

New York needs a real plan for Government Efficiency, not another “plan to plan”

Consolidation of unaccountable public authorities should be first on the agenda

The Proposal:

The Executive Budget includes Article VII language for the “Gubernatorial Reorganization” of government, but provides no details on what will actually be reorganized. Instead, it creates a superfluous and meaningless process where the Executive can propose consolidations to the legislature.

The Problem:

A Governor can always propose changes to the organization of the state through legislation. How does creating a redundant process make the state more efficient? If there is a proposal to reorganize government, a bill should be presented to the legislature that allows for a full vetting by the public. In addition, the budget ignores the more than 1,000 public authorities that litter our state.

The Solution:

PEF supports consolidation of agencies to improve efficiency. PEF strongly supports the abolition of public authorities by consolidating their operations into state agencies. The legislature should reject S2813/A4013 and insist on a bill to reduce duplication and inefficiency by consolidating public authorities into state agencies.



The State Can Save \$4.4 Billion Annually by Eliminating or Combining Public Authorities

- More than 1,000 public authorities operate off-budget, or in the shadows, making it difficult for the public to scrutinize their operations and spending.
- Self-reported expenditures by authorities in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009-10 totaled \$44 billion. This amount is equal to approximately 84 percent of the state's General Fund spending.
- Salaries of public authority employees are 33 percent higher than state worker salaries.
- Together, public authorities account for \$215 billion in total debt outstanding. As of March 31, 2009, more than 94 percent of all state-funded debt outstanding was issued by public authorities without voter approval.
- For SFY 2009-10, state-funded public authority debt per New York household topped \$7,900, an increase of more than 25 percent from SFY 2005-06.
- If the state is serious about saving money, then it must look at public authorities "because that's where the money is."
- A 10 percent reduction in public authorities similar to the cuts proposed to state agencies would save \$4.4 billion annually.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD:

Reject s2813/a4013

Demand a bill that details a plan to consolidate public authorities into existing state agencies



New York State Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO

REPRESENTING 56,000 PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES

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