



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Nicholas A. Mattiello
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

FROM: Michael DiBiase, Director, Department of Administration

DATE: May 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Commission on Government Efficiency – Governor’s Final Recommendations

As chairman of the Commission on Government Efficiency, I am pleased to submit to the General Assembly the Governor’s final recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020.

The Commission held five public meetings between March 4, 2019 to May 2, 2019 to discuss and review strategies for streamlining State service delivery and gain operational efficiencies. On May 2, 2019, the Commission approved a final report containing proposals for the Governor’s consideration. Governor Raimondo’s final recommendations, which are based on those proposals, are summarized below:

- **Streamline the State’s housing operations – FY20 GR savings: \$91,811.** Consolidate healthy home programs within the Department of Health’s Center for Healthy Homes and Environment, and streamline affordable housing functions between the Office of Housing and Community Development and Rhode Island Housing.
- **Streamlining similar functions within the Department of Business Regulation – FY20 GR savings: \$125,839.** Consolidate the Building Code Commission, the Contractors’ Registration and Licensing Board and the Design Professionals Group into a new State Building Office to improve service.
- **Enhance access to work readiness programs – FY20 GR savings: \$53,882.** Consolidate adult education at the Department of Labor and Training, better positioning adults to gain skills required to be part of today’s workforce.
- **Maximize use of resources for audiology screening services – FY20 GR savings: \$231,676.** Consolidate the RI School for the Deaf audiology program by transferring hearing screening responsibilities to school nurses, as currently allowed under regulation by the Department of Health (RIDOH).

- **Increase collaboration to achieve better education outcomes – FY20 GR savings: \$1 million.** Co-locate and encourage shared administrative support between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) to allow for closer collaboration.
- **Streamline LEA group home and residential treatment billing process – FY20 GR savings: \$2,048,816.** Incorporate the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) local education agency (LEA) group home and residential facilities billing into the school funding formula.
- **Create better mission alignment between the state’s health exchange and health and human services secretariat – FY20 GR savings: \$240,251.** Move HealthSource RI to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services from the Department of Administration, joining health insurance policy bodies within the State and increasing staffing efficiency.
- **Adjust staffing to meet reduced Training School census – FY20 GR savings: \$233,022.** Align educational staffing at the Rhode Island Training School to reflect actual student count.
- **Realign licensing authority to address behavioral health needs – FY20 GR savings: \$46,112.** Amend the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals’ (BHDDH) regulatory framework to include licensing and oversight of children’s behavioral health organizations.
- **Streamline medical laboratory testing services – FY20 GR savings: \$109,000.** Utilize a third-party vendor for routine Eleanor Slater Hospital medical testing. Core hospital staff will remain to perform specific medical tests deemed necessary to be conducted on site.
- **Optimize telecommunications infrastructure – FY20 GR savings: \$55,444.** Upgrade telecommunications to Voice-over-Internet Protocol and terminate unutilized lines.
- **Pursue a long-term real estate strategy and implement a space utilization plan that meets industry standards.** This includes various recommendations that involve moving certain operations out of aging and inefficient buildings, shifting employees from leased space to owned space, ensuring efficient space utilization, and selling surplus properties that no longer fit into the State’s long-term strategic vision. These proposals would result in an estimated **\$1.5 million** (all funds) in operational savings (including **more than \$800,000** in general revenue) and potentially **\$6 to \$10 million** in revenue from the sale of surplus property for Fiscal Year 2020.

The measures requiring legislative action are included in the proposed amendments attached to this memorandum.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to my office if you or your staff have any questions.