

**REPORT OF THE SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON THE SFY 2008-09 EXECUTIVE
TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION BUDGET**

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Adirondack Park Agency

The Senate concurs with the Executive's recommendation of \$6.2 million, unchanged from SFY 2007-08.

Department of Agriculture and Markets

The Senate recommends \$190.7 million for the Department, an increase of \$8.6 million or 4.7 percent from SFY 2007-08 levels.

The Senate modifies the Executive's recommendations as follows:

- Accept the Executive's recommendation to establish funding for three new initiatives including \$450,000 for transitions to organic farming; \$300,000 to prevent the spread of the golden nematode (a potato pest); and \$20,000 for seed quality improvement.
- Accepts the Executive's recommendation to increase funding for migrant worker child care by \$1.9 million to \$6.5 million; for Grow NY enterprises by \$1.2 million to \$2.4 million; and for Farm Net family assistance from \$300,000 to \$600,000.
- Accept the Executive's recommendation to increase funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory by \$900,000 to \$2.9 million; and for the Geneva Experimental Station by \$100,000 to \$600,000.
- Accept the Executive's recommendation to increase funding for five disease eradication or prevention programs by \$589,000, including doubled funding levels for both Johnes Disease, and Honey Bee (Apiary) Inspection.
- Reject the Executive's proposal to consolidate the individual appropriations for three Cornell administered outreach and education programs (Agriculture in the Classroom, Future Farmers of America, Association of Agriculture Educators) into a single appropriation for the Cornell University Agricultural Outreach and Education program. The Senate recommends restoring the individual budget lines for these three programs.
- Accept the Executive's recommendation to establish six new positions in the following areas: economic development (2), contract audit (1), commodity specialist (1), and horticulture specialist (1).

Division of Housing and Community Renewal

The Senate modifies the Executive's recommendation of \$339 million for the Division to include reductions of \$1.38 million for state operations and restorations of funds for targeted housing programs.

- Reduce funds in nonpersonal service accounts and the Housing Development Fund Program.
- Restore \$2.4 million in funding to the Rural Preservation Program, the Home Ownership Economic Stabilization Program for Long Island, and the Rural Revitalization Program.

Article VII Proposals:

- The Senate accepts the Executive's proposal to provide an increase of \$4 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits Program.
- The Senate rejects the Executive's proposal to authorize the Office of State Comptroller to intercept any State aid payments to New York City in the event of nonpayment of billings from the Division for the incurred costs of administering the Rent Regulation Program.

Insurance Department

The Senate recommends All Funds appropriations of \$302.5 million, including \$100 million and eight new full time equivalent (FTE) positions for Timothy's Law. The Senate denies the Executive's proposed addition of 12 new FTEs for the "Partnership for Coverage" program and the Commission to Modernize the Regulation of Financial Services.

The Senate **rejects** the following suballocations and refers funding for such programs to the Department of Health:

- \$11.9 million for the Enhanced Newborn Screening Program.
- \$5 million for the Cervical Cancer Vaccine Program.
- \$4 million for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
- \$5.5 million for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program.
- \$720,000 for the Lead Prevention Program.
- \$1.77 million for the Childhood Obesity Program.
- \$8 million for the Immunization Program.

Article VII Proposal:

- The Senate rejects the Executive's proposal to increase various civil penalties placed on insurers, agents and brokers for violations of Insurance Law and related regulations; to authorize the Superintendent of Insurance to cease and desist orders; and to increase the length of time that an insurer must wait to obtain a license after revocation. The Executive projects \$1 million in revenue will be generated from these fees.