

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 21 FY 08/09  
DATE November 19, 2008

**November 19, 2008 ORDER CURTAILING ALLOTMENTS  
Pursuant to Title 5 M.R.S.A. Section 1668**

**WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2008, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services reported to me in writing after receiving communication from the Revenue Forecasting Committee and the advice of his economic advisers within the Maine Revenue Services that the anticipated income and other available funds of the State General Fund will not be sufficient to meet the General Fund expenditures authorized by the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature for Fiscal Year 2008-09; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and the Revenue Forecasting Committee recently met jointly and preliminarily concluded that General Fund revenues will likely fall short of current projections by \$110 million to \$150 million for Fiscal Year 2008-09 based on an ongoing financial crisis that is causing consumers to retrench, housing sales and prices to decline further, and unemployment to accelerate nationally and in Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the Maine Constitution's requirement for a balanced budget in each fiscal year, this presents a serious situation that must be addressed forthwith; and

**WHEREAS**, in these circumstances Title 5 M.R.S.A. Section 1668 provides me with the authority and discretion to curtail allotments "equitably" and in a limited manner to ensure that expenditures in the General Fund will not exceed the anticipated income and other available funds of the State General Fund in Fiscal Year 2008-09; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to address the anticipated continued shortfall in Fiscal Year 2008-09, I have directed the following review process involving state departments and agencies:

- Departments and agencies were assigned reduction targets for Fiscal Year 2008-09;
- Departments and agencies have presented options and program impact analyses in connection with the reduction targets for Fiscal Year 2008-09;
- Discussions were held with affected departments and agencies about the options and program impact analyses they presented;
- Proposed reduction options and analyses were evaluated based on a number of factors, including without limitation the following:

- The hierarchy of needs and the impact of proposed reductions in service on public health, safety, education, welfare and effective program operations;
- Whether any such impact would be direct or indirect;
- The extent to which an impact on program beneficiaries could be minimized;
- The extent to which a department or agency had available other resources to support the program or to meet a public service need;
- The extent to which efforts supported by new spending could be delayed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts;
- The extent to which expenditure growth could be reduced so as to minimize any impact on services;
- The extent to which a department or agency may be required to issue rules under the provisions of 5 M.R.S.A. Chapter 375 in order to accomplish savings in a timely manner;
- The availability of other options to achieve the same level of savings and avoid or minimize any impact on services to the public;
- Whether an option avoids termination of a program or service; and
- Whether proposed reductions could be made in a fair and equitable manner, and preserve insofar as practicable the intent of the Legislature.

**WHEREAS**, in ordering these curtailments, I have followed the guiding principles set forth in Title 5 M.R.S.A. Section 1668, the Superior Court's decision in Butterfield et al. v. Department of Human Services CV-91-29 (Kennebec Cty., Jan 17, 1991)(Alexander, J.), and the June 18, 2002 guidance letter from Attorney General Steven Rowe; and

**WHEREAS**, reliance upon said factors constitutes a rational, reasonable, fair, just and therefore equitable means by which to exercise discretion in the curtailment of allotments; and

**WHEREAS**, the allotment curtailments ordered herein are made, insofar as practicable, consistent with the intent of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature by minimizing the impact to services involving protection and/or promotion of the health and safety of the public, the educational welfare of our students, and the effective operation of state government; and

**WHEREAS**, this order is a temporary measure to ensure that expenditures will not exceed the anticipate income and other available funds until such time as the Legislature can act; and

**WHEREAS**, I intend to propose a more comprehensive package of recommendations for the Legislature's consideration during the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the Legislature in the form of a supplemental budget that will, in part, negate the need for some of these curtailments if adopted;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, John Elias Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to curtail Fiscal Year 2008-09 quarterly allotments by \$79,750,233 in the General Fund accounts as specified in the attached financial order.

Any portion of this Order declared by a court of this State to be invalid as a matter of law shall be severed from those portions not so declared, and shall be subject to revision by a subsequent Order.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Order is November 19, 2008.

  
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John E. Baldacci, Governor

Attachment (Financial Order)