

From the Desk of Hon. Maurice McTigue



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 Civil Service, Ethics Administration Program

- The outcome should be improved public confidence in the integrity of their government and its officers.
- The results for this program addressed should be improved compliance or diminished breeches.
- The societal issue addressed by this program is more ethical behavior by government officials.

Savings:

- There are probably no savings to be made in this program yet, but education needs should diminish over time as the new culture is established.

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT

Worksheet

Department Name/Program Name:

Department of State Civil Service, Ethics Administration Program (EAP)

Core business of our department/program:

To provide staff support for the Louisiana Board of Ethics, which administers and enforces Louisiana's conflicts of interest legislation, campaign finance disclosure requirements and lobbyist registration and disclosure laws, to achieve compliance by governmental officials, public employees, candidates, and lobbyists and to provide public access to disclosed information.

Outcome addressed by this program:

To improve the level of education and awareness by public servants in order to ensure compliance with the laws administered by the Board of Ethics and to provide public access to disclosed information.

How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:

There is not a method of obtaining the exact number of people involved in or affected by the program; however, the scope of the laws administered by the Louisiana Board of Ethics is far-reaching. According to a publication of the Public Affairs Research Council in 1995, there are approximately 250,000 public servants throughout Louisiana that are subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics. This number does not include the number of immediate family members of public servants and other persons who do business with the state whose conduct is regulated by the Code of Governmental Ethics, or candidates and lobbyists.

How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year:

In FY 2008-2009, the Ethics Administration Program expended \$2,317,382.13 in general funds and \$119,706 in self-generated funds.

Measure(s) used to determine success and the level during the last three years:

	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09
Number of advisory opinions 359		413	325
Number of matters referred to investigation 214		181	286
Number of persons attending speaking engagements 4,378		7,680	4,633
Number of visits to the Internet website 305,052		342,141	471,937

The societal issue addressed by this program is getting better, remaining static or deteriorating:

The societal issue addressed by this program is getting better due in large part to the Ethics Reform initiatives that evolved during the course of the 2008 Legislative Sessions. The public's awareness of the existence of and the duties and responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Ethics increased as there was heightened discussion of the Ethics laws.