

## **Louisiana Streamlining Commission**

### **Suggested Recommendations to Advisory Committee Chairmen**

Preamble:

The following comments on this cover sheet have been prepared at the Mercatus Center by Hon. Maurice McTigue. The purpose of the analysis was to identify issues that the committee might pursue and finally develop into recommendations to the full commission.

- The suggested recommendations are based on very limited information and the committee's local knowledge may determine that the suggestions are not viable. In that case the Committee should discard the suggested recommendation.
- If the Committee thinks the suggestion has merit then they should refer it to officials for their analysis.
- Some of our suggestions may be recommending a practice that is already in place, in which case the recommendation may be put aside or may be worded to endorse that practice or to extend it further than is the current practice.

**Department of State:**

- The core business of the department is facilitating the business of the state.
- The prioritization of activities when funds are short is to be applauded.
- The Department's Commercial program should be full cost recovery.
- The outcome for "Elections" should be fair and open elections free from any corrupt practices.
- Museums: The outcome should be preserving the physical and cultural heritage of Louisiana while allowing public access to that heritage.
- Museums: Why is this activity not included with the Lieutenant Governors' portfolio on arts, culture and museums?

**Savings: Total Budget \$77.158 million Saving \$4.390 million**

- The Departments' Commercial program should be on a full cost recovery basis.



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Department name: Department of State

State in one sentence the core business of your department: The Department of State collects, secures, and communicates information that enhances commerce, ensures the integrity of Louisiana's elections and preserves, presents and makes accessible government information essential to Louisiana's operations and its recorded history.

For each program managed by your agency, provide the following information. Please limit your answers for each program to ***no more than half a page*** and simply write ***"unknown"*** next to each program question you are unable to answer.

- Program name: Administrative
- Outcome addressed by this program: The Administrative Program provides leadership and support functions to ensure the performance objectives of all programs in the department are met.
- How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program: The exact number is unknown, but substantial. This program pays about 21,000 election commissioners, 320 parish board of election supervisors members, and numerous vendors who do business with the department. This program contracts products and services with vendors throughout the state. This program provides data line communications for election and registration data to Registrars of Voters and Clerks of Court in each of the 64 parishes. This program also maintains the database for voter registration that affects 2,749,125 active and 247,237 inactive registered voters in the state.
- How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08): FY 08-09 total was \$10,908,795.
- Measure used to determine success: One measure of success is the attainment of projected targets for stated performance objectives by all programs in the department.

- **Level of success during each of the last three years: FY 2007 = 88%, FY 2008 = 88%, and FY 2009 = 84%. The 84% is 1% below the department's self-defined target, but represents conscious management decisions to put scarce financial and human resources in higher priority areas to ensure their success. As a result a few lesser objectives fell slightly below the stated target.**
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting *better, remaining static, or deteriorating*: getting better**

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- Program name: Archives and Records
- Outcome addressed by this program: The Archives and Records Program ensures government and public access to essential information created by the state through its records management function and provides a comprehensive preservation effort to identify, preserve and make available archival materials of interest to the citizens of Louisiana.
- How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program: 17,945 patrons were served by the research room data base. 3,279 patrons did their archival and genealogical research in the Archives Research Room. Since research is available on line this service is a benefit for all Louisiana citizens with internet access.
- How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08): FY 08-09 total was \$3,851,204.
- Measure used to determine success: One measure of success for this program is the number of patrons served by the research room data base.
- Level of success during each of the last three years: Number of patrons served by the research room data base for FY 2007 = 15,960, FY 2008 = 15,297, and FY 2009 = 17,945

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- Program name: Commercial
- Outcome addressed by this program: The Commercial Program provides the business, financial and legal communities timely and efficient service in the certification and registration of documents relating to business entities and assets and the processing of legal services documents and the communication of business licensing information.
- How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program: All business owners, who are currently conducting business in the state and those who are planning to conduct business in Louisiana, are directly affected by this program.
- How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08): FY 08-09 total was \$4,389,555.
- Measure used to determine success: One measure of success is to maintain an efficient filing system with a low document error rate of 7% or less.
- Level of success during each of the last three years: FY 2007 = 4.8%, FY 2008 = 5.1%, and FY 2009 = 6.3%

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- Program name: Elections
- Outcome addressed by this program: One outcome addressed by this program is the production of election ballots that accurately reflect the candidates and issues for each precinct holding an election.
- How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program: All registered voters in the state are directly affected by this program. Educational outreach programs in each parish introduce thousands of school-aged children to the election process.
- How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08): FY 08-09 total was \$51,052,781.
- Measure used to determine success: One measure of success is maintaining the machine and absentee ballot reprints due to Elections Program clerical errors to no more than three per election.
- Level of success during each of the last three years: Total number of ballot reprints for all elections held in FY 2007 = 1, FY 2008 = 6, and FY 2009 = 0 These extremely low numbers reflect the quality of work performed by program staff.

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- Program name: Museums and Other Operations
- Outcome addressed by this program: The Museums Program presents exhibits, educational and other programs to the public to emphasize the political, social and economic influences, personalities, institutions, and events that have shaped the landscape of Louisiana's colorful history and culture and its place in the world. The Museums Program acquires, refurbishes and preserves artifacts and other historic relics representative of this past and attracts exhibits of interest to the communities the museums serve.
- How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program: Museums offer educational programs that potentially affect every citizen of Louisiana, from school aged children on field trips, families spending some quality time together, or tourists on a quest for knowledge and entertainment.
- How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08): FY 08-09 total was \$6,956,012.
- Measure used to determine success: Attendance at the museums is a logical measure of success.

- **Level of success during each of the last three years: FY 2007 = 214,914, FY 2008 = 196,923, and FY 2009 = 266,194. Attendance is growing. Attendance in FY 2009 was the highest we have ever experienced. It is almost double the 150,510 from FY 2006.**
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting *better*, *remaining static*, or *deteriorating*: getting better**

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