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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

August 7, 2019

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TDD Access: Relay NH  
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:  
[www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov)

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Executive Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 145, subparagraph I, (a), Laws of 2019, the Public Utilities Commission requests authorization to exceed the 3/12 limitation of said resolution for the accounts listed on the attached analysis, in the total amount of **\$180,500**, to the extent shown as projected deficits for the period of Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2019. **0% General, 100% Other Funds**

**PERSONAL SERVICES PERMANENT - 100% Other Fund**

Account	Activity	Class	Cont. Res. Budget	Estimated Expenditures	Projected Deficit
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Commission - PUC Classified	010	1,128,991	1,268,991	(140,000)
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Commission - PUC Unclassified	011	95,635	101,135	(5,500)
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Commission - PUC Unclassified	013	29,955	31,755	(1,800)
02-81-81-812010-28160000	Consumer Advocate - Classified	010	76,834	81,834	(5,000)
02-81-81-812010-28160000	Consumer Advocate-Unclassified	011	25,214	27,014	(1,800)
02-81-81-810510-28300000	Gas Safety Division - Unclassified	012	29,731	31,731	(2,000)
02-81-81-813510-30740000	Site Evaluation Committee- Uncl	011	27,450	29,150	(1,700)
	<b>Other Funding</b>		<b>1,413,810</b>	<b>1,571,610</b>	<b>(157,800)</b>

**BENEFITS - 100% Other Fund**

Account	Activity	Class	Cont. Res. Budget	Estimated Expenditures	Projected Deficit
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Commission PUC -Classified	060	634,604	651,104	(16,500)
02-81-81-8120010-28160000	Office of Consumer Advocate	060	46,160	52,360	(6,200)
	<b>Other Funding</b>		<b>680,764</b>	<b>703,464</b>	<b>(22,700)</b>

**Total - Other Funding**

**2,094,574      2,275,074      (180,500)**

## EXPLANATION

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) respectfully requests that above expenditure classes in specific accounting units be increased for the amounts noted, in excess of the 3/12 limitation established pursuant to Chapter 145, subparagraph I, (a), Laws of 2019.

The deficits projected through the end of the continuing resolution, September 30, 2019, are the result of anticipated payroll and benefit obligations, which will exceed the 25% level of funding for FY 2019, as reflected in the PUC agency budget request for the FY 2020-2021 biennium.

The primary driver for the shortfalls expected in the payroll and benefit line is the timing of the State's bi-weekly payroll processing schedule that places 7 pay periods in the 3-month span of the Continuing Resolution. (This seventh payroll is one of two extra monthly pay periods of our annual 26 pay period cycle, which places three FY 2020 payrolls in the months of August and January.)

Additional contributors to the shortfalls, unique to the personnel makeup of each accounting unit, may include one or more of the following:

- The effect of the hiring of any individual(s) at a higher level of pay or benefit plan than originally planned for in the FY 2018-2019 budget process.
- The effect of an additional salary increment (step) available for employees associated with the most recent collective bargaining agreements, versus the original budgeted projections.
- Longevity and benefit payments as the result of employee retirements or their decision to leave State service.

The list of shortfall contributors above, would normally be mitigated in part by the agency's ability to seek relief from the Salary Adjustment Fund (RSA 99:4) and or the Benefit Adjustment fund (RSA 9:17,c) for these unbudgeted but normal costs of conducting the State's business.

**Listed below are answers to standard questions required of all Fiscal Committee item requests, related to RSA 9:16-a, "Transfers authorized," RSA 14:30-a, VI "Expenditure of funds over \$100,000 from any Non State Source," or RSA 124:15, "Positions Authorized," or both, and all emergency requests pursuant to "Chapter 145, subparagraph I, (a), Laws of 2019, making temporary appropriations for the expenses and encumbrances of the State of New Hampshire":**

- 1. *Is the action required of this request a result of the Continuing Resolution for FY 2020? Yes, this request is a result of the Continuing Resolution. This action would not have been requested if the FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget proposal had been approved.***
- 2. *If this request is retroactive what is the significance and importance of the action being effective from an earlier date? This request is not retroactive.***
- 3. *Is this a previously funded and ongoing program established through Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council action? (If so, include as an attachment the original documents as approved and cite the specific dates of authorization and end dates for each***

*action as part of your answer to this question.)* This request is not related to prior Fiscal Committee and/or Governor and Council action.

4. ***Was funding for this program included in the FY 2018-2019 enacted Budget or requested and denied?*** Appropriate funding for salaries and benefits was requested and authorized in the FY 2018-2019 enacted budget.
5. ***Is this program in total or in part, included in the vetoed FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget proposal currently pending for your department, or was it requested and denied?*** The total funding needs to support the salaries and benefits for the PUC were requested and included in the FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget proposal currently pending. A footnote to the SEC (30740000) FY 2020-2021 budget proposal provided for additional funding from the General Fund in the event that expenditures were greater than application and filing fees. We anticipate application fees will support the projected deficit in salary and benefits through September 30, 2019.
6. ***Does this program include, either positions or consultants, and if so are the positions filled, vacant, or have offers pending? (Please provide details for each position and note whether consultant contracts have been awarded.)*** This request is the result of the need for additional funding to support filled position costs associated with the seven pay periods of the Continuing Resolution and other expected payroll anomalies, which occur annually. There is currently one vacant position that we are recruiting for that will impact salaries and benefits in the last two pay periods of the Continuing Resolution.
7. ***What would be the effect should this program be discontinued or not initiated as a result of this request being denied?*** The State is obligated to make payment to individuals for the work that they perform on our behalf. The denial of the request would necessitate that the PUC return to Fiscal Committee with a transfer request compiled from any allowable expenditure class line with identical funding to mitigate the anticipated shortfalls in these salary and benefit lines.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin P. Honigberg  
Chairman