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STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Room 10, State House

[Meeting available by LIVE Stream](#)

12/14/2022 12:42 PM

- 10:00 a.m. Call to order and approve minutes of November 9, 2022 [**Approved**]
[\[link to minutes\]](#)
- 10:05 a.m. A. Executive Branch Fees and Fund Deficits [[Executive Branch Fees and Fund Deficits](#)]
Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management
- 10:15 a.m. B. Emergency Rental Assistance Program and Transitional Housing [**Approved**]
[\[Emergency Rental Assistance Program Overview and Request\]](#) [\[Emergency Housing Proposal - \\$15M General Fund\]](#)
Douglas Farnham, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration
Dr. Harry Chen, Interim Commissioner, and
Katarina Lisaius, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, Dept. for Children & Families
Pollaidh Major, Director of Policy and Special Projects, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Previous and background documents: [\[JFO Grant#3034\]](#) [\[ERA Situation Report\]](#)
[\[Community Engagement Summary\]](#)
- 11:15 a.m. C. Land Acquisition Donation Request from the Department of Fish & Wildlife [**Approved**]
[\[JFO Grant #3135\]](#)
Will Duane, Land Acquisition Coordinator, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 11:20 a.m. D. Update on Joint Fiscal Office hiring
Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
- 11:25 p.m. Adjourn

Agenda Citations

A. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Joint Fiscal Committee Motion and Distribution Plan - 2/11/2021

Senator Kitchel moves to approve Grant #3034 \$200,000,000 to the VT Agency of Administration from the US Dept. of the Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program and five limited service positions as follows:

1. Agencies are allocated the funds consistent with the following distribution plan:

A. PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION PLAN (GRANTS BUDGET):

i. \$110,000,000.00 to AOA to grant to the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) to implement a modified version of their existing Rental Housing Stabilization Program (RHSP). This program will be implemented via a MOA between AOA, VSHA, and DHCD. It is further provided that the Agencies shall establish procedures that housing units assisted with ERAP funding follows VT's Life Safety Code requirements; and procedures to ensure rent is not increased, as a result of receiving ERAP funding for the period of assistance. The participating landlords shall be encouraged to engage in weatherization activities and programs.

ii. \$12,700,000.00 to PSD to implement a modified version of their existing utility assistance program. This would include creation of two limited service positions; a Consumer Affairs and Information Specialist and a Benefits Program Administrator.

iii. \$15,000,000.00 to AHS to assist homeless individuals, those exiting homelessness, and implement other such programming as becomes allowable under federal guidance. This would include creation of two limited service positions; a Financial Manager II, and a Community Services Program Manager.

iv. \$9,000,000.00 to DHCD for "other housing services" as defined by the Act, which pending Treasury Guidance, may include tenant and landlord counseling and mediation services such as those administered by Vermont Legal Aid, and the Vermont Landlord's Association, and to other programs which may become viable upon further guidance from the U.S. Treasury. This would include creation of one limited service position; a Grants Specialist.

v. \$53,300,00.00 to AOA to hold in reserve to allocate to programs in need of additional funds, and/or to programs which may become viable pursuant to evolving U.S. Treasury guidance.

B. Any expenditures from the \$53,300,000 held in reserve at the Agency of Administration may only be spent based on legislative appropriation.

C. Any reallocations between and among subsections i through iv must be approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Reports

EXECUTIVE BRANCH FEES AND FUND DEFICITS PROPOSED INCREASES AND FOREGONE REVENUE; REPORT

[Report Link](#)

Cite: [Sec. E.106 of Act 185 of 2022](#)

(a) According to the report submitted by the Commissioner of Finance and Management pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.106, \$22,000,000 in revenue was foregone in one fiscal year due to lack of inflationary increases in certain fees, including Agency of Transportation fees.

(b) On or before November 15, 2022, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall submit an inventory of all existing fees within State government to the Joint Fiscal Committee in Excel format. This inventory shall include all fees collected by the Executive Branch, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer, as well as fees collected by the Judicial Branch. For fees within the Judicial Branch, the Commissioner shall have the assistance of the State Court Administrator. The fee inventory shall contain the following information for each fee in existence on the preceding July 1:

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(c) On or before November 15, 2022, the Secretary of State shall submit an inventory of its existing fees to the Joint Fiscal Committee in Excel format. The fee inventory shall contain the following information for each fee in existence on the preceding July 1:

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(d) On or before November 15, 2022, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall provide a list of all funds to the Joint Fiscal Committee for which one or both of the following conditions are true:

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(e) On or before January 15, 2023, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall submit a report to the General Assembly that provides a list of programs by department where the fees do not fully cover the cost of providing the service or regulatory function.