

Thursday June 21, 2012

Gov. Kasich rolls out reforms: editorial

By TIM KEEN

An unprecedented, top-to-bottom review of state agency operations and programs, launched by Ohio Gov. John Kasich only months after passage of his historic Jobs Budget in 2011, has produced hundreds of common-sense reforms that reduce the cost of government and revitalize Ohio's ability to keep and attract jobs.

By challenging his cabinet agencies with this review, the governor has broken a long tradition in which state government waited two years between biennial budgets to analyze agency spending, programs and policies in such detail. He was determined as well that this would not be an exercise in mechanical across-the-board cuts, but rather a thoughtful, deliberate process that would carefully weigh the specific needs of each state agency and the citizens it serves.

The result has been the most thoroughgoing budget and policy review, outside of Ohio's traditional two-year budget-setting cycle, that I have experienced over my more than 25 years of involvement in state budgeting. And it's starting to pay important dividends for every Ohio taxpayer.

To begin with, the governor and his cabinet directors identified ways to cut more than \$113 million from agency budgets in the next fiscal year, while making significant changes that streamline government operations and improve delivery of services. Many reductions and reforms — including those focused on state healthcare and human services programs — have been enacted by the General Assembly in House Bill 487, the Management Efficiency Plan, which was signed by Governor Kasich on June 11.

Article continued here: <http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/news/2012/06/21/gov-kasich-rolls-out-reforms.html?page=all>