



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 11, 2020

Minutes

Video Conference

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Fagan, Hooper, Lippert, and Toll and Senators Ashe, Cummings, Kitchel, Sears, and Westman.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal staff and various viewers on livestream.

Senator Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and Senator Westman moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020, meeting. Representative Lippert seconded the motion, and the Committee passed the motion and approved the minutes on a unanimous voice vote.

Allocations to the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant

Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management; Sarah Clark, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Human Services; Michael Schirling, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; and John Quinn, Secretary, Agency of Digital Services, responded to Committee questions on the Administration's proposed [Coronavirus Relief Fund spending plan](#) submitted by the Department of Finance and Management on May 8, 2020.

Secretary Quinn submitted a [presentation](#) to the Committee on the costs associated with COVID-19, not yet billed back to departments. Commissioner Greshin agreed to develop a tracking document for COVID-19 related expenses incurred by schools.

There was a discussion on Judiciary expenditures associated with COVID-19, and the Committee agreed that decisions related to the reimbursement of those expenditures with CRF should be dealt with through the legislative budget process to allow policy committees to weigh in on decisions.

Ms. Clark informed the Committee that the federal prospective provider relief payments process included adult daycare providers and emergency medical service providers. The Agency of Human Services was in conversation with the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Care Systems to monitor the stability of the hospital health care system. Providers could also request emergency financial relief through either the Committee or the legislative budget process. The Committee requested that the Joint Fiscal Office review and report back on the actual needs of emergency medical services.

Commissioner Schirling explained that the Department's COVID-19 expenditures from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) were evolving but were all eligible for CRF reimbursement. The Committee received confirmation from Commissioner Greshin that any new COVID-19 initiatives, not within the information already submitted to the Committee, would require approval through the legislative budget process or the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Senator Kitchel moved to approve the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation list submitted by the Department of Finance and Management on May 8, 2020, and clarified by the Administration on May 11, 2020. Representative Fagan seconded the motion and called the roll with a 10-0 vote.

The Committee requested information and testimony from the Agency of Education on education-related COVID-19 expenditures, including projections at its next scheduled meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The Committee adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office