

2685--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 28, 2011

Introduced by Sens. RANZENHOFER, GOLDEN, LARKIN, MAZIARZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- recommitted to the Committee on Finance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing audits of state agency expenditures to recover overpayments and lost discounts

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The state finance law is amended by adding a new article
2 7-B to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 7-B

4 RECOVERY OF CERTAIN STATE AGENCY OVERPAYMENTS

5 SECTION 124. DEFINITIONS.

6 124-A. CONTRACT CONSULTANTS FOR RECOVERY AUDITS FOR CERTAIN
7 OVERPAYMENTS.

8 124-B. STATE AGENCIES SUBJECT TO MANDATORY RECOVERY AUDITS.

9 124-C. PAYMENT TO CONTRACTORS.

10 124-D. FORWARDING REPORTS.

11 S 124. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE:

12 1. OVERPAYMENT. "OVERPAYMENT" INCLUDES A DUPLICATE PAYMENT MADE TO A
13 VENDOR FOR A SINGLE INVOICE AND A PAYMENT MADE TO A VENDOR:

14 (A) WHEN AN AVAILABLE DISCOUNT FROM THE VENDOR WAS NOT APPLIED;

15 (B) FOR A LATE PAYMENT PENALTY THAT WAS IMPROPERLY APPLIED BY THE
16 VENDOR;

17 (C) FOR SHIPPING COSTS THAT WERE COMPUTED INCORRECTLY OR INCORRECTLY
18 INCLUDED IN AN INVOICE;

19 (D) FOR STATE SALES TAX; OR

20 (E) FOR A GOOD OR SERVICE THE VENDOR DID NOT PROVIDE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. STATE AGENCY. "STATE AGENCY" MEANS A DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION, BOARD,
2 OFFICE, OR OTHER AGENCY, INCLUDING A UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OR AN INSTITUTION
3 OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT:

4 (A) IS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT; AND

5 (B) IS CREATED BY STATUTE.

6 S 124-A. CONTRACT CONSULTANTS FOR RECOVERY AUDITS FOR CERTAIN OVERPAY-
7 MENTS. 1. THE COMPTROLLER SHALL CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE CONSULTANTS TO
8 CONDUCT RECOVERY AUDITS OF PAYMENTS MADE BY STATE AGENCIES TO VENDORS.
9 THE AUDITS MUST BE DESIGNATED TO DETECT AND RECOVER OVERPAYMENT TO THE
10 VENDORS AND TO RECOMMEND IMPROVED STATE AGENCY ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS.

11 2. A CONTRACT UNDER THIS SECTION:

12 (A) MAY PROVIDE FOR REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED
13 UNDER THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING COMPENSATION DETERMINED BY THE APPLICATION
14 OF A SPECIFIED PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT RECOVERED BECAUSE OF THE
15 CONSULTANT'S AUDIT ACTIVITIES OR RECOMMENDATIONS AS A FEE FOR SERVICES;

16 (B) MAY PERMIT OR REQUIRE THE CONSULTANT TO PURSUE A JUDICIAL ACTION
17 IN A COURT INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THIS STATE TO RECOVER AN OVERPAID AMOUNT;
18 AND

19 (C) TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING STATE PAYMENT AUDIT-
20 ING PROCEDURES, MAY NOT ALLOW A RECOVERY AUDIT OF A PAYMENT DURING THE
21 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAY PERIOD AFTER THE DATE THE PAYMENT WAS MADE.

22 3. THE COMPTROLLER OR A STATE AGENCY WHOSE PAYMENTS ARE BEING AUDITED
23 MAY PROVIDE A PERSON ACTING UNDER A CONTRACT AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION
24 WITH ANY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMPTROLLER OR
25 STATE AGENCY THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT OR THE
26 RECOVERY OF AN OVERPAYMENT, TO THE EXTENT THE COMPTROLLER AND STATE
27 AGENCY ARE NOT PROHIBITED FROM SHARING THE INFORMATION UNDER AN AGREE-
28 MENT WITH ANOTHER STATE OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. A PERSON ACTING UNDER
29 A CONTRACT AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION, AND EACH EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE
30 PERSON, IS SUBJECT TO ALL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL
31 INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE STATE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
32 CONTRACT THAT APPLY TO THE COMPTROLLER OR APPLICABLE STATE AGENCY OR AN
33 EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPTROLLER OR APPLICABLE STATE AGENCY. A PERSON ACTING
34 UNDER A CONTRACT AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION OR AN EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF
35 THE PERSON WHO DISCLOSES CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN VIOLATION OF A
36 PROHIBITION MADE APPLICABLE TO THE PERSON UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION IS
37 SUBJECT TO THE SAME SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES THAT WOULD APPLY TO THE
38 COMPTROLLER OR APPLICABLE STATE AGENCY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPTROLLER
39 OR APPLICABLE STATE AGENCY FOR THAT DISCLOSURE.

40 S 124-B. STATE AGENCIES SUBJECT TO MANDATORY RECOVERY AUDITS. 1. THE
41 COMPTROLLER SHALL REQUIRE THAT RECOVERY AUDITS BE PERFORMED ON THE
42 PAYMENTS TO VENDORS MADE BY EACH STATE AGENCY THAT HAS TOTAL EXPENDI-
43 TURES DURING A STATE FISCAL BIENNIUM IN AN AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS ONE
44 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. EACH STATE AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE THE RECOVERY
45 AUDIT CONSULTANT WITH ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE AUDIT.

46 2. THE COMPTROLLER MAY EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATORY RECOVERY AUDIT PROC-
47 ESS A STATE AGENCY THAT HAS A LOW PROPORTION OF ITS EXPENDITURES MADE TO
48 VENDORS, ACCORDING TO CRITERIA THE COMPTROLLER ADOPTS BY RULE AFTER
49 CONSIDERATION OF THE LIKELY COSTS AND BENEFITS OF PERFORMING RECOVERY
50 AUDITS FOR AGENCIES THAT MAKE RELATIVELY FEW OR SMALL PAYMENTS TO
51 VENDORS.

52 S 124-C. PAYMENT TO CONTRACTORS. 1. A STATE AGENCY SHALL PAY, FROM
53 RECOVERED MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE RECOVERY AUDIT
54 CONSULTANT RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING FOR THE AGENCY A REIMBURSEMENT FROM
55 A VENDOR.

1 2. A STATE AGENCY SHALL EXPEND OR RETURN TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANY
2 FEDERAL MONEY THAT IS RECOVERED THROUGH A RECOVERY AUDIT CONDUCTED UNDER
3 SECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR-A OF THIS ARTICLE. THE STATE AGENCY
4 SHALL EXPEND OR RETURN THE FEDERAL MONEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF
5 THE FEDERAL PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH THE AGENCY RECEIVED THE FEDERAL MONEY.

6 S 124-D. FORWARDING REPORTS. 1. THE COMPTROLLER SHALL PROVIDE COPIES,
7 INCLUDING ELECTRONIC FORM COPIES, OF ANY REPORTS RECEIVED FROM A
8 CONSULTANT CONTRACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR-A OF
9 THIS ARTICLE TO:

10 (A) THE GOVERNOR;

11 (B) THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE
12 SENATE; AND

13 (C) THE MINORITY LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY.

14 2. THE COMPTROLLER SHALL PROVIDE THE COPIES REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION
15 ONE OF THIS SECTION NOT LATER THAN THE SEVENTH DAY AFTER THE DATE THE
16 COMPTROLLER RECEIVES THE CONSULTANT'S REPORT.

17 3. NOT LATER THAN AUGUST FIRST OF EACH ODD NUMBERED YEAR, THE COMP-
18 TROLLER SHALL ISSUE A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE SUMMARIZING THE CONTENTS
19 OF ALL REPORTS RECEIVED UNDER THIS ARTICLE DURING THE STATE FISCAL BIEN-
20 NIUM ENDING MARCH THIRTY-FIRST OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

21 S 2. The comptroller shall adopt rules to administer the provisions of
22 article 7-B of the state finance law as added by section one of this act
23 not later than August 1, 2012.

24 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.