

GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Our state currently spends 130 percent of the national average in the cost of government. The MAP Commission reported that roughly \$150 million could be saved in the first year of its proposed restructuring plan to effectively reorganize our state government and make it more efficient. The end result is the improved delivery of critical services. Currently, only 16 percent of state agencies fall under the Governor's cabinet. We propose reducing waste and overlap by restructuring agencies with similar missions and increasing government-wide accountability by reducing the number of constitutional officers and instead, having them appointed by the Governor.

**I. Constitutional Officers**

Reduce the number of constitutional officers by making the following elected officers appointed by the Governor:

- Lieutenant Governor - Currently 24 states have the Governor and Lt. Governor run on the same ticket in an election.
- Superintendent of Education - Approximately 40 percent of the state's budget is dedicated to K-12 education, clearly one of the state's largest responsibilities. South Carolina is one of only 15 states that elect the Superintendent.
- Adjutant General - South Carolina is the only state which separately elects the Adjutant General. The Governor serves as Commander in Chief during times of crises; however, the force structure is not directly accountable to him.
- Secretary of State - We propose that the Secretary of State be directly appointed by the Governor and be given the additional responsibility of serving as Chief Election Officer. Currently, 37 states give to the Secretary of State direct oversight responsibility of elections.

**II. Agencies Restructuring**

This plan is broken into two specific proposals:

**Healthcare Restructuring** - This proposal would merge 5 health care delivery agencies into one Cabinet-level *Department of Health Services* and merge 2 agencies with almost identical rehabilitative missions into one Cabinet-level *Department of Rehabilitative Services*. The purpose of both mergers is to provide better service delivery by coordinating similar functions and common goals within one agency while at the same time eliminate administrative overlap. Estimated savings of a Department of Health Services merger would be \$16 million in the first year alone. Estimated savings of a Department of Rehabilitative Services would be \$640,000 in the first year. The details of the mergers are as follows:

**A. Department of Health Services (Health Services)**

1. Make a cabinet agency with director appointed by Governor.
2. Move DHEC's Health programs (infectious disease prevention, maternal/child health, chronic disease prevention, access to care, drug control, rape violence prevention, independent living, health facilities, and services development, health facilities licensing, certification/inspection of care, and emergency medical services) to Health Services under a new *Division of Public Health*.
3. Move Department of Mental Health (§§ 44-9-10, et. seq.) to Health Services and rename *Division of Mental Health*.
  - Devolve all powers of the DMH Commission to the Director of Health Services and make Commission an advisory board.
  - Move Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children from Governor's Office to new *Division of Mental Health*.
4. Move Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (§§ 44-2-210, et. seq.) to Health Services and rename *Division of Disabilities and Special Needs*.
  - Devolve powers of the DDSN Commission to the Director of Health Services and make DDSN Commission an advisory board.

② Dept of Rehabilitative Services  
- Vocational Rehab-  
- Commission on blind

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+ DAODNAS

5. Move DAODAS (§§44-49-10, et. seq.) to Health Services and rename *Division of Addiction Services*.

**B. Department of Rehabilitative Services (Rehab Services)**

1. Make a cabinet agency with director appointed by Governor.
2. Rename Commission on Vocational Rehabilitation (§§ 43-31-40, et. seq.) the *Department of Rehabilitative Services*.
  - Devolve powers of the Commission to director of Rehab Services and make the Voc Rehab Commission an advisory board.
3. Move Commission for the Blind (§§ 44-25-10, et. seq.) to Rehab Services and rename *Division for the Blind*.
  - Devolve powers of the Commission to director of Rehabilitative Services and make the Commission for the Blind an advisory board.

**Administrative Restructuring** – This proposal would merge certain programs of the Budget and Control Board, the Governor’s Office of Executive Policy and Programs and would create a State Inspector General in a Cabinet-level ***Department of Administration***. The goal of this new Department is to be a central location to ensure accountability of support services and hiring policies in state government. This structure would allow the state’s Chief Executive Officer to be responsible for and manage the daily operations of state government. The details of the mergers are as follows:

1. Create a Department of Administration and make a cabinet agency with director appointed by Governor.
2. The Department will contain Procurement, General Services, Human Resources, Energy Office, Employees Insurance Program, and State Chief Information Officer of the Budget and Control Board and Foster Care Review Board, Guardian ad Litem, State Office of Victims Assistance, Veterans Office of the Office of Executive Policy and Programs.
3. A State Inspector General would be created as a division within the Department and is appointed by the Governor to serve a 6 year term.

→ 49 other governors