SEN. ANN CUMMINGS, VICE CHAIR SEN. SCOTT BECK, CLERK SEN. VIRGINIA LYONS. SEN. ANDREW PERCHLIK SEN. RICHARD WESTMAN



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REP. EMILIE KORNHEISER, CHAIR REP. JAMES HARRISON REP. CHARLES KIMBELL REP. ROBIN SCHEU REP. THERESA WOOD

STATE OF VERMONT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 31, 2025 Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 11 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQrWTghrPyk *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.

Call to order and Approval of <u>January 31, 2025</u> Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Representative Kornheiser at 1:00pm.

Representative Harrison moved to accept the January 31, 2025 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Representative Scheu. The committee voted unanimously to adopt the minutes. {00:02:04}

A. Administrations Fiscal Updates [00:03:54]

- 1. Commissioner Adam Greshin provided an update on the close-out of the Education, General, and Transportation funds.
- 2. Commissioner Adam Greshin updated the committee on unencumbered balance transfers.
- 3. Chief Recovery Officer Douglas Farnham updated the committee on ARPA.

B. Medicaid Year-End Report {00:24:40}

Principal Fiscal Analyst Nolan Langweil gave an overview of the Medicaid Year-End Report that is required by 32 V.S.A. § 305a(c).

C. July 2025 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update (00:30:55)

Tom Kavet of Kavet, Rockler & Associates LLC, the Legislature's economist, gave the committee an update on the current revenue forecast and a review of the current economic situation.

D. Federal Funds

- 1. The Joint Fiscal Office and Office of Legislative Counsel provided the committee an update on federal funding and an overview of the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act.
 - a. Deputy Fiscal Officer Emily Byrne gave an overview of federal funds rescission language in Act 27 of 2025. [00:54:17]
 - b. Principal Fiscal Analyst Nolan Langweil and Deputy Chief Counsel Jen Carbee gave an overview of how the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act will affect Medicaid and health care. [1:05:44]
 - c. Associate Fiscal Officer Chris Rupe gave an overview of revenue changes within the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act. {1:19:16}
 - d. Fiscal Analyst Logan Mooberry gave an overview of Inflation Reduction Act Rescissions contained within the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act. [1:30:36]
 - e. Deputy Fiscal Officer Emily Byrne spoke to changes related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other miscellaneous changes stemming from the 2025 Federal Reconciliation Act. [1:35:02]
- 2. Secretary Sarah Clark, Secretary Jenny Samuelson, and Secretary Zoie Saunders updated the committee on the State Agencies responses to federal funding changes. [1:47:39]
- 3. State Director for Senator Sanders Kathryn Van Haste, Outreach Representative for Senator Welch Robin Lunge, and Director of Operations for Congresswoman Balint Jessica Nordhaus spoke to the committee regarding the status of federal bills and proposals and how the Federal Delegation and General Assembly can work together. [2:31:18]

E. Housing Update {2:50:00}

Deputy Commissioner Miranda Gray updated the committee on the status of individuals who have exited the GA Program, individuals who have approached the 80-Day Limit, and action steps being taken as the state transitions from the GA Hotel/Motel Program.

F. DS Payment Reform [3:08:22]

The committee heard from Commissioner Jill Bowen regarding DS Payment Reform ahead of the anticipated report to be submitted in September 2025.

G. Grants and Other

1. Public Safety Funding Request [Act 87 of 2024] [3:28:53]

Jennifer Morrison, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Barbara Neal, Executive Director, VT E-911 Board

Daniel Batsie, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Richard Hallenbeck, Director of Administration/Finance, Department of Public Safety

Senator Westman moved to approve spending authority of up to \$517,633.51 to the Public Safety Communications Task Force as necessary for the task force to achieve its purposes. He also requested a plan to check back in September. Representative Harrison seconded. The motion passed 9-0-1.

2. <u>JFO #3261:</u> Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation {3:57:43}

Tracy LaFrance, Financial Director, Department of Environmental Conservation Ben DeJong, State Geologist, Department of Environmental Conservation

Senator Perchlik moved to approve \$63,212.00 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Funds to inventory landslides in ten (10) VT counties, for the purpose of predicting future landslides. Representative Wood seconded. The motion passed 9-0-1.

H. Fiscal Officer's Report [3:59:23]

Chief Fiscal Officer Catherine Benham reported on staffing changes in the Joint Fiscal Office.

I. Public Comment – Community Partners and Loss of Federal Funding

- 1. Amy Shollenberger, Action Circles {4:02:47}
- 2. Autumn Moen, Legislative Policy Lead, Hunger Free Vermont [4:05:13]
- 3. Matt Levin, Executive Director, Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance [4:07:23]
- 4. Brenda Siegel, Executive Director, End Homelessness Vermont (4:09:40)
- 5. Jessica Hays Lucas, Grassroots Organizer, NOFA-VT {4:12:18}
- 6. Alison Calderara, Executive Director, Capstone Community Action [4:14:42]
- 7. Morgan Crossman, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures [4:17:17]

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- 8. Ellen Amstutz, Executive Director, Vermont Parent Child Center Network {4:19:43}
- 9. Betsy Rosenbluth, Co-Director, Vermont Farm to School & Early Childhood Network [4:22:37]
- 10. Carrie Stahler, Senior Manager- Government and Public Affairs, Vermont Foodbank {4:24:56}
- 11. Katie Tormey, Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative [4:27:35]
- 12. Vijay Singh, CEO, Vermont Public [4:30:12]
- 13. Emma Paradis, Manager of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Common Good Vermont [4:32:05]
- 14. Amy Rose, Policy Director, Voices for Vermont's Children [4:34:23]

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36PM.

Respectfully submitted, Autumn Crabtree, Senior Staff Associate Joint Fiscal Office

Link to recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQrWTghrPyk