MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES 78 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0078

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Paul R. LePage

Members, Legislative Council

Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

FROM: Richard W. Rosen, Commissioner

Department of Administrative & Financial Services

DATE: April 21, 2015

SUBJ: Revenues – March

March General Fund revenues were under budget by \$20.7 million or -9.4%. For the first three quarters of FY15 General Fund revenues are \$21.7 million over budget (+1.0%). Compared to the same nine month period of last fiscal year, FY15 General Fund revenues are up 7.7% (+\$152.2 million).

February taxable sales (March revenue) only increased by 2% over a year ago, but unlike January consumer sales increased at a healthy rate of 4.1%. Most of the monthly variance came from weak utility sales (-13.7% year-over-year) and business operating sales (+0.9%). Auto/transportation sales rebounded in February, increasing by 10.7% over last year. Looking forward, we expect revenues to accelerate with the improving weather.

Once again, individual income tax receipts accounted for most of the monthly variance. Individual income tax revenue was under budget in March by \$15 million, with refunds representing \$19.6 million of the monthly deficit. While some of the underage is from lower than anticipated requests for the property tax fairness credit, there appears to be a portion associated with stronger than forecasted income growth in tax year 2014. As always, April receipts will provide more definitive information on the previous calendar year's income performance.

Sales & Use Taxes

Revenue was \$2.6 million under budget for the month and \$3.3 million (-0.4%) under budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$65.1 million (+8.9%) over fiscal year 2014.

Taxable Sales

Total taxable sales for the month of February (March revenue) were 2.0% over February 2014. The annual rate of change excluding utilities was 3.7%. Building supply sales were down 0.1% for the month and up 2.7% for the year ending in February. Sales of taxable items in food stores were up 4.4% for the month and 4.1% for the year. General merchandise sales (primarily sales of goods sold in large department and discount stores) were up 0.5% for the month and 2.1% for the year. Sales in other retail stores such as jewelry, drug, sporting goods, book, antique, pet, photo, toy, and craft stores were up 1.5% for the month and 2.1% for the year. Auto/transportation sector sales were up 10.7% for the month and 6.6% for the year. Sales of meals and other prepared foods were up 4.1% for the month and 4.9% for the year. Lodging sales were down 8.9% for the month and up 3.8% for the year. Business operating sales (primarily use tax paid by businesses) were up 0.9% for the month and 1.5% for the year.

Service Provider Tax

Revenue was \$401,090 under budget for the month and \$994,385 (-3.0%) under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Individual Income Tax

Revenue was \$15.0 million under budget for the month and \$43.7 million (+4.7%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date withholding payments were 3.4% over fiscal year 2014. Estimated payments were up 5.8% and final payments were up 11.7% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$68 million (+7.6%) over fiscal year 2014.

Corporate Income Tax

Revenue was \$46,915 over budget for the month and \$14.2 million (-12%) under budget fiscal year-to-date. Estimated payments were down 0.9% and final payments were up 16.3% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$8.8 million (-7.8%) under fiscal year 2014.

Cigarette & Tobacco Taxes

Cigarette and tobacco products tax revenue was \$1.3 million over budget for the month and \$1.7 million (+1.7%) over budget fiscal year-to-date.

Insurance Companies Taxes

The Insurance Companies Taxes were \$3.3 million under budget for the month and \$2.8 million under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Estate Tax

The estate tax was \$1 million under budget for the month and \$3.5 million under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Transfers for Tax Relief Programs

Refunds for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) and Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) programs were under budget in March by \$1.2 million and are now under budget for the fiscal year by a similar amount.

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was over budget in March by \$2.1 million. For the fiscal year revenue sharing is \$2.9 million over budget or 7.0%.

Lottery

Lottery Revenues were slightly under budget for the month. Year-to-date lottery receipts remain \$1.9 million below projections.

Other Revenues

Other Revenues were under budget for the month by \$0.3 million. For the fiscal year other revenues are over budget by \$0.2 million (+0.9%).

Highway Fund

Motor fuel excise tax receipts were over budget in March by \$1.1 million. The Highway Fund as a whole was under budget for the month by \$3.1 million. Through the first nine months of the fiscal year motor fuel excise taxes are \$0.9 million over budget and the Highway Fund is \$3.9 million over budget. Compared to the first nine months of FY14, motor fuel excise tax receipts have increased this fiscal year by 0.4%.

National Economy

The third estimate of fourth quarter real GDP growth was released late last month and confirmed that the economy slowed considerably compared to the previous two quarters. After averaging almost 5% real growth in the second and third quarters of 2014, fourth quarter real GDP growth slipped to 2.2%. Early estimates for the first quarter of 2015 are for only 1% real growth. The main reason given for the first quarter slowdown is weather, but a strong dollar is also slowing exports and increasing imports. The weak start to the calendar year has resulted in some forecasters reducing their forecasts for economic growth from 3% or more to less than 3% for 2015.

Maine Economy

The Federal Reserve issued their Beige Book report on April 15th and the report for the New England region was mixed. Bad weather, a strong dollar and "ongoing energy price increases associated with limited natural gas capacity in the region" were the reasons given for the less optimistic report from the regional bank's business contacts. Retail and manufacturing were the sectors hardest hit by the factors listed above. While retailers reported weak sales growth for the quarter, they are optimistic that consumer sales will pick up during the remainder of 2015. Manufacturers remain concerned about how the strong dollar will affect them going forward, but expect the energy price issue to lessen as the warm weather arrives. The Boston Fed noted that commercial real estate markets are improving in Boston and Portland. The industrial leasing market is so strong in the Portland area that new construction activity is expected to pick up soon.

The Revenue Forecasting Committee is scheduled to meet on April 29th to review the recent CEFC report and determine if any changes are necessary to their December 1, 2014 forecast.

RWR:mja

Attachments

cc: John McGough
Aaron Chadbourne
Grant Pennoyer
Chris Nolan
Marc Cyr
Amanda Rector
Jim Breece
Jerome Gerard
Melissa Gott

EXHIBIT I **Undedicated Revenues - General Fund**

For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2015
Sales and Use Tax	74,030,665	76,587,723	(2,557,058)	(3.3%)	797,542,403	800,806,234	(3,263,831)	(0.4%)	1,194,004,518
Service Provider Tax	3,635,780	4,036,870	(401,090)	(9.9%)	32,132,934	33,127,319	(994,385)	(3.0%)	50,303,776
Individual Income Tax	45,883,373	60,933,334	(15,049,961)	(24.7%)	965,360,124	921,629,900	43,730,224	4.7%	1,448,905,200
Corporate Income Tax	26,801,915	26,755,000	46,915	0.2%	104,019,793	118,237,911	(14,218,118)	(12.0%)	186,481,769
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	11,179,424	9,836,234	1,343,190	13.7%	102,077,943	100,369,419	1,708,524	1.7%	134,890,000
Insurance Companies Tax	11,911,560	15,192,172	(3,280,612)	(21.6%)	27,276,011	30,026,321	(2,750,310)	(9.2%)	82,250,000
Estate Tax	1,264,437	2,295,000	(1,030,563)	(44.9%)	23,557,750	27,049,951	(3,492,201)	(12.9%)	38,406,991
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	2,423,839	1,865,355	558,484	29.9%	16,827,308	16,934,181	(106,873)	(0.6%)	23,000,770
Income from Investments	59,317	(301)	59,618	19806.7%	352,771	74,181	278,590	375.6%	112,451
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,441,014	4,442,342	(1,328)	(0.0%)	41,098,753	43,012,851	(1,914,098)	(4.5%)	57,350,462
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(521,228)	(1,710,627)	1,189,399	69.5%	(57,528,306)	(58,747,055)	1,218,749	2.1%	(59,183,362)
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(4,015,838)	(1,907,160)	(2,108,678)	(110.6%)	(45,113,211)	(42,171,381)	(2,941,830)	(7.0%)	(61,599,125)
Other Taxes and Fees	19,856,123	19,080,733	775,390	4.1%	102,756,847	98,482,813	4,274,034	4.3%	132,333,097
Other Revenues	3,583,119	3,835,785	(252,666)	(6.6%)	20,646,133	20,461,201	184,932	0.9%	49,587,338
Total Collected	200,533,500	221,242,460	(20,708,961)	(9.4%)	2,131,007,253	2,109,293,846	21,713,407	1.0%	3,276,843,885

NOTES: (1) Included in the above is \$4,015,838 for the month and \$45,113,211 year to date, that was set aside for Revenue Sharing with cities and towns

⁽²⁾ Figures reflect estimates of the Maine State Revenue Forecasting Committee approved in December 2014, updated by PL 2013 c 380, and PL 2015 c 1

⁽³⁾ This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015 and 2014 Comparison to Prior Year

EXHIBIT II **Undedicated Revenues - General Fund**

	Month				Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Sales and Use Tax	74,030,665	72,786,213	1,244,452	1.7%	797,542,403	732,433,193	65,109,210	8.9%		
Service Provider Tax	3,635,780	3,926,916	(291,137)	(7.4%)	32,132,934	32,266,835	(133,901)	(0.4%)		
Individual Income Tax	45,883,373	57,322,877	(11,439,504)	(20.0%)	965,360,124	897,398,155	67,961,969	7.6%		
Corporate Income Tax	26,801,915	25,493,604	1,308,311	5.1%	104,019,793	112,858,520	(8,838,727)	(7.8%)		
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	11,179,424	9,953,304	1,226,120	12.3%	102,077,943	101,388,711	689,232	0.7%		
Insurance Companies Tax	11,911,560	15,335,725	(3,424,165)	(22.3%)	27,276,011	29,312,437	(2,036,426)	(6.9%)		
Estate Tax	1,264,437	2,526,915	(1,262,477)	(50.0%)	23,557,750	14,110,756	9,446,994	66.9%		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	2,423,839	2,597,814	(173,974)	(6.7%)	16,827,308	17,488,357	(661,049)	(3.8%)		
Income from Investments	59,317	7,066	52,251	739.4%	352,771	186,928	165,843	88.7%		
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,441,014	4,767,258	(326,244)	(6.8%)	41,098,753	38,900,063	2,198,690	5.7%		
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(521,228)	(2,205,531)	1,684,303	76.4%	(57,528,306)	(64,774,464)	7,246,158	11.2%		
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(4,015,838)	(1,503,213)	(2,512,624)	(167.2%)	(45,113,211)	(46,783,676)	1,670,465	3.6%		
Other Taxes and Fees	19,856,123	19,071,362	784,761	4.1%	102,756,847	97,655,406	5,101,441	5.2%		
Other Revenues	3,583,119	3,712,418	(129,299)	(3.5%)	20,646,133	16,387,087	4,259,046	26.0%		
Total Collected	200,533,500	213,792,728	(13,259,229)	(6.2%)	2,131,007,253	1,978,828,308	152,178,945	7.7%		

EXHIBIT III Undedicated Revenues - General Fund

For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2015
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees					-				
0100s All Others	3,253,939	3,158,409	95,530	3.0%	23,459,183	22,648,609	810,574	3.6%	29,853,525
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	19,487	18,831	656	3.5%	201,885	198,834	3,051	1.5%	262,277
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,156,294	1,471,816	(315,522)	(21.4%)	13,500,128	13,246,344	253,784	1.9%	17,661,852
0700s Corporation Taxes	1,771,869	1,164,725	607,144	52.1%	4,031,970	3,369,380	662,590	19.7%	8,313,649
0800s Public Utilities	8,033,116	8,250,000	(216,884)	(2.6%)	8,085,406	8,250,000	(164,594)	(2.0%)	8,250,000
1000s Banking Taxes	2,606,900	1,987,664	619,236	31.2%	21,515,200	19,388,998	2,126,202	11.0%	25,351,990
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	467,010	397,448	69,562	17.5%	4,823,028	3,998,533	824,495	20.6%	5,221,140
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	680,613	727,659	(47,046)	(6.5%)	6,419,819	6,792,357	(372,538)	(5.5%)	8,922,512
1400s Business Taxes	1,088,109	721,557	366,552	50.8%	5,172,070	5,042,900	129,170	2.6%	7,898,295
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	350,817	365,453	(14,636)	(4.0%)	3,251,265	3,380,306	(129,041)	(3.8%)	4,411,202
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	393,283	794,334	(401,051)	(50.5%)	12,004,838	11,838,790	166,048	1.4%	15,785,896
1900s Other Licenses	34,687	22,837	11,850	51.9%	292,055	327,762	(35,707)	(10.9%)	400,759
Total Other Taxes & Fees	19,856,123	19,080,733	775,390	4.1%	102,756,847	98,482,813	4,274,034	4.3%	132,333,097
Detail of Other Revenues									
2200s Federal Revenues	5,414	32,917	(27,503)	(83.6%)	304,246	296,250	7,996	2.7%	395,000
2300s County Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	6,957	23,167	(16,210)	(70.0%)	190,007	208,495	(18,488)	(8.9%)	277,996
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	94,428	148,059	(53,631)	(36.2%)	4,775,637	4,911,349	(135,712)	(2.8%)	5,384,980
2600s Current Service Charges	1,885,404	1,970,876	(85,472)	(4.3%)	18,019,917	17,947,698	72,219	0.4%	25,271,252
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,586,742	1,648,363	(61,621)	(3.7%)	(2,701,847)	(2,967,013)	265,166	8.9%	18,124,510
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	4,174	12,403	(8,229)	(66.3%)	58,173	64,422	(6,249)	(9.7%)	133,600
For the Fifth Total Other Revenues	3,583,119	3,835,785	(252,666)	(6.6%)	20,646,133	20,461,201	184,932	0.9%	49,587,338

EXHIBIT IV

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015 and 2014 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mon	th		Year to Date				
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees					_				
0100s All Others	3,253,939	3,055,026	198,913	6.5%	23,459,183	21,598,391	1,860,792	8.6%	
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	19,487	18,984	503	2.7%	201,885	200,462	1,423	0.7%	
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,156,294	1,286,029	(129,735)	(10.1%)	13,500,128	13,562,442	(62,314)	(0.5%)	
0700s Corporation Taxes	1,771,869	1,263,247	508,622	40.3%	4,031,970	3,538,314	493,656	14.0%	
0800s Public Utilities	8,033,116	8,015,674	17,442	0.2%	8,085,406	6,849,825	1,235,581	18.0%	
1000s Banking Taxes	2,606,900	2,574,330	32,570	1.3%	21,515,200	20,659,880	855,320	4.1%	
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	467,010	373,389	93,621	25.1%	4,823,028	3,814,185	1,008,843	26.4%	
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	=	-	-	-	=	
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	680,613	664,438	16,175	2.4%	6,419,819	6,482,649	(62,830)	(1.0%)	
1400s Business Taxes	1,088,109	716,547	371,561	51.9%	5,172,070	5,250,211	(78,141)	(1.5%)	
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	350,817	345,985	4,832	1.4%	3,251,265	3,284,358	(33,093)	(1.0%)	
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	393,283	724,489	(331,206)	(45.7%)	12,004,838	12,133,436	(128,598)	(1.1%)	
1900s Other Licenses	34,687	33,223	1,463	4.4%	292,055	281,253	10,803	3.8%	
Total Other Taxes & Fees	19,856,123	19,071,362	784,761	4.1%	102,756,847	97,655,406	5,101,441	5.2%	
Detail of Other Revenues									
2200s Federal Revenues	5,414	34,852	(29,438)	(84.5%)	304,246	322,823	(18,577)	(5.8%)	
2300s County Revenues	-	-	_	-	-	_	-	-	
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	6,957	27,819	(20,862)	(75.0%)	190,007	187,633	2,374	1.3%	
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	94,428	126,006	(31,578)	(25.1%)	4,775,637	1,253,306	3,522,331	281.0%	
2600s Current Service Charges	1,885,404	1,735,078	150,326	8.7%	18,019,917	18,555,566	(535,649)	(2.9%)	
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,586,742	1,781,840	(195,098)	(10.9%)	(2,701,847)	(4,014,423)	1,312,577	32.7%	
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	4,174	6,824	(2,649)	(38.8%)	58,173	82,183	(24,010)	(29.2%)	
Total Other Revenues	3,583,119	3,712,418	(129,299)	(3.5%)	20,646,133	16,387,087	4,259,046	26.0%	

Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund

For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2015
Fuel Taxes	16,797,051	15,696,261	1,100,790	7.0%	146,520,253	145,603,400	916,853	0.6%	217,413,634
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	7,217,482	4,807,722	2,409,760	50.1%	63,137,008	60,160,255	2,976,753	4.9%	83,467,472
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	132,801	123,458	9,343	7.6%	2,325,915	2,112,652	213,263	10.1%	2,982,500
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	91,394	83,245	8,149	9.8%	882,641	888,825	(6,184)	(0.7%)	1,270,229
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	51,546	81,714	(30,168)	(36.9%)	684,793	748,532	(63,739)	(8.5%)	1,007,998
Earnings on Investments	17,091	9,418	7,673	81.5%	88,775	77,269	11,506	14.9%	105,523
All Other	412,191	773,582	(361,391)	(46.7%)	7,963,508	8,066,901	(103,393)	(1.3%)	9,726,971
Total Collected	24,719,556	21,575,400	3,144,156	14.6%	221,602,892	217,657,834	3,945,058	1.8%	315,974,327

EXHIBIT V

EXHIBIT VI Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund

For the Ninth Month Ended March 31, 2015 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015 and 2014 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mont	h		Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Fuel Taxes	16,797,051	16,997,643	(200,592)	(1.2%)	146,520,253	145,898,780	621,474	0.4%		
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	7,217,482	5,217,881	1,999,600	38.3%	63,137,008	61,151,897	1,985,111	3.2%		
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	132,801	218,321	(85,520)	(39.2%)	2,325,915	2,268,320	57,595	2.5%		
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	91,394	102,760	(11,367)	(11.1%)	882,641	878,127	4,514	0.5%		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	51,546	65,367	(13,821)	(21.1%)	684,793	731,502	(46,709)	(6.4%)		
Earnings on Investments	17,091	6,750	10,341	153.2%	88,775	42,750	46,025	107.7%		
All Other	412,191	838,003	(425,812)	(50.8%)	7,963,508	7,546,409	417,098	5.5%		
Total Collected	24,719,556	23,446,725	1,272,831	5.4%	221,602,892	218,517,785	3,085,108	1.4%		

Maine Revenue Services Taxable Sales by Sector In Thousands of Dollars

	February '15	% Ch.	February '14	% Ch.	February '13	Average Last 3 Mos.	Moving Total Last 12 Mos.	YTD Growth CY'15 vs. '14
						Vs. Last Yr.	Vs. Prior	Thru. Feb.
						% Change	% Change	% Change
Building Supply	\$109,306.6	-0.1%	\$109,386.7	3.0%	\$106,212.5	3.9%	2.7%	0.6%
Food Store	\$122,059.9	4.4%	\$116,955.0	3.8%	\$112,716.3	7.4%	4.1%	3.2%
General Merchandise	\$197,966.5	0.5%	\$196,923.3	2.2%	\$192,716.7	4.6%	2.1%	2.2%
Other Retail	\$131,668.2	1.5%	\$129,760.4	5.4%	\$123,141.8	5.8%	2.1%	2.9%
Auto/Transportation	\$302,281.8	10.7%	\$273,015.4	5.5%	\$258,812.4	9.4%	6.6%	4.4%
Restaurant	\$142,011.3	4.1%	\$136,479.2	6.9%	\$127,676.9	8.4%	4.9%	5.7%
Lodging	\$19,897.0	-8.9%	\$21,833.6	8.9%	\$20,050.8	5.8%	3.8%	-5.7%
Consumer Sales	\$1,025,191.3	4.1%	\$984,353.6	4.6%	\$941,327.4	6.7%	4.0%	3.2%
Business Operating	\$163,722.3	0.9%	\$162,339.4	16.1%	\$139,875.1	2.9%	1.5%	-0.5%
Total	\$1,188,913.6	3.7%	\$1,146,693.0	6.1%	\$1,081,202.5	6.2%	3.7%	2.7%
Utilities	\$107,030.4	-13.7%	\$124,057.7	4.1%	\$119,206.5			
Total plus Utilities	\$1,295,944.0	2.0%	\$1,270,750.7	5.9%	\$1,200,409.0			