

Office of Governor Patrick J. Lucey
State Capitol Building
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

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PRESS RELEASE

For Release:
Thursday, July 27, 1972

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 43

WHEREAS, recent allegations have questioned the judgment of various state officials regarding real estate purchase and lease decisions over the last ten years, and

WHEREAS, state government is a major user of real estate in Wisconsin, currently occupying facilities valued at \$1.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, state government presently owns nearly 900,000 acres of land for forest and recreational purposes and intends to acquire more land for such purposes. State institutions will continue to acquire land where expansion becomes necessary and state government must acquire additional acreage as part of its highway and bridge construction programs; and

WHEREAS, state government currently leases more than 1.6 million square feet of building space at a monthly cost of \$416,000 in 64 municipalities in Wisconsin and, in Madison state government's leasing operations exert great influence on the market price for leased commercial footage in the city; and

WHEREAS, the State Investment Board is heavily involved in the real estate market as a mortgagee, and

WHEREAS, state taxpayers must be assured that real estate purchased or leased by the state represents the best possible value per dollar expended,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK J. LUCEY, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby order and direct:

1. That a Special Commission to Investigate State Real Estate Purchasing and Leasing Policies be established.
2. Appointees to the Commission shall be prominent citizens with experience in such fields as the judiciary, real estate, housing and community service. Each member of the special commission shall detail in a letter to me, which I will make public, any dealings or other interests which he or members of his family, or corporations he serves has had with any agency of state government.
3. State agency subpoena powers, special legal counsel or consulting services shall be made available to the special commission.
4. All agencies of state government and all state officials shall fully cooperate with the special commission and shall provide it with whatever documents or information it may request.
5. The commission shall review past, present and contemplated state real estate policies, procedures and practices and shall, by December 31, 1972, present findings and recommendations to me which are designed to protect the public interest in all real estate transactions.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison, this 27th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

By the Governor:

PATRICK J. LUCEY
G o v e r n o r

Secretary of State