

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner  
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and  
Energy, Utilities and Technology**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of  
State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain  
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for  
the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023”**

**February 24, 2021**

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Good morning Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Kirsten Figueroa, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2022-2023 biennial budget bill, LD 221, specifically those items on today’s agenda for the Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund.

**Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund**

The **Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund** is on page **A-476**. The Council is tasked with administering the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) program within the state. TRS is a program where individuals call a single number, 7-1-1, which connects them to the TRS provider for the state who acts as a translator between hearing individuals and deaf or hard of hearing individuals to permit telephonic communications among all users of the public switched telephone network. The primary benefit of the system is that it does not require both parties on the call to have assistive devices.

The Council prepares an annual budget to cover the costs of the telecommunications relay services vendor and adaptive equipment as well as communication and pilot efforts meant to promote and increase the use of TRS. Funds are transferred from the Universal Service Fund to this fund for this state and federally mandated service.

The budget and funds transferred may not exceed \$600,000 per year, which ties to the allocation you see on page A-476.

There are no new initiatives in this program.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to take questions for the work session.