

## Commission on Streamlining Government

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### STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FINALIZES INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE STATE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

### OPPORTUNITY TO SET TRUE PRIORITIES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT

The 10-member Commission on Streamlining Government, chaired by Sen. Jack Donahue, has finalized its initial recommendations to the governor and the legislature to make Louisiana government more efficient and less costly. The 238 individual recommendations are the result of hours of hearings and public testimony before the commission and its five advisory groups over the last four months regarding reducing the size and cost of state government while improving the delivery of services to citizens. The recommendations impact almost every area of state government from state employees and state contracts to privatization of state services and improving productivity in state agencies with less state dollars.

"I am comfortable that we have given the administration and the legislature a number of options for reducing the size of government. And, in fact, the Commissioner of Administration has already said the governor will include many of the commission's recommendations in the executive budget proposal," Sen. Donahue said. "I believe the commission's recommendations will better enable Louisiana to decide what our priorities should be in state government."

With state government facing a \$1 billion budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and a \$2 billion shortfall the following fiscal year, Governor Jindal asked the commission to identify at least \$802 million in state general fund savings for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. And while preliminary dollar savings tied to the final recommendations appear to meet or exceed that goal, the savings numbers are still being finalized.

"The legislative fiscal office is hard at work finalizing the savings numbers tied to each recommendation and deciding what general fund savings can be realized for the coming fiscal year and beyond," Sen. Donahue said. "I am confident we have met our obligation to

substantially reduce the size of government in Louisiana applying common sense principals to our operations."

The list of 238 recommendations will be available at the Streamlining Government Commission website <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/streamline/> . An initial report on the recommendations including available fiscal notes and staff narratives relative to the development of the recommendations will be available later this month. A reorganization plan for the initial recommendations is due by January 4, 2010. The work of the Streamlining Government Commission will continue through 2011.

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