

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

2. Where a board has a roster of current members, the board shall be requested by the department within which it is located to comment upon the need for its continued existence.

3. On or before February 15, the Office of Governor's Counsel shall issue a report to the Governor and Legislature on the activities of each board, together with legislation to repeal or amend the authorization, duties, or composition of any board for which such action is necessary.

4. Such legislation shall be offered for introduction by Governor's Counsel no later than March 1 of each calendar year.

5. Any board established by executive order shall terminate on the first day of the third March following its establishment unless otherwise indicated in the executive order or unless renewed by executive order.

6. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Given, under my hand and seal this 20th day of April
 [SEAL] in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and
 seventy-seven of the Independence of the United States
 the two hundredth and first.

/s/ BRENDAN BYRNE,
Governor.

Attest:

/s/ JOHN J. DEGNAN,
Executive Secretary to the Governor.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 55

WHEREAS, There exists a continuing need for the review and analysis of the fiscal position of State and local government; and

WHEREAS, The passage of significant legislation reforming the State's tax structure and imposing mandatory limits on increases in government spending creates new challenges and opportunities for government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, The present tax program will self-destruct on July 1, 1978; and

WHEREAS, School districts will begin preparing school budgets in the fall of 1977 and are presently relying upon one billion 260 million dollars of school aid, which will expire with this program; and

WHEREAS, Municipal governments will begin preparing municipal budgets in December of 1977 and are presently relying upon \$689 million of aid, which will expire with the program; and

WHEREAS, The State budget must be submitted in February 1978 and must provide appropriations for the above-named purposes and revenues to support such appropriations, and must reflect the future disposition of homestead rebate payments amounting to \$266 million, and revenues to support such appropriations; and

WHEREAS, The future continuity of a business tax reform package must be provided for, one way or another, in the State budget; and

WHEREAS, Municipal, school, county, and State budgets must be prepared within spending limitations (caps) or without such limitations, depending upon the future of the program; and

WHEREAS, A lack of information about any part of the program, or a delay in addressing the problems of this program or devising an alternative course, or an uninformed judgment about the consequences of one or another courses of action could unsettle the administration of government at all levels in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive and thorough review of projected revenues and expenditures will assist State and local governments in planning to meet public needs in the most efficient and effective manner;

Now, THEREFORE, I, Brendan T. Byrne, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the statutes of this State, do hereby Order and Direct:

1. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Commission on Government Costs and Tax Policy (the "Commission") composed of 17 members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The members shall serve without com-

pensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties subject to the availability of funds.

2. The Governor shall designate a chairman and vice-chairman of the Commission from among the members of the Commission. The chairman shall preside over the meetings and affairs of the Commission and shall create such subcommittees as he deems appropriate to carry out the functions of the Commission. The chairman shall have such further powers and duties as may be conferred upon him by the Governor. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall have all the powers and duties of the chairman. The Commission may retain or designate an executive director, and a staff subject to the approval of arrangements for compensation by the Treasurer.

3. (a) The Commission shall conduct a thorough study and investigation of the costs and funding sources of State, county and local government. In conducting the study, the Commission shall consider, report and make recommendations concerning the following:

(1) social and economic impact of current tax legislation and limitations on the growth of government expenditures;

(2) nature and level of projected expenditures of State, county and local government and the demands for new programs;

(3) nature and level of projected revenues for State, county and local governments;

(4) analysis of the adequacy of projected revenues to meet expenditures;

(5) review of the equity of current and alternative tax legislation on various income groups;

(6) compatibility with concerns of county and local governments;

(7) effect of current tax and spending limitation legislation on education objectives and policy;

(8) implications of current and alternative financing sources on credit standing of State government;

(9) alternatives to current tax and spending limitation programs and their effects;

(10) such other factors as the Commission shall deem relevant to its objectives.

(b) In conducting its study and investigation, the Commission shall review the reports and studies already prepared or presently being prepared by State, county, local governments or other public or private agencies. The Commission may conduct further studies and retain additional consultants necessary to fulfill its duties, subject to approval of financing arrangements by the Treasurer.

4. The Commission shall proceed promptly with its study and investigation. The Commission shall render to the Governor a full report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 1977.

5. The Commission shall conduct public meetings or hearings and solicit information from the public and any other appropriate source. Notice of public meetings or hearings shall be given in such manner as the chairman may direct to provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to be heard.

6. (a) The Commission is authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of the State to supply such data, program reports, and other information, personnel or assistance as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this Order.

(b) Each department, office, division or agency of the State is authorized and directed, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate with the Commission and to furnish it with such information, personnel and assistance necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order.

7. This Order shall take effect immediately.

[SEAL] Given, under my hand and seal this 18th day of May
in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and
seventy-seven of the Independence of the United States
the two hundredth and first.

/s/ BRENDAN BYRNE,
Governor.

Attest:

/s/ JOHN J. DEGNAN,
Executive Secretary to the Governor.