**Department of Community Affairs**

**Joint Sunset Committee Recommendations**

|  |
| --- |
| The 2006 Legislature enacted the Florida Government Accountability Act, which established an agency sunset review process to be used by the Legislature to determine if a public need exists for the continuation of a state agency, its advisory committees, or its programs. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is one of four agencies being reviewed during the 2010 cycle. The Joint Sunset Committee focused on similar activities being performed by multiple state agencies and recommends that the agency, its programs, and advisory councils be continued, except for the following recommendations. |
| *Small County Technical Assistance Program (Tab 4A)*  Of the state’s 67 counties, 32 are defined by law as being “small counties” with populations of 75,000 and below.   * Of these, 30 are further defined as being “fiscally constrained,” meaning the value of a one mill property tax rate will raise no more than $5 million in revenue annually.   These counties have severe budget constraints and are also experiencing the pressures of new growth, as development continues to seek cheaper land values in these areas and are unable to properly plan for their communities.   * A majority of these counties have comprehensive plans that are not only out of date, but they have no planning staff to update them. * County Commissioners who are charged with implementing the comprehensive plan typically have no background in this area and have received no training regarding the state’s growth management requirements.   The Small County Technical Assistance Program was created by s. 163.05, F.S., for the purpose of providing technical assistance to small counties to enable them to implement workable solutions to financial and administrative problems.   * Administratively, the program was placed at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. * The program has not been funded in the last 3 years. * During last two budget reductions exercises, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services proposed eliminating this program, noting that it was not mission critical.   Recommendation  Transfer the Small County Technical Assistance Program to DCA.   * DCA already has a technical assistance “program” that provides some funding to counties for comprehensive plan issues, updates, and amendments. The Small County Technical Assistance Program is viewed by the counties as a complement to what DCA does in this area. * The program is more consistent with the mission of DCA. |
| *Recreational Development**(Tab 4B)*  Currently, two state programs focus on increasing recreational activities through community parks in Florida.   * The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers the Florida Community Trust (FCT), which focuses on land acquisition for community parks. * The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), which focuses on infrastructure for community parks. * The agencies have similar application processes and scoring. However, FCT projects are approved by a board and FRDAP list is approved by the Legislature.   Recommendation  Consolidate the Florida Community Trust and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and administer in DCA.   * Combining the programs would reduce redundancy, foster a seamless process, and allow for the creation of a single application for the land and recreational improvements. * DCA has the larger of the two programs and its mission is to partner with local governments. * The FCT program was envisioned primarily as an instrument of an overall growth management strategy by assisting local governments in implementing their comprehensive plans. |

|  |
| --- |
| *Manufactured Buildings**(Tab 4C)*  Currently, Florida has three state agencies that are charged with making sure homes are constructed to the proper standards.   * Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers a state program that oversees manufactured or **modular buildings,** both residential and commercial; * Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) operates a federal program for **mobile homes (**also referred to as manufactured homes); and * The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) regulates the construction industry (**site built homes**) and building code administrators and inspectors.   DCA and DHSMV operate their inspection programs in a different manner.   * DCA contracts with private entities to inspect modular building manufacturers and for quality assurance of the program. * DHSMV does inspections of mobile home manufacturers with state employees.   Recommendation  Combine the DCA and DHSMV programs under DBPR, using private entities.   * This will help streamline and maintain control of the regulation process and utilize the private sector contractors. |
| *Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida*  The Commission is responsible for developing recommendations to help Florida’s citizens and state leaders prepare for a continued increase in population and to craft a plan that meets the challenges and opportunities caused by this growth.  The Secretary of the Department Community Affairs selects an executive director who serves at the Secretary’s pleasure, but is under the supervision and control of the commission.  The Department of Community Affairs contracts with the Collins Center for Public Policy to provide staff and administrative support to the commission.  Recommendation  Abolish the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida   * As the state has faced new issues, additional groups have been created to research and make recommendations as to how they should best be addressed. |

**Division of Emergency Management**

**Joint Sunset Committee Recommendations**

|  |
| --- |
| The 2006 Legislature enacted the Florida Government Accountability Act, which established an agency sunset review process to be used by the Legislature to determine if a public need exists for the continuation of a state agency, its advisory committees, or its programs. The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is one of four agencies being reviewed during the 2010 cycle. The Joint Sunset Committee focused on similar activities being performed by multiple state agencies and recommends that the agency, its programs, and advisory councils be continued, except for the following recommendations. |
| *Hazard Mitigation (Tab 3A)*  There are two state agencies that administer residential mitigation programs.   * The Division of Emergency Management administers several federal and state programs designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from disasters by reducing the impact of future disasters. * Per statute, DEM also provides funding to Tallahassee Community College to operate the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program. * The Department of Financial Services administers the My Safe Florida Home Program.   Recommendation  Consolidate all mitigation programs under DEM and create a program that provides competitive grants to local government and non-profits for mitigation activities.   * Transfer the MSFH program to DEM. * Abolish the Residential Construction Mitigation Program and redirect funding to MSFH. * Revise the MSFH grant process to distribute all funds appropriated for hurricane loss mitigation to the local governments and non-profits through a competitive grant program for retrofitting homes that uses transparent awarding criteria and demonstrates measurable benefits. * Measures of performance should include but not be limited to, reduction of exposure to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, savings in homeowner insurance, increase in the availability of insurance, and leveraging of local and/or federal funds. |

|  |
| --- |
| *Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Advisory Council*  Responsible for advising the division in support of the Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP).  The council makes recommendations for approving applications for program grants to state or regional agencies, local governments, and private organization, which are awarded to help these entities implement projects intended to enhance residential wind mitigation.  The council also annually reviews and approves Florida International University’s hurricane research work plan.  Division staff provide administrative support to the council.  Recommendation  Abolish the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Advisory Council   * DEM could administer grants, which would allow grants to be awarded more frequently than on a quarterly basis. * A group of experts could be convened to meet on an as needed basis to obtain public input. * DEM staff could also review and approve Florida International University’s hurricane research work plan. |