

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2016 Recommended General Fund Operating Budget is \$3,900.0 million. In addition, Governor Markell has set aside \$45.4 million for Grants-in-Aid and \$15.0 million in dedicated cash to the Bond and Capital Improvements Act. Total recommended Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund appropriations are \$3,960.4 million. Total appropriations represent 98.0 percent of projected net Fiscal Year 2016 revenue plus projected carryover funds, which is within the constitutionally mandated limitation on appropriations.

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2016 Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act totals \$385.8 million. Of this amount, \$246.8 million is recommended for state capital projects and \$139.0 million is recommended for transportation projects. Of the \$246.8 million supporting state projects, \$197.5 million is General Obligation Bond Authorization, \$15.0 million is General Fund cash and \$34.3 million is reprogramming.

Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations are based on Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) revenue and expenditure estimates as of December 15, 2014. Governor Markell has recommended adjustments to these figures that will provide a net increase to the DEFAC revenue estimates of \$65.0 million in Fiscal Year 2016. These recommended adjustments are as follows:

- ◆ An increase of \$40.0 million by redirecting Abandoned Property revenue back to the General Fund;
- ◆ An increase of \$14.0 million by redirecting Realty Transfer Tax revenue back to the General Fund;
- ◆ An increase of \$6.0 million by enhancing collection efforts; and
- ◆ An increase of \$5.0 million by redirecting Public Utility Tax revenue back to the General Fund;

DEFAC GENERAL FUND REVENUE FORECASTS

DEFAC projected net General Fund revenue collections for Fiscal Year 2015 of \$3,927.9 million and \$3,885.0 million for Fiscal Year 2016. The highlights of the forecast include:

- ◆ **Personal Income Tax** - This tax, closely modeled after federal income tax law, is progressive in nature, with marginal rates from 0 to 6.60 percent. DEFAC estimates (after refunds) are \$1,222.3 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$1,277.1 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Franchise Tax and Limited Partnership/Limited Liability Company Tax** - The Franchise Tax is imposed upon domestic corporations incorporated in Delaware and based on either the outstanding shares of stock of a corporation or on gross assets. In addition, every domestic Limited Partnership and Limited Liability Company formed in Delaware and every foreign Limited Partnership and Limited Liability Company registered to do business in Delaware is required to pay an annual tax of \$300. DEFAC estimates (after refunds) for these categories are \$889.3 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$904.3 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Business and Occupational Gross Receipts Tax** - This tax is imposed on the gross receipts of most businesses with tax rates ranging from 0.0945 percent to 1.9914 percent, depending upon the category of the business activity. DEFAC estimates are \$226.9 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$237.8 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Lottery** - This category includes video lottery operations, table games and sports betting, as well as traditional lottery sales. DEFAC estimates are \$206.2 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$207.3 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Corporation Income Tax** - This tax is imposed on every domestic and foreign corporation doing business in Delaware, depending upon the amount of a corporation's taxable income that is apportioned and allocated to Delaware. DEFAC estimates (after refunds) are \$219.4 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$154.4 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Bank Franchise Tax** - This tax is imposed on the net income of banks, trust companies and savings/building and loan associations and their subsidiaries. DEFAC estimates are \$101.7 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$99.7 million for Fiscal Year 2016.
- ◆ **Abandoned Property** - Any debt obligation that has gone unclaimed or undelivered, or security that has remained undelivered for three or more years after the date the owner should have received it, or was entitled to claim it must be reported to the State as abandoned property. DEFAC estimates are \$554.0 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$514.0 million for Fiscal Year 2016.

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- ◆ **Realty Transfer Tax** - The State imposes a tax of 2.0 percent of the fair market value of the property divided equally between the grantor and the grantee. Local governments are permitted to levy a 1.5 percent tax. In cases where the local levy exceeds 1.0 percent, the State rate decreases to 1.5 percent. DEFAC estimates are \$72.2 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and \$64.0 million for Fiscal Year 2016.