Department?

SEN. GRAY: Um -- Mr. --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Can you come forward and -- and turn on the mic. We'll have a -- a couple of questions or more. Thank you. Press the button so you get a red light and introduce yourself.

BILL GEGAS LBCF, Grants Coordinator, Department of Cultural and Natural Resources: Uh -- my name is Bill Gegas. I'm the LBCF Grants Coordinator for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Question from

someone in the Senate.

REP. ERF: I think it's Senator Watters having to do with arts -- arts tax question. I'm sorry, I think it was a question you had regarding art -- arts and taxes.

DAVID WATTERS, State Senator, Senate District #04: Yes. Thank you. I just got to my notes on it, and I did get a response from my earlier question, but just to ask what the statuses of the Arts Council for raising the funds that are allowed under the tax credit program that we passed in the budget.

ADELE SICILIA, Director of Division of Arts, Arts Bureau, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: Hi. Um -- hello. Thank you for the question. I'm Adele Sicilia, Director for the Division of Arts at the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. And, sir, can I just ask you to restate which portion of the question you just want to -- was it general update about the forms or the pro -- where the program is at? I just want to make sure I answer you correctly.

SEN. WATTERS: I wanted to know particularly about the tax credit program that was authorized.

MS. SICILIA: Yeah. So that has been authorized in the last few weeks. We received all of the forms needed and

finalized from the Department of Revenue Administration. So we this morning, as of two hours ago, through a federal grant that we obtained in the last month, we're able to rehire and reinstate three of the six staff that were laid off which offers us the restabilization of the agency. And now we can continue to try to -- um -- begin to find those who are willing and interested in participating in the credit program.

SEN. WATTERS: Follow-up, if I may?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. WATTERS: So -- um -- do you at this point or will you be able to provide us with a plan for the fund-raising for the tax credit?

MS. SICILIA: Um -- I don't -- how detailed of a plan at this moment. There are individuals, our counselors and I know our Commissioner had reached out to you for initial -- um -- interest; but as we just have gotten everything in the last two weeks together for the program, it is now in a position where we can speak to it intelligently and such for someone else to understand what's involved in the steps as they are.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you. And just another on that. So -- um -- it doesn't have to be in the context of joint physical, but I wondered if you might -- um -- keep

Senator Lang and myself up -- up to speed as to just what you're going to do and how you're going to do it.

MS. SICILIA: Okay. Absolutely, sir.

SEN. WATTERS: And I do have one last question. Could you clarify for me, because I was a little confused during the hurry of the budget process, whether or not funds raised by this -- in this method, are able to be used under federal guidelines for match funding for the grants?

MS. SICILIA: Certainly. Thank you for the question, Senator, and the answer is no. Unfortunately, at this time the Federal Government does not recognize privatized dollars as match. What they're looking for is State dollars within the agency that is receiving the grant award.

SEN. WATTERS: So just one last question on that. Um -- I think that it might make sense then to look into that if you receive funds through the tax credit program, whether or not you could go to Joint Fiscal and have those funds replace some of the State appropriation so that the State appropriation funds, which would qualify for the tax -- for the federal grant matches, could be used for that purpose. Because, otherwise, I don't see how the program will help you with the issue of making the match for the grants.

MS. SICILIA: Understood, sir. Thank you.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: Um -- I did receive an -- whoop. I did receive an e-mail from a Cassandra Beals that is looking for the point of contact where people who want to volunteer. So if you'd send me an e-mail with that name, I'll forward it on to her. Usually, when I get one of those then, I get 40 or 50 more and in a day or two. So that will be helpful.

MS. SICILIA: Certainly, sir. Thank you for that question. Yeah, it's myself as it says on the web site. Just for me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Any other members with a question on the item? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to adopt the item.

**\*\*** SEN. WATTERS: So moved.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Watters moves, Senator Birdsell seconds to adopt item 25-252. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That motion is adopted. Item is accepted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 5. Move to item 248, and I believe Representative Erf has a question.

REP. ERF: Leishman, Leishman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Or excuse me, Representative Leishman has a question on two -- 25-248 with the Department of Safety. Is there someone here from Department of Safety? Please come forward and introduce yourself.

AMY NEWBURY, Director of Administration, Division of Administration, Department of Safety: Good morning. Amy Newbury with the Department of Safety. I'm the Director for Administration.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: And thanks for taking my question. So on Pages 14 and 15 there's a note about buying American preference and seeking waivers. I was just curious how often you find that being used as far as waiving the preference of using American products?

MS. NEWBURY: I'm -- I'm sorry. I have -- I'm -- I have to get back to you. I'm not familiar that we've -- the reason why we're back in front of you with this item is we -- um -- when we put this item through originally, we had gone out to bid and had put through this item as equipment, and then went out to bid and came back -- um -- because we had to do, in

a sense, a technical correction to move the money from equipment to hardware and software.

When we went and consulted with the Department of Administrative Services, they had suggested for transparency that we bring it back to the Fiscal Committee to make this -- um -- to make this move to put the money in the correct areas. That's why this item is in front of you again.

As far as the waivers, I'll have to get back to you with more information as to the history and how often we've done that.

REP. LEISHMAN: Okay. That's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Any other members of the Committee have a question on the item?

\*\* SEN. BIRDSELL: Move to approve.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Motion to approve item 25-248 by Senator Birdsell, second by Senator Gray. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item is adopted.

\*\*\* **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

SEN. GRAY: Senator Rosenwald actually beat me; but, you know, we're good.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. Sorry about that. All right. Next we're going to look at item 251 from the Department of Administrative Services. We see the Commissioner.

CHARLIE ARLINGHAUS, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services: Hi, I'm -- um -- Charlie Arlinghaus. I forgot for a minute. I'm Charlie Arlinghaus. I'm the Commissioner of the Department, and with me is.

Joyce Pittman, Director of Risk and Benefits, Department of Administrative Services: Joyce Pittman, Director of Risk and Benefits.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Senator Rosenwald for a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. This won't surprise you. Um -- as you know, Anthem, the retiree health plan, continues to have problems with its mail order pharmacy, such as when you log in, you don't see all the medications they've been filling for almost two years. They're not all listed. Some things, while they want you to auto renew and refill, sometimes you can't. And I'm just curious. I know the contract runs for another year. When can we expect this part of the Anthem Retiree Health Program to work smoothly?

MR. ARLINGHAUS: I'm going to let Joyce talk

about the sort of challenges that they've been -- they've been facing and working through and just say just for everybody's -- um -- recognition that -- that it was a very difficult implementation as some of you know personally. Um -- and we're -- we're, you know, we -- regardless of the relative skill of a vendor or not, we -- vendors are -- we have to treat a vendor as a partner, and try to -- we do everything we can to make them better and create a better experience as good as we can for our -- for our customers. And -- and Joyce has a really good team that does a very good job on that.

We've been -- we've been working, and I would say this. This is not -- not an excuse. It's not like it was a year ago, and which doesn't mean that you're not absolutely right and are there being challenges and -- and -- and as we learn about things everyday we work on fixing them. But Joyce can talk a little bit about the volume of challenges that we're having and the sort of continuing efforts that -- that -- that her team, and it's important to note that it -- it really is, you know, while -- while I think Anthem has gotten -- gotten better at doing this, the lion share of the credit goes to the retiree health benefits office which -- which is Joyce's team, which has done a really, really good job under trying circumstances.

MS. PITTMAN: Thank you.

MR. ARLINGHAUS: Sorry.

MS. PITTMAN: That's okay. So you're correct that the challenges that our retirees have experienced are really fresh in their minds. Um -- and I don't know of any time in the near future that they'll be forgotten -- um -- probably long after that contract has expired and we've moved on into a different contract.

As of right now, the system challenges that we're receiving are actually pretty silent from our retirees. They do get -- we get questions around the time that a prescription needs to be renewed. So every year a prescription is only valid for one calendar year. So they have to renew it.

Um -- some of the prescriptions are not prescriptions that they take everyday. So -- um -- I'll just use like a lotion, because that's a -- a -- one that you get a bottle. So if it's been a certain amount of time, there's a window to renew it. If a retiree hasn't renewed that prescription in that window, it -- it comes off of that web site as available for renewal because Anthem makes an assumption that you're no longer taking it. And I think that's where members are trying to -- they're trying to connect members with their providers more to make sure that

prescription is needed. So if it says, like, you should be taking this -- this -- this bottle should last you one month, and if a bottle lasts you two or three months, the assumption is that they're over -- um -- the quantity is not correct. So they want you to work back with your provider or that bottle has expired. So they want to make sure that they're putting safety first.

Unfortunately, that creates frustration for the retiree, because now they have to reach out to their provider and get a new prescription because of that one little hiccup of it's -- it's been more than 30 days, that prescription was only good for 30 days. So that does create some, I'm going to call it learning challenges. And there's also a change in the way Express Scripts used to do things. They would leave your prescriptions on-line for eternity, even if it wasn't available for refill, where the Carolon RX prescription web site only keeps it there if it is available so you can click it. When you need to actually get a physician involved, it's not there and visible. So it creates the feeling of it's no longer available to you.

If a retiree calls us and says they're worried about that, we do point them directly back to Carolon, and they're able to do that same interface with the providers and

get that member back -- um -- to seeing that prescription on their dashboard is now available to fill. So it's -- it's, unfortunately, a change -- um -- but it -- it's not necessarily an error in the system.

The other thing I just -- you did point out that the prescription or actually the whole MAPD contract expires in one year, which is an excellent point. Because that means we're going to go out to bid and go back out to market, which means there could be another change that our retirees are going to experience in the next few months. And I'm just throwing this out there as an example. Let's say we get AETna again. That means we're going to move that large -- we're over 11,000 retirees. So just to give you an idea of magnitude, we'd be moving them to another carrier who will have, yet again, a different web site. So once we get our retirees used to the Carolon web site, we may be moving them again to a new -- a new carrier, and we're going to experience similar challenges. So it's a -- it's a very sensitive population, and we're going to help them through it, as Charlie said, through the retiree health benefits office.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So the auto renew and refill though, the work -- the onus for the work is on

Carolyn. They're the ones who reach out to the prescriber so that the individual doesn't have to, and they do it electronically.

MS. PITTMAN: That's correct.

SEN. ROSENWALD: That is not working properly.

MS. PITTMAN: Okay.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So it's helpful to Anthem, because they want people to keep filling the prescription; but it's also helpful to the subscriber because Carolyn should be doing the work of reaching out to the prescriber, which they do electronically. So, I -- I'm just concerned that it's been almost two years, and it is still not working properly.

MR. ARLINGHAUS: Can I have -- can I have Joyce talk to you after the meeting and -- and get some specifics about -- about hypothetical individuals, so to speak. Um -- and we can follow-up in that respect as well. And I -- I want -- I want you to know, and I know you know this, but I just want to say it out loud. We agree with you. There's a lot of things that -- that aren't working and -- and -- and we -- and what we're doing is fixing everything we can one at a time, and we're checking them off the list as fast as we can. And when we -- when we do learn of something, a lot of times what happens is -- is -- is we learn, you know, I like to say, you

know, Carolon got better because Joyce made them get better, and it's -- it's not a huge exaggeration. But every time we hear something, that individual, the person you might know, isn't the only one necessarily experiencing that. So it -- it gives us the opportunity to follow-up and say, hey, this may be glitchy, and we can look into, and we'll look into every single one of them.

SEN. ROSENWALD: That would be great, because I actually met with Anthem earlier this morning, and they said things are so much better. We're not getting a lot of complaints anymore. And I think that means people have just stopped complaining.

MR. ARLINGHAUS: We -- you know, it's a great point. It's an -- it's about fatigue and, you know, the -- the -- somebody said the -- the second showing of *Our American Cousin* went much better than the first which Lincoln attended, but that doesn't mean it was a good play.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Any other member have a question on the item?

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SEN. ROSENWALD: I would move the item.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald moves to accept 25-253. Senator Birdsell seconds. Is there any further

discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no?  
The item is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to the Regular  
Calendar on tab --

SEN. GRAY: One more.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Oh, 253. Item 25-253 has been  
removed, Health and Human Services.

NATHAN WHITE, Chief Financial Officer,  
Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning. Nathan  
White, Chief Financial Officer with the Department of Health  
and Human Services.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Good morning.

IAIN WATT, Director, Division of Public Health,  
Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning. Iain  
Watt, Director of Division of Public Health.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Good morning. Representative  
Erf had a question.

REP. ERF: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you  
for taking my question. So, regarding the -- your September  
5th, 25 -- 2025, DH -- DHHH -- DHHS health alert, can you speak  
to why the Department has changed its stance regarding CDC  
recommendations, when previously the Department considered them

sacrosanct? Specifically, why the Department is making contrary recommendations?

MR. WATT: Good morning. Thank you for your question. So to clarify to the group, the September 5th HAN that we released is an annual guideline direction that we give on respiratory virus and immunizations. It's a guideline that uses peer reviewed and publicly available data to make sure that our providers have the best available information. We do speak in that document to both CDC recommendations and other national organizations, such as the AAP. I'd welcome clarification, Representative Erf, on -- on which specific diversions.

Functionally, the recommendations we made largely do align with the CDC. The CDC actually did not have recommendations for certain audiences when that was released. It was a late release for us. We generally try to do that in late August, early September, which is when providers start asking the Department, providers start asking or, excuse me, families start calling and asking when I can get immunizations. The CDC at the time did not have recommendations for certain populations. Since they have released population information, including pregnant women, which now do align with what we push. So I would recommend -- or excuse me -- request if there's any

clarification, I'm happy to answer it.

REP. ERF: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. ERF: So, this is just one of the statements in the health alert. It's the third bullet at the top of the page. Reference and utilize -- this is referring to what to look into. Reference and utilize evidence-based recommendations from professional expert -- expert medical organization, dot, dot, dot. So I understand those words and that makes sense. However, what I'm curious about is how the Department previously refused to consider evidence contrary to CDC recommendations going back over the past five years.

MR. WATTS: So I guess I would need a specific example to be responsive to. I think we generally have been, you know, we have a standard process which is there's a -- scores of information from national medical organizations and others. We aggregate it. We have medical staff. We have administrative staff. We have professional staff. We have partners throughout the State who review this information, and then we provide guidelines referencing the best information, peer-reviewed data that's standardized, data that follows, you know, standard evidence-based scientific processes. And so I don't think we've -- we've diverged from that this year. I

don't think we've diverged from that in past years. So I'd welcome an additional question or clarification.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. ERF: Well, okay. Um -- masking. Um -- the thing called vac -- the Covid vaccine. Um -- the use of alternative therapeutics during Covid. I mean, there's a whole variety of things that over the past years when we've asked about those in this same setting, we were told no, no, no, CDC does not recommend those. So we can't consider those recommendations.

MR. WATT: So, I can only speak for myself and the representatives from my division and department who I'm aware of. I do know that masking recommendations from the CDC went on much longer than masking recommendations here in the state. I do know that there were various recommendations around the Covid vaccine at the federal level. Uh -- as they do in this, they continue to align. So I think I'm struggling a little bit without a specific date or contradiction. You know, we welcome -- welcome further offline conversations. Certainly, our goal is always to provide the best evidence-based information to our providers, to our families, and make sure that we provide access to safe, effective treatments for people throughout the state. The HAN that you

referenced is really based on access and shared clinical decision-making. That's a term that the CDC has -- has coined this year and has put in throughout a lot of their vaccine recommendations. And that involves making sure that the best decision between a patient and a provider can be made. You know, that's something that we've promoted for throughout the past five years, and functionally that families and their providers are the ones to make the best decisions for their health.

REP. ERF: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Any further questions from members of the Committee? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion.

\*\* SEN. ROSENWALD: I'll move.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion by President Carson, second by Senator Birdsell, to adopt item 25-253. Did I name the wrong people?

SHARON CARSON, Senator and Senate President, Senate District #14: Was Senator Rosenwald.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald made the motion, Senator Birdsell seconded it to adopt 25-253. Thank you for the correction. Further discussion? Seeing none. Are

you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no?  
The item is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

**(8) RSA 7:12, Assistants:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Now we'll move on to the Regular Calendar. Under Tab 8, first item, 25-237, Department of Justice. We see the Attorney General, and you can describe the item and see what the questions are.

JOHN FORMELLA, Attorney General, Department of Justice: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And good morning to the Members of the Committee. For the record, John Formella, Attorney General. And I'm joined, as always, by Kathy Carr, our Director of Administration.

The item you have before you today is our annual or what has become our annual request for -- for the litigation fund. I think as many of you know, the litigation fund is what we use to pay for our ongoing expenses connected to both defending the State in civil litigation and prosecuting crimes on -- on behalf of the State. The request this year looks similar to past years, but we have been working really hard to try to reduce expenses where we can. You know, we're cognizant of the current budget climate that the State is in, and we're continuing to handle a high volume of litigation, still

handling a high volume of litigation related to YDC -- uh -- but we've engaged over the past six months in trying to figure out how we can reduce costs and spread work around the office. And I would say, in part, due to that and, in part, due to just the litigation schedule, we've been able to come before you with a much reduced request this year. The request is about 40% less than last year's request. It's about 25% off the last five year average. So we're -- we are working hard to try to keep the number down where we can. And -- and while I don't provide all of that detail to you in the item, you know, we've budgeted this down to sort of the individual case level and cases that we expect to go to trial this year.

So we -- we expect about \$2.6 million in expenses related to the Civil Bureau. Much of that is related to YDC. About 1.5 million is related to the YDC cases. There's a couple of other class actions involving the Department of Health and Human Services that make up a big chunk of the rest of that request, about \$500,000, and then there's about \$600,000 for all of the rest of the cases combined.

The Criminal Bureau is about a million dollars. Probably the biggest single expense are the YDC criminal cases, which now have begun to go to trial, as you've seen. We've had

six of those trials now. We've got a number of other trials scheduled for the rest of the fiscal year. Probably -- I forget the exact number, but it's at least six more scheduled for the rest of the fiscal year. Those cases tend to move around in scheduling and get continued. So it's always difficult to anticipate exactly how many will go to trial during a fiscal year; but there will be at least six during the remainder of this fiscal year. And then we've got approximately a million dollars just for the rest of the areas of -- of the office.

So it's a combined request before you today of, what is it, four -- about \$4.3 million. That's in addition to the 350,000 we were -- we were initially budgeted. And, as you know, the practice has been, I'd say, for the last decade plus to just put \$350,000 in the budget, and then we have to come before you as we get into the fiscal year, and we've been able to estimate our expenses.

So, again, that's the item in a nutshell. I'm happy to take questions. And, again, cognizant of the fact that we've got to try to save every -- every penny in the current budget climate.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We appreciate your efforts in reducing the cost from previous years. Thank you. Senator

Gray.

SEN. GRAY: I don't have a question on this item, I have a comment, and we all should feel chastised by this item. We put \$350,000 in it. The average that we've done is in the millions. And so what we get is coming to this Committee and we're between this item and item in Tab 10, we're going to blow another \$10 million from the budget that we haven't budgeted. We need that number starting from the Governor's budget, the House budget, and the Senate budget, to maybe be 90% of what we spent over the last X number of years, averaged or something else. But to go from 370k to 4.3 million, or a \$4 million increase, is not where we need to be. We can't correct it this year. We can correct it in the next budget, and that's what needs to be done. So that's my statement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further from Committee Members? Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for taking my question. Um -- you've made the point that a lot of this is on the civil YDC cases. I have a few questions about the rest of the YDC cases, specifically the assault fund.

So, we've been hearing that before he left, Justice Broderick settled or agreed on some settlements with

claimants, but those settlements were not paid out before he left. And after he left, we've heard that you lowered some of the amounts that he had agreed to with the claimants. And I'm asking if you could please tell us how many cases you've lowered the amounts on, what the average amount you lowered a case was, and the total amount that you lowered from what he agreed to?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Appreciate the question, Senator. So, we -- we don't think that we can get into specifics about that because the confidentiality provisions of -- of the settlement fund; but I'll speak to it. And some of the information has been disclosed publicly by the claimants, so I -- I can speak -- speak to that. Um -- I don't have exact average numbers, but -- but I'll -- I will give a response.

So, you've probably seen or maybe not in public pleadings that in the cases that the law firm Nixon Peabody had, we did not accept 20% of the Administrator's decisions that -- that were subject to the new statute. So there -- I think there were 32 awards that were issued after the Administrator left or -- or after -- I should say after the statute changed, before the former Administrator left.

The cases involving Nixon Peabody, we -- we did

not accept 20% of the awards that -- that were awarded in those cases. The others we -- we did accept. Uh -- and then there were other cases with other counsel where we didn't accept the awards.

I will say that we accepted well over 50% of the awards that the Administrator issued. Others, we didn't accept. Some we have negotiated lower amounts. Um -- and I would say that between the awards we've accepted and the awards where we negotiated lower amounts -- uh -- again, you know, well over the majority of those cases have -- have still been resolved.

So from my perspective I think that the new statute has worked the way it's supposed to, which is an extra layer of, I think, diligence and -- and check on -- on the Administrator's decisions. And I think there have been respectful discussions in cases where we haven't accepted the award the Administrator issued, and we have still made an effort to -- to negotiate in those claims. We haven't just said no and -- and walked away. We still made an effort to negotiate.

As to getting into exact specifics that haven't already made been made public, I can't do that; but I can give you that -- that general response. And to the extent that

information was voluntarily made public by claimants, I can speak to that. So that's why I spoke to the Nixon Peabody claims, because they elected to make that information public in the course of the litigation that we're now having over those changes to the statute.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. I understand also that Shaheen and Gordon says 75% of their settlements were lowered by the Department. But I guess -- I hope you can tell us why you lowered the settlements, because the process or the amounts are laid out statutorily. So did they not meet the agreed to algorithms or did they not meet the multipliers for the seriousness of the assaults? What were -- what was the Department's reasoning for lowering the amounts?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yeah, I -- I -- just to the first point on Shaheen and Gordon, they had far less claims from an absolute number than Nixon Peabody. And we have reached some resolutions with them, even in claims that we -- where we didn't accept the amount the Administrator -- the Administrator awarded. As to why we would not accept an amount that the Administrator came to, I think there's two components of the settlement fund process. One is formulaic, right. It

sort of just involves numbers per incident and multipliers. But there's another component that's supposed to be applied to those and it's -- it's a credibility component, evaluating what evidence there is to support the allegations. And there have just been some claims where we don't think that that -- that component was applied from our perspective appropriately, not enough scrutiny on the supporting evidence for -- for the claims.

Um -- again, it's -- it -- you know, different people can look at one claim and -- and evaluate it differently, but that's -- that's why, for the most part, we would not accept an award amount that the Administrator came to. We just felt like while the -- the multiplier and the formula might have come up with a certain number, the qualitative factors that should have been applied to the claim weren't applied the way we felt they should be applied, and so we felt the number should be lower.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Follow-up. So does your office have the benefit of hearing the entire story from the claimant the way the Administrator did?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yes. We have someone attend every resolution proceeding. So we -- we see and hear all of the same information the Administrator gets.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. One -- one final, if I could.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Final question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: We also have heard that in at least one case your Department entirely dismissed a case. Could you confirm if that's true? And, if so, how many cases were dismissed entirely?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: I -- I'm not sure what you're referring to there. I will say that there's -- there's been at least one claim where we didn't accept the award and we weren't, at least to this point, we have not been able to come to an agreed upon number. So that there might be a claim, a few claims or the Administrator did issue an award, we didn't agree with the award, and we have not to this date been able to agree on a number. Or when we -- we tried to agree on a number, the claimant, you know, walked away from the negotiations at some point, because they felt we wouldn't reach -- reach an agreement. Again, I feel like those discussions have been respectful.

There was one claim, I believe, where the claimant did not accept the award they got; but I don't think that there have been any claims where we have, what I would call, dismissed them, such that we just said, you know, no; and

there was no discussion or at least willingness on our part to discuss an alternative number. So I'm not sure what you're referring to. Happy to discuss that and follow-up if there's more details on that.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And, Members, we'll have another opportunity to discuss this subject, because we have an audit that was coming up at the end of this. Senator Watters.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've had some -- some people have offered some conversation that leads to this -- um -- question. In the cases that you have settled -- um -- can you assure us that someone who was credibly accused is no longer in the employ of the State of New Hampshire?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Sitting here today, I -- I can't say that. I don't want to make a representation that I don't believe firmly to be 100% accurate. But -- uh -- I can tell you that if -- if there is a claim against -- if there's a claim brought or the information is information we can share publicly or share outside of the settlement process, and there is credible information, appropriate steps are taken to investigate that claim from an employment perspective. And

if they're found to be credible, I think appropriate employment action is -- is being taken. I can't sit here today and tell you, though, that there might be an allegation that's been made in one of the thousand plus lawsuits that's -- that is credible where the process just hasn't played out yet such to determine that, and that -- that an employee named isn't -- isn't still employed with -- with the State of New Hampshire. But we certainly are working to make sure that that's not the case once a determination might be made that an allegation is credible. Does that make sense? I'm just -- I'm trying not to rep -- if -- if an allegation has been determined to be credible by us, I -- I feel pretty safe in saying or by HHS through the employment process, I feel safe in saying that person will not be employed with the State of New Hampshire. But that pros -- in something like this where you've got so many allegations and claimants, it takes time to make that determination for all the claims.

SEN. WATTERS: And thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. And I understand the complications, the numbers, and the complexity of that. A related question, and I don't expect an answer to this at this point, but a related question then is if someone is credibly accused, and you've made a settlement that accepts that

accusation in terms of making the settlement, then they may also -- they may be retired, but they may be receiving a pension, and that becomes a question as well. So thank you.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yeah. And I -- and I do think one clarification is important is that there is a difference between settling a claim sometimes and making a determination that, you know, the allegation reaches a level of credibility that you need to take employment action. So that, you know, that -- I do think it's important to be careful with that. There may be times when you settle a claim for a fairly low dollar amount, but you decide that it wasn't credible enough to take action against the employee. I think that's rare, but I just want to be -- I just want to be careful in -- in -- in making that clear.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion from Committee Members on the item?

\*\* SEN. GRAY: Move the item.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves that we adopt item 25-237, Senator Birdsell seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye?

Opposed no? The item is adopted.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. We'll come back to the subject a little later.

**(9) RSA 228:69 I (b) Appropriation and Use of Special Railroad Fund:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 9, item 25-249, Department of Transportation, Special Railroad Fund. Good morning.

SHELLEY WINTERS, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Transportation: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Or good afternoon.

MS. WINTERS: We're morning barely. Uh -- good morning. For the record, my name is Shelley Winters. I'm the Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Transportation. And I have Nicole Bryant who is the Bureau Administrator for the Bureau of Rail and Transit.

So the item before you is to request a two-year appropriation to expend funds for the Special Railroad Fund, which is a dedicated, non-lapsing account. The revenues are derived from leases from tenant railroads, from dock leases, from driveway permits, and other uses of State-owned railroad property. So we take the funds in under 228:68, and in

accordance with 228:69, we're to come before the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council to request to budget and expend those funds.

The funds are split up between all of our tenant railroads in the Department in order for maintenance and repair of those lines, including track maintenance, minor bridge work, and drainage projects. So we're able to partner with -- with the railroads who we wish to encumber the funds for. That's four freight railroads and two tourist excursion railroads providing services throughout the state, to try to quickly respond to any storm damage, or to do preventative maintenance on culverts and drainage swales and track surfacing for the safe movement of goods and -- and people throughout the state.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. So are all the funds that are brought in paid out?

MS. WINTERS: So the funds that are brought in under statute -- um -- we are required to pay 20% of the revenue that's derived from our tenant railroads back to the municipalities through which the railroad lines operate. So every year on a calendar year basis, we realize that revenue and then pay the towns their proportional share. We do -- um -- keep a little bit in -- in the coffers. So if we have unanticipated dips in revenue, if we go through another Covid

period where there's not as much being shipped, or the tourist excursion business sort of bottoms out again that we can have a stable, about \$700,000 a year of maintenance work to continue to -- um -- maintain the lines in -- in a state of good repair.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Questions from the Committee?

\*\* SEN. GRAY: Move the item.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves to adopt item 25-249, Senator Birdsell seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item is adopted. Thank you very much.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

REP. LEISHMAN: I'll abstain, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And so noted that Representative Leishman is abstaining from the vote.

MS. WINTERS: Thank you.

NICOLE BRYANT, Administrator, Division of Rail and Transit, Department of Transportation: Thank you.

(10) RSA 604-A:1-b, Additional Funding:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Item -- Tab 10, item 25-239, Judicial Council.

JAY BUCKEY, Executive Director, Judicial

Council: Good morning. My name is Jay Bucky. I'm the Executive Director of the Judicial Council.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And, obviously, this is a routine thing that we always do. You come back to us because we don't know what's going on until we see you and how much you need. It's a little less than some years, so we're happy about that. Is there any further discussion? Senator Rosenwald, and then Senator Gray.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. It still morning? Yeah. Good morning. Um -- similar to the discussion we had on the litigation fund, this is another area where we have typically under budgeted and in this particular year we -- um -- didn't hire as many public defenders as was recommended. And, so, we're sending apparently one to two hundred additional cases per month to assigned counsel, which is a lot more expensive. Am I correct that you have said the long-term additional assigned counsel costs will be between two and a half and five million dollars, because we didn't hire those extra ten public defenders?

MR. BUCKEY: Yes, that's correct. And I should also add that -- um -- some of those cases will also go to contract counsel, which are slightly different than assigned counsel. So that'll impact that budget line as well. That is

correct.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Um -- it's my understanding that both Nashua and Manchester Public Defender Offices are closed to taking new clients. Is that -- how long do you expect that to be the case for?

MR. BUCKEY: Thank you for the question. Um -- my understanding is that Manchester has reopened recently. Um -- it had to close for a brief period. Um -- and my understanding is that Nashua is currently closed to non-incarcerated individuals. Uh -- Chris Johnson, the Executive Director of NH -- of the Public Defender is here as well if you have additional questions for him. But it is accurate that they both -- both were recently closed. Now Manchester's reopened and now Nashua's partially closed -- um -- focusing on incarcerated individuals who are the most difficult and most expensive for us to staff with assigned counsel.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further questions on the item from Committee Members? Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: What was your approved budget number that we're adding the 5.5 million to?

MR. BUCKEY: Two million -- uh -- roughly \$2 million. I have to double-check the exact.

SEN. GRAY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further questions from Committee Members?

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SEN. GRAY: Move the item.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves to adopt 25-239, Senator Birdsell seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none.

REP. ERF: Was that Senator Birdsell?

SEN. GRAY: Senator Rosenwald.

REP. ERF: I circled the same one, the right one twice now. Senator Rosenwald.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I'm sorry. Senator Rosenwald second. I wasn't looking in that direction so I could tell, but I just heard it.

REP. ERF: You want to take the vote?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: What's that?

REP. ERF: You want to take the vote?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yes.

REP. ERF: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Seeing no further discussion,

all in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And, obviously, the source of funds for this and the previous item will likely come from the Rainy Day Fund, since we don't have any surplus to draw on at this point.

SEN. GRAY: Um -- Mr. Chair, certainly, I think that we're hoping that the revenues do come in better than they have in the last couple of months, and that this Committee will be very watchful of any spending or transfers and allow us not to take all that money out of the Rainy Day Fund. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Further from Committee? Okay.

**(11) Miscellaneous:**

**(12) Informational Materials:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving the other items under Tab 11. Are there any specific item that Committee Members wish to have a conversation about?

SEN. ROSENWALD: I did have one question. I do have one question on the HHS Dashboard.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Dashboard. Okay. Someone from HHS? I see the Chief Financial Officer coming forward.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Hi, Nathan.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald for a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So my question's about the Community Mental Health Center caseload. We were told as a Fiscal Committee that the caseloads would be accurately reported by September 1st of 2024. And I -- I think that they're still not quite right. Do an update.

MR. WHITE: Sure. I can -- and good morning again. Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer. Um -- I can touch base with Katja Fox. I know that they've been having conversations and the data folks have been going back and forth. You -- you do see a note -- um -- in Table 8 in the Dashboard relative to that, but I don't think a permanent resolution has yet to be reached at this stage.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Any further questions from Committee Members? Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. White. All right. Any other conversations on the Informational Materials? Senator Watters.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see we have Colonel Jordan here, and I wondered if he would mind coming up and talking a little about the quarterly report and just, in general, once you're up here, Colonel.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Welcome.

COLONEL KEVIN JORDAN, Law Enforcement Division,  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department: Good morning. Thank you very much. Just to be clear, I am not the financial officer at New Hampshire Fish and Game.

SEN. WATTERS: Yeah.

COLONEL JORDAN: But I'll do my best.

SEN. WATTERS: Um -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. So -- um -- Colonel, you know, here's our quarterly report and we're heading into the winter, of course. And I just wanted to get your sense of how you think we're doing in terms of the adequacy of funding for the search and rescue.

COLONEL JORDAN: Sure. Thank you for the question. It's -- um -- it's a topic that we've had numerous discussions at the Legislature and at personal levels with many Representatives and Senators, and I appreciate the interest. It is an important duty. It is in better shape today than it's been in many years.

Uh -- the Hike Safe Card is doing well. We can always use more -- uh -- for equipment replacement. But I'm finally at the point where I'm starting to purchase equipment using actual Search and Rescue Funds, which I was never able to do before. Um -- that's appropriate in my mind -- um -- to use that money for those expenses. So it is doing better.

The number of rescues is climbing. Um -- I -- I don't -- I don't know what the reason is for that, other than more people, more and more people are coming up. If you saw Columbus Day weekend, it was a perfect example of it. I think we've hit the social media platforms with advertising the beauties of the state, and I think that has pulled a lot of people up. So I see it increasing in the future, and I'm looking at Hike Safe in some other ways to maybe sustain that money. Um -- you know, we're doing really well now; but, again, it's a voluntary thing. So I worry about that. Um -- so I'm looking at ways to promote it in a -- in a more efficient manner and a more widespread platform.

SEN. WATTERS: And so if I may follow-up?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. WATTERS: You know, we had a lot of conversation -- um -- both in Fish and Game Committee and the House and Energy Natural Resources around Hike Safe Card and marketing of it, and -- uh -- and so on. And -- um -- so you have -- you've said do you think that, you know, more being bought.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. WATTERS: And -- uh -- is it your understanding that some of the improvements that are now

getting made in the IT for the Department will make it easier and some of the partnerships that were offered as well --

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. WATTERS: -- from Nature Conservancy and others to market the card? Is any of that helping out?

COLONEL JORDAN: In that realm, yes. We have a lot of partners waiting for that. We're behind on technology. It's -- it's -- um -- at our Department and part of it is IT related and part of it is Department related. I'm working internally to try and push that along, because I do feel that that's going to improve that. Um -- we've got a lot of followers, and I'm trying to demonstrate that, that there are a lot of people out there waiting. We've got to create and design and move to get this up-to-date. And I think we can do a much better job at sales. Sales of Hike Safe Cards, frankly, from 2015 when we started have increased every year exponentially. So it's gone really well, but I think we can do more, and I think advertising is the key part of it.

SEN. WATTERS: Well, thank you so much.

COLONEL JORDAN: Thank you.

SEN. WATTERS: Colonel, appreciate all your --

COLONEL JORDAN: Thank you for all your support.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: {Inaudible}.

SEN. BIRDSELL: I didn't -- but I'll go ahead.

Um -- thank you --

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. BIRDSELL: -- for taking the question. Um -- so, believe it or not, yesterday I was having a conversation with a constituent of mine who is an avid -- avid hunter. Um -- his concern, and he does crossbow hunting.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. BIRDSELL: His concern is that in Mass -- in New Hampshire we allow five tickets or I don't know what they are -- they're called.

COLONEL JORDAN: Tags.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Huh?

COLONEL JORDAN: Tags for deer.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Tags, yes. We're allowed five, three bucks and two doe.

COLONEL JORDAN: Depending on the zones, yes, that would be correct.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Right. So he said he's never been able to --

COLONEL JORDAN: Fulfill?

SEN. BIRDSELL: -- fulfill three -- three bucks; but he said -- um -- in areas where people do hunt, and they do wind up getting one or two bucks -- um -- you don't see anything in that area for at least two or three, four years, because you've eliminated the capacity of. Is there any thought of reducing that amount?

COLONEL JORDAN: So they -- the -- the Chief of wildlife and his staff, the biologists, look at that pretty closely, and they -- they're actually increasing opportunity in different zones across the state because we get -- we get a lot of a number of complaints from deer damage, especially in the southern part of the state. So it's a balancing act really to try and mitigate those complaints and provide opportunities for the hunters. So that's -- that's a moving target. Something they consider each and every year. And what I would encourage anyone to do that has a concern or has observed something like that is to get that information to them, because that's how they make -- that's part of the process for making their decision.

So they -- they do revisit harvest amounts each year. So that discussion is held every year, and minor changes are made depending on -- on the results of those studies. So that's important information to relay forward.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. BIRDSELL: The other question he had was with doe, allowing two doe -- um -- and I'm not -- I'm not familiar with -- um -- how old the -- um -- the doe -- the -- the babies are.

COLONEL JORDAN: Right.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Um -- but he said at this age if they've had it in the spring, if they had babies in the spring, they're not really heavy enough and capable enough of standing on their own. Why would be -- um -- selling tags for two doe?

COLONEL JORDAN: So, again, it's herd control more than anything. And they actually will -- a fawn that was born in the spring by this time of year, frankly, will survive -- um -- if -- if outside predators don't get to them. They're -- they -- they become pretty self-reliant fairly quickly. So -- so we have does that get hit by cars, and -- and fawns that are left. But they will do really pretty well. It's those first couple of months that are critical. So there isn't a concern for that. Um -- and -- and I think they -- when they increase the doe harvest, it is really a tool to -- to manage those levels of our herd that the public has told us they want. So we have that Ten Year Wildlife Management Plan

where a number of different people are involved in making those decisions based on input for herd size, and it's based on habitat -- um -- support and social support or social issues. All of these things are factored in. And so they'll increase -- on occasion they'll increase a doe, the taking -- harvesting of does to control those numbers or bring those numbers down. So that's another one that fluctuates each and every year. But contrary to popular beliefs, small deer that were born, fawns that were born in April or May will -- will survive on their own now. We're -- in fact, we're about to release the fawns that we picked up in early spring who lost their -- their mother. Um -- and we're about to release those back into the wild. So they do pretty well. They're pretty resilient. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Thanks for taking my question.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So yesterday there was the first measurable snow --

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: -- on Mount Washington.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So you know where I'm going with this.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: By September 1st, Fish and Game was required to have on-line snowmobile --

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: -- registration up and running.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And is it up and running?

COLONEL JORDAN: It is.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yea!

COLONEL JORDAN: So it is. Well, so I -- I should tell you that has changed a bit. So the initial proposal that we planned was up and running. The Governor has since asked us to make that an instant registration, so the minute that you go online and register your machine -- um -- she wanted it to be an instant registration and not have to wait for the mailing. The problem with that is the -- the challenge to that is the equipment that's necessary to produce the registration certificate or decal that the law requires to be placed on a machine. So we've kind of worked through what we believe to be a compromise. That isn't up and running. That's coming very soon. But the snowmobile community has been

brought on board with all of this. Um -- and so they -- we're all working together to try to make it happen. But the online registration is open right now for the five day wait. Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion from Committee Members. Welcome, Colonel.

COLONEL JORDAN: Always a pleasure, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And I'm delighted having been involved with this Hike Safe Card from its inception, and you know you were there as well.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: That it's doing that well.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I think it's -- it's the same price for those ten years.

COLONEL JORDAN: It has been, yes.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Is there thought to increasing it a little?

COLONEL JORDAN: There is. I'm a little nervous about it, but we're talking about it now just because I don't want to price us out of business.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Understood.

COLONEL JORDAN: But, yes, there is a thought to doing that.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And is that something that you can do internally in rules?

COLONEL JORDAN: It is. Yes. You -- when you folks set that up, we set that up with the ability to do it in rule.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: That's what I thought.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: So you -- you'll respond as appropriate. I know you will.

COLONEL JORDAN: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: So what sort of equipment are you getting with the money?

COLONEL JORDAN: So we've been replacing -- we hadn't been able to replace a cruiser in years --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Ah!

COLONEL JORDAN: -- for search and rescue. And we've been using cruisers bought out of hunting dollars and OHRV dollars to respond to these calls. So, we're not doing a lot of them, but I'm able to do one or two a year, which is great. So it's further justification for that funding for the

guys and men and women that are in search and rescue country in the Notch where they respond to these calls on a regular basis. So -- um -- the -- and these kids are pushing me for better technology. They're smarter than I am, certainly, and they are designing phone tracking systems and ways of -- we just did it the other day on a -- on a young man who had taken his life using purely phone tracking information. We were able to walk to him and this was a search that had been going on with other agencies for two days. These guys resolved it in 40 minutes. So they've convinced me that some of this technology is worth investing in. And so we're -- we're looking to advance that in -- in with some of these funds. So, yeah. Thanks again for all of that effort.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Is -- you still don't have north -- was it Northwoods, the TV series?

COLONEL JORDAN: We do have it back.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: It's back?

COLONEL JORDAN: It is back. It is on YouTube, which means nothing to me, frankly. Um -- but they're telling me that this is -- and it's back exactly the same as it was before. I kept complete edit rights. I still control what goes on. Um -- but it's on the YouTube channel, which the younger folks are all watching apparently. Um -- and it's been

going for -- uh -- probably three months now. So we're back up and running.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I think that may have some effect on both license sales and hunt -- Hike Safe Cards.

COLONEL JORDAN: I believe it does. It promotes the state, certainly, and it helps me with recruitment. I've got three young ladies on it now for the first time and that has helped us with our hiring, I think. So it encourages more people to put in for it that can do it. So it's been a win for us.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Keep up the good work.

COLONEL JORDAN: Thank you, sir. You as well.

Good to see you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Any further informational items? Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: Just a plea. All right. We know that the Governor has asked Executive Council to get off of paper. Okay. I'm asking you guys to for one meeting, okay, even though you'll still have your book, to try to do it on the computer. Okay. I do it one way. I -- I bring up the agenda right off of the web site. And then I print just the agenda and put all my notes on the agenda, and then open the various items in a new tab or you could do it in a new thing.

Representative Erf downloads the different things. Okay. So there's different ways to do it. But notice I don't have the big book in front of me. Okay. I don't need the big book anymore. Okay. I'm comfortable with doing it. So, please, you guys try it one month. Okay. Please. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. We now come to audits.

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: Are we done?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: No, we got to do audits. We need a quorum.

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: Oh, I thought we were done. People are leaving.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: If somebody were leaving, before you leave, let's set the next month's --

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: No, I think the person next to you got up and walked out. I thought we were done. That's why. But his stuff is here, so we can do that when he gets back, Mr. Chairman. They're all coming up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. You're not all going to get up and leave?

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: No.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you.

SEN. PRESIDENT CARSON: We're here.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. We're ready for the audit.

**Audits:**

CHRISTINE YOUNG, Director, Audit Division,  
Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee. For the record, I'm Christine Young, Director of Audits for the LBA. We're here to present our financial audit report of the Department of Justice for Fiscal Year 2024.

Collin Quinn, Audit Manager with our office, was the in-charge manager on this audit. He will present the report. And also joining us from the Department of Justice is the Attorney General, John Formella, Kathy Carr, Director of Administration, and Tom Kemper. Uh -- you are the Deputy Director of Administration. And -- uh -- with that, I'll turn it over to Colin for the presentation of the report.

COLLIN QUINN, Audit Manager, Audit Division,  
Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Thank you very much, Christine. Uh -- good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and Members of the Committee. For the record, again, my name is Collin Quinn, and we're here this morning to present the report on our financial audit of the Department of Justice for the Fiscal Year ended June 30th, 2024. This report is presented in two sections.

The first section is the Management Letter section, which was prepared by the auditors, and it contains our report on internal control and compliance, along with five audit Observations. That is then followed by the current status of prior audit findings.

The second section, the financial section, contains our Independent Auditor's Report, which is followed by the Department prepared financial statements and notes.

The focus of my presentation today will be on the Observations and Recommendations. And if you turn to the Table of Contents, you will note that there five Observations in this report. Three of those are Internal Control Observations, none of which are considered to be material weaknesses, and the remaining two are State Compliance Observations. The Department fully concurred with four of the Observations and concurred, in part, with one Observation.

Turning to Page 3, we included a table to summarize the recommendations. We have noted here that three of the Observations suggest that legislative action may be required. The Observations then begin on Page 4.

Observation No. 1 recommends the Department develop formal policies and procedures for the administration of the installment payment process related to YDC Settlement

Fund Claims. According to the June 30th, 2025, Quarterly Report, more than \$80 million is to be paid from the fund through Fiscal Year 2034. Formal policies and procedures would help ensure consistency, compliance, and avoidance of late payment penalties.

Observation No. 2 recommends the Department establish a formal risk assessment process for functions that do not currently have such a process in place.

Observation No. 3 recommends the Department establish and keep current a disaster recovery plan and business continuity plan. Together these plans are important to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from any unexpected disruptions.

The State Compliance Comments then begin on Page 9, and Observations No. 4 and 5 relate to required administrative rules and reports. We recommend the Department adopt rules and file reports as required by statute.

The Appendix located behind the tab on Page 13 reports the current status as of October 1st, 2025, of the Observations contained in the financial audit of the Department for the nine months ended March 31st, 2014. As noted on Page 15, nine Observations were fully resolved, three were in the process of resolution, and one was unresolved.

Moving on to the financial section, which follows with our auditor's opinion. Our auditor's opinion was modified as a complete set of financial statements was not presented. The governmental fund financial statement is on Page 7 with the statement of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and Education Trust Fund. And the notes to the financial statement begin on Page 8.

Now, I'd like to briefly touch on some auditor communications that we are required by auditing standards to inform you about. First, the significant accounting policies used by the Department are described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and we are satisfied with the qualitative aspects of management's accounting practices, including those policies and financial disclosures included in Note 1.

We noted no significant unusual transactions and there were no changes to our risk assessment and planned audit strategy. While there is always a risk of management override of controls in every financial statement audit, we did not identify any instances of control overrides during the audit.

We had no disagreements with Management on financial accounting and reporting matters that would have caused us to change our audit opinion if they had not been satisfactorily resolved. We noted no related party

transactions, and we encountered no significant difficulties or contentious matters. To our knowledge, the Department did not consult with any other independent auditors about financial related matters during the audit.

Finally, I would like to note that we did not propose any material audit adjustments to the Department's financial statement. As a result of our work, there were no significant uncorrected misstatements that would require a separate letter to communicate to you.

This concludes my presentation. I would like to thank the Department of Justice for the cooperation and assistance we received during the audit. The Attorney General and his staff were very responsive to all of our requests and comments, and we would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Auditor Quinn, is this your first time presenting before this Committee?

MR. QUINN: It is not. I believe it's my third or fourth now.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Good job.

MR. QUINN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Questions from Committee Members.

SEN. GRAY: My questions are for the Attorney General's Office, when -- when we get to that.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: When we get to them next. All right. Thank you very much. We'll now hear from the Attorney General.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Did you -- oh, about our responses. Okay.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yeah.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Happy to speak to them. Um -- yeah. I -- you know, I -- uh -- I might start with the compliance items; and then to the extent we have responses for the first three, defer that to Kathy Carr.

Uh -- so on compliance, so number four, we certainly recognize the need to -- to keep our rules current. And this audit process has been, I think, you know, going through it, certainly was my first ten year audit being -- being AG and probably the only one, because I don't expect to be here in ten years. I don't think that's any breaking news.

Um -- this -- this was valuable for us because it helped point out some areas that we need to address and rules certainly are -- are one. That work is already under way. We're working to determine what rules we think we need to seek a legislative amendment for to either repeal rules or at

least allow us to adopt policies and protocols and not use formal rulemaking.

The one I want to address specifically are the protocols for -- for rape kits and domestic violence protocols. I just want to assure the Committee that the Department has detailed, thorough protocols for -- for that. Uh -- for whatever reason, the statute calls for formal rulemaking for those protocols, but that statute's been on the books for -- for decades; and the Department has never put those protocols into formal rules. The team at the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance tells me that that's because it's just necessary to have flexibility and be able to be nimble with those protocols to change them when they need to be changed. And so while those protocols exist, they've been updated and re-evaluated continuously, I think, since the nineties when the -- that statute went on the books. They've never been put into formal -- into formal rules.

So we're looking at that now. We certainly will do rulemaking if we think that that is the best path forward; but we may be seeking a legislative amendment to allow us to -- to have the protocols as we do to require us to keep them current and updated, but to remove the requirement that they -- that they be adopted through formal rulemaking. But that --

that's the one set of rules I just wanted to assure the Committee that it's not that those don't exist or they've been ignored. They just have not been adopted through formal rulemaking. And it has not been our experience that that's an issue, because we don't see lack of compliance with those protocols or difficulty having folks adhere to those protocols.

For the rest of the rules, I can just assure you that we're going to look at that closely, and we're either going to seek legislative changes or we -- we will keep our rules current and adopt the rules. Um -- for the reports, we certainly recognize the need to make sure our reports are in on time and that they're complete. Our Department is responsible for a lot of reports, and probably more than almost any other -- any other agency. So we're -- we're going to make sure that we do that.

I would note that for the biennial report, there was a determination made at some point in the last ten years that we weren't required to do that report. I don't really have access to what that legal analysis was. It was prior to my time. But going through this audit was valuable, because I -- I believe we -- we should be doing that report. I acknowledge that we should do that report. And I will note that we've already filed the report for the last biennium that

would have -- that was due October 15th. So that's been filed. So we're back on track with that. We will file the report of the Attorney General that's due on December 1st, we will file that by December 1st of this year. We may look at whether a legislative amendment is necessary to -- to, frankly, eliminate that requirement, because it appears that the report that's due on -- the report of the Attorney General that's due on December 1st is kind of duplicative of the biennial report. So it's a little odd to me that both of those reports are required; but, of course, we want to comply with the law unless and until it's changed. So we will comply with that this year, and we'll look at whether we're going to seek any -- any legislative changes.

And then the Cold Case Unit Report acknowledged that that was filed late. Noted in our response to -- to the audit that there's some practical challenges with how the statute reads with that report, because it just requires that a report be filed by December 1st every year. That's a little odd, frankly, because while the report is filed by December 1st, there's no defined time period that the report's supposed to cover. So it's unlike filing a report within 60 days of the close of the biennium or calendar year. It's -- it -- it's just a little bit of an oddly worded statute. So we will comply with that going forward. We'll make sure to get the

report in on time, but we may also seek a legislative change there.

And then, yes, we had, which I think was addressed when we brought this report late, the report of litigation expenditures was late, the one that was due August 30th, 2023, but it was filed and we're going to make sure we get that report filed on time going forward.

For Observation No. 1, I'll just flip back to that. That's the Observation regarding the need to have policies for the installment payments for the YDC Settlement Fund. We had some good, and I'd say respectful back and forth with -- with the LBA on -- on this one. We -- we have policies and procedures in draft form. Our view had been that we would finalize those policies and procedures when the first installment payments started to come due, which is this October. It's right about now. We had some back and forth with the LBA as to whether, you know, it really would have been appropriate to have these policies in place last year. But I think we, ultimately, came to the -- the agreement, I think, on both of our ends that yes, I mean, they need to be in place. Perhaps it would have been helpful to adopt them a little earlier, but that work has been done. Those are really -- they're just about ready to go. We're going to get the first

installment payments out and maybe make final tweaks based on our experience with those first installment payments, but that's done and ready to go. And while the statute that resulted in a lot of installment payments went into effect last year, the reality is with installment payments you don't make your first, what I would call, installment payment until the second year. Otherwise, the payments are just like any other lump sum -- lump sum payment. So -- so that work is -- has been mostly done and is ready to go. But I wanted to cover that because it -- that -- I think the back and forth on this and the finding on this was not a disagreement as to whether we should have these policies and procedures. It was more about the timing and exactly when we would adopt them. But they're -- they're ready to be in place, and -- and they're ready to be applied to the installment payments that begin this October.

Observation No. 2, formal risk assessment process. We just -- we concur with that and we're going to make sure that we -- we have it in place. Um -- and I think it says right there in the response that we'll -- we'll have that in place by June 30th of next year. And same with, I believe, Observation No. 3. We agree that we need to have these in place or at least keep them continually updated and reviewed, and our continuity plan was reviewed in 2022. Certainly

acknowledge that there weren't as good of records of that review having happened as there should have been. And, also, that the review perhaps didn't catch things that it should have caught; but we're going to make sure that that process works better going forward.

So that's our -- that's my general response, but I'm certainly happy to take any questions on it.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: Um -- Mr. Kane got the benefit of my vetting in his office. When we do these audits, okay, there needs to be a plan of action milestones developed and distributed. Okay. For a brand new audit, probably three months is a -- is a reasonable time for you to put together that -- that plan of action milestones. And I was happy that you addressed item number one where you would agree, in part, but that also brings up the question of if you don't agree, how do we take and adjudicate an item that you don't agree on and what action should be taken. And that probably is a discussion between LBA and whomever of how that process should happen, because right now I'm wondering about the leftover items. Okay. And -- um -- I did ask for a plan of action milestone on those items for this meeting. I don't know if that was enough time for you guys to get it. If not, fine. But the item that

is, quote, unresolved, may be one of those items where you and the auditors disagree that there should be any action or what the action should be taken. Okay. But I'm trying to get us to a place where those conversations happen; and by developing that plan of action and milestones, and, hopefully, keeping it current, that we'll have a better handle on what's going on. The Governor will have a better handle what's going on, and LBA won't be fighting with you as much when they're doing the audits. So, again, that's, again, a statement. You can comment on, you know, the unresolved items if you'd like. Uh -- but we need to get -- we need to get better control. And one of the audits that we did last year was it or the year before that, you know, had items going back decades that were unresolved is -- that can't happen, so.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yep, I understand that, Senator. I -- I think that -- I don't think there's been significant disagreement between us and the LBA during this process, and I will say I'm proud of the work of the staff at the DOJ. I think many of, as you'll see in the report, many of the things that have been flagged have been resolved. I think in our responses we kind of lay out milestones and a plan. We're happy, though, to take that and put it into a memo so it's more -- it's sort of a standalone corrective action plan

and get that to you before your next meeting.

Uh -- the unresolved items from 2014, a couple of them are -- are -- it's really just one. The administrative rules, as I mentioned, we have a plan to address those and we will address them. The required reports I think we're well on the way. We've -- we've filed one of them that's required. A couple of the ones that were flagged here weren't unfiled reports. They were just late. We're going to make sure those are filed on time going forward. And then that fourth one we will file, but we may seek a legislative change because it seems duplicative of one of the other reports we already filed.

The statutory fee issue, this is -- I'll just be frank with the Committee. This is related to cremation fees and I think what it is is that the OCME has historically waived cremation fees for infants, even though it has no statutory authority to do that. And that's something we're addressing with OCME, and we -- we may seek a legislative change to enable OCME to do that. But it's not -- it's not an item, I think, that results in a lot of lost revenue for the State. And while -- look, I'm the Attorney General. I'm never going to say that anyone should do anything they're not authorized to do under the law. If they're -- I see plenty of instances where we have to work with State Agencies to start complying with the law.

Waving a cremation fee for -- for infants is not the, let's just say, at the top of the list of egregious things that I've seen an agency or someone do where they're not technically supposed to do it.

Those are really the outstanding issues that we have as a department, in addition to making sure we have a continuity plan, a disaster recovery plan, that we've got -- um -- that we've got the right controls in place. And, also, with the Y -- with respect to the YDC Settlement Fund, I think we've got a good plan there. I mean, we basically have the policies ready to go. But I -- I don't disagree with you that we need to have a corrective action plan and make sure that things don't go unresolved.

I do, though, want to give -- I can't really take credit for it myself. I want to give credit to -- to my team, because I think that they have worked really hard to resolve almost all of the issues that we've had. And the ones that remain unresolved, I think we have a really good plan to getting them resolved.

SEN. GRAY: Just a --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. GRAY: In that plan of action and milestones, if there is legislative action, you know,

contemplated, listing what legislator you've talked to, hopefully the Chair or the ranking member of the applicable Committee would be the appropriate one, either in the House or the Senate. So, again, having someone you know. If you don't have somebody by name, you don't have anybody assigned. Okay. That's a principle, you know, from my many, many years working with industry that, again, if you don't have a name, you don't have somebody assigned.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yeah. The timing of the audit, this particular audit puts us in a little tricky spot with legislation for 2026, but we'll certainly work. I think that the changes we would seek are not enormous changes. So I'm hopeful that we could perhaps do it through amendment or even seek permission to get someone to file a late bill, but we'll certainly reach out to appropriate legislators on that.

SEN. GRAY: Some of us experienced legislators can get you through around any of that filing period problem.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. We'll talk about that later. Normally, I take -- I take responsibility for making sure the legislation's filed when it's requested by the audit. Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank

you for taking my question. So Observation No. 1 about the policies for installment payments, I just want to make sure that that policy and procedure is going to cover both installment payments for the claimant, but also for the attorneys.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Watters.

SEN. WATTERS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I had a question, if you would, on Observation 4 about the -- um Justice -- Justice 1000 on the new motor vehicles, and I believe that refers to an arbitration form. And so I'm just wondering what the auto dealers in arbitration situation for new motor vehicle are doing now if the form is expired, and if this is creating any issues on that process?

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: I'm not aware of any issues that it's creating, Senator; but I will check on that with our Consumer Protection folks and can certainly get back to you on that. But I -- I am not aware that that's created any -- any difficulties or issues. Doesn't mean there aren't any. I'm just not aware of any as I said.

SEN. WATTERS: I -- I really appreciate it, and if I may follow. I thank you for that. And I'm just -- it

would really help to have some reassurance, and I can obviously call the auto dealers because I became aware of it when I read the audit. It's just that, you know, if we're using an expired form, I think it, you know, legally it kind of puts things in a little questionable area to me about if that's the arbitration form, and arbitration just crucial for the auditors.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Hm-hum.

SEN. WATTERS: And so as soon as we can get JLCAR to find a way to get that form approved probably be good to do.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yep. Absolutely.

SEN. WATTERS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on your reappointment.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Thank you.

REP. LEISHMAN: I had a question on Observation 1. The auditors pointed out that the Administrator's final decision shall convert into a final judgment enforceable by any Superior Court, and I think Senator Rosenwald kind of touched on this earlier with the request for additional funds for litigation. The Administrator did make some decisions with claimants, and I understand those weren't supported by your

office after he left. So how is that maybe not bad faith if he worked out some sort of settlement with a claimant, and then he left, and then the Attorney General's Office said, well, we can't really support his decision.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Well, I wouldn't say it's bad faith, Representative. I would say it's just a function of the statute changing. So the -- the decisions that there were, you know, those 32 decisions I think that he had issued, but he issued them after the statute changed, that gave us the ability to either accept or not accept the decision. So I don't know if I would say it's bad faith. It's just a function of the statute changing.

The language that you're referring to with regard to a -- a -- uh -- award converting into a judgment, that is -- that addresses awards that are paid in installment payments where the Administrator's issued the award. Uh -- either it predated the statutory change or it's after the statutory change, and it was accepted by us.

Let's say it's \$500,000 over five years. If everything's been accepted and you get three years in and we don't have money in the fund, that language allows the claimant to convert their award to a judgment and enforce it in Superior Court; but it's meant for situations like that. Not

necessarily meant for a situation where the admin -- under the new statute, where the Administrator issues a decision, we have to accept it along with the claimant and we don't. If we don't accept the decision, it never becomes final.

REP. LEISHMAN: Right.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Yeah.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further from any Committee Members? All right. Seeing none. We will accept the audit. And I would like to have about a five minute meeting with you after we adjourn and about another couple minutes. Um -- a couple other things I've had on my mind that I want to talk to you about.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMELLA: Sure. I will stick around.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. All right. Committee Members, schedule of the next meeting. Normally it be on the third Friday. That'll be on the third Friday occurs on the 21st of November. It is the week before the Thanksgiving week -- um -- which comes on the 27th. So any problem with how about the schedule we're on now meeting at 11?

SEN. GRAY: It's okay with me.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Works out. We'll probably have pre-Fiscal at 10. Okay. So -- so far, as near as I know, we'll be meeting in this room on the 21st at 11 o'clock. Thank you. Anything further? Appreciate you all coming. We are adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned 12:37 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



*Cecelia A. Trask*

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