



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Approved Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 10 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs3cCdpGGOA>

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

Members present: Representatives Harrison, Kornheiser, Lanpher, Scheu, and Wood. And Senators Baruth, Cummings, Kitchel, and Perchlik.

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 9:00am.

Representative Harrison moved to accept the July 30, 2024 minutes as written. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 and adopted the minutes. [{00:00:20}](#)

A. Administrations Fiscal Updates [{00:00:55}](#)

Commissioner Adam Greshin presented the General Fund and Transportation Fund Reserves Report, 27/53 Reserve Report, and FY 2026 Budget Instructions.

B. ARPA Update [{00:22:07}](#)

Chief Recovery Officer, Douglas Farnham, provided an ARPA update.

C. Housing Update [{00:39:46}](#)

1. Deputy Commissioner Miranda Gray and Commissioner Chris Winters provided and update on transitioning from the Pandemic-era GA Emergency Housing Program.
2. Deputy Commissioner Alex Farrell provided an update on the status of initiatives to make additional housing units available and to expand emergency shelter.
3. Executive Director Gus Seelig provided an update on the status of initiatives to make additional housing units available and to expand emergency shelter.
4. Representative Jubilee McGill and Sarah Russell provided an update on the general Assistance Emergency Housing Task Force.
5. Deputy Commissioner Alex Farrell provided and update on the Rapid Response Mobile Home Infill program.

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D. Program Updates *{01:57:13}*

1. Commissioner Joan Goldstein gave an update on the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP)
2. Director Melissa Bailey gave an update on the Emergency Financial Assistance Program for Flood Impacted Vermonters.

E. Grants *{02:11:11}*

1. JFO #3214 **Department of Public Safety**
Michael Skaza, Chief of Training, Division of Fire safety – Vermont Fire Academy, Department of Public Safety.

Senator Perchlik moved to accept a grant of \$150,000 to the Department of Public Safety from the U.S. Department of Labor to support the administration and operation of the Vermont State firefighters' Association Cadet Academy. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 and the grant was accepted.

2. JFO #3215 **Department of Public Safety**
Richard Hallenbeck, Director of Finance and Administration, Department of Public Safety

Senator Baruth moved to approve one (1) limited-service position in the Department of Public Safety funded through increased funding to Vermont from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Representative Lanpher seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and the limited-service position was approved.

3. JFO #3216 **Agency of Human Services, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living**
Sarah Lipton, Program Director, Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living

Representative Wood moved to approve one (1) limited-service position in the Agency of Human Services, department of Disabilities, Aging and independent Living. The funding for this position was approved in JFO #2510, a grant from the U.S. Department of health and Human Services to be used to support the "Money Follows the Person" program for Medicaid beneficiaries. Representative Scheu seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and the limited-service position was approved.

4. JFO #3217 **Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families**
Keith Williams, Director of Children's Integrated Services, Child development Division, Vermont Department for Children and Families

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Representative Wood moved to approve one (1) limited-service position in the Agency of Human Services, department for Children and Families funded through on-going AHS grants and will support work on the Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities program. Representative Lanpher seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and approved the limited-service position.

5. **JFO #3218 Department of Public Safety**

Eric Forand, Director, Vermont Emergency Management

Representative Wood moved to accept a grant of \$1,936,734 to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency management Agency for repair and replacement of disaster damaged facilities during the January 9-13, 2024 storm in Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, and Orleans counties. Senator Cummings seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and approved the grant.

6. **JFO #3219 Agency of Human Services, Department of Health**

Jared Ulmer, Climate & Health Program Manager, Environmental Health Division, Vermont Department of Health

Megan Hoke, Financial Director, Vermont Department of Health

Representative Scheu moved to accept a grant of \$1,000,000 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the U.S. Environmental protection Agency for the creation of a Healthy and Energy Efficient Homes program to help low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Burlington and Winooski. Representative Kornheiser seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and approved the grant.

7. **JFO #3220 Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety**

Michael Desrochers, Director of the Division of Fire safety, Department of Public Safety

Senator Perchlik moved to accept a grant of \$50,772 to the Department of Public Safety from the U.S. Consumer Product safety Commission to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning of children and the elderly in dwelling units and other facilities by enhancing statewide initiatives, existing partnerships, and established volunteer teams. Senator Cummings seconded. The committee voted 9-0-1 and accepted the grant.

F. Fiscal Officers Report [{02:54:55}](#)

1. Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the Fiscal Officer's report.
2. Representative Scheu moved that the Joint Fiscal Office be authorized to negotiate and sign a contract for up to four years, with an optional one-year extension, with Kavet, Rockler & Associates for revenue forecasting and economic analysis, consistent with the negotiations to date and the recommendation of the Joint Fiscal Office provided to the Committee.

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3. December meeting time – TBD if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11p.m.

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

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs3cCdpGGOA>