GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
State House, Concord, NH
January 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

The Governor and Executive Council convened at 10:15 a.m. with all members present.

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Today's pre-meeting ceremonial items included:

- Councilor Wheeler offered a prayer
- Pastor Michael Worsley offered a prayer
- Deputy TAG Nicole Desilets-Bixler led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Performance:
  - Sgt Jared Griffin performed the National Anthem
- Commendations:
  - Bishop Guertin High School Division I Boys Soccer Team on winning the State Championship

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The Governor and Executive Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Kenney, voted to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting.

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The Governor and Executive Council, on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill, approved the appointment of several persons nominated for Civil Commissions from the December 17, 2025 meeting.

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The Governor placed into nomination the several persons who applied for Civil Commissions.

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RESIGNATIONS

The Governor and Council accepted the following resignations:

New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights - RSA 354-A:4:3
Adrienne Evans, Concord — Effective: May 20, 2025

Commissioner, Department of Transportation - RSA 21-L:3
William J. Cass, Laconia — Effective: February 27, 2026

Electricians' Board - RSA 319-C:4
Michael Palmeri, Amherst — Effective: December 30, 2025

Board of Nursing - RSA 326-B:3
Samantha L. O'Neil, Merrimack — Effective: January 5, 2026

Dental Hygienists Committee - RSA 317-A
Jennifer Pearl, Concord — Effective: November 4, 2025

Midwifery Council - RSA 326-D
Heidi Rinehart, Keene — Effective: November 25, 2025

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CONFIRMATIONS

The Governor and Council confirmed the following:

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Information Technology - RSA 21-R:3
Kenneth R. Dunn, Hooksett — Effective: January 7, 2026
Reappointment — Term: January 10, 2030
Grade KK, Step 7 (Salary): $154,700

Community College System of New Hampshire - RSA 188-F
(Public Member)
Joel P. Dolan, Salem — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Sharon D. Harris, Exeter — Term: June 30, 2028

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Revenue Administration - RSA 21-J
James C. Vara, Andover — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Ora M. LeMere, Nashua (resigned) — Term: January 1, 2030
Grade JJ, Step 6 (Salary): $143,732

Advocate for Special Education - RSA 4:5; RSA 186-C:36
Timothy D. Lenihan, Enfield — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Kristen Mansharamani, Lincoln (resigned) — Term: July 1, 2028
Grade GG, Step 3 (Salary): $100,819

Board of Land Surveyors - RSA 310-A:55
Mitchell B. Cummings, Loudon — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Joseph M. Wichert, Manchester — Term: February 3, 2030

Board of Chiropractic Examiners - RSA 316-A
Stephanie Ryan, Concord — Effective: January 7, 2026
Reappointment — Term: August 24, 2030

Board of Chiropractic Examiners - RSA 316-A
Edward Rusher, Manchester — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Denise M. Pickowicz, Gilmanton Iron Works (resigned) — Term: August 24, 2030

Board of Accountancy - RSA 309-B
(Certified Public Accountant)
Steven R. Lavoie, Allenstown — Effective: January 7, 2026
Succeeding: Richard R. Silverman, Hampton — Term: December 2, 2030

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NOMINATIONS

The following nominations were submitted:

Adult Parole Board - RSA 651-A:3
(Attorney – Member of the NH Bar in Good Standing)
Lynne F. Blankenbeker, Concord — Effective: Upon Confirmation
Succeeding: Roger B. Phillips, Concord — Term: September 16, 2030
Grade GG, Step 6 (Salary): $118,352

Board of Psychologists - RSA 329-B:3
(Licensed School Psychologist-Doctoral or Licensed School Psychologist-Specialist)
Tyler St. Cyr, Hooksett — Effective: Upon Confirmation
Vacancy — Term: March 23, 2028

Board of Mental Health Practice - RSA 330–A:3
(Licensed School Social Worker)
Jennifer Rein, Concord — Effective: Upon Confirmation
Succeeding: Courtney Porter, Claremont (resigned) — Term: October 19, 2028

Board of Mental Health Practice - RSA 330–A:3
(Licensed Clinical Social Worker)
David Meichsner, Westford, MA — Effective: Upon Confirmation
Vacancy — Term: October 31, 2028

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission - RSA 484
Robert E. King, Keene — Effective: Upon Confirmation
Vacancy — Term: May 1, 2028

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CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Wheeler acted as follows:

#1 **MOP 150, I, B (1): Expenditure Approvals**

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

A. Authorized to enter Michael Mottola into an educational tuition agreement with Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH, to participate in Organizational Strategy in a Global Environment, from February 2, 2026 to April 12, 2026 and to pay costs in the amount of $1,482.75. **100% Other (Agency Income)**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

B. Councilor Stephen requested that this item be removed from the consent calendar for discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Stephen authorized to enter Caitlin Costello into an educational tuition agreement with University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, to participate in General Virology, from January 12, 2026 to April 22, 2026 and to pay costs in the amount of $1,500. **27.49% Federal, 67.95% General, 4.56% Other**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

C. Authorized to enter Caitlin Costello into an educational tuition agreement with University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, to participate in Probiotics, from January 12, 2026 to April 22, 2026 and to pay costs in the amount of $1,500. **27.49% Federal, 67.95% General, 4.56% Other**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

D. Councilor Liot Hill requested that this item be removed from the consent calendar for discussion. The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Kenney, moved to adopt this item for discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council, with Councilor Liot Hill voting **no**, authorized to enter Ian Rice into an educational tuition agreement with Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, to participate in Introduction to Pastoral Counseling; Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counselors; Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling; Trauma Assessment & Intervention, from January 19, 2026 to May 15, 2026 and to pay costs in the amount of $3,000. **27.49% Federal, 67.95% General, 4.56% Other**

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

E. Authorized to pay annual dues to the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, McCleary, WA, in the amount of $2,500. Effective upon G&C approval, for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. **100% Agency Funds**

#2 **MOP 150, I, B (2): Approval of Acceptances**

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

A. Authorized to accept donations of Computer software, MailChimp, brick, paver, bench and plaque engraving, Catering, stick flags, and HVAC for the Chapel in the amount of $24,256.08 for the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery to be used for the operations, maintenance, and improvement of the cemetery as detailed in the letter dated December 8, 2025.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS, AND FOOD

B. Authorized the Division of Plant Industry to accept a donation from The Merrimack Valley Beekeepers Association in the amount of $250 for the purpose of purchasing supplies for Apiary Inspections. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Other Funds**

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

C. Authorized to accept a donation of $4,965.03 from the former Backwoods Bowmen Club, to be donated to the Wildlife Division to be utilized for use in wildlife conservation and management efforts. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026.

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

D. Authorized to accept a donation of $5,000 from the Paul Bisset, to be donated to the Law Enforcement Division to be utilized for search and rescue related equipment and training. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026.

#3 **MOP 150, I, B (3): Reports and Findings** - NONE

#4 **MOP 150, I, B (4): Nominations, Confirmations and Appointments**

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

A. Authorized the nomination of Jacob D. Akers, Standish, ME, for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the NH Army National Guard. This officer meets the physical, moral and professional qualifications for this grade promotion in the NH Army National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

B. Authorized the nomination of Major Giovanni Gensale, Pelham, NH, for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the NH Army National Guard. This officer meets the physical, moral and professional qualifications for this grade promotion in the NH Army National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

C. Authorized the nomination of Jonathan W. Hesketh, Dover, NH, for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the NH Army National Guard. This officer meets the physical, moral and professional qualifications for this grade promotion in the NH Army National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

D. Authorized the nomination of Patrick Randall, Nashua, NH, for promotion to the rank of Major, in the NH Army National Guard. This officer meets the physical, moral and professional qualifications for this grade promotion in the NH Army National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

E. Authorized the nomination of Lieutenant Colonel Sean M. Shanahan, Rochester, NH, for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the NH Air National Guard. This officer meets the physical, moral and professional qualifications for this grade promotion in the NH Air National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

F. Authorized to appoint James H. Holl, III, as an Assistant Attorney General, at a salary level of $116,420. Effective upon G&C approval or January 9, 2026, whichever is later, for a term ending July 31, 2028.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

G. Authorized to reappoint Brian N. Greklek-McKeon, as an Assistant Attorney General, at a salary level of $98,280. Effective upon G&C approval or January 22, 2026, whichever is later, for a term ending January 22, 2031. **98% General Funds, 2% Other Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

H. Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way's petition for a hearing on the Orford 40366 project, addressing the deteriorated condition of the NH 25A bridge over Brackett Brook. The improvements begin approximately 275 feet west of Upper Baker Pond Road and continue east for approximately 900 feet. The proposed improvements will replace this bridge, which is #51 on the 2023 State Red List Summary by Priority. (2) Further authorized a Commission of Three Persons to be appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to hold a hearing and determine whether there is an occasion for the project.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I. Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way's petition for a hearing on the Orford 41390 project, addressing the deteriorated condition of the NH 25A bridge over Baker Pond Brook. The improvements begin approximately 375 feet west of the bridge over Baker Pond Road and continue east for approximately 825 feet. The proposed improvements will replace this bridge, which is #40 on the 2023 State Red List Summary by Priority. (2) Further authorized a Commission of Three Persons to be appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to hold a hearing and determine whether there is an occasion for the project.

#5 **MOP 150, I, B (5): Other Items**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A. Authorized to amend an American Rescue Plan Act grant to the Town of Walpole, NH (originally approved by G&C on 2/8/23, Item #112), for the rehabilitation of Walpole Reservoir Dam by reducing the grant limitation by $300,000 from $740,400 to $440,400 and amending the original scope. Effective upon G&C approval through July 1, 2026. This is a grant reduction and scope amendment. **100% Federal Funds**

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REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Kenney acted as follows:

#6 Authorized the Executive Office to **retroactively** pay membership dues in the amount of $9,857.80 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, to the National Association of State Aviation Officials, Washington, DC, for membership in the national aviation organization. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2026. **100% General Funds**

#7 Authorized the Bureau of Turnpikes to **retroactively** continue its membership and participation with E-ZPass Interagency Group, New York, NY by paying annual membership dues in the amount of $38,500 for Calendar Year 2026. Effective **retroactive** to January 1, 2026, upon G&C approval. **100% Turnpike Funds**

#8 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners $16,300 as documented in the Contemplated Awards List, for amounts exceeding $5,000 for the period from November 6, 2025 through November 18, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval.

#9 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to sell approximately 0.05+/- acres of unimproved State-owned land, located northeasterly of NH Route 11 (Lake Shore Road), and south of the Belknap Point Road in the Town of Gilford, County of Belknap, identified as the parcel abutting the southerly side of Tax Map 242, Lot 232. The sale will be a direct sale to Richard Zagame for $47,100, which includes an assessed administrative fee of $1,100.

#10 Authorized the Bureau of Aeronautics to **retroactively** amend a grant to Laconia Airport Authority (originally approved by G&C on 11/22/22, Item #51), to design, permit, and bid the installation of a perimeter/wildlife fence and a gate at the Laconia Municipal Airport, Gilford, NH by extending the completion date from July 28, 2025 to July 28, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is needed with this time extension.

#11 Authorized the Bureau of Aeronautics to **retroactively** amend a grant to the Pease Development Authority (originally approved by G&C on 5/1/24, Item #42), to install perimeter/wildlife fencing (approximately 5,600 LF), Phase I (design, permit and bid) at the Skyhaven Airport, Rochester, NH by extending the completion date from July 28, 2025 to July 28, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. Time extension only, no additional funding.

#12 Authorized the Bureau of Aeronautics to **retroactively** amend a grant to the Pease Development Authority (originally approved by G&C on 5/1/24, Item #41), to design, permit and bid the reconstruction of the terminal automobile parking lot, Phase I, at the Skyhaven Airport, Rochester, NH by extending the completion date from July 28, 2025 to July 28, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. Time extension only, no additional funding.

#13 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with New England Infrastructure, Inc., Hudson, MA, on the basis of a low bid of $2,880,455 for preservation efforts on a 3-span bridge carrying NH 132 over I-393, US 4 and US 202 in Concord, NH. (2) Further authorized a contingency in the amount of $144,022.75, for payment of latent conditions which may appear during the construction of the project. Effective upon G&C approval through November 13, 2026, unless amended by the Department in accordance with the Standard Specifications. **100% Federal Funds**

#13A Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to enter into an agreement with Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Bedford, NH, for an amount not to exceed $750,000, for Statewide on-call professional survey services for various transportation projects located throughout the State. Effective upon G&C approval through January 31, 2031.

#13B Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners $50,677.86 as documented in the Contemplated Awards List, for amounts exceeding $5,000 for the period from November 19, 2025 through December 10, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Stephen acted as follows:

#14 Authorized to **retroactively** renew its membership with the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Tyrone, GA, in the amount of $2,750 for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Income**

#15 Authorized to make a **retroactive** one-time payment totaling $903.89 to Kristin Eustace, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-5, from State Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for compensation of wages which were not paid in State Fiscal Year 2025 and associated benefits totaling $194.33 for a total payment of $1,098.22. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#16 Authorized to make a **retroactive** one-time payment totaling $965.54 to Eric Goulet, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-5, from State Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for compensation of wages which were not paid in State Fiscal Year 2025 and associated benefits totaling $198.12 for a total payment of $1,163.66. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#17 Authorized to make a **retroactive** one-time payment totaling $1,255.05 to Briana Miller, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-5, from State Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for compensation of wages which were not paid in State Fiscal Year 2025 and associated benefits totaling $257.54 for a total payment of $1,512.59. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#18 Authorized to make a **retroactive** one-time payment totaling $965.54 to Michelle Sousa, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-5, from State Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for compensation of wages which were not paid in State Fiscal Year 2025 and associated benefits totaling $198.13 for a total payment of $1,163.67. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#19 Authorized to make a **retroactive** one-time payment totaling $841.72 to Elizabeth Thibodeau, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-5, from State Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for compensation of wages which were not paid in State Fiscal Year 2025 and associated benefits totaling $172.72 for a total payment of $1,014.44. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#19A Authorized to make a **retroactive** unencumbered payment to SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ in the total amount of $265,625 for digital archive services. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Agency Funds**

#19B Authorized to enter into a **retroactive** amendment to an existing contract with Peter P. Reich, DMD, Dover, NH (originally approved by G&C on 5/1/24, Item #53), for Dental Anesthesia Inspection Services, by extending the completion date from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026, with no change to the price limitation. **100% Agency Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Stevens acted as follows:

#20 Authorized to accept and expend monies collected from the Town of Colebrook, NH in the amount of $59,702 for reassessment work completed by the DRA. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. **100% Agency Income**

#21 Authorized to place Ms. Susan Lambert at Step 7 of unclassified salary grade DD, earning $101,490 annually, for the position of Field Audit Leader. Effective January 9, 2026, upon G&C approval. **100% General Funds**

#22 Authorized to **retroactively** pay a membership fee to the Multistate Tax Commission, Washington, DC in the amount of $12,761, for membership in the Nexus Program as an Associate Member. Effective July 1, 2025, upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% General Funds**

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill acted as follows:

#23 Authorized to receive an additional appropriation from funds not otherwise appropriated in the total amount of $1,500,000. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. **100% General Funds. Fiscal Committee approved an additional appropriation of $5,500,000 on October 17, 2025.**

#24 Authorized to receive an additional appropriation from funds not otherwise appropriated in the total amount of $1,000,000. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. **100% General Funds. Amended by Fiscal Committee to authorize an additional appropriation of $1,000,000 and approved on December 19, 2025.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS, AND FOOD

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Kenney acted as follows:

#25 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a grant agreement with Applecrest Farm Orchards, LLC, Hampton Falls, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $98,950. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorized an advance payment in the amount of $98,950 to Applecrest Farm Orchards, LLC, Hampton Falls, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

#26 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a grant agreement with Coppal House Farm, Lee, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $34,330.51. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorized an advance payment in the amount of $34,330.51 to Coppal House Farm, Lee, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

#27 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a grant agreement with Gilmanton's Own Inc., Gilmanton, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $76,634.96. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorized an advance payment in the amount of $76,634.96 to Gilmanton's Own Inc., Gilmanton, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

#28 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a grant agreement with Meredith Farm Growers LLC, Meredith, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $55,978.09. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorized an advance payment in the amount of $55,978.09 to Meredith Farm Growers LLC, Meredith, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

#29 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a grant agreement with Sherman Farm LLC, Center Conway, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $17,938.76. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorized an advance payment in the amount of $17,938.76 to Sherman Farm LLC, Center Conway, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

#30 **WITHDRAWN** – The Agency withdrew the request to enter into a grant agreement with Sunnycrest Farm Inc., Londonderry, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of $62,046. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.** (2) Further authorize an advance payment in the amount of $62,046 to Sunnycrest Farm Inc., Londonderry, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds**

LIQUOR COMMISSION

#31 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Stevens authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Givex USA Corporation, Gurnee, IL, in the amount of $425,000 for stored value card processing and related services. Effective upon G&C approval through February 29, 2028, with the option to renew for an additional two-year period. **100% Liquor Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill acted as follows:

#32 Authorized a salary increment for Michelle Cruz, Director of Travel and Tourism Development, in the amount of $5,835, from a current annual salary of $118,352 to a new annual salary of $124,187. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% General Funds**

#33 Authorized the Division of Travel and Tourism Development to **retroactively** renew a membership with the US Travel Association, Washington, DC, in the amount of $9,400 for the 2026 calendar year. Effective upon G&C approval for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **100% General Funds**

#34 Authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NH Department of Environmental Services to provide $55,693 for the purpose of administering part of the scope of the National Flood Insurance Program, which is reimbursed through the Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element grant. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

#35 NOT USED

#36 NOT USED

#37 NOT USED

#38 NOT USED

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Kenney acted as follows:

#39 Authorized to make **retroactive sole source** unencumbered payments to Melvin Village Marina, Melvin Village, NH for 4 invoices, totaling $4,902.86 for the servicing and winterizing of the department's boat. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Fish and Game Funds**

#40 Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Matson's Laboratory, LLC, Manhattan, Montana in the amount of $12,468.50 to perform cementum analysis of teeth collected from captured and/or harvested New Hampshire black bear, moose, fisher, and bobcats to provide age and reproductive histories (female bears only). Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **75% Federal Funds, 25% Other (Game Management Funds)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Liot Hill, seconded by Councilor Wheeler acted as follows:

#41 Authorized to enter into a contract with Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc., Farmington, ME in the amount of $100,000 to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act for the "Restoring NH Salt Marshes" award. Effective upon G&C approval through March 31, 2028. **100% Federal Funds**

#42 Authorized, with Councilor Wheeler voting **no**, to enter into a **retroactive sole source** amendment to the contract with Busby Construction Co., Inc., Atkinson, NH (originally approved by G&C on 7/27/22, Item #72), for as-needed and emergency earthworks repair services for the Winnipesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) by increasing the contract amount by $450,000 from $297,000 to $747,000 and extending the contract completion date from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Effective as of July 1, 2025, upon G&C approval through June 30, 2028. **100% WRBP Funds**

#43 Authorized to award a grant to the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Falmouth, ME, in the amount of $9,000 to support the Gulf of Main Council Coordinator. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

#44 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Town of Bethlehem, NH totaling $192,833 for partial funding for the replacement of one engine model year 2008 plow truck. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% New Hampshire Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds**

#45 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Town of Marlow, NH totaling $212,781 for partial funding for the replacement of one engine model year 1994 plow truck. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% New Hampshire Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds**

#46 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Town of Raymond, NH totaling $156,889 for partial funding for the replacement of one bucket truck. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% New Hampshire Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds**

#47 Authorized to award a grant to the Freedom-Madison-Tamworth School District, Tamworth, NH, in the amount not to exceed $28,750 for lead remediation in drinking water at the three district schools, under the provisions of RSA 485:F. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund**

#48 Authorized to award a grant to the Governor Wentworth Regional School District, Wolfeboro Falls, NH, in the amount not to exceed $60,000 for lead remediation in drinking water, under the provisions of RSA 485:F. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund**

#49 Authorized to award a grant to the Sanborn Regional School District, Kingston, NH, in the amount not to exceed $75,000 for lead remediation in drinking water at four district schools, under the provisions of RSA 485:F. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund**

#50 Authorized to award a grant to the Warren Village School District, North Haverhill, NH, in the amount not to exceed $36,000 for lead remediation in drinking water at the Warren Village School, under the provisions of RSA 485:F. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund**

#51 Authorized to **retroactively** amend a grant agreement with the Red Sleigh Condo Association, Plymouth, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3/22/23, Item #97), by extending the completion date from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2027, for drinking water system improvements. Effective January 1, 2026, upon G&C approval through December 31, 2027. This is a no cost time extension. **73% Federal Funds, 27% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund**

#52 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Manchester, NH totaling $2,500 for the purpose of used oil collections. Effective upon G&C approval through July 31, 2026. **100% Hazardous Waste Cleanup Funds**

#53 Authorized to amend a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Grant and Loan Fund, loan agreement with Century Community Association, Inc., Londonderry, NH (originally approved by G&C on 10/30/24, Item #89) by increasing the loan limitation by $502,000 from $272,287 to $774,287, for an interconnection to a larger public water system, subject to conditions as outlined in the letter dated December 10, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% PFAS Response Fund**

#54 Authorized to approve a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan agreement with North Conway Water Precinct, NH in an amount not to exceed $15,128,668, to finance the Saco River Erosion Mitigation for Protection of the Wastewater Treatment Facility project under the provisions of RSA 486:14 and NH Code of Admin Rules Env-Wq 500 et seq. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% CWSRF Repayment Funds**

#55 Authorized Clifford Antonell's request to perform work on Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, NH.

#56 Authorized Curry Place Cottages LLC's request to perform work on Squam Lake in Holderness, NH.

#57 Authorized Daniel & Gisele Desantis's request to perform work on Lake Winnipesaukee in Gilford, NH.

#58 Authorized the Town of Hudson's request to perform work on Robinson Pond in Hudson, NH.

#59 Authorized Robert C and Jennifer W Purdy Trust's request to perform work on Lake Winnipesaukee in Alton, NH.

#60 Authorized Jeremy Stannard's request to perform work on Lake Winnipesaukee in Alton, NH.

#61 Authorized the Town of Sunapee's request to perform work on Sunapee Lake in Sunapee, NH.

#62 Authorized True North Development LLC's request to perform work on Little Bay in Dover, NH.

#63 Authorized to accept and place on file the annual summary report for Fiscal Year 2025, pursuant to the MtBE Remediation Fund Implementation Plan.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCILS

#64 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Liot Hill, seconded by Councilor Stevens authorized to accept and place on file the Air Resources Council's annual report for year ending 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

#65 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill authorized to enter into an interagency **sole source** grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, Concord, NH in the amount of $120,000 to assist in the operation of approved Career and Technical Education programs. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

NEW HAMPSHIRE LOTTERY AND GAMING COMMISSION

#66 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Valor Autoworks LLC, Concord, NH in the amount of $75,000 for automotive repair and preventative maintenance services. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2027. **100% Lottery Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Stephen acted as follows:

#67 Authorized the Office of the Commissioner to accept and expend funds from the FFY 2026 New Hampshire Department of Safety Highway Safety Grant Agreement, in the amount of $4,000 for the purchase of digital ads on WMUR.com to support the enforcement of Sherrill's Law (Move Over Law). Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Federal Transfer from Agencies**

#68 Authorized the Division of State Police to enter into grant agreements with the Grantees as detailed in the letter dated December 16, 2025 in an amount not to exceed $214,597.06 to support law enforcement agencies in the purchasing of necessary equipment to electronically share criminal justice data. Effective upon G&C approval, full contract execution, and grant funding acceptance through September 30, 2026. **100% Federal Revenue Transfers from Other Agencies.**

#69 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Laconia Police Department – Belknap County Special Operations Group in the amount of $31,000 for a portion of the 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program. Effective upon G&C approval through August 31, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

#70 Authorized to enter into grant agreements with local entities as detailed in the letter dated November 21, 2025, in the amount of $594,303 for a portion of the 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program. Effective upon G&C approval, full contract execution at the local agency level and review and approval by the NH Department of Justice, and grantee funding acceptance of the award terms and condition through the eligible Federal Grant period of September 30, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

#71 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with Palace Theatre Trust, Manchester, NH, in the amount of $131,250 to provide funding for physical and cyber security enhancements and other security-related activities. Effective upon G&C approval through April 30, 2028. **100% Federal Funds**

#72 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Academy for Science and Design, Nashua, NH, in the amount of $102,994 to provide funding for physical and cyber security enhancements and other security-related activities. Effective upon G&C approval through April 30, 2028. **100% Federal Funds**

#73 Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Coos County Sheriff Office for a total amount of $102,980 to reduce the instance of crimes and illicit activity near the Canadian border. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. **100% General Funds**

#74 **WITHDRAWN** – The Agency withdrew the request of the Division of State Police to enter into a contract with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc., Wilsonville, OR, in an amount not to exceed $409,098 for the upgrade of their FLIR 380 HDC thermal imaging system on the State Police Bell 407 helicopter. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2029. **7.57% General Funds, 86.86% Highway Funds, 5.57% Turnpike Funds**

#75 Authorized the Division of State Police to enter into a contract with Nicole L. Sawyer, Psy D PLLC, Exeter, NH, in an amount not to exceed $90,000 for the provision in de-escalating crisis negotiations and management of critical incidents. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2028, with the option to renew for one two-year period. **34% General Funds, 41% Highway Funds, 25% Turnpike Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill acted as follows:

#76 Authorized to appoint Nicholas J. Apostolopoulos, as an Assistant Deputy Medical Examiner, at a salary level of $66,192. Effective upon G&C approval or January 9, 2026, whichever is later. **100% Agency Income**

#77 Authorized to reappoint Susan Watkins, as Chief Forensic Investigator, at a salary level of $96,735. Effective upon G&C approval or January 24, 2026, whichever is later, for a term ending January 24, 2031. **80% General Funds, 20% Agency Income**

#78 Authorized to grant a salary increase to Jon-Daniel Lavalle, Assistant Attorney General, in the amount of $15,810, from a salary level of $104,940 to a salary level of $120,750. Effective upon G&C approval or January 9, 2026, whichever is later. **100% General Funds**

#79 Authorized to grant an annual salary increment to Courtney Sirois, Victim/Witness Specialist, in the amount of $4,784, from a salary level of $82,441 to a salary level of $87,225. Effective January 12, 2026, upon G&C approval. **100% General Funds**

#80 Authorized to **retroactively** pay organizational dues to the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units, Washington, DC, in the amount of $15,904 for the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit's Annual Dues for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. **75% Federal Funds, 24% General Funds, 1% Agency Income**

#81 Authorized to enter into a subgrant with the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Concord, NH, in an amount not to exceed $774,642.82, from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Sexual Assault Services Program grant, for the purpose of providing services to victims of sexual violence. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. **100% Federal Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

#82 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill authorized to enter into a **retroactive** amendment to an existing contract with Fidelity Information Services, LLC, Jacksonville, FL (originally approved by G&C on 12/3/25, Item #76), for Electronic Benefits Transfer services for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, and cash assistance programs, to modify contract language to align with federal regulations, with no change to the price limitation of $1,744,178 and no change to the contract completion date of November 30, 2032. Effective **retroactive** to January 1, 2026, upon G&C approval. **42% Federal Funds, 58% General Funds**

Division of Economic Stability

#83 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Stevens authorized to enter into a contract with Center for Policy Research, Denver, CO, in the amount of $119,916 to provide a thorough, fair, and impartial review of and recommendations for the New Hampshire Child Support Guidelines, in accordance with 45 CFR 302.56(e), Guidelines for setting child support orders, and NH RSA 458-C:6, Review of Guidelines. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2028. **66% Federal Funds, 34% General Funds**

Division for Behavioral Health

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Stevens acted as follows:

#84 Authorized, on behalf of the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, to enter into a **sole source** grant agreement with the Manchester Police Department, Manchester, NH, in the amount of $80,000 to purchase two spectrometers to strategically deploy in response to emergency overdoses and provide immediate, on-scene identification of approximately 24,000 controlled and hazardous substances. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026, with the option to renew for up to one additional year. **100% Other Funds (Opioid Abatement Trust Fund)**

#85 Authorized to enter into contracts with the Contractors as detailed in the letter dated December 16, 2025 in an amount not to exceed $500,000 to implement and operate a Recovery Enhancement Program, in conjunction with outpatient substance use disorder treatment services, to reduce substance use and improve engagement in treatment for individuals with a diagnosed opioid and/or stimulant use disorder. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2027, with the option to renew for up to four additional years. **100% Federal Funds**

Division of Public Health

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill acted as follows:

#86 Authorized to accept and expend $25,270 from the United States Food and Drug Administration to fund the Grade A Milk program. (2) Further authorized the allocation of these funds as detailed in the letter dated December 15, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Federal Funds**

#87 Authorized, on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services, to make a **sole source** purchase of immunizations from the vendors as detailed in the letter dated December 17, 2025 to be distributed to healthcare providers in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contracted prices in various amounts not to exceed a total $7,322,715. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2026. **100% Other Funds**

#88 Authorized to enter into a contract with JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. d/b/a Community Health Institute, Bow, NH, in the amount of $222,850 for public health training and community engagement services. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for up to two additional years. **87% Federal Funds, 13% General Funds**

New Hampshire Hospital

#89 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill authorized to enter into Provider Agreements with NH Probate Court appointed independent psychiatrists for the purpose of conducting independent evaluations for nonemergency involuntary admissions for individuals at New Hampshire Hospital, in accordance with RSA 135-C:40, Examination by Psychiatrist. (2) Further authorized to make unencumbered payments not to exceed $1,241,000 for all participating NH Probate Court appointed independent psychiatrists. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for up to four additional years. **100% General Funds**

Division of Long Term Supports and Services

#90 The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Stephen authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Office of Public Guardian, Concord, NH, in the amount of $200,000 for the provision of guardian or conservator services pursuant to RSA 151-E:28 to assist incapacitated adults to transition from hospital settings to less restrictive settings. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for up to four additional years. **100% General Funds appropriated in House Bill 2 (2025), Chapter 141:433**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill acted as follows:

#91 Authorized a Working Capital Warrant for the month of February 2026 in the amount of $650,000,000 to cover the payment of expenditures for the month.

#92 Authorized to purchase the land, buildings, and other improvements comprising the North Parcel at Granite Place off of Rumford Street in Concord, NH from 2GRANITE PLACE LLC, Concord, NH, for up to $15,174,750, inclusive of anticipated closing costs, pursuant to the terms of a certain Purchase and Sale Agreement submitted herewith to be effective upon authorization by the G&C, and to pay certain additional customary and negotiated closing costs associated therewith. **100% Capital Funds.** (2) Authorized to engage the law firm of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P. A., Manchester, NH, to issue an owner's title insurance policy to the State of New Hampshire and to provide title, escrow, closing, and settlement agent services for the foregoing purchase of the Property, the total cost of such services, including an estimated fixed-rate title insurance premium in the amount of $23,400, being estimated at $26,400. The total cost of such services and the estimated title insurance premium are typical and customary acquisition costs for a buyer of commercial real property in New Hampshire. **100% Capital Funds**

#93 Authorized to enter into a contract with Calise & Sons Bakery, Inc., Lincoln, RI, in an amount up to and not to exceed $911,323.44 for baked goods. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2030, with the option to extend for up to two additional years.

#94 **TABLED** - The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Kenney, voted to **table** the request to enter into a contract with HP Hood LLC, Lynnfield, MA, in an amount up to and not to exceed $3,214,415.54 for dairy products. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2030, with the option to extend for up to two additional years.

#95 Authorized to enter into a contract with Four Brothers Environmental, LLC, Greenland, NH, for hazardous material testing services in an amount up to and not to exceed $6,098,899.22. Effective upon G&C approval for the period April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2031, with the option to extend for up to an additional two years.

#96 Authorized to enter into a contract with SLR International Corporation, Bedford, NH, for hazardous material testing services in an amount up to and not to exceed $5,380,382.81. Effective upon G&C approval for the period April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2031, with the option to extend for up to an additional two years.

#97 Authorized to enter into a contract with Warrior Sports Holdings LLC, Charleston, SC, for ammunition in an amount up to and not to exceed $653,906.25. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2030, with the option to extend for up to an additional two years.

#98 Authorized to enter into a contract with Gerard A. LaFlamme, Inc., Manchester, NH, for electrical repair services in an amount up to and not to exceed $900,000. Effective upon G&C approval for the period February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2031, with the option to extend for up to two years.

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TABLED ITEMS REMOVED AND APPROVED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

#29 Authorized, under the Community Development Block Grant program, to award a grant to the County of Strafford, Dover, NH, in the amount of $25,000, on behalf of the Initiative for Housing Policy and Practice at Saint Anselm College, to support advancing locally driven solutions to housing challenges through targeted community-based conversations held throughout Strafford County. Effective upon G&C approval for the period through June 30, 2027. **100% Federal Funds**

On December 17, 2025:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Kenney moved to adopt this item for discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Liot Hill, seconded by Councilor Kenney, voted to **table** item #29 above.

On January 7, 2026:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Kenney voted to remove item #29 above from the table. Then, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill, voted to adopt item #29 for the purpose of discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council with all in favor approved item #29 above.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

#47 Authorized the Division of Forests and Lands to enter into a contract with EdgePro Flooring, Inc., Kingston, NH in the amount of $57,998 to provide new flooring services in the Forests and Lands North Country Resource Center, located at 629B Main Street, Lancaster, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through April 30, 2026. **100% Capital Funds**

On December 17, 2025:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill, voted to **table** item #47 above.

On January 7, 2026:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Kenney voted to remove item #47 above from the table. Then, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Kenney, voted to adopt item #47 for the purpose of discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council with all in favor approved item #47 above.

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

#84 Authorized the permit application of WABANAKI CAMPGROUND CONVERSION, LLC located on Ossipee Lake, Freedom, NH, as recommended by the Department of Safety, Division of State Police Marine Patrol to establish thirty-one moorings of a Congregate Mooring Field under the authority of RSA 270:67.

On December 17, 2025:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Liot Hill, voted to **table** item #84 above.

On January 7, 2026:

The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Liot Hill, seconded by Councilor Kenney voted to remove item #84 above from the table. Then, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Kenney, seconded by Councilor Stephen, voted to adopt item #84 for the purpose of discussion. Following discussion, the Governor and Council, with Councilor Stevens abstaining, approved item #84 above.

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The next regular Governor and Executive Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the State House, Concord, NH.

The Honorable Board then adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Minutes taken by Kaley Dion, Assistant Secretary of State