

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BY HIS EXCELLENCY

STEPHEN MERRILL, GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 96-2

an order directing a reduction of the rate of departmental expenditures

WHEREAS, RSA 9:16-b provides "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor may, with prior approval of the fiscal committee, order reductions in any or all expenditure classes within any or all departments, as defined in RSA 9:1 if he determines at any time during the fiscal year that:

- (a) Projected state revenues will be insufficient to maintain a balanced budget and that the likelihood of a serious deficit exists; or
- (b) The actual lapse for each fiscal year is not going to equal the level estimated in the forecast of funds, unappropriated surplus, as issued by the legislative budget assistant;" and

WHEREAS, it is projected that the actual lapse for Fiscal Year 1996 is not going to equal the level estimated in the forecast of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Legislature are committed to take such steps as are required to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the Biennium; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has met with the presiding officers of the Legislature and has thus determined that it is in the public interest to meet with the fiscal committee which has, in turn, responded to the Governor's initiative by consenting to several actions to reduce the rate of departmental expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN MERRILL, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by RSA 9:16-b, in order to effect a reduction in the rate of expenditure, do hereby order effective immediately, the following steps to apply to all departments, as defined in RSA 9:1.

- (1) All full-time classified and unclassified positions funded in whole or in part by the General Fund which are vacant on the effective date of this Executive Order, or become vacant, shall remain vacant, excepting only direct care, custodial care and law enforcement positions. The appropriation for each such position shall be lapsed forthwith to the Salary Adjustment Fund, RSA 99:4, and the Employee Benefit Adjustment Account, RSA 9:17-c, as applicable.
- (2) No General Fund monies appropriated for Class 30 - 39 Equipment, for Fiscal Year 1996 shall be expended or encumbered except those encumbered by contract or purchase order on the date of this Executive Order.
- (3) No General Fund monies appropriated for Class 80 - 89 out of state travel, for Fiscal Year 1996 shall be expended or encumbered on or after the date of this Executive Order.

The reductions directed by this order shall remain in effect until June 30, 1996 or until terminated under the provisions of RSA 9:16-b; provided, however, that individual exceptions to any of the above provisions may be requested by any agency in writing to the Governor. Any exceptions granted by the Governor shall be transmitted to the Fiscal Committee.

Given at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this seventh day of May in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six, and of the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and nineteen.



Steve Merrill
GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE