



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Monday July 31, 2023

Approved Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 11 and <https://www.youtube.com/@VTJointFiscal/featured>

To review specific testimony, please click the video time links {00:00:00} below.

Members present: Representatives Harrison, Kornheiser, Lanpher (remote), Scheu, and Wood. And Senators Baruth, Cummings, Kitchel, Sears (remote), and Westman.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal Office and Administration staff, and various viewers in person and through live streaming.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Senator Kitchel at 9:00 a.m.

Senator Cummings moved to accept the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Representative Kornheiser seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and adopted the minutes. [{00:00:34}](#)

A. Administrations Fiscal Updates [{00:01:13}](#)

Deputy Commissioner Merrill presented the Administrations fiscal updated to include FY 2023 preliminary closeout of the Education, General, and Transportation Funds and the Fund transfers, reversions, reserves (unencumbered balances) report. He also presented the funding available for the GA Emergency Housing transition program according to Sec. 7 of Act 81 of 2023.

B. Medicaid Year-end Report [{00:17:57}](#)

Nolan Langweil presented the Medicaid Year-end Report.

C. Vermont State Colleges – Sale of Radio Licenses [{00:28:09}](#)

Representative Kornheiser moved to retroactively approve the disposition of WWLR (Lyndon) and WIUV (Castleton) radio licenses as previously required by 30 V.S.A § 8063. Representative Scheu seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 on the motion. The roll call is as follows.

Senator Baruth – Yes

Senator Cummings – Yes

Representative Harrison – Yes
Representative Lanpher – Yes
Representative Scheu – Yes
Senator Sears – No
Senator Westman – Yes
Representative Wood – Yes
Representative Kornheiser – Yes
Senator Kitchel – Yes

D. Housing Update [{00:41:39}](#)

1. Secretary Samuelson provided an update on the progress on transitioning from the pandemic-era GA Emergency Housing program required by Sec. 6(b) of Act 81 of 2023.
2. Pollaidh Major provided a status update of initiatives to make additional housing units available and expand emergency shelter required by Sec. 6(c) of Act 81 of 2023.
3. Commissioner Hanford provided an update on the progress on transitioning from the pandemic-era GA Emergency Housing program required by Sec. 9 of Act 81 of 2023.
4. Commissioner Hanford gave an update on the progress of the Vermont Council on Housing and Homelessness created by EO No. 01-23.

E. Update on Fiscal Issues Related to July 2023 Storms [{01:50:55}](#)

Secretary Clouser, Secretary Kurrle, and Deputy Secretary Farnham gave an update on fiscal issues related to the flooding caused by the July 2023 storms.

F. Grants

1. **Department for Children and Families [JFO #3155 {02:33:03}](#)**
Janet McLaughlin, Dep. Commissioner, Child Development Division

Representative Wood moved to approve fourteen (14) limited-service positions: seven (7) at the Department for Children and Families, one (1) at the Department of Health, one (1) at the Department of Mental Health, three (3) at the Agency of Education, and one (1) at the Office of Racial Equity. The positions are funded under a grant from the previously approved Preschool Development Grant, JFO #2970. Senator Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and the grant was accepted.

*after clarification, the roll was called at [{02:45:48}](#)

2. **Agency of Human Services [JFO #3156 {02:39:02}](#)**
Philip Kolling, Executive Director, SerVermont (AHS)

Representative Kornheiser moved to approve two (2) limited-service positions at the Agency of Human Services funded by ongoing grants from the Corporation for

National and Community Service/AmeriCorps. Senator Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and the grant was accepted.

3. **Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets** [JFO #3157](#) {02:41:27}
*Mary Montour, Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator
Supervisor, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Laura DiPietro, Deputy Director of Agricultural Resource
Management, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets*

Representative Kornheiser moved to approve \$300,000 and one (1) limited-service position at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to provide technical assistance to small farms to support grazing management systems. This is funded by grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Senator Westman seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and the grant was accepted.

**G. Department for Children and Families – Child Development Division
Position Change Request** {02:46:22}
Janet McLaughlin, Dep. Commissioner, Child Development Division

Representative Wood moved to approve the replacement of four positions authorized in 2023 Act 76 Sec. 7 (b)(2) with alternate classifications as detailed the Department for Children and Families memo dated July 27, 2023. Senator Westman seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and approved the position change request.

H. July 2023 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update {02:50:37}

Tom Kavet presented the July 2023 Economic Review and revenue Forecast Update.

I. Fiscal Officer's Report {03:13:36}

Catherine Benham presented the Fiscal officer's report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Viera, Senior Staff Associate
Joint Fiscal Office

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQdppkv6IGI>