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REP. CHARLES KIMBELL
REP. ROBIN SCHEU
REP. THERESA WOOD

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Final Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 11 and [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

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 [October 16, 2025](#) Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Representative Kornheiser at 9:00 AM

ACTION ITEM Representative Harrison moved to accept the October 16, 2025, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Representative Scheu. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the minutes. [\[00:01:30\]](#)

A. Federal Update

1. Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark provided the Committee with an update on the Administration's tracking of federal revenue adjustments. There were no new items to report. [\[00:02:34\]](#)
2. Secretary Clark gave an update on the continuing resolution passed by Congress that ended the Federal Shutdown and how the reopening will affect Vermont. [\[00:03:41\]](#)
3. Department for Children and Families Interim Commissioner Sandi Hoffman and Deputy Commissioner of the Economic Services Division Miranda Gray updated the committee on the release of LIHEAP benefits and how SNAP benefits will be released given USDA approval. [\[00:15:50\]](#)
4. CEO of the Vermont Foodbank John Sayles provided the Committee with an update on the distribution of funds appropriated to the Foodbank by the Emergency Board. He described the increased demand on food assistance programs across the state. [\[00:38:20\]](#)
5. Executive Director of Hunger Free Vermont Anore Horton updated the committee on the positive impacts of the state's funding of SNAP benefits on Vermonters. [\[00:50:35\]](#)

B. FEMA

1. Chief Recovery Officer Douglas Farnham provided the committee with information about the issues reported in an article about the state's Guidehouse Disaster Recovery Contract and how his office responded to the issues. [{00:59:50}](#)
2. Chief Recovery Officer Farnham then updated the committee on the denial of the state's Disaster Declaration request and the status of their appeal. [{1:11:50}](#)

*** *Break* ***

C. Housing Update

1. Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development Alex Farrell updated the committee on the status of the housing market and housing development in the state. [{00:01:53}](#)
2. Interim Commissioner Hoffman and Deputy Commissioner Gray updated the committee on the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program and shelter capacity and growth across the state. [{00:28:15}](#)
3. Executive Director of the Vermont State Housing Authority Kathleen Berk testified to the underfunding of the Housing Choice Voucher program and requested a General Fund appropriation to stabilize the program. [{00:42:56}](#)
4. Board Chair for the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont Sarah Phillips and Executive Director of the Upper Valley Haven Michael Redmond testified to the need for more housing development in Vermont. [{01:01:57}](#)

D. Community Partners Experiencing Federal Revenue Loss or Impacts from Shutdown

1. Executive Director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance Molly Gray, Director of ECDC-VT Joe Wiah, and Director of the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Sonali Samarasinghe testified about the impact of SNAP eligibility changes on refugees across Vermont. [{01:21:49}](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Autumn Crabtree, Senior Staff Associate
Joint Fiscal Office
Link to recording: [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)