



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Minutes

Videoconference

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Fagan, Hooper, Lippert, and Toll and Senators Ashe, Cummings, Kitchel, Sears, and Westman.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal Office and Administration staff and various viewers on live stream.

Senator Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Senator Westman moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2020, and Senator Sears seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

A. Administration's Fiscal Updates — 1. FY 2021 Budget Adjustment Pressures

Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management, explained areas of pressure in the FY 2021 State Budget, such as the Municipal Current Use program with a gap of \$175,000. Other pressures may include Medicaid, General Assistance's housing program, and caseload pressures in Department for Children and Families (DCF).

2. Caseload Reserve

Commissioner Greshin explained that the Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) or the Medicaid Tail ended FY 2020 with \$58 million, and the Caseload Reserve ended in FY 2020 with \$95 million.

3. Tax Computer System Modernization Fund Report

Commissioner Greshin referred to a report on the Tax Computer System Modernization Fund submitted on November 3, 2020 as a review of the Fund.

B. Coronavirus Relief Fund — Reallocation Requests

Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office, explained the process of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) reallocations as stated in [B.1108 of Act 154 of 2020](#).

1. Administration request for CRF reallocations

Commissioner Greshin; Sarah Clark, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Human Services; and Cory Gustafson, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access, reviewed and answered questions from the Committee regarding a document on [CRF Expenditures and Appropriations Status](#) and the context of how estimates were arrived at for determining the \$118 million in unused CRF. Ms. Clark, in responding to questions, referred to a [Report on the Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant](#)

Program with a detailed listing of providers but offered to do additional analysis to sort by provider type.

Commissioner Greshin then reviewed and answered questions on the list of CRF reallocation requests (indexed requests) that totaled about \$114.5 million with the assistance of June Tierney, Commissioner, Department of Public Service, and Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, Department of Economic Development.

The Committee had a discussion on the need for additional information on some of the requests before acting upon them.

Senator Kitchel moved to defer action on seven requests for further legislative input, information, and discussion, and approve the remaining 23 requests. She then later revised her motion to just approve the 23 CRF reallocation requests totaling \$32,883,795 listed on the preliminary motion document. The Committee continued discussion on the request for CRF funding for COVID testing at colleges in Vermont with the assistance of Tracy Dolan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health on the request of the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges; and Dan Reilly, Director of Public Affairs, and Jody Lesko, Director of Programs & Implementation, Efficiency Vermont (VEIC), on the HVAC program for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools.

Representative Fagan seconded Senator Kitchel's motion, and the Committee approved the motion on a 10-0 roll call.

D. Fiscal Officer's Report — Preliminary Revenues through October

Graham Campbell, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office, explained that the revenues for the General Fund and the Transportation Fund were currently well over year-to-date targets.

The Committee agreed to meet again on Monday, November 9 at 9:00 a.m., and requested that the Joint Fiscal Office organize a list of alternative CRF requests submitted to share with the Committee for review at its next meeting. The Committee also requested further information on the Agency of Commerce's requests.

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Senior Staff Associate

Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V02RO8iSSlg>