



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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FLORIO NAMES COMMITTEE TO BEGIN AUDIT REVIEW

Governor Jim Florio today named the executive board of the Governor's Management Review Commission, which will help fulfill his campaign commitment to identify and eliminate wasteful spending in state government.

Named to the board were: former Governor William T. Cahill, of Haddonfield; Dr. John Petillo, of Verona, former Chancellor of Seton Hall University; Glorio Bonilla-Santiago, Ph.D., of Camden, Associate Professor, Rutgers University; Martin Brody, of Short Hills, President, Restaurant Associates; James Ferland, of Mendham, President & CEO, PSE&G, and Stanley Van Ness, of Brielle, a lawyer with Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer and former Public Advocate.

"I have a mandate from the people: lean, cost-effective government. I am confident this group will help me accomplish it," Florio said.

The members will serve without pay. They will conduct their work in two phases. In the first phase, beginning now, they will evaluate suggestions culled from research conducted by the Florio transition team, as well as those made by previous state government audits and Governor Kean's Management Improvement Program. The board will submit its findings to Governor Florio as soon as possible. Their findings will help Governor Florio develop his budget for the next fiscal year.

The second phase, from April to October, will deal with implementing a detailed operational audit of state government. This will be conducted with loaned executives, staff of the Governor's

Office of Management & Planning, and other experts. The board also will seek the "pro bono" services of major management and accounting firms. It is anticipated that this work will result in savings that can be reflected in the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1991.

The operational audit will identify verifiable opportunities to cut costs, streamline operations, and eliminate unnecessary or duplicative services.

"I'm issuing a call to the best and brightest from the private, public, non-profit, and academic communities," Florio said. "We can streamline and strengthen state government at the same time. I promised to answer the question, 'where did the money go?' and this audit will help me to do it. I'm looking forward to positive, useful results."

Reflecting Florio's desire to be kept abreast of the audit's activities, the audit will report to the Governor's Office of Management & Planning. An executive director, to be named shortly, will direct the day-to-day operations of the audit.