State of Georgia
EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS: The Georgia General Assembly created the Department of Human Resources in 1972; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Human Resources currently serves Georgians through four divisions: (1) Aging Services; (2) Public Health; (3) Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases; and (4) Family and Children Services; and

WHEREAS: Through the four divisions, the Department of Human Resources touches the lives of all Georgians by providing programs that ensure their health and welfare; DHR manages programs that control the spread of disease, enable older people to live at home longer, prevent children from developing lifelong disabilities, protect children from abuse and neglect, provide families with a variety of financial and non-financial supports, train single parents to find and hold jobs, and help people with mental or physical disabilities live and work in their communities; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Human Resources has made great strides in various areas, including customer service, as evidenced by the awarding of the Governor's Customer Service Agency of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS: Access to quality state services, health care and a modern public health infrastructure are vital to the citizens of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Efficiencies, synergies and improvements could be realized by examining the missions of the various divisions within the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Community Health and State Personnel Administration; and

WHEREAS: I wish to collaborate with members of the General Assembly and collectively build upon the work of two legislative study

committees that reviewed the duties of the Department of Human Resources and made recommendations for reform; and

WHEREAS: I believe that a review of the duties of the Department of Human Resources is warranted and should include consideration of:

(1) The fiscal and substantive interrelation between the divisions within the Department of Human Resources;
(2) Whether Georgians are best served with the divisions remaining in the Department of Human Resources, within another agency of state government or as a stand-alone agency or agencies; and
(3) Means to best integrate health delivery and prevention services within the State of Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That a Health and Human Resources Commission be created to undertake a study of the issues addressed in this Executive Order or related thereto. The Commission shall, as needed, seek the advice and counsel of Georgia's agencies, constituencies, and experts, including, but not limited to: the Commissioners of the Department of Human Resources; the Department of Community Health; the State Personnel Administration; and the division directors within the Department of Human Resources.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Commission shall conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Executive Order. The Commission is further authorized to retain the services of individuals or firms as determined appropriate by the Commission, as well as to call any party to testify and to require the attendance of witnesses and the

production of non-confidential books, records and papers. The Georgia Department of Human Resources shall serve in an administrative capacity to assist the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Commission be composed of nine members: two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; four persons with knowledge of the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Community Health and the State Personnel Administration, appointed by the Governor; and chair of the Commission, to be appointed by the Governor. It is further

ORDERED: That the Commission recommend (1) a plan to restructure the Georgia Department of Human Resources to provide the most efficient and effective delivery of services available; (2) recommend a structure that emphasizes the importance of a coordinated and integrated health delivery and prevention services; (3) a structure that will provide the best means to protect Georgia's children; (4) whether to combine, consolidate or separate divisions within at least the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Department of Community Health and State Personnel Administration. The Commission shall make a report to the General Assembly and the Office of Governor on or before July 2, 2008. The Commission shall stand abolished on December 3, 2008.

This 4th day of February, 2008.

Sonny Perdue

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Ed F. Holcomb

Executive Secretary