

Suggestion List

01-Jun-11

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

Department of Business and Professional R

5183	1/24/2011				Y	5/25/2011
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Forward to ALL agencies: Many documents can be processed using the docuSign.net program. Particularly the Legal files (Administrative Orders, etc) can be routed throughout the Agency electronically. New rules and policies can all be handled electronically. This should allow for a significant decrease in the need for resources in all of the internal mail rooms in agencies and the need for "runners". Businesses are using this type of software to handle very complex legal documents, mortgages, etc. The state agencies should be able to extensively implement this. HR forms could all be processed this way as well.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation I think something similar is being done.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5222	1/26/2011				Y	5/25/2011
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Anecdotally, many cell phones are issued to State employees that are rarely used and not carried by employees after business hours. I'm not sure of the monthly charges incurred; however, I am sure many employees who are issued these phones would opt for a reimbursement plan offering \$20 per month or so to use their personal cell phones for business related calls. Many employees issued these phones do not want to carry two cell phones (personal and business) on the chance that they may receive a business related phone call. I have been working at the Department of Children and Families for about one month and have not used my work cell phone once. I have a personal cell phone and have given my supervisor my number so that she may call me on it in lieu of the work cell phone. If I was offered a reimbursement of \$20 per month, for example, I would gladly take that option and turn in my work cell phone which I am sure would still be a cost savings to the State. Although, my one phone would not make a huge budgetary difference, I'm certain that if this suggestion was implemented Statewide amongst all agencies, the cost savings could be significant.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Our office has turned in cell phones that are not needed.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
	5255	2/8/2011			Y	5/25/2011

I see one of the largest costs for state government is travel. Millions of dollars are spent yearly on travel for each state agency, from the governor to the auditors. I came from a private sector job in which I traveled a great deal. One of the fringe benefits from that job was travel points. It enabled me to get free hotel rooms so my wife and I could vacation more. But, it also changed my spending habits. I only stayed in Hilton hotel brand, because I could earn points quicker. That meant that I would often spend more for a room, so that it would be part of the Hilton hotel chain. My boss did not care because money was good and he was not worried about these additional costs because they were being passed along to the client. I believe this type of spending is rampant throughout state government. I see the general rule is if the room is less than \$100 than it is allowed. But I think that is too much latitude during these trying times.

My suggestion is that the State looks at Hotwire.com. This is an amazing travel tool that can save a great deal of money. I am sure you know how it works, but I will give a brief subscription. This is an online travel site for booking flights and hotels. You go on and choose a location and dates. Then the service provides you with options based on a star rating. For example Hampton Inns are 2.5 stars and they improve all the way to 5 stars. Customers are guaranteed a specific group of brands for each star rating. This ensures that the customer is not staying in a run-down, off-brand hotel. Also for larger markets, the city is broken down into separate areas. This ensures that your hotel will be relatively close to where you are working. Example: The government rate for Hampton Inn Westshore, Tampa Florida, March 7-11 is \$99 per night. Hotwire Rate: 3 star \$57 per night. The amazing part is that a 3 star hotel, which is rated higher than the Hampton Inn. This savings can be transferred to almost any market throughout the state. Smaller communities and rural counties might not have travel options, but I would assume that a majority of travel is done to major cities. One potential downside to Hotwire.com is that rooms are pre purchased. This means that the reservations cannot be altered. This does reduce flexibility, but the dramatic cost saving far outweighs the less flexibility.

Next I will list the Pros and Cons:

Pros:

1. Travel costs are dramatically less than usual government rates.
2. Hotel brands are guaranteed with each star rating.
3. Hotels are defined specific area of city.

Cons:

1. Employees do not receive reward points
2. Rooms are pre purchased and cannot be changed or altered.

I know a policy like this would be very unpopular among those who travel as part of their job. But when we are talking about layoffs and reduction in government size, this could equal jobs for state employees. Personally I would give up my Hilton reward points for a job for myself or colleague. I think this idea at least warrants a study to see its potential savings.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Our agency has the maximum room rate at \$89 a night.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

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SUGGESTION

	5307	2/22/2011			Y	5/25/2011
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I would suggest utilizing the printer's "Preference -> Finishing" function and print on both sides of the paper. Requiring everyone to do this should reduce paper consumption by half.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Our office uses this feature already.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	5826	4/2/2011			Y	5/25/2011
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Many agencies have replacement schedules for basic equipment and office supplies. They purchase new equipment per that schedule, whether it is needed or not. I'm thinking specifically of office equipment, though it could apply elsewhere. Why buy new desks and chairs every 7 years, if the ones currently in place still work fine? Why repaint if the current paint job still looks okay? Agencies tend to spend out those monies (whether needed at the time or not) for fear they won't be available when items actually do break and need replacing.

I believe the state could save a great deal of money with some type of moratorium on 'redecorating,' and by taking a hard look at whether a new desk or chair is actually needed. Within my own agency, with 10 locations, we also have an informal swap system. If someone is cleaning out, they might post 'I have 2 chairs available - anyone need chairs?' Or from the other direction - "I have a new staff person coming in and need a desk and chair - anyone have one we can use?" A central swap site for state agencies might encourage more re-use.

What funds we do have could be better spent on staff or equipment that DOES need to be updated more regularly - like computer systems, in order to operate more effectively and better serve the public.

We should be focusing on needs instead of 'wants.'

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation We replace broken chairs and furniture with whatever we can find in the surplus area of the building.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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Department of Corrections

5509	3/11/2011				Y	5/16/2011
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Why not set up all workcamps on a 12 hour pilot project security shifts and encourage them to make the project work. The department already has a 12 hour rosters in place. Try to have them save the taxpayers some money.

If any of the staff have child care conflicts, work the issues out.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department will be conducting a 12 hour pilot for 3 to 4 months to assess the feasibility of implementing them statewide.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the pilot.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5513	3/11/2011				Y	5/16/2011
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Why not set up all workcamps on a 12 hour pilot project security shifts and encourage them to make the project work. The department already has a 12 hour rosters in place. Try to have them save the taxpayers some money.

If any of the staff have child care conflicts, work the issues out.Example: 6AM to 6PM or 7AM to 7PM? Try also to have all work camp staff do their time sheets online.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department will be conducting a 12 hour pilot for 3 to 4 months to assess the feasibility of implementing them statewide.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the pilot

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5558	3/17/2011				Y	5/16/2011
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The corrections agency has 12 security shift rosters already made and on file. Why not implement these at 4 selected facilities as a pilot project and see if staffing cost can be achieved. Try work camps first.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department will be conducting a 12 hour pilot for 3 to 4 months to assess the feasibility of implementing them statewide.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the pilot.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION						

5591	3/18/2011				Y	5/16/2011
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Why is the corrections agency still allowing in this massive budget shortfall correctional administrations to have 1 warden, 2 or more Assistant Wardens, 2 or more Correctional Officer Chiefs, and 2 or more classification supervisors, education supervisors, maintenance supervisors, General Services Specialist in warehouses, etc. Eliminate 1/2 of these positions. 1 Warden every two institutions. One Assistant Warden at each, 1 Correctional Officer Chief per instituion (Main Unit, Annex, and Work Camps), 1 Classification Supervisor per per institutions. 1 Maintenance Supervisor per 2 instituions. 2 Education supervisors per Region. This move would save millions of dollars.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is in the process of evaluating staffing requirements throughout the agency with a view to flattening the organizational structure.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5671	4/6/2011	50	Recurring	Y	5/16/2011
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Why has the corrections agency failed to implement more prison consolidation. There is a excessive large amount of vacant inmate beds available. Why does the corrections agency not fill prisons to capacity and shut down small, inefficient prisons (Examples: Lawty CI, Putman CI, Jefferson CI, ETC.)

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation The Legislature has approved SB 2000 wherein the department was approved to consolidate facilities estimated to save the state over \$50 million

Legislative approval of department's consolidation plan

Steps Taken Legislative approval of department's consolidation plan

Efficiency:

5725	4/6/2011	50	Recurring	Y	5/16/2011
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With a budget shortfall and a large excess vacant inmate prison beds (Over 8,000 in the state system). Fill all facilities that are considered large to capacity. Transfer staff. Close small facilities. This alone would save millions of dollars.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The Legislature has passed SB 2000 wherein the department was approved to consolidate facilities estimated to save the state over \$50 million

Implementation

See above.

Steps Taken See above.

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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	5768	4/6/2011			Y	5/16/2011
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Every correctional facility has a Warden, assistant Warden(s), Correctional Officer Chief(s)-[Colonels/Majors]. This cost the florida Taxpayers over \$500,000 in personeel cost at every correctional facility. This times 70 facilities is a large amount of money. Can Not the correctional agency cut this cost in half, along with staff to save money!!!!!!

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is in the process of evaluating staffing requirements throughout the agency with a view to flattening the organizational structure.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	5807	4/6/2011			Y	5/16/2011
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Since the corrections agency has over built prisons, wht is the agency building a Super WorkCamp and a annex at Cross City CI and planning future dormitories at Lancaster CI.

These projects needs to be scrapped! You said No more wastfully state building projects.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The current construction schedule for additional prison beds was authorized by the 2009 Legislature and funded by way of bond-financing. This was based on the April 2009 CJEC that projected the inmate population would reach 111,836 by the end of FY 2011-2012. However, the most recent conference of October 2010 reduced the projection for FY 2011-2012 to 103,525 which has negated the need for these additional beds at least for the next three years.

Regardless, this unique situation provides us an ideal opportunity to assess all the prison beds we have and will have in the system. We have already begun consolidating facilities and maximizing the utilization of those beds that are cheaper to operate. Cheaper to operate because they are newer, more efficient configuration to minimize staffing costs, maintenance free, located in easier job markets. Due to lack of funding for the past several years, many of the department's facilities are in a very distressed condition. The condition of the infrastructure has been compromised by such factors as the age of existing facilities (many of which are in excess of 30 years old), and the prolonged use and abuse common in the correctional setting. The many needs include roofing, water and wastewater plant upgrades, inmate housing repairs and renovations, deterioration of security fence alarm systems that have surpassed their life expectancy and numerous other physical plant needs.

Implementation See above

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

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SUGGESTION

5884 4/15/2011 Y 5/16/2011

In order to free up Youthful Offender inmate bed space, the agency should immediately identify all youthful offenders who were not sentenced as a Youthful Offender under Fla statutes and transfer them to adult facilities. With the excessive inmate bed space available, the agency could close another small Youthful Offender facility like Indian River CI and save the Florida Taxpayers millions of dollars.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is currently evaluation this issue.

Implementation implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5899 4/15/2011 Y 5/16/2011

As Governor, we the Taxpayers hold You accountable. The corrections agency last year allocated money to build and replace a old plywood inmate housing unit at the Lancaster CI main unit. The new inmate housing unit is up and running. Why is the old building not been torn down. Also why could the inmates and staff not tear the building down and save the Florida taxpayers thousands of dollars?

Who's asleep as the wheel?

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation See above

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

5920 4/15/2011 Y 5/16/2011

The corrections secretary still failing to reduce the number of highly paid middle managers. Why is he waiting? It is costing the Florida Taxpayers over \$400,000 at every correctional facility. This times 60 plus facilities is a large amount of money. These positions do not even need the Florida Legislatures approved to delete. Select Exempt Service positions can be deleted. Quite wasteing Florida Taxpayer money.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is in the process of evaluating staffing requirements throughout the agency with a view to flattening the organizational structure.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	5962	4/15/2011			Y	5/16/2011
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The corrections secretary should save money by deleting all OPS positions, even if there are grant funded. Their is a hiring freeze on and the agency is short money. Help make up the agency's deficient.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is in the process of evaluating all staffing requirements, including OPS.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	6050	4/18/2011			Y	5/16/2011
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Why is the Florida Dept of Corrections not cutting their excessive number of middle managers. by eliminating one half of all middle managers at every correctional institution would save millions of Florida Taxpayers dollars.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation** The department is in the process of evaluating staffing requirements throughout the agency with a view to flattening the organizational structure.

Implementation Implementation will depend on the outcome of the evaluation.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

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SUGGESTION

Department of Environmental Protection

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION						

	5832	4/2/2011		Recurring	Y	5/16/2011
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Many agencies have replacement schedules for basic equipment and office supplies. They purchase new equipment per that schedule, whether it is needed or not. I'm thinking specifically of office equipment, though it could apply elsewhere. Why buy new desks and chairs every 7 years, if the ones currently in place still work fine? Why repaint if the current paint job still looks okay? Agencies tend to spend out those monies (whether needed at the time or not) for fear they won't be available when items actually do break and need replacing.

I believe the state could save a great deal of money with some type of moratorium on 'redecorating,' and by taking a hard look at whether a new desk or chair is actually needed. Within my own agency, with 10 locations, we also have an informal swap system. If someone is cleaning out, they might post 'I have 2 chairs available - anyone need chairs?' Or from the other direction - "I have a new staff person coming in and need a desk and chair - anyone have one we can use?" A central swap site for state agencies might encourage more re-use.

What funds we do have could be better spent on staff or equipment that DOES need to be updated more regularly - like computer systems, in order to operate more effectively and better serve the public.

We should be focusing on needs instead of 'wants.'

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) does not have a replacement schedule established for the purchase of office furniture (desk, chairs, etc.) as described in the suggestion submitted. Prior to the ordering of new office furniture, approval must first be obtained from the Division/District/Office Director and the Deputy Secretary that oversees the program area making the request. The Division of Administrative Services advertises all office equipment/furniture proposed for surplus on its website for consideration by program representatives before any action is taken to authorize the items for auction, transfer (to other state agencies or non-profit 501(c)3 entities), recycling or disposal. Our three-member Surplus Property Review Board attempts to identify items appearing on surplus property requests that might be of value to other program areas, other State agencies, or governmental entities as part of our approval process.

Several years' ago, the Department moved one of our District offices to a new location. Office equipment and furniture that would not be needed at the new location was identified by the District Office. One of our Recreation and Parks District Offices identified storage space and made arrangements to obtain most of the items that were in decent condition. Once stored, the District posted photographs in a central file for access by their park staff. Items were requested, marked and picked up when park staff was attending meetings in the area. The parks receiving these items were thrilled with the opportunity to obtain this furniture/equipment. Recently, Department staff considered furniture/equipment made available by the consolidation of the Department of Revenue (DOR) Tallahassee Offices into their central location at Southwood. We identified equipment we wanted and were contacted at a later date to arrange for pick-up once DOR finalized their move schedules.

Steps Taken We are planning to use a similar process for some pending office relocations scheduled for later this calendar year. The Department's Office of Technology and Information Services is responsible for identifying computer upgrades needed agency-wide. They work with the Information Technology Coordinators for each Division/District/Office as they analyze our IT inventory data in identifying equipment to be replaced. Once the analysis is completed and specifications are defined, OTIS issues a Request for Quotes to the Department of Management Services (DMS) State Term Contract (STC) vendors to obtain the best pricing for the needed equipment. This process generally occurs once or twice each fiscal year. The Swap Shop process for supplies as described in the suggestion has been used by DEP. Divisions have set up tables containing supplies that are no longer needed and are available for consideration by other division staff. Once the Division that purchased the supplies has been given first choice on availability, the remaining supplies are opened up for consideration by other program areas of the DEP. Ultimately, supplies that are no longer needed by the Department are donated to other governmental entities, local public schools, or non-profit 501(c)3 entities.

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION				FREQUENCY		

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

Department of Revenue

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
	5880	4/12/2011			Y	5/19/2011

This also affects the Department of Children and Families.

I work for DOR and reviewed a case today where the custodial parent and the non-custodial parent were living together when she applied for services, and are still living together. She has received [REDACTED] in food stamps from 6/10 to 4/11. The non-custodial parent was working and his income was enough to where they would probably be ineligible for food stamps. The CP told us the NCP was in [REDACTED] so we filed the case with our attorneys. That costs money for filing fees, attys, etc. Luckily, the [REDACTED] sheriff didn't charge us in their attempt to serve the NCP, however, it usually costs from \$40 upwards for service.

I informed DCF about this case and they will do their own investigation, however, I believe that if parties are caught frauding the system, they should be forced to pay back the money that the Department of Revenue has spent on their behalf. If this was enforced, it may help cut down on the "clients" we have that really do not need our help. There are too many people who really need our assistance to fool around with others who are wasting our time (which is money). The CSE # is [REDACTED]

I also believe that DOR should reinstate the \$25 fee to open Non-Assistance cases. That is a lot less money than it costs to retain an attorney, and many times, we open the case, send out forms for them to complete and end up closing the case because they have failed to return the forms. The \$25 fee would hopefully make them more serious about complying with items that are needed.

Thanks for your time.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation The Department of Revenue appreciates these two suggestions. We thank the writer for thinking about ways to save money for the State while enhancing the effectiveness of our child support enforcement program.

1. In theory, the Department of Revenue would be entitled to restitution for its expenses in pursuing child support in a public assistance fraud case when there is a fraudulent representation that the other parent lives outside the home and there is either a conviction or guilty plea in the case. At this time, however, we don't believe that attempting to obtain restitution in such cases would be the most effective use of our limited resources. The effort, which might not result in receiving any money, would take significant staff time away from pursuing our core mission of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying and enforcing child support.

In addition, if the court ordered restitution any amount collected would constitute "program income." Under federal Title IV-D regulations the state is allowed to keep only 34 percent of program income. The remainder, 66 percent, is paid to the federal government.

2. Under federal law, states are required to charge an application fee and the fee may not be greater than \$25. Section 409.2567(1) of the Florida Statutes provides for a \$1 annual fee that is waived and paid by the Department of Revenue. Reinstating the \$25 application fee for persons not receiving public assistance would require a change in state law.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

Fish and Wildlife Commission

5846

4/2/2011

Y

5/9/2011

Many agencies have replacement schedules for basic equipment and office supplies. They purchase new equipment per that schedule, whether it is needed or not. I'm thinking specifically of office equipment, though it could apply elsewhere. Why buy new desks and chairs every 7 years, if the ones currently in place still work fine? Why repaint if the current paint job still looks okay? Agencies tend to spend out those monies (whether needed at the time or not) for fear they won't be available when items actually do break and need replacing.

I believe the state could save a great deal of money with some type of moratorium on 'redecorating,' and by taking a hard look at whether a new desk or chair is actually needed. Within my own agency, with 10 locations, we also have an informal swap system. If someone is cleaning out, they might post 'I have 2 chairs available - anyone need chairs?' Or from the other direction - "I have a new staff person coming in and need a desk and chair - anyone have one we can use?" A central swap site for state agencies might encourage more re-use.

What funds we do have could be better spent on staff or equipment that DOES need to be updated more regularly - like computer systems, in order to operate more effectively and better serve the public.

We should be focusing on needs instead of 'wants.'

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation FWC does not have a schedule to replace office furniture. The agency currently implements suggestion made of informal swap system. Emails are sent out when someone has furniture to surplus and also office supplies. We also only make essential repairs to our facilities. (i.e. painting as suggestion notes) Computers replacements/upgrades are based on need and we always determine if computers can be passed down to a user with an older model. The suggested central office swap site might be something Department of Managment Services could pursue.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

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Office of Financial Regulation

5364	2/22/2011	0	Once	Y	5/11/2011
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I would suggest utilizing the printer's "Preference -> Finishing" function and print on both sides of the paper. Requiring everyone to do this should reduce paper consumption by half.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

Duplicate suggestion in system

Steps Taken

Efficiency: Duplicate suggestion in system

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

Public Service Commission

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	1822	4/1/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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House bill #691 is flying through the house committees. It is a complete waste of customers money as described in the following. Help us.

RE: HB 691: Florida Public Service Commission Jurisdiction Over Government Utility Authorities, particularly the Florida Governmental Utility Authority.

Public Service Commission Regulation Does Not Protect Customers. Pasco County joined the Florida Governmental Utility Authority ("FGUA") to remove Pasco County residents from under Florida Public Service Commission jurisdiction. Period.

The County and our residents have long been dissatisfied with FPSC regulation. The FPSC has repeatedly allowed private utilities operating here to raise rates despite providing poor service. Aloha Utilities and its "black water" discussed at the meeting today is only the most egregious of the examples. Currently, the FPSC has authorized private utilities in Pasco County and elsewhere throughout Florida to raise rates by 50%, 80% and more than 100%, so why would any legislator believe that Pasco residents would be better served under the FPSC than under the constant monitoring of our County Board? Pasco County, and each member of our elected Board, considers itself part and parcel of the FGUA, for the reasons identified below in this letter.

FGUA Rates and Ratemaking Processes Protect Customer Interests. Are you aware that HB 691 resulted from a 7% rate increase by the FGUA in 2008 for its Golden Gate system in Collier County, approximately 3.5% of which increase was simply "indexing" (inflation adjustment) related? As indicated above, the FPSC is routinely approving rate increases far in excess of this amount. Also, Committee members were shown a chart of utility rates and asked to focus on FGUA rates versus statewide average rates. We appreciate the very kind, and accurate, comments regarding the fine work that the FGUA has done to acquire troubled systems on behalf of local governments and restore them to high quality service. However, it also needs to be pointed out that the Golden Gate and Lehigh Systems operated by the FGUA in Collier and Lee County, respectively, are both highly advanced water and wastewater systems (reverse osmosis, membrane plants and advanced wastewater treatment reclaimed water plants). The FGUA rates for these systems are comparable to the rates of neighboring government utilities like Marco Island (near Golden Gate) and Fort Myers (near Lehigh) and others in southwest Florida where water cannot be simply chlorinated. FGUA rates are not out of line.

Collier County can become a member of the FGUA at any time, and its interlocal agreement with the FGUA requires the FGUA to file its rate increase information with the existing Collier County rate regulatory apparatus. The 7% increase was filed with the County before adoption by the FGUA and no objection came from the County regulatory authority. Indeed, as Collier County took back rate regulation from the Public Service Commission in the 1990s and thus has been regulating private utilities there since that time, HB 691 would leave the FGUA, county regulatory authority and FPSC scratching their heads as to the effect of this bill. More confusion, more expense, reduced ability of the FGUA to finance necessary improvements, and ultimately existing services can be put in jeopardy and customers will gain nothing.

The FGUA is a Government Utility and Operates Just as any Other City or County Utility And Customers are Represented by this Board.

The FGUA: 1. Operates under Florida's Sunshine Law;

2. Operates under Florida's Public Records Law;

3. Complies with all public notice requirements for customer notification of rate increases, including mailings to customers and newspaper notification, in the same way as any other County or City owned utility;

4. Operates under a measure of control by Pasco County which far exceeds any control the County previously had over private utilities;

5. Shares information concerning utility operations, capital improvements, customer communications and rate changes, to name a few examples, with the Board of County Commissioners and its customers in Pasco to a degree never experienced with utilities under private ownership;

6. Holds all public hearings substantially impacting Pasco residents (rate hearings, acquisition hearings, etc.) in Pasco County; and

7. Generally, satisfies every desire expressed by County residents and our County Board in terms of its utility operations.

The County considers HB 691 to be a bad bill. It effectively removes County control over utility rates, imposes another layer of bureaucracy from the Florida Public Service Commission and is an affront to our Board in that this bill mandates when our County should assume direct ownership of FGUA systems or otherwise cede control over FGUA rates to the FPSC. We are puzzled to think that your Committee believes that the FPSC will better protect the residents of our County than this Board. We are a member of the FGUA. We appoint our representative to the FGUA. If FGUA customers are dissatisfied, they contact us. We can remove our existing representative and replace her if customers are not satisfied, or customers can vote Commissioners like me out of office.

HB 691 Would Thwart the FGUA's Ability to Purchase and Improve Private Utilities.

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

We have asked the FGUA to acquire Aloha Utilities and several other utilities in this County. It was suggested to your Committee that such acquisitions are possible if this bill passes. This is not correct. The FGUA, as a government entity, has authority to issue long term, tax exempt utility revenue bonds to finance both acquisitions and capital improvements to utility systems once acquired. These bonds are typically 30 year bonds and every bond to date has been issued with a covenant indicating that the FGUA sets rates in the same manner as other County and City utilities, without Florida Public Service Commission jurisdiction. The mere existence of FPSC jurisdiction, or even the prospect of such jurisdiction four years in the future will effectively eliminate the FGUA’s ability to acquire and finance utility systems and improvements at the low rates currently possible, if such financing could be obtained at all. The bill likely would result in the impairment of FGUA’s existing contracts (bond indentures) with bondholders. The bill has unintended consequences far beyond what was presented to the Committee today.

FPSC Regulation Is Not Practical for Government Utilities.

Another fact that the Committee did not consider: the FPSC would not have the faintest idea how to regulate the rates of the FGUA or any other government utility authority effected by HB 691. As a government utility, there is no “rate base,” a key rate-setting determinant for private utilities, there is no “used and useful” concept, there is no return on equity and many other ratemaking concepts simply have no relevance to government owned utility operations. This bill, if passed, would require the FPSC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding, at minimum, to identify how it could provide such regulation. If appropriate rules could be identified, your Committee can be guaranteed that if the implementation of such rules act in a manner contrary to the interests of our County Board, acting through the FGUA, extensive and prolonged litigation will result.

I attempted to limit my comments to you today, mindful of your busy schedules, but it is quite apparent that you each need to know the facts presented in this letter as you may be called upon to address this bill in the future. The County and I remain prepared to share any information with the Committee that you desire so that the unintended consequences of HB 691 are never given the opportunity to be revealed.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

This suggestion is out of date.

Steps Taken

Efficiency: This suggestion is out of date.

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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	1830	4/1/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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After seeing the news about Florida's budget problem and how we have to cut important funding to schools, law enforcement etc., I was amazed to see another commercial for the Tax-Payer-funded Free Florida Tracfone program. How did this bill ever pass? Can we please get this wasteful program cut? THIS IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT. Programs like these should be funded by CHARITIES. If people feel strongly enough about giving people free cell phones they should willingly donate to a charity designated for that purpose. It should not be forced on the taxpayer.

This program hurts the small businesses that sell prepaid phones and phone services. The owners of these small convenience stores and phone shops probably qualify for these phones and now they are going to be hurt more. Why would government use taxpayer dollars to hurt small businesses?

I would like to know which legislator introduced this program? How good a friend are they with Tracfone? Which elected officials personally benefited by supporting this program? Where is ethics in government?

No wonder we are in a budget crisis.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

The suggestion is out of date.

Steps Taken

Efficiency: The suggestion is out of date.

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

1910	4/7/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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The state has cut back on the heating and a/c temperatures to save power and reduce the cost the state is paying for power. Also, we've all been asked to remove several items (coffee pot, space heaters, etc) to help with this. I believe the state may have overlooked one large way to reduce the power consumption on a state wide level and significantly reduce the cost of electricity used by state facilities, Lighting.

Almost all of our state buildings have excessive lighting. On my floor I have 16x22 rows of light fixtures, give or take a few. That is 352 fixtures per floor with three light bulbs each. That's 1056 bulbs used on my floor. These bulbs use 45 watts of power every hour. If the math is done correctly, that is a very large amount of consumed power and is very costly.

I'm not sure what the state's cost in lighting alone is but by removing one bulb from every light fixture, it will decrease the lighting cost by 1/3, that would save the the state hundreds of thousands a year. If we remove two bulbs, it would reduce the lighting cost by 2/3, additionally, if we also remove all lights in cubicles/offices not used, the state could save millions on a state wide level.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

None - The PSC is a tenant in building fully maintained by DMS

Steps Taken

Efficiency: DMS would have to respond to monetary savings.

2077	4/23/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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We waste tons of office supplies, we buy things we don't need, we surplus things that are practically brand new. There is very little storage available for surplus so things are taken to the dump regularly. Employees should be able to buy the perfectly good furniture and computers that we regularly surplus. I put unknown because I don't want to be identified since it will be obvious who made this suggestion. I've been making it loud and clear for a long time. I'm sure this kind of activity is rampant throughout every agency.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

Not a decision to be made at the state agency level.

Steps Taken

Efficiency: N/A

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION						

	2146	4/27/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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By following a similar program as State's Attorney Willie Meggs' walking program for his employees, state offices will have healthier and more efficient employees. Allow state employees to walk 30 minutes a day and reward them with four hours off a month.

This will result in less time off for sick leave. When the employee earns the four hours off then it save on electricity and water.

American Heart Association's Start!

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3053031>

This is what Start! is all about — employees stepping away from their desks to get some quick and easy physical activity at work. Remember, walking can help a person reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke. And healthier employees help you reduce healthcare costs. So why wouldn't you want employees up and moving?

Promote this healthier lifestyle with our menu of tools to help get your workers up and moving. It's easy and free. It also celebrates the many health benefits of simply walking!

MyStart! Online Tracker is one of these tools. It's a great way for you to track your employees' fitness progress.

The Start! Walking Program encourages employers to set up walking routes that can motivate employees to walk around the office. National Start! Walking Day, April 8, 2009, is our special day that calls on all employees to become more active.

And keep your employees informed year-round with healthy tips from our quarterly Start! at Work newsletter. Use our information in your own company newsletters.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

None-April 2009 has passed.

Steps Taken

Efficiency: N/A

	2196	4/29/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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Very simple suggestion turn off office lights when employee has left for the day or if employee is not in for the day turn off the light. Save energy, Save money.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

Already encourage lights to be turned off

Steps Taken

Efficiency: Already encourage lights to be turned off.

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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	2234	4/29/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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As a state agency, we are mandated to buy the lowest cost ticket item. The lowest cost item does not stand up to the use and sometimes is only good for one time. IE markers, highlighter, pens, etc. What a waste of money.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

None- This is not a suggestion

Steps Taken

Efficiency: This is not a suggestion

	2392	5/13/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011
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Why not reward agencies that return money instead of having agencies trying to spend every cent to prevent a decrease the next fiscal year.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

This is not a suggestion

Steps Taken

Efficiency: This is not a suggestion.

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
	2426	5/13/2009	0	Once	Y	5/6/2011

I told the partners at the architecture and interior design firm that I work for that the State & the Federal government could save A LOT OF MONEY if the forms we are required to fill out when creating proposals for bid opportunities on public projects were the same. Sometimes called RFQ or RFI (Request for Proposal or Information)- these are required for most State and Federal bids, but not all.

The GSA has a form called SF330 (Standard Form) - this has replaced the SF254 and SF255 in most states, but not all. It's not easily found on their website - when you type SF 330 in the search box, there are 64 answers - there should be one. North Carolina still uses the SF 254, which we haven't used in at least 5 years. There are also many versions - the 2004 and 2007 updates seem to be the most popular.

Then, there is the PQS or Professional Qualifications Supplement - not a standard form from any of Florida's K-12 schools, colleges and universities. If there was one form for all Federal and one form for State of Florida, AND they were easily accessible on a website, it would save so much time and money for the hard-working companies that have to create these proposals.

The company I work for was founded in Tampa in 1990. There has not been a standard form in the history of this company. Thank you,



Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

None- Should be assigned to the agency that regulates the purchasing/procurement process.

Steps Taken

Efficiency: N/A

	2467	5/13/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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Set the default setting on all state agency copiers/printers to "duplex", "greyscale". When people need single sided copies or color copies they can still select those options. This should save \$\$ in several ways - the cost of paper, the cost of ink, the cost of mailing/shipping, the cost of storing and archiving documents, the cost of rent associated with space needed to store and archive documents. It will also save trees!

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation N/A

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

2525 5/19/2009 Y 5/6/2011

Any local, state, or federal agency can post items onto www.govdeals.com. The site allows items to be bid on nationwide. The state should consider buying and selling items on this site to save and earn some money.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Not the individual agency's decision.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

2576 5/20/2009 Y 5/6/2011

This applies to all state operations. The consumer suggests the state look at all free "perks" provided to state employees at taxpayer expense. Perks would include any free additional hotel night stays when away on state business, as well as receiving air miles at taxpayer expense.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Not allowed by state guidelines.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

2772 6/16/2009 Y 5/6/2011

When designing forms, do not include color images or text. Forms can be copied rather than printed when multiple copies are needed and still look just as good, but more economically! Also, reduce the amount of gray/black boxes, as that just uses more toner/ink. Design fax cover sheets with a minimum of text/artwork. They scan through faster and save on toner/film on the receiving end.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Already done.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	2876	6/30/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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INSTEAD OF TRAVELING ALL OVER THE STATE FOR MEETINGS YOU COULD SIGN UP FOR A WEBSITE THAT LETS YOU HOLD AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF MEETINGS ONLINE FOR A LOW MONTHLY PRICE.

I ONLY SUGGEST BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD OF WWW.GOTOMEETINGS.COM SEEMS LOGICAL AND COULD SAVE A LOT

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Not associated

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	2910	7/1/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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In an effort to reduce utility costs; installing motion detectors to control lighting in areas/halls/rooms that have emergency lighting and rooms that have windows will save electricity. This is currently being done in some handicapped bathrooms.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation We are tenants under DMS.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION						

	3189	9/25/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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CFO Sink, I applaud your action regarding the blackberries. I recently retired from the State of Florida government and can assure you that my agency definitely had a "blackberry" abuse. As a budget officer, I often took the other side when it came to purchasing blackberries but with little effect. Many users didn't even know how to use the functions other than the cellphone. In addition, the blackberries, IPODS and cellphones were used most often for personal use without the employee contributing a dime. In addition, one of our divisions said it would give up its landlines if the cellphones were approved. The landlines are still in place four years later.

One other area that you should review is the amount of money the State of Florida is not recovering from Skymiles earned on state funded flights. These Skymiles have a dollar value and are being used for personal use instead of being used to purchase other State flights. CFO, I can assure you that this is a significant sum of money.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation PSC's administration already closely monitors blackberry assignment.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	3232	10/7/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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It was recently brought to my attention that a suggestion had been made to set all printers to "greyscale" mode. While this will save toner, it also has the potential to REDUCE efficiency. Most of the offices I work with (FDOT) that need a color printer have separate color and black & white printers. So people print to the black and white unless they specifically need color. Having the default set to greyscale on the color printers will only add an extra step for whoever is printing something and waste paper by having to print a document twice.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Already responded to this.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	3483	11/24/2009			Y	5/6/2011
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instead of printing paper salary form given to all state employees, monthly, bi-weekly; have the form available by each agency's personnel system, DFS site, or the personnel system, for each employees can log on and see it or print it if needed. Most of us, do not need the pay statement, just the end of the year statement. When there is a change in the pay, then, send email to the employee and let them know there is a change to their normal pay, then can be viewed to verify it online. This would save tons of paper/printer/labor costs.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation DFS would have to implement this.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	3606	1/26/2010			Y	5/6/2011
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CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING REFURBISHED SUPPLIES SUCH AS TONERS FOR PRINTERS, SCANNERS, FAX MACHINES, ETC. INVESTIGATE PURCHASING CHEAPER SUPPLIES FOR FUJITSU OR ANY OF THE LARGE PRODUCTION SCANNERS.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation PSC already takes steps to purchase all supplies and fair competitive prices.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
SUGGESTION						

	3916	3/4/2010			Y	5/18/2011
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This is an idea that can quite possibly save the State of Florida hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars monthly.

If the State of Florida were to make "EcoFont" the default font for printing documents on all State computer systems the savings would be phenomenal; with what would appear to be minimal costs to implement. I work at the [REDACTED] and even if [just] CSE were to use this font Statewide, the savings in toner/ink would be quite large.

EcoFont has very tiny holes within it that are virtually imperceptible to the human eye at a normal font size(10 to 12 point). These "invisible" holes result in this font using up to 20% less ink and/or toner.

More info on EcoFont can be found at: <http://www.ecofont.com/> I recommend someone go to the website and check out the FREE (click on English) version and the PROFESSIONAL (click on English) version for further information.

I sent this cost savings idea up several months ago through the "Listening To You" program, but it seems to have gotten "stuck" somewhere along the way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation There are several issues with EcoFont that I believe make it impractical for implementation at the PSC. They are:

This technology won't work for printing direct from the web pages because these sources do not allow you to control the font used.

The product is not free to implement. We can attempt to increase the use of the free "Draft Output" option to achieve similar savings without purchasing and testing EcoFont.

EcoFont has a FAQ where they talk about "draft mode" printing. They admit it also adds "holes" to the characters being printed (without any of the previously mentioned problems of EcoFont), but they claim their holes are better placed for nicer looking letters (but only available in a few fonts, and only ranging from 8 to 12 points in size by default).

We would need to purchase a license for each font separately, and only the following fonts are currently available: Arial, Calibri, Trebuchet, Times New Roman and Verdana.

In order to print your document eco-friendly with EcoFont you have to make sure that the file is not read-only or protected. This is a major issue for us.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	4530	5/5/2010	50000	Recurring	Y	5/18/2011
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Printers when purchased have default settings that maximize the ink usage. The printer companies do this because it also maximizes their profits, by selling more ink cartridges. Ink cartridges cost between \$25 to \$50 apiece.

A significant number of users either do not know how to change the default setting or do not take the time to change the settings.

The State would save Hundreds of Thousand of dollars by having the various agencies IT departments change the default settings to "draft""black ink" only.

If the user needs a higher quality or color, he/she could change the setting for the bob being printed.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation

This has already been implemented at the PSC.

Steps Taken Our printers are set to mid-level toner consumption by default. This is the best compromise between toner consumption and print quality for the PSC.

Efficiency: Less toner is used for most documents when they are printed

	4677	5/21/2010			Y	5/6/2011
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No copies. Since all state agencies now communicate by email, don't print anything out. Simply transmit the document in electronic form, store it as a legally archived document (now legal in Florida), and only print it out if, in the unlikely event, it is needed for reading by someone who doesn't have a computer.

Save: On copiers and copying maintenance and supplies, on paper, staff time, file cabinets, file storage, etc.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation PSC already encourages the printing of necessary documents.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	4807	8/20/2010			Y	5/6/2011
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When purchasing brochures/ publications etc. (with eception of letterhead and dated items. It should become the policy of not putting names of publicly elected officials/ directors / etc. unless it can remain on there long after the person no longer works for the state. Agency publications should have information as to where the interested party could find more information such as contacts, phone numbers but not names. To much money is spent reprinting publications annually. As well as too much time is wasted applying stickers stating the new posistion holders name.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation PSC only prints names, positions, and contact information of specific staff. Templates are in place to print such forms only when needed which reduces to the need to have a printed supply of letter head and such for all staff.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	5016	9/20/2010			Y	5/6/2011
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This information is available online at no cost. Quit ordering so many sets of the Florida Statutes. Allow the General Counsel office to order 2-3 sets but no one else in the agency.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Consideration is done each year prior to the purchase of statues.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	5026	9/22/2010			Y	5/6/2011
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There is a product available called Google Voice that allows one to make and receive calls from a computer without the need for a landline or cellular phone. In the past, employees of our agency who telecommute were required to have an additional line for business so that the public or stakeholders could reach them during work hours. This created an added cost to the employee and, occasionally, to the agency as well. Now with Google Voice, as long as employees have an internet connection, they can obtain a free Google phone number and make and receive calls through their computer or cell phone privately without giving out their personal number. If they have to step out of the home office, those calls can be routed to their cell phone or a landline for free. Even if they miss a call, Google Voice has a messaging system that will record the voice message and transcribe it into text. The voicemail can be retrieved via a web browser, any phone, a text message or an email. These are just a few of the features Google Voice provides. Google Voice saves money while providing more flexibility and efficiency.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation N/A

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	5210	1/24/2011			Y	5/18/2011
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Forward to ALL agencies: Many documents can be processed using the docuSign.net program. Particularly the Legal files (Administrative Orders, etc) can be routed throughout the Agency electronically. New rules and policies can all be handled electronically. This should allow for a significant decrease in the need for resources in all of the internal mail rooms in agencies and the need for "runners". Businesses are using this type of software to handle very complex legal documents, mortgages, etc. The state agencies should be able to extensively implement this. HR forms could all be processed this way as well.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation The amount of time and expense needed to implement this solution would appear impractical at this time.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
	5282	2/8/2011			Y	5/6/2011

I see one of the largest costs for state government is travel. Millions of dollars are spent yearly on travel for each state agency, from the governor to the auditors. I came from a private sector job in which I traveled a great deal. One of the fringe benefits from that job was travel points. It enabled me to get free hotel rooms so my wife and I could vacation more. But, it also changed my spending habits. I only stayed in Hilton hotel brand, because I could earn points quicker. That meant that I would often spend more for a room, so that it would be part of the Hilton hotel chain. My boss did not care because money was good and he was not worried about these additional costs because they were being passed along to the client. I believe this type of spending is rampant throughout state government. I see the general rule is if the room is less than \$100 than it is allowed. But I think that is too much latitude during these trying times.

My suggestion is that the State looks at Hotwire.com. This is an amazing travel tool that can save a great deal of money. I am sure you know how it works, but I will give a brief subscription. This is an online travel site for booking flights and hotels. You go on and choose a location and dates. Then the service provides you with options based on a star rating. For example Hampton Inns are 2.5 stars and they improve all the way to 5 stars. Customers are guaranteed a specific group of brands for each star rating. This ensures that the customer is not staying in a run-down, off-brand hotel. Also for larger markets, the city is broken down into separate areas. This ensures that your hotel will be relatively close to where you are working. Example: The government rate for Hampton Inn Westshore, Tampa Florida, March 7-11 is \$99 per night. Hotwire Rate: 3 star \$57 per night. The amazing part is that a 3 star hotel, which is rated higher than the Hampton Inn. This savings can be transferred to almost any market throughout the state. Smaller communities and rural counties might not have travel options, but I would assume that a majority of travel is done to major cities. One potential downside to Hotwire.com is that rooms are pre purchased. This means that the reservations cannot be altered. This does reduce flexibility, but the dramatic cost saving far outweighs the less flexibility.

Next I will list the Pros and Cons:

Pros:

1. Travel costs are dramatically less than usual government rates.
2. Hotel brands are guaranteed with each star rating.
3. Hotels are defined specific area of city.

Cons:

1. Employees do not receive reward points
2. Rooms are pre purchased and cannot be changed or altered.

I know a policy like this would be very unpopular among those who travel as part of their job. But when we are talking about layoffs and reduction in government size, this could equal jobs for state employees. Personally I would give up my Hilton reward points for a job for myself or colleague. I think this idea at least warrants a study to see its potential savings.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Previously established rule/law explain the use of such services. DFS and DMS would have to make this determination.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

AGENCY	SUGG #	CREATED	MONEY SAVED	MONEY SAVED FREQUENCY	CLOSED?	CLOSED DATE
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SUGGESTION

	5334	2/22/2011			Y	5/6/2011
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I would suggest utilizing the printer's "Preference -> Finishing" function and print on both sides of the paper. Requiring everyone to do this should reduce paper consumption by half.

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation Addressed prior

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

	5852	4/2/2011			Y	5/6/2011
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Many agencies have replacement schedules for basic equipment and office supplies. They purchase new equipment per that schedule, whether it is needed or not. I'm thinking specifically of office equipment, though it could apply elsewhere. Why buy new desks and chairs every 7 years, if the ones currently in place still work fine? Why repaint if the current paint job still looks okay? Agencies tend to spend out those monies (whether needed at the time or not) for fear they won't be available when items actually do break and need replacing.

I believe the state could save a great deal of money with some type of moratorium on 'redecorating,' and by taking a hard look at whether a new desk or chair is actually needed. Within my own agency, with 10 locations, we also have an informal swap system. If someone is cleaning out, they might post 'I have 2 chairs available - anyone need chairs?' Or from the other direction - "I have a new staff person coming in and need a desk and chair - anyone have one we can use?" A central swap site for state agencies might encourage more re-use.

What funds we do have could be better spent on staff or equipment that DOES need to be updated more regularly - like computer systems, in order to operate more effectively and better serve the public.

We should be focusing on needs instead of 'wants.'

Has Merit? Y **Explanation**

Implementation PSC already encourages reusing surplus.

Steps Taken

Efficiency:

Total Suggestions: 51