

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



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, October 16, 2025

Final Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 10 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Nb3JiLkWd4>

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 [September 18, 2025 Minutes](#)

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

ACTION ITEM Representative Harrison moved to accept the September 18, 2025, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Representative Wood. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the minutes. [{00:00:32}](#)

A. Federal Revenue Update

1. Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark provided the Committee with an update on the Administration's tracking of federal revenue adjustments. [{00:02:25}](#)

B. Federal Shutdown

1. Secretary Clark updated the Committee on the Administration's response to the federal shutdown and their contingency plans. [{00:22:12}](#)
2. State Treasurer Mike Pieciak updated the Committee on the Treasury's response to the federal shutdown and their contingency plans. [{00:45:48}](#)
3. State Director for Senator Sanders Kathryn Van Haste, State Director for Senator Welch Rebecca Ellis, and Interim State Director for Congresswoman Balint Jessica Nordhaus updated the Committee on the status of the federal shutdown and how their offices are evaluating the impacts on Vermonters. [{00:57:41}](#)
4. Secretary of Human Services Jenney Samuelson and the Agency's Chief Financial Officer Tracy O'Connell updated the Committee on the impacts of the federal shutdown on the Agency of Human Services. [{01:20:56}](#)
5. Matt Cota, representing the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association, and Josh Davis, representing the Vermont Community Action Partnership, testified to the impacts

of the uncertainty of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding. [{01:48:37}](#)

Action Item Senator Perchlik moved that the Committee recommend to the Emergency Board that the Board appropriate funds, in anticipation of federal reimbursement, to fully fund LIHEAP. The motion was seconded by Representative Kimbell. After further discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to instead recommend to the Emergency Board that they explore all alternatives to provide needed funds to support both food and fuel assistance. [{02:15:51}](#)

C. Premium Assistance Changes [{02:23:03}](#)

1. Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) Adaline Strumolo updated the Committee on how the Department is planning for the loss of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits.
2. Green Mountain Care Board Chair Owen Foster and Executive Director Emily Brown then testified to how this loss will affect the Vermont health care system.
3. Chief Health Care Advocate Mike Fisher and Health Policy Analyst Emma Zavez testified on how the loss of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits will affect individual Vermonters.

D. Implementation of Medicaid Rule Changes [{02:50:13}](#)

1. Chief Health Care Advocate Mike Fisher and Health Policy Analyst Emma Zavez testified on how these changes will affect Vermonters and those who work to support them.
2. Secretary Samuelson and Chief Financial Officer O'Connell updated the Committee on the specific impacts of H.R. 1 on Medicaid.
3. Deputy Commissioner Strumolo updated the Committee on how DVHA is implementing the rule changes and working to mitigate coverage loss among eligible Vermonters.
4. State Director of Child Nutrition Programs Rosie Krueger testified on the impact of rule changes on education funding and school poverty data.

E. Return to Office Order [{03:14:04}](#)

1. Secretary Clark, Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds Wanda Minoli, and Commissioner of Human Resources Beth Fastiggi testified on the decisions and plans behind the State employee return to office order.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM.

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

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Nb3JiLkWd4>