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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12/HUMAN RESOURCES
CLOSING REPORT**

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

THE MAJOR FISCAL ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM FOR THE DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY PRIMARILY INCLUDE MEDICAID CASELOADS AND COSTS THAT WERE RE-PROJECTED IN APRIL FOR THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM WHICH WERE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN RECOMMENDED IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET; THE BUDGET REDUCTION/COST SAVING INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR; THE RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH A NEW PROGRAM CALLED HIWA WHICH WOULD ALLOW DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EMPLOYED TO OBTAIN MEDICAID COVERAGE THROUGH A BUY-IN MECHANISM; THE ELIMINATION OF THE CHAP ASSETS TEST; AND THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID WAIVERS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT NUMEROUS CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET ARE RECOMMENDED FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A GENERAL FUND SAVINGS OF \$9,723,742 FOR FY 2004 AND \$7,446,421 FOR FY 2005 FOR A NET REDUCTION OF \$17,170,163 OVER THE 2003-05 BIENNIUM. THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND BUDGET CLOSING ADJUSTMENTS THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS.