

COMMISSION FOR A NEW GEORGIA: OVERVIEW AND INITIATIVES

In 2003, Governor Perdue enlisted 21 highly respected CEOs to serve as members of the Commission for a New Georgia, a non-profit corporation chartered to envision what Georgia can be at its best. The Commission's assignment was to bring breakthrough thinking from a fresh perspective to ways state government can better manage its assets and services and map its strategic future. Their work began with scanning state functions from a "100,000-foot" vantage -- taking a broad view of large issues that affect many aspects of state government operations, as well as Georgia's health, safety, education, economic growth, and development of innovative leadership.

The Commission recruited 15 Task Forces of senior business leaders and *pro bono* consultants to scrutinize areas which could benefit from a business-like approach toward the goal of becoming a "best-managed state." To date, 13 Task Forces have reported their findings and recommendations, with two more ready to present their work in January.

To take the Commission's business viewpoint to the inner workings of real government, Governor Perdue established the Office of Implementation in August 2004 and appointed Lonice Barrett to direct the intergovernmental initiative. As an agency head with 34 years of state service, Barrett earned a reputation as one of Georgia's most trusted administrators.

As a part of the implementation process, four cross-functional teams of agency administrators and employees studied the first Task Force reports, performed a second-opinion review on specific recommendations, and proposed workable ways to get results. The Implementation Teams involved 60 state administrators and staff members from 23 agencies, and their efforts produced more than 30 specific actions -- administrative changes, executive orders, or legislation -- to improve government efficiency, economy, and effectiveness.

Their recommendations, presented to Governor Perdue and his key staff on November 15, 2004, related to management of four of Georgia's key assets: Procurement and Administrative Services, Fleet Management, Space Management and Capital Construction, and Tourism. In December 2004, the Governor announced his intention to implement new policies and practices affecting fleet management, space management, and warehoused surplus property.

Implementation planning is underway on Task Force reports in Workforce Development, Strategic Industries, Competitiveness, Receivables, and Public Finance Options. New Commission initiatives are also being planned, including a Task Force on improving the state's customer service to citizens.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR INITIATIVES AND ESTIMATED BENEFITS

INITIATIVE/DESCRIPTION

ESTIMATED COSTS AND COST SAVINGS

Fleet Management

Implement statewide fleet management data system, tighten vehicle assignment policy and enforcement, and eliminate underutilized vehicles to reduce cost of operating, maintaining, and owning the state's passenger vehicle fleet.

FY 2005 Cost: \$663,500
FY 2005-06 Cost Savings: \$7,222,746

Procurement

Implement statewide "spend" database, statewide asset management database, reverse auctions, multiple round bidding, e-catalog, e-Quote technology, and other procurement processes and tools that will reduce cost of purchasing goods and services.

FY 2005-06 Cost: \$20,215,000
FY 2006-09 Cost Savings: \$135,000,000

Information Technology

Implement telecommunications audit and software system, implement enterprise architecture software, consolidate e-mail systems and agency servers, implement thin-client equipment and standard consulting contracts, and improve project management to capture efficiencies and support other initiatives.

FY 2005-06 Cost: \$1,125,000
FY 2006-09 Cost Savings: \$24,400,000

Human Resources

Expand and enhance existing PeopleSoft Human Resources management system, conduct staffing analysis, and enhance employee benefit services to improve productivity, create efficiencies, and better serve employees.

FY 2005-06 Cost: \$3,475,000
FY 2007-08 Cost Savings: \$4,712,128

Capital Assets Management

Consolidate leases, dispose of surplus property, implement statewide capital assets management data system, and complete State Construction Manual to reduce costs associated with constructing and managing the state's capital assets.

FY 2006-09 Cost Savings: \$32,000,000