

CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD

MISSION

The Consumer Protection Board (CPB) was created to protect the rights of the State's consumers. The CPB represents consumers in utility rate cases and related proceedings; advises the Governor on consumer issues; helps draft legislation that protects consumers; and handles consumer complaints and promotes consumer education.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Consumer Protection Board consists of two units: Utility Intervention and Consumer Advocacy. The Utility Intervention Unit is staffed by attorneys and experts in the field of economics, engineering, finance, and accounting. The Advocacy Unit employs specialists in the field of consumer law, complaint handling, consumer education, and research. The CPB is located in Albany, with satellite offices in Rochester and New York City. For 2000-01 the Consumer Protection Board will have a workforce of 33.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Consumer Protection Board is financed primarily from an assessment on utility companies operating within the State. The Executive Budget recommends approximately \$2.8 million for the Consumer Protection Board for 2000-01 including \$400,000 in General Fund support and nearly \$2.4 million in funding provided from utilities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Consumer Advocacy Unit mediates disputes between consumers and businesses, analyzes legislation affecting consumers, investigates consumer-related issues, and conducts education programs.

The Utility Intervention Unit is responsible for representing residential and commercial customers in rate proceedings before the Public Service Commission (PSC). The Board participates in proceedings involving telephone, electric, gas and water utilities as well as generic proceedings to formulate consumer protections as the various industries work toward deregulation. The Board's participation in these proceedings offers the consumers' perspective and assists regulators in developing policies that balance the interests of all parties. Ongoing proceedings include opening local telephone service to competition, metering and other issues related to gas and electric utilities that are no longer sole service providers.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

Category	Available 1999-00	Appropriations Recommended 2000-01	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2000-01
State Operations	\$2,791,400	\$2,769,300	-\$22,100
Aid To Localities
Capital Projects
Total	<u>\$2,791,400</u>	<u>\$2,769,300</u>	<u>-\$22,100</u>	<u>....</u>

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ALL FUND TYPES LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	2000-01 Recommended Average Fill Level				Change
	Available 1999-00	Personal Service (Regular)	Maintenance Undistributed	Total Recommended 2000-01	
Consumer Protection					
General Fund	6	6	....	6	....
Utility Intervention					
Special Revenue Funds - Other	27	27	....	27	....
Total	33	33	....	33	....

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change
General Fund	\$412,300	\$411,300	-\$1,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,379,100	2,358,000	-21,100
Total	\$2,791,400	\$2,769,300	-\$22,100
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Consumer Protection Board, State			
General Fund	-30,200		
Transfer(s) To			
Consumer Protection Board, State			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	+30,200		
Appropriated 1999-00	\$2,791,400		

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change
Consumer Protection			
General Fund	\$412,300	\$411,300	-\$1,000
Utility Intervention			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,379,100	2,358,000	-21,100
Total	\$2,791,400	\$2,769,300	-\$22,100

STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total Personal Service		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Consumer Protection	\$268,400	-\$1,000	\$268,400	-\$1,000
Total	\$268,400	-\$1,000	\$268,400	-\$1,000

CONSUMER PROTECTION

**STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2000-01 RECOMMENDED**

<u>Program</u>	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Consumer Protection	\$142,900	....	\$13,000	....
Total	\$142,900	....	\$13,000	....

<u>Program</u>	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Consumer Protection	\$24,500	....	\$97,400	....
Total	\$24,500	....	\$97,400	....

<u>Program</u>	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Consumer Protection	\$8,000	....
Total	\$8,000	....

**STATE OPERATIONS — OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2000-01 RECOMMENDED**

<u>Program</u>	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Utility Intervention	\$2,358,000	-\$21,100	\$1,552,000	-\$25,600
Total	\$2,358,000	-\$21,100	\$1,552,000	-\$25,600

<u>Program</u>	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Utility Intervention	\$796,000	+\$4,500	\$10,000	....
Total	\$796,000	+\$4,500	\$10,000	....

