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SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12/HUMAN RESOURCES CLOSING REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, WELFARE DIVISION

THE MAJOR FISCAL ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION INCLUDE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR SIGNIFICANT STAFFING INCREASES PRIMARILY TO ADDRESS CASELOAD GROWTH; THE PROJECTED GROWTH FOR TANF CASELOADS, WHICH WERE FUNDED EXCLUSIVELY WITH STATE GENERAL FUNDS; AND THE OVERALLOCATION OF TANF FUNDS THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION'S VARIOUS BUDGETS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT NUMEROUS CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET ARE RECOMMENDED THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS TO THE GENERAL FUND; THESE ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDE A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF NEW POSITIONS RECOMMENDED; A REDUCTION IN THE PROJECTED GROWTH IN TANF CASELOADS TO MORE REALISTIC LEVELS; AND THE CORRECTION OF THE OVERALLOCATION OF TANF FUNDS. IN CONCLUSION, THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL REDUCE THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION BY \$7,491,632 FOR FY 2004 AND BY \$10,985,896 FOR FY 2005, FOR A NET REDUCTION OF \$18,392,525 OVER THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM.

THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND BUDGET CLOSING ACTIONS THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS.

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