



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Emma Byrne
609/292-8956

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

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FLORIO SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER SHARPLY CUTTING NUMBER OF STATE CARS

NEWARK -- Hundreds of high-level state officials and other state employees will soon begin turning in the keys to their state cars as the result of a new state-car policy announced today by Governor Jim Florio. He also issued an Executive Order centralizing control of all state cars within the Treasury Department.

"New Jersey taxpayers deserve a dollar's worth of value for every dollar they send to Trenton," said Florio, who had pledged to crack down on state cars in an effort to curb government waste. "I said that during the campaign and I'm still saying it as Governor."

Florio said he expected 500 cars to be turned in by July 1, 1990, and wants to see 1,000 cars idled by the end of the year.

"The old wasteful policy on state cars just can't be justified -- not at a time when the state faces serious economic problems," he said. "In fact, it can't be justified at any time. The free rides are over."

When the policy is fully implemented, only Cabinet members, chairmen of the Board of Public Utilities and the Casino Control Commission, and a limited number of those on the Governor's staff will have access to state cars. Other state employees may be assigned cars only if their formal job duties require it and if the cars will be driven more than 1,600 miles per month on official business.

Today's announcement ends the practice of giving "discretionary" cars to other top-level officials. Some of the returned cars will become replacement vehicles for state police, case workers, inspectors and others who will continue to need state vehicles. Others will be returned to leasing agencies or sold at auction.

The Executive Order also calls for the Personnel Commissioner to develop sanctions for disciplining state employees who don't follow the rules.

"I'm not picking on state workers. They are dedicated, serious public servants," Governor Florio said. "But we have allowed a situation to exist where state government is getting a bad reputation. I take seriously my job of guarding the public confidence and their dollars.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

WHEREAS, State government is entrusted with the responsibility to provide services to the public in a manner that carefully conserves taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, the cost of acquiring and maintaining the State's fleet of cars constitutes a significant public expense; and

WHEREAS, the assignment and use of State cars must be scrutinized to ensure that the size of the State's car fleet is tailored to meet the legitimate needs of State workers on public business in the most cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the misuse of State cars shall not be tolerated and must result in the imposition of timely disciplinary sanctions on those who have been determined to misuse these cars;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES J. FLORIO, 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. The Department of Treasury shall assume title, management, control and supervision over all State cars, whether owned or leased by the State.
2. The State Treasurer shall issue such guidelines and promulgate such rules or regulations as may be necessary to assure the proper assignment and use of State-owned and leased cars.
3. The Commissioner of Personnel shall issue such guidelines and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the discipline of State employees who misuse State cars or fail to comply with any guideline, rule or regulation promulgated by the State Treasurer pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Order.
4. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall supersede any prior Executive Order to the extent inconsistent with this Order.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal, this
day of
in the Year of Our Lord, one
thousand nine hundred and
ninety, and of the Independence
of the United States, the two
hundred and fourteenth.

JAMES J. FLORIO
GOVERNOR

Attest:

John A. Sweeney
Counsel to the Governor