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# **Mergers and Consolidations**

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# Mergers and Consolidations

## Introduction

Merger and consolidation proposals have appeared regularly in budgets. The FY 1991 budget presented to the 1990 General Assembly listed 72 state agencies and departments. By contrast, the FY 2020 budget adopted by the 2019 General Assembly contains 38 state agencies and departments. The Governor's FY 2021 recommendation includes the same number, but reflects some proposed changes. Prior publications have included information back to 1991 and that can still be accessed in online publications.

## FY 2021

**RICLAS Transfer to Private Providers.** The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals operates a state-run residential system with the capacity to provide services to 140 adults with developmental disabilities. There are approximately 120 individuals receiving services in FY 2020 that include 23 group homes and two apartments. The Governor recommends that these operations be transferred to the private agencies that provide residential and community based day and employment services to about 3,800 individuals, as well as day services to 60 individuals in the state-run system. The Governor's FY 2021 recommendation lowers the Department's staffing authorization by 204.0 full-time positions to account for this change.

**State Housing Policy and Planning Restructuring.** The Governor's budget eliminates the 28-member Housing Resources Commission and its related four member coordinating committee. Under current law, the Housing Resources Commission is the lead entity for housing policy and planning, and coordinates responsibilities with Rhode Island Housing through a memorandum of agreement. In place of the Housing Resources Commission, the recommendation establishes a seven-member coordinating council similar to the existing coordinating committee, and elevates the council to be the state's lead housing entity. The council would be permitted to assume control of Rhode Island Housing staff by memorandum of agreement. The budget renames the Office of Housing and Community Development as a Division, and recommends a 19-member steering committee with similar membership to the existing commission to advise the council, but does not specifically enumerate entities for inclusion.

## History

### *FY 2020*

**Employer Tax Division.** The Governor recommended transferring the responsibilities of the collection of taxes for temporary disability insurance, employment security, and the job development fund from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Labor and Training. This includes the 37.0 full-time equivalent positions associated with these employer tax collection duties from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Labor and Training. The Assembly did not concur with this proposal.

**Office of Veterans' Affairs.** The Governor proposed to transfer the Office of Veterans' Affairs and its staff from the Department of Human Services to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. This includes 252.1 positions. She requested an amendment to rescind her recommendation and rename it the Office of Veterans Services. The Assembly concurred and included a separate staffing authorization.

**Division of Elderly Affairs.** The Governor proposed to transfer the Division of Elderly Affairs and its staffing level of 31.0 positions to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services creating an Office of Elder Affairs. She subsequently requested an amendment to rescind the proposal and rename it the Office of Healthy Aging. The Assembly concurred and included a separate staffing authorization.

**Water Resources Board.** The Governor proposed to transfer the Water Resources Board and its staff to the Public Utilities Commission. Operating costs for the Water Resources Board would be charged to regulated utilities. The legislation designates the Department of Administration as the agency that will be responsible for the Big River Management area, which must be maintained for future development of groundwater wells. Prior to 2011, the Water Resources Board was a stand-alone agency. The 2011 Assembly adopted legislation merging the Board into the Division of Planning to more closely align the water planning aspects of the Board with the statewide planning process. The Assembly did not concur and maintained the Water Resources Board in the Department of Administration.

**Child Care Facilities Licensing.** The Governor's budget transferred the Child Care Facilities Licensing unit to the Department of Human Services. It added 8.0 new full-time equivalent positions for the Department of Human Services and 1.0 new legal position for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Current staff doing this work at the Department of Children, Youth and Families would be reassigned within the Department. The Department of Human Services would now be responsible for licensing; the shift would centralize transactions with child care providers. The Assembly concurred but reduced staffing authorization for the Department of Children, Youth and Families by 8.0.

**Office of Grants Management.** The Governor proposed to transfer functions of federal grants management from the Office of Management and Budget to Accounts and Control. The 2012 Assembly adopted Governor Chafee's recommendation to establish the Office of Management and Budget within the Department of Administration to serve as the principal agency of the executive branch for managing budgetary functions, performance management, and federal grants management. The Assembly concurred.

**Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.** The Governor's FY 2020 through FY 2024 capital plan shifts funding and project oversight for capital projects related to the Eleanor Slater hospital system at both the Cranston and Burrillville campuses, and Barry and Simpson administrative halls to the Department of Administration's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. In addition, she transferred those functions for community facilities for those with developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues as well. She requested an amendment to transfer the substance abuse asset protection project to the Department of Administration. The Assembly concurred.

**Small Business Ombudsman.** The Governor proposed to transfer the staffing authorization for the Small Business Ombudsman from the Office of Regulatory Reform within the Department of Administration to the Department of Business Regulation in accordance with a proposed streamline and simplify initiative. It should be noted that the enacted budget assumes a cost allocation for the position paid from the Commerce Corporation's resources; the recommendation does not alter that assumption. The Governor proposed a substantially similar initiative in FY 2018; the Assembly did not concur. The Assembly did not concur with the streamline and simplify initiative; however, it did transfer the position, and shifted the funding for the position from the Commerce Corporation to the Department of Business Regulation.

**State Building Office.** The Governor's recommended budget includes a proposal for an efficiency commission tasked with identifying \$10.0 million of general revenue savings. Subsequently, the Governor requested an amendment which proposed consolidating the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board and State Building Code Commission of the Division of Building, Design and Fire Professionals into a new State Building Office, as of January 1, 2020 for savings of \$0.1 million. The Assembly concurred.

**Office of Postsecondary Commissioner - Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Co-locate.** The Budget removes \$1.0 million from general revenues from the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner based on a proposal from the Efficiency Commission and recommended by the Governor to co-locate the Office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with the goal to encourage shared administrative support and allow for closer collaboration. The Office would still do planning support for the Council on Postsecondary Education and focus on strategy and policy. The Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education would provide the administrative support for the Councils and also provide legal, finance and support functions. Savings are based on the funding for several positions being eliminated from sharing administrative support and the Budget reduces the Office's staffing authorization by 6.0 full-time equivalent positions.

### *FY 2019*

**Water Resources Board.** The Governor proposed transferring the Water Resources Board and its staff to the Public Utilities Commission. Operating costs for the Water Resources Board would be charged to regulated water suppliers. The legislation designates the Department of Administration as the agency that will be responsible for the Big River Management area, which must be maintained for future development of groundwater wells. Additional statutory changes are required; however, the legislation calls for those changes to be submitted to the 2019 Assembly. A Memorandum of Understanding, signed on October 20, 2017, between the Department of Administration and the Public Utilities Commission was used to allow the transfer for FY 2018.

Prior to 2011, the Water Resources Board was a stand-alone agency. The 2011 Assembly adopted legislation merging the Board into the Division of Planning to more closely align the water planning aspects of the Board with the statewide planning process. The Assembly did not concur and maintained the Water Resources Board in the Department of Administration.

**Building, Design and Fire Professionals.** The Assembly concurred with the Governor's proposal to consolidate professions relating to building and construction design, inspection, and enforcement of building and fire codes. The Budget reflected the transfer of several programs, funding and staffing of 59.0 full-time equivalent positions to the Department of Business Regulation. These include the State Fire Marshal from the Department of Public Safety, the Building Code Commission, Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board, and the Fire Code Safety Board of Appeal and Review from the Department of Administration.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Administration and the Department of Public Safety, was signed on January 12, 2018 to allow the transfer for FY 2018.

**Health Professional Licensing to Business Regulation.** The Governor proposed transferring the licensure of several professionals from the Department of Health to the Department of Business Regulation. These include: barbers, cosmeticians, manicurists and estheticians; electrolysis; funeral directors and embalmers; opticians; speech pathologists and audiologists; hearing aid dealers; athletic trainers; interpreters for the deaf; and music therapists. The budget also assumed the transfer of \$0.2 million from general revenues and two positions for the administration of licensing functions from the Department of Health to the Department of Business Regulation. The Assembly did not concur with any of the proposed transfers.

**Centralized Services.** The 2017 Assembly authorized the establishment of internal service funds for centralized services including information technology, capital asset management and maintenance, and human resources to maximize available non-general revenue sources. Prior to this change, these costs were budgeted in the Department of Administration. The state uses internal service funds to reimburse one agency for services provided to another. Agencies receiving these services will reimburse the internal service funds for the costs. The Governor's budget transferred \$48.3 million from the Department of Administration to state agencies and the Assembly concurred.

**Consolidation of Medical Marijuana Oversight at Business Regulation.** The Governor proposed expanding the regulatory role of the Department of Business Regulation, including centralizing the registration and regulation of authorized purchasers, compassion center cardholders, primary caregivers, issuance or renewal of registry identification cards, and eliminating the role of the Department of Health to

define the equivalent amounts of medical marijuana. The program is staffed by 5.9 full-time equivalent positions in the Department of Health; the Department of Business Regulation had 4.0 full-time equivalent positions, but the Governor's budget proposed to add 4.0 more positions in FY 2019. The Assembly did not concur with this proposal.

### *FY 2018*

**Public Safety Consolidation.** The Governor proposed legislation to replace the director of the Department of Public Safety with a civilian commissioner, who will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Under current law, the Department of Public Safety is administered by a director who also serves as Superintendent of the State Police. The Governor also proposed to merge the Emergency Management Agency and establish it as the seventh division within the Department of Public Safety. The director of the Emergency Management Agency would be appointed by the Governor; however, the Commissioner may prescribe other duties and responsibilities. The Assembly did not concur.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention.** The Governor proposed legislation to repeal the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act and amend the Lead Poisoning Prevention legislation to centralize lead poisoning prevention activities, which are currently performed by the Department of Health and the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission, under the purview of the Department of Health. The proposal would allow the Department to oversee interagency coordination activities and it would be responsible for adopting rules and regulations to certify lead safe compliance for all residential units and permitting lead inspectors. The Department is also required to maintain a registry of lead safe certificates.

The Governor proposed legislation to amend the disposition of the real estate conveyance tax to transfer five cents of the current 30 cents that the Housing Resources Commission receives to the Department of Health for lead poisoning prevention activities. The recommended budget included \$0.6 million from these resources for the Department of Health to fund 3.0 additional positions, including two lead inspectors and one data manager as well as operating costs. She subsequently requested an amendment to require an annual transfer of not less than \$590,000 from the Real Estate Conveyance Tax. The Assembly did not concur and maintained current law.

**Health Care Utilization Review Transfer.** Previously, the Department of Health certified health plan and utilization review entities, monitored obligations of health plan provider contracts, investigated and tracked complaints against health plan and utilization reviews by enrollees. The Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner reviews denial of benefits and accuracy of claims processing and is also responsible for the adequacy of network coverage in terms of access to and availability of providers and the continuity of care available to consumers.

The Governor proposed to transfer the oversight of the health care utilization review from the Department of Health to the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. The Budget also reflected the transfer of funding and staffing of 2.0 full-time equivalent positions. The Assembly concurred.

**Health and Human Services - Finance Staff.** The Governor transferred 91.0 finance positions to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services from agencies under its umbrella in her FY 2018 recommendation; this is consistent with current law. The transfer includes: 39.0 positions from the Department of Human Services, 33.0 positions from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, 12.0 positions from the Department of Children, Youth and Families, and 7.0 positions from the Department of Health. Funding would remain with the individual agencies. Functions include finance administration, billing and data entry. This increased the level of 17.0 finance positions in the Executive Office to 108.0 positions. The Assembly concurred.

**Eleanor Slater Hospital Reorganization.** The Governor's FY 2018 recommendation assumed savings of \$12.2 million, \$5.7 million from general revenues from reorganizing the state hospital. This included transferring youth currently at the 54-bed Youth Assessment Center to the Youth Detention Center and moving the adult forensic population at the Pinel Building into the newly vacated space. It included privatizing laboratory services, closing one intermediate care facility, downsizing medical services and administrative staff and closing one of the two remaining intermediate care facilities. The plan also included transferring medical patients to the Zambarano campus in Burrillville and converting recently vacated space into a step-down unit to increase capacity for psychiatric patients. The Assembly included savings of \$11.2 million, \$5.2 million from general revenues. It did not concur with privatizing laboratory services.

**Eisenhower House.** The Assembly concurred with the Governor's proposal to transfer the management of the Eisenhower House, a historic state-owned property in Newport, from the Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to the Department of Environmental Management. The Budget included \$188,150 from all funds for staff and operations of the facility. This includes \$50,000 from general revenues and \$138,150 from new restricted receipts, which would be derived from booking fees of the facility. FY 2016 expenditures for the facility were \$135,536.

### *FY 2017*

**Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity.** Governor Raimondo's budget proposed legislation to establish the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity in statute; the Office is currently operating under an executive order. The legislation places the State Equal Opportunity Office under the administrative supervision of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity instead of the Division of Human Resources, and requires the Office of Personnel Administration to consult with the Office in preparing a comprehensive plan to maintain and secure equal opportunity. The legislation adds the associate director of the Office as a member of the Labor Relations Committee. The Assembly concurred.

**Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy and Services.** Governor Raimondo proposed legislation to replace the current Division of Information Technology, which was created by an executive order with the Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy and Services to be managed by the chief of digital excellence. The legislation amends current law to establish the Office of Library and Information Services within the Division and places the chief of library services under the supervision of the chief of digital excellence. The Division will also consist of the following offices: Information Technology and Digital Excellence. The Assembly concurred.

**Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance.** Governor Raimondo proposed legislation to create the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, which will assume the responsibilities of the current divisions of Facilities Management and Capital Projects and Property Management. Both divisions were created by an executive order in 2004. The legislation allows the Director of the Department of Administration to appoint a director of the division. Some of the responsibilities of the division director include: reviewing agency capital budget requests to ensure that requests are consistent with strategic and master facility plans of the state; managing and maintaining state owned facilities; overseeing new construction and rehabilitation projects; maintaining an inventory of all state properties; and responding to facilities emergencies. The Assembly concurred.

**Office of Internal Audit.** Governor Raimondo proposed legislation to repeal the Bureau of Audits and establish the Office of Internal Audit within the Office of Management and Budget. The Office will be managed by a chief of internal audit, who must be appointed by the Director of the Department of Administration. The Office is authorized to conduct audits of any state department, agency or private entity that is a recipient of state funding or state grants. The Office is also tasked with evaluating the efficiency

of operations and internal controls, preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement of funds.

The Budget reflected the consolidation of internal auditing functions and staff from the Departments of Transportation and Human Services, the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner and the University of Rhode Island are transferred to the Office. The Assembly concurred.

**Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program.** Governor Raimondo proposed legislation to transfer the administration and management of the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health. The Department of Health previously managed the program; however, the 2009 Assembly adopted legislation to transfer the program to the Department of Human Services. This was to consolidate management and nutrition benefits. There have been issues with the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the designation of the administrating state agency. The Assembly concurred.

**Department of Health.** Governor Raimondo's budget reflected a reorganization of functions within the Department of Health. Certain programs such as the Health Laboratories and the Office of State Medical Examiners were merged. It reflected the creation of the Division of Customer Services and includes the operations of Vital Records, which was previously under the Public Health Information program, and the operations of Licensing, Professional Boards and Commissions and the Center for Health Facilities Regulation, previously under the Environmental and Health Services Regulation program. The Assembly concurred.

**Governor's Commission on Disabilities.** Subsequent to her budget submission, Governor Raimondo requested legislation to designate the Governor's Commission on Disabilities as the state agency responsible to apply for and receive federal funds under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the State Independent Living Plan, effective October 1, 2016. She also requested an amendment to transfer funding from the Department of Human Services to the Commission. The Assembly concurred.

**Office of Veterans' Affairs.** Governor Raimondo included legislation to create the Office of Veterans' Affairs within the executive branch, reporting directly to the Governor. This removed it as a Division in the Department of Human Services; however, for administrative purposes, funding for the Office of Veterans' Affairs will remain in the Department of Human Services' budget. The Assembly concurred.

#### ***FY 2016***

**Higher Education Assistance Authority Merger.** Governor Raimondo's budget transferred all of the powers, duties, authority and resources of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority to the Council for Postsecondary Education and the Office of the General Treasurer and established a new Division of Higher Education Assistance in the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner. The budget reflected the transfer of \$19.1 million and 15.0 full-time equivalent positions to the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner. Administrative responsibility for the state's tuition savings program would be transferred to the Office of the General Treasurer. The recommendation represents direct program positions as well as overhead support. Remaining direct functions will require fewer staff with the efficiencies provided for in a merger; therefore, the Assembly eliminated 5.0 positions and \$0.8 million. One position and \$0.3 million was shifted to the Office of the General Treasurer to administer the *CollegeBoundfund*.

**Executive Office of Commerce.** The 2013 Assembly created the Executive Office of Commerce to be administered by a secretary of commerce, effective February 1, 2015. The Office oversees and serves as the lead agency of the Executive Branch for managing the promotion of commerce and the state's economy. Pursuant to 2013-H 6063, Substitute B, on or about February 1, 2015, the Executive Office of Commerce has powers to operate functions from the Department of Business Regulation and, subsequently, various

functions from the Department of Administration. Consistent with the legislation, Governor Raimondo's budget included the transfer of Housing and Community Development functions to the Executive Office of Commerce. It also transferred the Film and Television Office from the Department of Administration to Commerce. It did not, however, transition Department of Business Regulation functions, leaving it as a stand-alone department. The Assembly concurred, with the exception of transferring the Film and Television Office to the Arts Council.

**Capital Projects Consolidation.** Governor Raimondo's budget proposed consolidating construction property and asset management functions into the Department of Administration. It appears that the positions are kept in their respective agencies, including the Departments of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, Environmental Management, Corrections, and Transportation. The Assembly concurred; however, transferred funding back for the Department of Environmental Management, consistent with the Governor's requested budget amendment.

**Division of Advocacy.** Governor Raimondo's budget proposed consolidating the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Office of the Child Advocate, and the Office of the Mental Health Advocate under a newly created Division of Advocacy within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The consolidation was for administrative and budget purposes only, and all agencies would maintain their responsibilities as mandated by current law. The Governor subsequently requested an amendment that rescinded the proposed legislation, maintained the offices as separate agencies, and restored operating savings assumed to be achieved through the merger. The Assembly concurred.

**Non-Prescribing Boards Consolidation.** Governor Raimondo proposed consolidating all of the non-prescribing health professional boards into one board. There are 25 professional boards that include a variety of professions, such as dietitians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, optometrists, social workers and funeral home directors. The Department of Health approves all written and practical examinations, and issues licenses and permits for these professions. The proposed legislation would create a single board of review for appeals, discipline and advisory functions. This would allow for the elimination of 2.0 positions that support the boards and \$0.2 million from general revenues. The Assembly did not concur.

**RI Film and Television Office.** The Budget transferred the Rhode Island Film and Television Office, including \$0.3 million from general revenues and 2.6 full-time equivalent positions, from the Department of Administration to the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Film and Television Office works with filmmakers to identify filming sites, vendors, and promote the benefits of working in Rhode Island. Governor Raimondo's FY 2016 recommendation transferred the Office to the Executive Office of Commerce. The Office was transferred to the Department of Administration from the Council as part of the FY 2013 budget.

**Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team.** The Assembly concurred with Governor Raimondo's proposal to abolish the Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team, which was responsible for the coordination of the environmental agencies in the state to restore and develop both freshwater and marine waters and watersheds. The work is funded by an \$80,000 transatlantic cable fee, a \$1 per hundred gallons charge on septage disposal in the state, and a \$250,000 annual allocation from the Oil Spill, Prevention, Administration and Response Fund. The restricted receipts will be utilized by the Department of Environmental Management for efforts relating to watershed and marine monitoring, water pollution abatement, and climate change.

## *FY 2015*

**Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity.** The Budget reflects the creation of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity within the Department of Administration. Existing staff of 7.0 full-time equivalent positions and funding will be transferred from the Division of Purchasing's Minority Business Enterprise Office and the Division of Human Resources' Outreach and Diversity Office.

In May 2013, Governor Chafee issued Executive Order 13-05 entitled "Promotion of Diversity, Equal Opportunity and Minority Business Enterprises in Rhode Island." The Executive Order required that the Department of Administration review all divisions and offices within the Department that are charged with facilitating equal opportunity employment and make recommendations to improve collaboration between these offices. The creation of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity reflects the Department of Administration's recommendation.

**Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.** The Budget reflects the Emergency Management Agency and the National Guard as two stand-alone agencies. They were two distinct programs in the Military Staff under the control of the Adjutant General. This action was recommended to reflect the individual agency missions as well as their operational structures. There were no major changes to funding levels or positions.

**Executive Office of Commerce.** Governor Chafee's budget proposed to delay the creation of the Executive Office of Commerce and the transfer of the functions of the Department of Business Regulation from February 1, 2015 to July 1, 2015. The Assembly did not concur with the delay.

The Governor also proposed maintaining the Office of Regulatory Reform in the Office of Management and Budget instead of transferring it to the new Executive Office of Commerce. The Assembly concurred.

**Department of Environmental Management Customer Service Unit.** The Budget creates in statute a customer service unit within the Department of Environmental Management. The Department already includes an Office of Customer and Technical Assistance, but the legislation codifies a requirement that the agency have a customer service unit and program to provide technical assistance to customers and help them to comply with environmental regulations and requirements. This section also mandates that the Department and the Office of Regulatory Reform collaborate on a report detailing an alternative compliance approaches plan, which would be due to the General Assembly and the Governor by May 1, 2015.

**Higher Education Assistance Authority.** The Budget includes legislation that requires the administration to include a plan for allocating Higher Education Assistance Authority programs to other agencies as part of the FY 2016 budget.

**Behavioral Healthcare Services to EOHHS.** The Budget transfers Medicaid-funded behavioral healthcare services from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services so that mental health and substance abuse treatment services for disabled individuals will be appropriated to one agency and includes \$60.8 million, of which \$30.1 million is general revenues.

## *FY 2014*

**EDC/Commerce Corporation.** The Budget delays the creation of the Executive Office of Commerce and the transfer of the functions of the Department of Business Regulation from February 1, 2015 to July 1, 2015. It maintains the Office of Regulatory Reform in the Office of Management and Budget instead of transferring it to the new Executive Office of Commerce. As contained in 2013-H 6063, Substitute B, on or about February 1, 2015, the Office is empowered to assume functions from the Department of Business

Regulation and, subsequently, various functions from the Department of Administration. The legislation further requires that the Office submit a comprehensive review of the roles, functions and programs of the Department of Administration and the Department of Labor and Training to the House of Representatives and the Senate before September 1, 2015. Additionally, the Office shall make recommendations and a business plan for the integration of these entities with the Office, and the Governor may include these recommendations as part of the FY 2017 budget.

**Renewable Energy Fund Program Transfer.** Governor Chafee's budget transfers the Renewable Energy Fund from the Economic Development Corporation to the Office of Energy Resources. The Office previously managed the fund and the 2007 Assembly enacted legislation to transfer the fund to the Corporation, effective FY 2008. The Governor's recommended budget includes expenditures of \$2.5 million and staffing of 2.0 positions from the Corporation. The Assembly did not concur and maintained the program in the Corporation.

**Office of Regulatory Reform.** Subsequent to the enactment of the FY 2013 budget, the Assembly adopted legislation contained in Chapter 445 of the 2012 Public Laws to transfer the Office of Regulatory Reform from the Economic Development Corporation to the Office of Management and Budget in the Department of Administration. Governor Chafee's revised budget reflects this transfer as well as the 2.0 positions that support the Office. The Office was created in 2010 to improve the state's business climate by making it easier for businesses to navigate through state and local permitting and regulatory issues. The Assembly adopted legislation in 2013-H 6063, Substitute B, requiring that the Office of Regulatory Reform to report to the Secretary of Commerce within the Executive Office of Commerce, effective February 1, 2015.

**Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange.** The Budgets reflect the transfer of the Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Administration. In September 2011, Governor Chafee issued an executive order to establish the Office as the centrally accountable office for operational and financial implementation, including policy development.

**Construction Permitting, Approvals and Licensing.** The Budget reflects the creation of a new program in the Department of Administration: Construction Permitting, Approvals and Licensing, consisting of the State Building Code Commission, Contractors' Registration Board, and Fire Code Board of Appeal. Staffing and funding were transferred from Capital Projects and Property Management. The Department indicates that the program change was necessary to avert the appearance of a conflict of interest between the Office of Capital Projects and the aforementioned offices.

**Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority.** The Budget includes the statutory authority to end state support to the Authority as of July 1, 2013 and abolish it as a public agency, as the Authority has been transferred to the Rhode Island PBS Foundation.

**Assisted Living and Home Care Waiver Services.** The Budget shifts assisted living and home care waiver services in the Division of Elderly Affairs within the Department of Human Services to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for FY 2014, consistent with Governor Chafee's requested amendment, in order to locate all Medicaid assisted living and home care expenditures in the Executive Office's budget.

### *FY 2013*

**Energy Program Transfers.** Governor Chafee included the transfer of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program from the Office of Energy Resources to the Department of Human Services consistent with current law. He also proposed the transfer of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative from the Department of Environmental Management, and the Renewable Energy Program from the Economic Development Corporation to the Office of Energy

Resources. The Assembly concurred, with the exception of the Renewable Energy Program transfer, which it retained at the Economic Development Corporation.

**Office of Management and Budget.** The Assembly adopted legislation to create a new Office of Management and Budget to assume the functions of the State Budget Office and the responsibilities of the Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment. It will include a Federal Grants Management Office to coordinate federal grant applications. The legislation also requires the Office to perform a study on transportation programs to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2012. The Budget includes 11.0 new positions, including a director to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Administration. Governor Chafee's original proposal called for eliminating the Bureau of Audits, allowing the new Office to absorb some of those functions. The Assembly retained the Bureau of Audits as is.

**Human Resources Restructure.** Governor Chafee's FY 2013 budget recommendation includes savings of \$0.8 million from the elimination of 12.0 positions in the Division of Human Resources. This consists of 2.0 positions from the Employee Services Unit and 10.0 positions in the Classification and Examination Unit, about half of the current staff. The Governor's FY 2012 revised budget includes \$0.3 million for a personnel study of the merit system to be accomplished in the current year to make the proposed reductions possible. The Assembly restored \$0.4 million of the general revenue savings and shifted funding for the personnel study from FY 2012 to FY 2013 to reflect a delay in the work proposed.

**RI Film and Television Office.** The Assembly transferred the Film and Television Office from the Arts Council to the Department of Administration. It provided general revenue funding of \$0.3 million and 2.6 full-time positions, consistent with Governor Chafee's recommendation.

**Office of Digital Excellence.** The Assembly adopted legislation to create the Office of Digital Excellence within the Department of Administration. It authorized a chief digital officer, who must be appointed by the Director of the Department of Administration, with approval from the Governor. The Office shall coordinate its efforts with the Division of Information Technology. The legislation requires the chief digital officer to report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, every January 31, the status of all technology infrastructure projects, website improvements, number of e-government transactions and revenues generated and projects supported by the Information Technology Investment Fund.

**Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange.** The Budget reflects the Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange in the Office of the Governor. In September 2011, Governor Chafee issued an executive order to establish the Office as the centrally accountable office for operational and financial implementation, including policy development. The Exchange will report to the Board of the Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange and will work with the Department of Health, the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The Budget includes 6.0 positions, including a director to oversee the Exchange.

**Medicaid Benefits Program.** Governor Chafee's budget transferred the Medicaid medical benefits program from the Department of Human Services to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The administrative staff was transferred in FY 2012 and the eligibility application process will remain with the Department of Human Services since applicants are often eligible for other benefits in addition to Medicaid, such as the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the Rhode Island Works program and child care through that department. The Assembly concurred.

**HIV Care and Treatment Program.** Governor Chafee requested an amendment to transfer the HIV care and treatment program from the Department of Human Services to the Executive Office of Health and

Human Services, effective July 1, 2012 consistent with his proposal for the medical benefits program. The Assembly concurred and transferred 5.0 positions.

**Higher Education Assistance Authority Merger.** Governor Chafee's budget includes the transfer of \$27.8 million and 39.6 out of the authorized 41.6 full-time positions from the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority to the Office of Higher Education. He proposed legislation that would terminate the Authority and its corporate existence on September 1, 2012 and all of its rights, obligations and properties would be transferred to the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The Assembly did not concur with the proposed merger and provided \$27.7 million and 38.6 positions, maintaining the Higher Education Assistance Authority as a stand-alone agency.

**Board of Education.** The Assembly enacted legislation to abolish the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents, effective January 1, 2013, and create a new Rhode Island Board of Education. It also abolished the Office of Higher Education, effective January 1, 2014, and created an executive committee of education comprised of the three institutions of public higher education, and the commissioners of higher education and elementary and secondary education.

**Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority.** The Budget included legislation to require the Administration to submit a plan to the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Finance Committees by November 1, 2012 to transition the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority from the state to a privately supported entity by July 1, 2013. The Administration also must include any statutory changes required for the transition as part of the FY 2014 budget.

**Dispatch Unit and Port Security.** The Budget does not include the transfer of the dispatch and port security surveillance units from the Department of Environmental Management to the Department of Public Safety. The 2012 Assembly enacted legislation to reverse its prior mandate for the transfer.

**Program Review.** Governor Chafee's budget recommended a review of environmental and coastal programs in the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council to be conducted by a new Office of Management and Budget, which would be charged with developing a plan that includes strategies to reorganize or centralize environmental and coastal resource management programs in order to improve efficiencies. A report detailing this plan would be due to the General Assembly and the Governor by November 1, 2012. The Assembly did not concur and instead required that the new Office of Management and Budget perform a study on transportation programs.

#### *FY 2012*

**State Aid Transfer.** Governor Chafee's budget transferred some of the appropriations for the State Aid program from the Department of Administration to the Department of Revenue. These include the distressed communities' relief fund, motor vehicles excise tax, payment in lieu of taxes program, and the newly proposed Municipal, Accountability, Stability and Transparency Fund. State aid for library operations and library construction remain in the Department of Administration. The Assembly concurred.

**Sheriffs to Department of Public Safety.** Governor Chafee recommended the transfer of \$16.7 million and 180.0 full-time positions for the Sheriffs program from the Department of Administration to the Department of Public Safety. This proposal was initially included in the legislation the 2007 Assembly enacted to consolidate a number of public safety agencies into a single department. However, the 2008 Assembly included the Sheriffs within the Department of Administration. Governor Carcieri proposed this as part of his FY 2011 budget; however, the Assembly did not concur and maintained the Sheriffs in the Department of Administration. The Assembly concurred.

**Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner.** Governor Chafee recommended the creation of a new program within the Department of Business Regulation for the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. Previously, the Office was part of the Division of Insurance Regulation. The Assembly concurred.

**Training School - Girls' Facility.** Governor Chafee recommended the consolidation of the girls' training school into the existing boys' facility. The girls temporarily reside in the Mathias Building; however, the approved capital plan assumes renovating the Adolph Meyer building for this population. The Governor did not recommend the renovations and included a plan for the girls to move into one of the four residential pods in the Youth Development Center. The Department indicated that based on current population trends, three of the four residential pods are sufficient to house the male population. The Assembly concurred.

**Elderly Affairs to Human Services.** The Assembly merged the Department of Elderly Affairs with the Department of Human Services and created the Division of Elderly Affairs within the Department of Human Services.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs.** The Assembly maintained the Division of Veterans' Affairs within the Department of Human Services and created a new position, Director of Veterans' Affairs. The 2009 Assembly included legislation to create a Department of Veterans' Affairs and the 2010 Assembly delayed this by one year, from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011. Governor Chafee's FY 2012 budget recommendation included the creation of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**HIV/AIDS.** The Assembly shifted the HIV/AIDS direct services program and all resources, including 4.0 full-time positions, from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services.

**Women, Infants and Children Transfer.** Governor Chafee recommended repeal of the statute transferring the Women, Infants and Children supplemental nutrition program from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services. The Assembly did not concur and retained the program and all resources within the Department of Human Services. The United States Department of Agriculture informed the state that the Department of Human Services did not meet the standard established for state agencies that could administer the program.

The Assembly adopted legislation to transfer the Women, Infants, and Children program from the Department of Health initially to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services effective March 1, 2010, but then amended that to the Department of Human Services effective October 1, 2010 to coincide with the beginning of the new federal fiscal year.

**Higher Education Administration.** The Assembly included legislation that requires the Director of Administration to submit a revised plan for the organizational structure for higher education administration, staff support and resource allocation. The plan shall address the goal of improving affordability and accessibility to public higher education and maximizing efficiencies while providing sufficient support to the governance structure of public higher education. The Director of Administration is required to report findings, recommendations and alternative designs to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2011.

**Rhode Island State Crime Lab.** Governor Chafee recommended shifting the general revenue funding for the Rhode Island State Crime Lab from the Department of Health to the University of Rhode Island. The Assembly concurred.

**Dispatch Unit and Port Security.** Governor Chafee's budget did not include the transfer of the dispatch and port security surveillance units from the Department of Environmental Management to the Department of Public Safety. He proposed legislation to reverse the 2010 Assembly action that required the transfer to

occur no later than January 1, 2011. The Assembly did not concur with the reversal, and instead delayed the transfer until January 1, 2012.

**Water Resources Board.** The Assembly enacted legislation to merge the State Water Resources Board into the Department of Administration's Division of Statewide Planning, effective July 1, 2011. The merger transfers three of the six positions from the Board to the Division, while maintaining the Water Resources Board Corporate.

**Weatherization and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs.** The Assembly adopted legislation to transfer the weatherization assistance and the low income home energy assistance programs from the Office of Energy Resources within the Department of Administration to the Department of Human Services, effective July 1, 2012.

**Westerly Branch.** The Assembly provided \$37,800 from general revenues for the operations of a registry of motor vehicles branch in the Town of Westerly.

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**Sheriffs to Department of Public Safety.** Governor Carcieri recommended the transfer of \$16.5 million and 180.0 full-time positions for the Sheriffs program from the Department of Administration to the Department of Public Safety. This proposal was initially included in the legislation the 2007 Assembly enacted to consolidate a number of public safety agencies into a single department. However, the 2008 Assembly included the Sheriffs within the Department of Administration. The Assembly did not concur and maintained the Sheriffs in the Department of Administration.

**Registry Branch Consolidation.** Governor Carcieri recommended the closure of the Pawtucket branch and the Rhode Island Mall branch of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Division of Motor Vehicles was scheduled to move to its new headquarters in the Pastore Center in August 2010. The Rhode Island Mall branch was closed in March 2010. The Division indicated that the Rhode Island Mall branch would be too close to the Pastore Center and costly to retrofit. The Assembly concurred.

**Public Utilities Commissioners.** Governor Carcieri again recommended statutory language as part of his FY 2010 revised budget to eliminate the scheduled addition of 2.0 members of the Public Utilities Commission. The Assembly concurred and included legislation in Article 7 of 2010-H 7397, Substitute A, as amended.

**Commission on Women.** Governor Carcieri recommended the discontinuation of paid support staff for the volunteer commission and eliminated general revenue funds. The Assembly concurred.

**Women, Infants and Children Transfer.** Governor Carcieri recommended the transfer of 12.0 full-time equivalent positions and \$19.8 million from federal funds for the Women, Infants and Children program from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services, effective October 1, 2010. However, the 2009 Assembly enacted legislation to shift the responsibility of administering the program from the Department of Health to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services by March 1, 2010. The Assembly concurred with the transfer to the Department of Human Services effective October 1, 2010.

**Rhode Island State Crime Lab.** The 2009 Assembly transferred the budget for the State Crime Lab at the University of Rhode Island from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Health. The state crime laboratory is responsible for providing technical services, including examination and evaluation of physical evidence collected at the scene of a crime or related to a crime. The 2010 Assembly included legislation in Article 7 of 2010-H 7397, Substitute A, as amended, that requires the Director of the Department of Administration to develop and submit a report by December 1, 2010 that studies and

provides specific recommendations regarding the allocation of staffing, use of facilities, and identifies any additional needs for the continued operation of the Rhode Island State Crime Lab.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs.** Governor Carcieri's budget recommended a delay in the creation of a new Department of Veterans' Affairs within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services by one year, from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011. The 2009 Assembly passed 2009-H 5082, Substitute A, as amended and the Governor signed it into law on November 9, 2009, which created a separate Department of Veterans' Affairs, effective July 1, 2010. The Division of Veterans' Affairs is currently within the Department of Human Services. The Assembly concurred.

**Higher Education Assistance Authority and Public Telecommunications.** Governor Carcieri proposed legislation that requires the Board of Governors for Higher Education to develop and submit a report by October 1, 2010 that reviews and assesses the Higher Education Assistance Authority and the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority to see if the stated missions and current programs reflect the needs of the populations intended to be served. The Assembly did not concur.

**Dispatch Unit and Port Security.** Governor Carcieri recommended the transfer of the dispatch and port security surveillance units from the Department of Environmental Management to the Department of Public Safety no later than January 1, 2011. However, the Governor's budget did not include the transfer of positions or funding for these activities. The Assembly concurred.

**Transportation.** Governor Carcieri proposed legislation to require the Director of the Department of Transportation to develop and submit a report by October 1, 2010 that studies the feasibility of transferring the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to the Department of Transportation. The Assembly did not concur.