

AGRICULTURE, TRADE & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND JUSTICE

Transfer of Consumer Protection Responsibilities

[LFB Paper #156]

Motion:

Move to adopt alternatives #2 and #4 from paper #156. Further, require DATCP to submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Finance for its approval under a 14-day passive review procedure by November 1, 2003, detailing the agency's proposed implementation of consumer protection reductions required under the bill. Require the plan to include the classification and location of staff to be eliminated and the supplies, permanent property or other costs proposed to be reduced or eliminated.

Note:

Alternative 2 deletes the Governor's recommendation, and all related changes, to transfer consumer protection and telephone solicitation responsibilities from DATCP to DOJ. The alternative reduces DATCP staff and funding by a similar net amount included in the bill.

Alternative 4 specifies that the amount of consumer protection surcharge revenue that may be credited to DATCP's consumer protection, information and education PR appropriation may not exceed \$375,000 annually, and that revenues in excess of \$375,000 annually would accrue to the general fund. Currently, annual revenues credited to this appropriation may not exceed \$185,000, with excess revenue accruing to the general fund.

The motion would delete \$961,000 GPR annually and 13.35 GPR positions from DATCP that are used for its consumer protection responsibilities (an unclassified division administrator, \$1.45 million GPR, 26.35 GPR positions and 5.5 PR positions would be restored to DATCP). The motion requires that DATCP submit a plan to the Committee for its approval under the 14-day passive review procedure by November 1, 2003, detailing the agency's proposed reductions required in the motion. This motion would result in a net decrease of \$1,000 and an increase of 1.0 unclassified division administrator position from the amounts in the bill.

[Change to Bill: -\$136,800 GPR and 0.35 GPR position, \$135,800 PR and 0.65 PR position]