

Tennessee's

BUSINESS



THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP STATE GOVERNMENT RUNNING

Vol. 14 No. 1 2004

Published by the Business and
Economic Research Center (BERC)
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Recipient of the 1991, 1996, and 2000
AUBER Award of Excellence in Publications

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STATE UNIVERSITY AA022-0804

Ever wonder who does the really nitty-gritty, day-to-day work in state government? Well, it is 22 departments known as the Governor's Cabinet, along with a few other agencies, boards, and commissions. Below is a concise statement of the functions of the departments. The articles in this issue explain more fully what happens in state government.

- The Department of **Agriculture** promotes effective use of the state's agricultural and forest resources, develops economic opportunities, and ensures safe and reliable food.
- The Department of **Children's Services** provides child protective services, foster care, adoption, programs for delinquent youth, aftercare, rehabilitation for certain youth, and licensing for child-welfare agencies.
- The Department of **Commerce and Insurance** protects consumers and promotes competition for industries and professionals doing business in Tennessee.
- The Department of **Correction** implements correctional practices and supervises convicted offenders.
- The Department of **Economic and Community Development** assists communities in competing for economic development and recruits new industries at home and abroad.
- The Department of **Education** administers and tries to improve the state's K-12 public schools.
- The Department of **Environment and Conservation** protects the state's air, land, and water and promotes its natural and cultural resources.
- The Department of **Finance and Administration** improves the state's financial and administrative support services.
- The Department of **Financial Institutions** assures Tennessee's banking system runs soundly and handles consumer complaints involving financial institutions.
- The Department of **General Services** manages buildings, motor vehicles, equipment, surplus property, printing and photographic services, postal services, food services, and records.
- The Department of **Health** promotes the health of all Tennesseans.
- The Office of **Homeland Security** coordinates a strategy against terrorist threats and attacks.
- The Department of **Human Services** has divisions of Child Support, Rehabilitative Services, and Adult and Family Services.
- The Department of **Labor and Workforce Development** provides job-related assistance, offers safety and training programs, ensures safe workplaces, and administers unemployment insurance and workers' compensation.
- The Department of **Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities** advocates for persons of all ages with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or developmental disability.
- The **Military** Department contains the Army and Air National Guards, the Emergency Management Agency, and the all-volunteer State Guard.
- The Department of **Personnel** assists departments and agencies with carrying out personnel practices and administers the employment application process.
- The Department of **Revenue** collects about 92 percent of total state collections, which helps to fund many programs, including education, highways, and state parks.
- The Department of **Safety** issues driver licenses and vehicle titles, and its state troopers patrol more than 15,000 miles of state and federal highways.
- The Department of **Tourist Development** spearheads Tennessee's more than \$10 billion a year tourism industry.
- The Department of **Transportation** manages the state's highways and transportation system.
- The Department of **Veterans Affairs** serves those who served in the active military, naval, or air service.

—Horace E. Johns, editor

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