

Examples of problematic grants

- JFO 2930 – Grant for the Judiciary from US HHS for \$2,041,347 for the Windsor, Windham and Orange court docket program. Grant materials had not gone through the executive branch approval process (form signatures) although statute implies that Governor’s approval is required.
- JFO 2915 – Grant from the National Archives for \$40,000 for a position within Secretary of State to improve historical records access. Position request was stuck in limbo within Administration for an extended period. Sec. of State’s office chafed a bit at the need for executive branch approval above and beyond the SoS, due to the delay. Expedited approval was ultimately granted.
- JFO 2912 – Grant from an estate for VHCB in the amount of \$107,792 to support general farm and forest conservation in VT. There was some internal discussion as to whether this grant required JFC review due to the quasi-governmental nature of VHCB, but this grant ultimately went through the review process. Only a very small number of grants to VHCB have gone through the JFC approval process, based on a count from the website, which begs the question of whether VHCB has accepted grants in the past without JFC review or whether JFC approval is not needed.
- JFO 2896-2897 – Grants from VHCB to Fish & Wildlife for combined amount of \$248,000 to facilitate land purchases for conservation areas. The issues for these grants relate to the definition of “original” and whether money coming to a quasi-governmental agency such as VHCB is an “original” or whether it isn’t “original” until it goes to a fully-governmental agency, or whether it would be “original” in both cases as it is new money for both entities.
- JFO 2803 – Grant to Commission on Women from the US Dept. of Labor for \$173,794 to study paid family leave. There was some controversy to this grant due to the proposed research consultant list. The grant was ultimately held from December until the legislative session when it was approved through legislation. Begs question about most appropriate means of legislative approval when a grant is held immediately prior to or during the session. Grant wasn’t ultimately approved until Governor signed bill on 3/8/16. Additionally, no clear statutory instruction for how to treat grants on election year between old and new JFC.