



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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CHAIRMAN  
Ways and Means Committee

COMMITTEES  
Rules  
Black & Puerto Rican Caucus

January 24, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide you with the Statistical and Narrative Summary of the Executive Budget for the upcoming State Fiscal Year, April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. The "Yellow Book" is intended to provide the Members of the Committee, the Members of the Assembly, and the public with an overview of the fiscal and policy proposals made by the Governor in the bills submitted as his Executive Budget on January 18, 2005. This document presents the budget as introduced and does not reflect acceptance of the proposals put forth by the Executive.

The "Yellow Book" marks the beginning of the Legislature's public review of the Governor's proposed budget. It is the Assembly's preliminary response to the budget, as required by Section 53 of the Legislative Law. Joint legislative fiscal committee hearings on the budget proposal begin our efforts to ensure public accessibility and accountability. This year, these hearings commence on January 24, 2005 and conclude on February 16, 2005.

Section One, Overview of Executive Budget, provides an executive summary of the Governor's proposal for State Fiscal Year 2005-06, including analysis intended to place the proposed financial plan and spending in major programmatic areas in perspective.

Section Two, Summary of Recommended Appropriations by Agency, provides an overview of current appropriations and recommendations for the 2005-06 State Fiscal Year for each agency, a presentation of the proposed changes in each agency's budgeted personnel level, and a description of the programmatic and statutory modifications proposed in Article VII legislation included with the Executive Budget submission. Section Two reflects the structure of the Executive Budget appropriation bills. Agencies are presented in Section Two in alphabetical order within the appropriation bills as they appear in the Governor's proposed budget.

Section Three, Detail of Appropriations and Personnel by Agency, provides a breakdown of the agency summary tables contained in Section Two. The agency tables in Section Three are presented in the same order as the agencies appear in Section Two.

Speaker Silver and I know that you share our goal of producing a budget that is fair and equitable – a budget that meets our obligation to education, that does not deprive New Yorkers of health care and promotes economic security for working families. Despite the bleak fiscal conditions we are faced with, we must not compromise the values we hold dear with short-sighted, wrong choices. We must provide our children, our elderly, and all families with opportunities for a better future.

As the Legislature begins its work on the State Fiscal Year 2005-06 Budget, I would like to express appreciation to my Assembly colleagues for the time and commitment you will dedicate to the budget process. I would also like to convey to the Ways and Means Committee staff my gratitude for their outstanding efforts to produce this document, which is a tremendous resource for the Members of the Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. D. Farrell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.