

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
ANALYSIS OF THE NEW JERSEY BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**

**BUDGET QUESTIONS FOR
THE ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
(DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY)**

1. The FY 2011 budget required all departments to cope with reduced appropriations. In some instances these reductions could be handled through improved efficiency and operational adjustments. In other instances less money resulted in programmatic reductions, including both fewer recipients and reduced benefits. Please provide examples of operational improvements in your department that saved money in FY11 and provide examples where less government meant reduction in services.

The Commission has consolidated certain sections and functions in order to allow it to function effectively within the budget allocated by the Treasury. Additionally, internal procedures and operations are continually evaluated to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective approach is always utilized.

2. The FY 2011 budget included reductions requiring Federal approvals, waivers or similar actions in order to achieve the projected savings. Please identify each such reduction in your FY 2011 budget, and indicate whether approvals/waivers have been obtained. If not, please explain whether approvals are still expected in this case, and if so, why. If federal approval is not received, what alternative actions may have to be taken to achieve savings of comparable value? **N/A**

3. The revised budget plan for Fiscal Year 2011 requires appropriation lapses of \$605 million to achieve a balanced budget and an ending surplus. Please list all appropriation items and amounts in your agency's chart of accounts that have been identified to contribute to that lapse target. Please describe the impact of each lapse on the nature, breadth or level of service or benefit provided by each appropriation, and identify and quantify the population that may be affected. Please also identify the amount of FY 2012 funding, if any, recommended to restore, in part or in full, the lapsed amount. **N/A**

4. The FY 2011 Appropriation Act assumed savings of \$50 million from privatization initiatives. Please describe all privatization initiatives undertaken/to be undertaken by your department, and specify the effective date, the amount of savings in FY 2011 and FY 2012, respectively, and the reduction in positions, filled and vacant. Please also indicate the private vendor(s) involved in the initiative, **and** the quantity and quality of services required of the vendor(s) relative to the quantity and quality provided by the department prior to privatization. **N/A**

5. For each line item reduction in the department's or unit's FY 2012 budget, specify the change, if any, in the nature, breadth or level of service or benefit that will be provided and identify and quantify the population that may be affected. **N/A**

6. For each line item reduction in the department's or unit's FY 2012 budget, please indicate the number of positions (budgeted, funded and filled or unfilled) that will be eliminated and the number of individuals whose employment will be ended. Please also indicate areas where funded and/or filled positions are projected to significantly increase, and the justification (s) for those increases. **N/A**

7. In his budget address, the Governor stated that "Zero-based budgeting...has finally come to New Jersey." This would mark a change from budget processes used in other years. Please provide examples of how the recommended budget for your department is substantively different than it would have been if the budget had been developed by the procedures used in prior years. **N/A**

8. Please identify any reductions in the department's or unit's FY 2012 budget that constitute one-time savings that are not likely to recur in Fiscal Year 2013. **N/A**

9. Are any of the appropriations recommended for FY 2012 required to compensate for the effects of Fiscal Year 2010 or FY 2011 reductions? If so, please identify and explain. **N/A**

10. Please list any anticipated increase in fees, fares or co-payments that are reflected in the FY 2012 budget recommendation, including the amount of revenue or cost reduction, and the intended effective date. **N/A**

11. Please identify proposed FY 2012 budget reductions which require Federal approvals, waivers or similar actions, and the timetable for seeking and obtaining approvals in order to achieve the projected savings. Please indicate whether approvals/waivers have been previously sought and not obtained, and explain why approvals should be expected in this case. If federal approval is not received, what alternative actions may have to be taken to achieve savings of comparable value? Please also identify proposed budget reductions that may reduce the receipt of federal funds, and the estimated loss of federal funds that would result from such reductions. **N/A**

12. The state has experienced several heavy snowfalls any other emergent weather conditions this fiscal year. Please describe the impact of these conditions on the Division of State Police operations and the adequacy of the division's FY 2011 funding, and indicate whether any cost recovery from Federal sources has occurred or is likely. **N/A**

13. The unexpected snowfall and declared state of emergency which occurred December 26 and 27, 2010 was a particularly problematic event for New Jersey citizens and State and local government agencies. The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is currently accepting claims for reimbursement of towing fees from motorists stranded on designated New Jersey roadways during the declared state of emergency. Please provide an overview of the State Police's towing procedures for private vehicles on State roadways both during a state of emergency and during non-emergency conditions.

What are the actual and estimated amount of claims being processed by the DCA, and what funding source has been identified to meet these unanticipated costs? **N/A**

14. The 2011 Budget assumed that the Division of Juvenile Justice (JJJ) would eliminate positions and curtail programs to achieve certain savings, as follows: \$8.2 million from a reconfiguration of the New Jersey Training School for Boys and the Juvenile Medium Security Facility; \$2.670 million in the State Incentive Program by ending support to facilities in Mercer, Middlesex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union counties; and \$1.3 million by eliminating parole and transitional services. The FY 2011 Budget also increased by \$1.7 million to reflect a new contract with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) for medical services, replacing in-house provision medical services. Please provide an update on the status of each of these changes, and a revised estimate of the fiscal impact of each. **N/A**