



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Updated 7/29/2020 at 2:00 p.m.

[Meeting available by Live Stream](#)

- 10:00 a.m. A. Convene Meeting and approve minutes of June 15, 2020 [**Approved**]
- 10:05 a.m. B. Administrations Fiscal Updates
*Adam Greshin, Commissioner, and
Matt Riven, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Finance & Management*
1. Fund Transfers, Reversions, Reserves (unencumbered balances report)
[...further amended by [Sec. 28 of Act 109 of 2020](#)]
 2. [FY 2020 Preliminary Close-Out](#) - General Fund and Transportation Fund
- 10:25 a.m. C. Education Fund – *Mark Perrault, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office*
- 10:30 a.m. D. [Grant - JFO #3011 - \\$31,148,360](#) [**Postponed Action until August 12, 2020**]
from the U.S. Department of Education to the Vermont Agency of Education. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund was granted in the CARES Act and provides flexible funds to state education agencies and local education agencies (LEAs) for any activity authorized by ESEA, response to COVID19, and other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs... [*JFO received 7/16/20*]
*Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary, and
Bill Bates, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Education*
- 10:50 a.m. E. COVID-19 Relief Fund Requests totaling **\$23,629,362.00** [[Summary](#)]
[**All CRF Requests Approved**] [[Conditions for the Acceptance of CRF](#)]
Commissioner Greshin
1. [Total Amount Requested: \\$250,000.](#) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) is seeking funding to contract with Maximus for a call center to provide technical assistance to Vermont employers applying for Economic Relief Grants.
Lindsay H. Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development

2. [Total Amount Requested: \\$1,789,249.25](#). The Agency of Digital Services (ADS) is seeking reimbursement for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) grant implementation project costs. ADS employed a technical tool, Salesforce, to provide the technology needed for the State to manage several CRF grant programs. Unbudgeted implantation costs include implementation vendor costs, ADS implantation staff and software licensing costs.

John Quinn, III, Secretary, Agency of Digital Services

3. [Total Amount Requested: \\$1,850,000](#). Agency of Natural Resources

Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

- a. *Total Amount Requested: \$450,000*. The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is seeking funding to purchase three large format scanners to digitize use value appraisal records. Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Program enables eligible private landowners who practice long-term forestry to have their land appraised based on the property's value for production of wood rather than its residential or commercial development value under normal ad valorem taxation...
- b. *Total Amount Requested: \$1,400,000*. The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is requesting funding to support retooling ANR's approach to regulatory review and environmental permitting to allow for and support increased telework, doing so in a manner that enhances technical assistance available to applicants, improves the timeliness of regulatory review and ensures public participation processes are maintained or enhanced.

4. [Total Amount Requested: \\$410,000](#). The Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) is seeking funding to contract with the consulting firm Oliver Wyman for modeling and consulting work related to Vermont's COVID-19 response. The requested amount (\$410,000) will fund the modeling contract through December 2020.

Michael Pieciak, Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation

5. [Total Amount Requested: \\$500,000](#). The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is seeking funding for suicide prevention efforts that will support Vermonters whose mental health has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Sec. 9 of Act136 of 2020](#)

Sarah Clark, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Human Services

6. [Total Amount Requested: \\$80,113](#). The Natural Resources Board (NRB) is tasked with administering Act 250, Vermont's land use and planning law. The NRB is seeking funding to expedite Covid-19 permitting by digitizing a subset of our permit files, those that are most directly related to Vermont's emergency response to Covid-19. The NRB would require additional staff to complete the

digitization process. The NRB requests funding to hire a qualified Temporary Service Position to perform the functions required to digitize the required records.

Diane Snelling, Chair, Natural Resources Board

7. [Total Amount Requested: \\$18,750,000.](#)

Michael Harrington, Commissioner, Department of Labor

- a. *UI Modernization (\$750,000):* VDOL is requesting funding to contract with a vendor to begin modernizing the Unemployment Insurance (UI) through the implantation of a mainframe software system (Mulesoft) and the digitization of records.
- b. *UI Operations (\$18,000,000):* VDOL is requesting funding for reimbursement of expenses incurred from contracting with Maximus to operate the UI call center and for additional funds to extend Maximus' contract through December 2020.

11:20 a.m. F. Introduction to [Guidehouse](#) Consultant

*Brad Ferland, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration, and
Hillary Thompson, Guidehouse Vermont COVID-19 Project Lead*

11:45 a.m. G. [FY 2020 Revenue Close-out Update](#)

*Tom Kavet, Legislature's Economist
Graham Campbell, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office*

11:55 a.m. H. [Fiscal Officer's Report](#) and Updates

Stephen A. Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

1. Higher Education Study [[Sec. A.10 of Act 120 of 2020](#)] – *Joyce Manchester*
2. An assessment of the space and health and safety needs of the Legislative Branch for COVID-19 mitigation and meeting social distancing requirements [[Sec. 18 of Act 136 of 2020](#)] – *Catherine Benham*

12:10 p.m. Adjourn – Next Meeting: August 12th at 9:00 a.m. (Emergency Board at 2:00 p.m.)

Reports

1. Current Reports are found [HERE](#)
2. Interim reports since the Committee's previous meeting can be found [HERE](#).

Note: The [Brattleboro Retreat Report](#) [[Sec. 27 of Act 139 of 2020](#)] will be submitted in writing.