



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Friday, January 31, 2025

**Minutes**

Hybrid Meeting: Room 270 (Pavilion) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQdsNABn4R8>

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

Members present: Representatives Harrison, Kimbell, Kornheiser, Scheu, and Wood. And Senators Beck, Cummings, Perchlik, Lyons, and Westman.

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

**A. Call to order and Committee Organization**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm.

Senator Cummings nominated Representative Kornheiser as Chair. The committee voted 10-0 on the motion and elected Representative Kornheiser as Chair. {00:00:10}

Representative Scheu nominated Senator Cummings as Vice Chair. The committee voted 10-0 on the motion and elected Senator Cummings as Vice Chair. {00:00:51}

Representative Harrison nominated Senator Beck as Clerk. The committee voted 10-0-0 on the motion and elected Senator Beck as Clerk. {00:01:21}

**B. Adoption of Committee/Office Policies**

Representative Scheu moved to adopt the Committee/Office Policies as written. Senator Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 10-0-0 and adopted the Policies. {00:02:07}

**C. Approval of the November 6, 2024 minutes**

Representative Harrison moved to accept the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes as written. The committee voted unanimously to adopt the minutes with newly appointed members abstaining from the vote. {00:15:23}

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## D. Federal Funds Presentation

Deputy Fiscal Officer, Emily Byrne, gave an overview of federal funds in the Vermont Budget.  
{00:16:34}

## E. Grants

1. [JFO #3237](#) Department of Public Safety

*Eric Forand, Director, Vermont Emergency Management*

Senator Cummings moved to accept a grant of **\$3,079,448.00** to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the storm event of July 29-31, 2024, in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties. Senator Perchlik second. The motion passed 8-0-2.  
{00:34:29}

2. [JFO #3238](#) Department of Public Safety

*Eric Forand, Director, Vermont Emergency Management*

Representative Wood moved to accept a grant of **\$6,550,313.00** to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the storm event of July 9-11, 2024, in Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Lamoille, Orleans and Washington Counties. Senator Perchlik seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2. {00:36:17}

3. [JFO #3239](#) Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation

*Ben DeJong, State Geologist and Director, Department of Environmental Conservation*

Senator Cummings moved to approve one (1) limited-service position, Environmental Scientist IV, to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. Representative Wood seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2. {00:37:22}

4. [JFO #3240](#) Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary's Office

*Gannon Osborn, Land Conservation Program manager, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation*

Senator Perchlik moved to approve one (1) limited-service position, Staff Attorney III, to the Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary's Office. Representative Scheu seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2. {00:38:24}

5. [JFO #3241](#) Agency of Transportation

*Candace Elmquist, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Transportation*

*John Adams, Director of Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Agency of Digital Services*

Representative Wood moved to accept a grant of **\$630,005.00** to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Department of Finance and Administration from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Funds will partially fund an updated Lidar map of the State of Vermont. Senator Perchlik seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2. {00:39:28}

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6. [JFO #3242](#) Vermont Department of Public Service

*Kristina Sweet, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management,  
Vermont Community Broadband Board, Department of Public Service*

Representative Kimbell moved to accept a grant of **\$5,299,150.00** to the Vermont Department of Public Service, Vermont Community Broadband Board from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration support the target digital equity initiatives required as part of the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Act](#). Senator Cummings seconded. The motion passed 7-0-2, with Senator Perchlik abstaining. *{00:41:21}*

7. [JFO #3243](#) Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

*Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
Gannon Osborn, Land Conservation Program Manager, Department of Forests,  
Parks and Recreation*

Senator Lyons moved to accept a grant of **\$905,000.00** to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from the United States Forest Service. Senator Cummings seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2. *{00:43:22}*

**F. Timing of next meeting and adjourn**

2025 JFC Meeting schedule is TBD. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

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

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQdsNABn4R8>