

# CONSUMER AFFAIRS - 6610

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

The 2010 Executive Budget proposes to restructure the consumer protection function. In order to obtain greater efficiencies with respect to staffing, setting and collection of fines, and maintaining staffing of inspector positions, this Budget proposes to eliminate the Department and shift agency responsibilities to the Department of General Services. General Services currently performs related functions, most notably code enforcement, and this change thus represents a more appropriate structuring of responsibilities.

Inspectors generate substantial revenues through fines, primarily associated with the sale of commodities that are underweight relative to the stated packaging size and items for which prices are not properly labeled. In the event of a vacancy, and thus an accompanying loss of revenue due to fewer inspections, the Department of General Services may be able to mitigate this loss through the shifting of an existing qualified employee.

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