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January 2014

New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee

YELLOW BOOK

Review and Analysis of the 2014-15 Executive Budget

STATE OF NEW YORK

Sheldon Silver, Speaker
Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chairman

Fiscal Year April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015



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January 27, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide you with this year's edition of *Yellow Book*, which represents a review and analysis of the Executive Budget proposal for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15. This document is intended to provide the Members of the Committee, Members of the Assembly, and the general public with an overview of the fiscal and policy proposals that comprise the Executive Budget, as expressed in legislation submitted by the Governor on January 21, 2014. This publication is accessible on our website: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/Reports/WAM/2014yellow/>.

Yellow Book is the Assembly's preliminary review of the Executive Budget, as required by Section 53 of the Legislative Law. Its publication marks the beginning of the Assembly's review of the Governor's budget proposal, and should serve as an informational resource for Members as we participate in public, joint legislative fiscal committee hearings on the budget—our next step in the budget process.

This document is divided into several sections which are intended to place the Executive Budget in context, by providing a broad review of the financial plan and revenues, and implications for spending, capital initiatives and debt. The review also includes an analysis of the current condition of the national and state economies.

Speaker Silver and I know that you share our goal of enacting an on-time budget premised on a principle of fairness to all New Yorkers. At the same time we will continue to reinforce our commitment to the education of our children, to protecting our communities and to providing necessary support to the most vulnerable among us.

As the Legislature begins its work on the State Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget, I would like to express appreciation to all of my Assembly colleagues for the time and commitment you will dedicate to creating and enacting this year's budget. I would also like to thank the public for their participation as well. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Ways and Means Committee for their outstanding efforts to produce this document, and for their support to our conference throughout the year.

Sincerely,

HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.

**A Review and Analysis
of the
2014-15 Executive Budget**

FINANCIAL PLAN.....	1
BUDGET SUMMARY	
EDUCATION	9
HEALTH	23
HIGHER EDUCATION.....	37
HUMAN SERVICES.....	47
MENTAL HYGIENE	61
ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY	69
TRANSPORTATION	81
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	93
✓ PUBLIC PROTECTION	101
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	113
GENERAL GOVERNMENT.....	119
STATE OPERATIONS AND WORKFORCE	133
✓ JUDICIARY.....	141
ECONOMY.....	143
REVENUE.....	151
CAPITAL AND DEBT	163
BUDGET BILLS AND HEARING SCHEDULE	171

**A REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
OF THE
2014-15 EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

YELLOW BOOK

January 2014

Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Chairman
Assembly Ways and Means Committee

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The Executive offloads \$1 million in various law enforcement initiatives onto Federal Byrne/JAG appropriations and eliminates a corresponding amount of programming that was funded in SFY 2013-14.

The Executive also provides an additional \$350,000 to support local district attorney salary increases, for a total appropriation of \$4.21 million. ✓

The Executive provides \$14.3 million for the Crimes Against Revenue Program, a \$1.7 million decrease from last year's funding levels.

Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) and Re-entry Program Assistance: The Executive proposes a new, \$5.51 million appropriation that would consolidate \$3.25 million in funding for Classification Alternatives programs, \$1.91 million in Drug/Alcohol programs, and \$369,000 for other programs that are consistent with Article 13-A of the Executive Law.

The Executive further consolidates \$1.29 million in additional ATI funding into the ATI and Employment program, which includes existing ATI demonstration programs and supervision and treatment programs, for a total appropriation of \$11.99 million.

The Executive transfers \$380,000 in support for the Albion Family Ties Tele-Visiting program and Queensboro Re-entry Services from DCJS to DOCCS.

Legal Services Assistance Fund (LSAF) Allocations: The Executive proposes the elimination of \$5.43 million in LSAF support for various programs as noted below, and further proposes a new transfer of \$2 million from the LSAF to the General Fund.

Table 45

DCJS LSAF Allocations (\$)		
Program	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15
Aid to Prosecution	2,592,000	2,592,000
Aid to Defense	2,592,000	2,592,000
HESC Loan Forgiveness Program	2,430,000	2,430,000
Civil Legal Service Grants	2,650,000	-
Additional Prisoners Legal Services	2,050,000	1,000,000
Domestic Violence Related Legal Services	650,000	-
Indigent Parolee Program	600,000	-
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem	300,000	-
Legal Action Center	180,000	-
Grand Total	14,044,000	8,614,000

BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS: JUDICIARY



The New York State courts are established and administered as an independent branch of government pursuant to Article VI of the State Constitution. The cost of operating the courts (excluding town and village courts) is borne by the state pursuant to the Unified Court Budget Act. The mission of the Unified Court System is to promote the rule of law and to serve the public by providing just and timely resolutions of all matters before the courts. The New York State Judiciary (Judiciary) carries out its mission through 11 different trial courts (courts of original jurisdiction), its intermediate appellate courts and its highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary's proposed budget request, as submitted to the Governor, recommends appropriations of \$2.73 billion, which is an increase of \$77.25 million or 2.9 percent from the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013-14 level.

Table 56

Agency	Appropriations					5-year Trend
	2013-14	2014-15	Change	Change		
	Adjusted	Exec Request				
Office of Court Administration	2,648.89	2,726.14	77.25	2.92		

Table 57

Agency	Disbursements					5-year Trend
	2013-14	2014-15	Change	Change		
	Adjusted	Exec Request				
Office of Court Administration	2,646.70	2,723.10	76.40	2.89		

Civil Legal Services: The proposed budget includes a total of \$55 million to support the recommendations of the Chief Judge's task force to expand civil legal services, an increase of \$15 million SFY 2013-14 levels.

Family Court Judges: The Judiciary budget includes a \$5 million appropriation to support the addition of 20 new Family Court Judges in January 2015. These funds would be distributed pursuant to legislation that would be advanced outside of the budget process. The Judiciary estimates that the cost of these new judges would increase to \$20 million in SFY 2015-16.