

ONE BALDWIN STREET
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SEN. ANN CUMMINGS, CHAIR
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SEN. DIANE SNELLING, CLERK
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STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Minutes

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Branagan, Heath, Johnson, and Larson, and Senators Cummings, Kitchel, and Snelling.

Others present: Administration, Joint Fiscal Office staff, various media, lobbyists, and advocacy groups.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office, and nominations for Chair were opened. Senator Kitchel nominated Senator Cummings, no other nominations were proposed, and the nomination of Senator Cummings as Chair for 2011 was approved.

Senator Cummings resumed the meeting as Chair, and opened nominations for vice-chair, whereby Representative Ancel nominated Representative Heath. No other nominations were proposed, and the nomination was approved.

The Chair then opened nominations for clerk, whereby Representative Heath nominated Senator Snelling. No other nominations were proposed, and the nomination was approved.

Senator Kitchel moved the adoption of the revised Joint Fiscal Committee rules, dated February 2011, which were adopted. Representative Heath moved to adopt the minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting, which were approved.

Nathan Lavery, Business Manager, Joint Fiscal Office, presented the Joint Fiscal Committee proposed FY 2012 budget, stating that the budget was down \$440,000 from the previous fiscal year. The major changes within the budget were the reduction in workload pertaining to health care, as the contract for the Health Care Reform Study was one of the one-time expenses in FY 2011. Also, the Blue Ribbon Tax Structure Commission work of the Commission was to end in FY 2011.

Mr. Klein, in response to Representative Johnson's question, clarified that classified and executive branch employees received raises in FY2011, yet Legislative staff received no raises and were furloughed for the past two years. Representative Ancel requested more information on the various employee classifications and pay reductions/increases over the past two years. Mr. Klein offered to do a spreadsheet. The budget also contemplated moving the 5% legislative staff furlough to off-session only, for an effective 3% annual furlough.

Representative Larson moved to adopt the budget as proposed, Senator Kitchel seconded the motion, and the committee approved.

Mr. Lavery then explained, as other committee business, that the Department of Libraries' grant proposal sent to members would continue through the committee's expedited rule process.

Senator Kitchel moved to adjourn the meeting, and the committee adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Joint Fiscal Office