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| **Department of State** | | |
| **Advisory Committees** | | |
|  | *Continue* | **Florida Arts Council**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $18,992 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1981, Section 265.285, *F.S.*  **Purpose**: The Florida Arts Council is the primary cultural advisory group to the Secretary of State. It is actively involved in planning and setting priorities for the state’s cultural development, including cultural grant programs.  **Assessment:** The Florida Arts Council is actively engaged in planning for Florida’s cultural development. It oversees the state’s cultural planning initiatives, and advises the Secretary of State on funding recommendations made by grant review panels. Membership with diverse expertise and geographic representation promotes a well-rounded view of the state’s cultural needs, and meetings held via teleconference encourage public input into council deliberations. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Cultural Affairs Grant Review Panels**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $3,053 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1981, Section 265.285(1)(c), *F.S.*  **Purpose**: Grant review panels are the primary mechanism the department uses to make decisions about the distribution of cultural grant funds (See Appendix A for a complete list of the Department of State’s cultural grant programs). Twenty-five panels were convened in Fiscal Year 2007-08.  **Assessment:** Grant review panels ensure that cultural organizations receiving state support meet established criteria, and provide a mechanism for public input into decisions about the distribution of state funds. Holding meetings via teleconference promotes public access and provides the department with an opportunity to receive input on the structure and operation of the state’s cultural support programs. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida State Historical Records Advisory Board**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $15,401 **▪ Authorization:** Federal, 36 *CFR* Part 1206  **Purpose**: The Florida State Historical Records Advisory Board is the state’s advisory body for historical records coordination, and is charged with providing leadership and guidance to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records that document the culture, government and people of the state. The board also reviews grant applications for federal funding.  **Assessment:** The Florida State Records Advisory Board helps the department implement requirements of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which is a federal entity that provides guidance and funding for the preservation and use of Florida’s historical records. The board ensures coordination among the public and private entities that collect, preserve and use the state’s historical records, and its functions are a prerequisite for Florida’s receipt of federal NHPRC funds. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $110.48 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 1997, Section 267.0731, *F.S.*  **Purpose**: The Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee helps select individuals who have made contributions to the progress and welfare of the state for designation as a “Great Floridian.”  **Assessment:** The committee advises the Secretary of State in decisions about individuals to designate as a “Great Floridian.” While broad input into this process is desirable, input could be obtained through a less formal process than convening an ad hoc selection committee twice a year. For example, recommendations for historic preservation recognition awards are handled by an advisory committee with more wide-ranging responsibilities, i.e., the Florida Historical Commission.  **Recommendation:** Consolidate the *Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee* and the *State Historical Marker Council into* the *Florida Historical Commission.* |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida Historical Commission**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $16,104 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 2001, Section 267.0612, *F.S.*  **Purpose:** The Florida Historical Commission advises the director of the Division of Historical Resources on the preservation and protection of Florida’s historic and archaeological sites and properties; makes recommendations for historic grants and awards; and identifies public goals for historic preservation.  **Assessment:** The Florida Historical Commission helps the department plan and carry out activities that ensure the preservation of Florida’s unique heritage. It also functions as the state-level entity that reviews proposals for National Register of Historic Places designation and advises the Secretary of State on historic preservation grant and recognition awards. Its membership is broadly representative of statewide interests.  **Recommendation:** Consolidate the *Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee* and the *State Historical Marker Council into* the *Florida Historical Commission.* |
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|  |  | **State Library Council**  **Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $2,203 **▪ Authorization:** Statutorilyy created in 1970, Section 257.02, *F.S.*  **Purpose**: The State Library Council’s purpose is to advise the department on library programs and activities.  **Assessment:** The State Library Council is the group statutorily charged with advising the department on its library initiatives. However, it appears to be underutilized. The department has established a separate library advisory group via managerial initiative (i.e., the Florida Library Network Council), and establishes separate planning committees to develop strategic plans for library and information services programs. Our assessment is that although there may be a need for separate library grant review panels, the department should have one primary advisory committee for library issues.  **Recommendation**: Consolidate the *Florida Library Network Council* *into* the *State Library Council*. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida Library Network Council**  **Fiscal Year** **2008-09** ▪ **Cost**: $ 4,308▪  **Authorization**: Managerial initiative, created in 1987  **Purpose**: The Florida Library Network Council is one of the entities that provides the department with advice regarding interlibrary cooperation, library network development, and oversight of the department’s Florida Electronic Library Program.  **Assessment:** The council is one of several entities providing the department with advice about library initiatives. While its membership is broadly representative, some sectors of the library community represented on this council are also included in other department advisory groups. It would be sufficient for the state to have a single advisory group to focus on library development, since the well-organized library community also provides opportunities for communication with the department  **Recommendation**: Consolidate the *Florida Library Network Council* *into* the *State Library Council*. |
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