



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday September 27, 2023

Approved Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 11 and <https://www.youtube.com/@VTJointFiscal/featured>

To review specific testimony, please click the video time links {00:00:00} below.

Members present: Representatives Harrison, Lanpher, Scheu (remote), and Wood. And Senators Baruth, Cummings, Kitchel, Sears (remote), 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 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Senator Kitchel at 9:00 a.m.

Senator Westman moved to accept the July 31, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Senator Baruth seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 and adopted the minutes.

{00:00:39}

A. Administrations Fiscal Updates {00:01:02}

Commissioner Greshin and Deputy Commissioner Merrill presented the Administration's fiscal updates to include the General Fund and Transportation Fund balance reserves, the 27/53 reserve report, the FY 2025 Budget Instructions, and an update on the status of the ARPA-Coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund appropriation.

B. Housing Update {00:27:37}

1. Commissioner Winters and Deputy Commissioner Gray gave an update on the progress on transitioning from the pandemic-era GA emergency housing program.
2. Deputy Commissioner Farrell gave an update on the status of initiatives to make additional housing units available and expand emergency shelter.
3. Commissioner Winters and Deputy Commissioner Farrell gave an update on the progress of the Vermont Council on Housing and Homelessness.
4. Executive Director Seelig gave an update on the status of initiatives to make additional housing units available and expand emergency shelter.

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C. Update on Fiscal Issues Related to July 2023 Storms [{01:42:32}](#)

1. Chief Recovery Officer, Douglas Farnham, gave an update on the status of the response and recovery and FEMA award.
2. Secretary Kurrle gave an update on the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.
3. Commissioner Tierney gave an update on the emergency financial assistance program for flood impacted Vermonters.

D. Workforce Needs – Designated and Specialized Service Agencies [{02:34:27}](#)

Senator Cummings moved to approve the plan presented by the Department of Mental Health to address workforce needs at the designated and specialized services pursuant to Act 78 of 2023, Section B.1101 (d)(4). Senator Westman seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 to approve the plan.

E. Child Care Development Block Grant – Reallocation Proposal [{02:44:47}](#)

Representative Wood moved to approve the Department for Children and Families' request to reallocate and spend the remaining Child Care Development Block Grant ARPA Discretionary Funds. Senator Westman seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 to approve the reallocation of funds.

F. Grants

1. FEMA [{02:56:05}](#)

Senator Baruth moved to approve the grant of approximately \$100,000,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Administration for flood recovery in advance of the Governor's submission of his approval to the Joint Fiscal Committee in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 5(b) to enable those federal funds to be deployed as expeditiously as possible in support of Vermont's flood recovery efforts. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 9-0-1 to approve the grant.

G. Fiscal Officers Report [{02:58:37}](#)

Catherine Benham presented the Fiscal officer's report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Erin Viera, Senior Staff Associate
Joint Fiscal Office

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OUkRX2jYfs>