



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: L. RICHARD MARTIN, JR.
Virginia Department of Social Services

FROM: ALLEN T. WILSON
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: February 11, 2004

SUBJECT: Final Regulation 22 VAC 40-295-10 et seq.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

I have reviewed the above-referenced final regulation to determine if the changes made to the proposed regulation exceed the statutory authority of the State Board of Social Services ("State Board") to promulgate the final regulation and if the final regulation comports with applicable state law.

As noted in my memoranda dated May 21, 2003, it is this Office's view that the State Board has the authority to promulgate the proposed regulation, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order 21 (2002), and has not exceeded that authority.

It appears that several changes to the final regulation are not changes with "substantial impact," and, therefore, do not necessitate an additional comment period. Those changes merely clarify the language in the regulation.

It appears that there are several changes that constitute changes with "substantial impact," and could necessitate an additional comment period. Please note that Va. Code § 2.2-4013(B) requires that all changes to the proposed regulations be highlighted in the final regulations, and it appears that this requirement has been fulfilled. Also, pursuant to § 2.2-4013(C), if the Governor finds that one or more changes with substantial impact have been made to the proposed regulation, he *may* (but is not required to) direct DSS to provide an additional thirty days to solicit additional public comment on the changes. In addition, Va. Code § 2.2-4007(J) requires the agency to solicit additional public comment, *if* it receives requests from at least twenty-five persons for an opportunity to submit oral and written comments on the changes to the regulation and if one or more changes with substantial impact were made to the proposed regulation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 225-3219.