

Commission on Streamlining Government

Senator Jack Donahue, *Chairman*
Roy O. Martin, *Vice Chair*
Angele Davis, Commissioner of
Administration
Barry Erwin
Brett F. Geymann, Representative
Leonal Hardman
John Kennedy, State Treasurer
Lansing Kolb
Mike Michot, Senator
Jim Morris, Representative



P. O. Box 44481
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Telephone: (225) 342-2762
or 1-800-205-9873
Facsimile: (225) 342-9784
email: streamline@legis.state.la.us

Commission Staff

Jerry J. Guillot, *Administrator*
Tim Prather, *Coordinator*
Trudy Fourmy, *Secretary*

10.20.09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SEN. DONAHUE
985.727.7949

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ADVISORY GROUPS TO REVIEW MERCATUS CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH CENTER PROPOSALS ADDRESS COST SAVINGS AT ALL LEVELS OF STATE GOVERNMENT

The Commission on Streamlining Government's five advisory groups will review the recommendations from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University to make Louisiana government more efficient and less costly in a series of public hearings over the coming weeks. The Mercatus Center, a research center dedicated to bridging the gap between academic research and public policy, views the streamlining commission's efforts as "trailblazing" and has been working with the commission on a volunteer basis over the last two months.

"The Mercatus Center recommendations are far-reaching, but we gave the researchers no instructions. We put everything on the table. What we must decide is which of the recommendations are usable in the state of Louisiana and which are not. The public hearings before the commission's advisory groups will begin that process," Sen. Jack Donahue, chair of the 10-member Louisiana Commission on Streamlining Government, said.

The Mercatus Center proposals, which address consolidating, reorganizing and eliminating state services and programs in departments and agencies across state government including statewide elected officials' departments, are available for review on the commission's website at <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/streamline/Topics/Mercatus/Default.asp>. The comprehensive proposals have been divided up by agency and program among the commission's five advisory groups for further consideration at public hearings to be scheduled soon as follows:

Advisory Group on Civil Service & Employee Benefits - Civil Service, Ethics Administration, Natural Resources, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Administrative Law, Department of State, Public Service Commission and the State Police Commission.

Advisory Group on Efficiency & Benchmarking - Corrections, Juvenile Justice, National Guard Military Affairs and Educational programs, and Health and Hospitals.

Advisory Group on IT Integration - Wildlife and Fisheries, Veteran's Affairs, Workforce Commission, Labor programs, Attorney General and Education.

Advisory Group on Elimination of Duplicative & Non-Essential Services - Agriculture, Public Safety services, Revenue, Social Services and the Inspector General.

Advisory Group on Outsourcing, Privatization & Risk Management - Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Insurance, Economic Development, Environmental Quality, Transportation and Development and the Office of Community Development.

To date, the Streamlining Government Commission has formally received 44 recommendations for cost savings and efficiencies in state government from the advisory groups. Individual members of the commission have submitted 7 recommendations for consideration. The recommendations may be reviewed on the commission's website at <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/streamline/Recommendations.asp> . Citizens are encouraged to review the recommendations accepted by the commission and those proposed by the Mercatus Center and offer any ideas or opinions regarding the cost saving plans.

"As long as time allows, we will continue to allow up to two weeks after receiving recommendations to allow citizens to have a say in the proposals before the commission takes any formal action," Sen. Donahue said. "Involving as many people with varied experiences and thoughts in the process remains a priority."

The Commission on Streamlining Government is scheduled to take its first formal action on the cost saving recommendations submitted to the commission at its scheduled meeting October 27, 2009. The commission is facing a December 15th deadline to submit its initial recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

Additional information regarding the work of the Commission on Streamlining Government is available on the web at <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/streamline/> .

###