

5056

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 10, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the state finance law and the public authorities law, in  
relation to authorizing an enterprise approach to the detection and  
prevention of fraud, waste and abuse in state government and the  
detection and prevention of improper payments of public moneys

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

1     Section 1. Legislative findings. (a) Fraud, waste, abuse and improper  
2     payments are pervasive, and often on the rise, in many government  
3     programs.  
4     (1) According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS),  
5     the 2011 Medicaid improper payment rate was 8.1%;  
6     (2) According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), over \$70  
7     billion in improper payments are made each year in Medicaid and Medi-  
8     care;  
9     (3) According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the 2011 unemployment  
10    insurance payment error rate was 11.2%, resulting in \$5.7 billion of  
11    improper payments;  
12    (4) According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the tax gap for  
13    federal income tax is at least \$270 billion per year;  
14    (5) In the 2012 filing season, IRS estimated losses due to identity  
15    theft alone at \$5 billion, and detected an additional \$12 billion.  
16    (b) Entities involved in perpetrating fraud and abuse of government  
17    programs are becoming increasingly more sophisticated in their schemes  
18    and tactics, and often work in organized and collusive fraud rings or  
19    networks to attack any and all government programs. The fraud schemes  
20    can be massive, as illustrated in the following recent cases:  
21    (1) October 2010: 73 defendants, \$163 million in false  
22    Medicare/Medicaid billings, Armenian-American fraud ring;

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

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(2) February 2011: 20 defendants, \$200 million in false Medicare/Medicaid billings, Florida;

(3) February 2011: 111 defendants, \$225 million in false Medicare/Medicaid billings, 7 cities;

(4) April 2011: 3 defendants, \$3.9 million in food stamp 47 fraud, Texas;

(5) September 2011: 91 defendants, \$295 million in false Medicare/Medicaid billings, 8 cities;

(6) October 2012: 91 defendants, \$430 million in false Medicare/Medicaid billings, 7 cities.

(c) Fraud, waste, abuse and improper payments can adversely affect the state budget, impede economic development, and deplete benefits intended for citizens in need.

(d) The state constitution requires the state comptroller to, among other things, audit all vouchers before payment and all official accounts and, in such respect, the legislature shall define the powers and duties of the office and may assign to the state comptroller administrative duties incidental to the performance of these functions and the state comptroller has the constitutional authority to supervise the accounts of public corporations commonly referred to as public authorities. Statutorily, the state comptroller has the duty to superintend the fiscal concerns of the state.

(d-1) In the performance of the state comptroller's constitutional and statutory functions, duties and responsibilities, the state's citizens expect state agencies to utilize modern techniques and technology to prevent tax dollars from being spent on fraudulent or improper payments.

(e) Identifying possible waste, fraud, abuse and the improper payments of public moneys at the earliest point possible will reduce losses and possibly prevent erroneous payments from being made, thus providing potentially millions of dollars in cost-savings to the state.

(f) State-supported citizen and employee benefits programs, workers' compensation, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, tax compliance, and discretionary grants to community-based programs are areas where it is important for the state to identify and prevent waste, fraud, abuse and improper payments.

(g) Modern technologies and best practices exist, and have been deployed successfully in the commercial sector for many years, that can greatly reduce the losses associated with fraud, waste, abuse and improper payments.

(h) An enterprise approach to reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments coordinates efforts with more than one agency and incorporates data from multiple data sources within an agency and between two or more agencies. This type of approach allows state government to utilize its rich data assets across agencies and programs to better detect improper behaviors, and to leverage economies of scale to reduce overall costs for fraud detection and prevention across all state government programs and functions.

S 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 8-c to read as follows:

S 8-C. ENTERPRISE FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION SYSTEM. 1. IN FURTHERANCE OF THE COMPTROLLER'S CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, THE COMPTROLLER MAY, WITHIN HIS OR HER DISCRETION, ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY AN ELECTRONIC DATA ANALYTICAL ENTERPRISE FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION SYSTEM FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS OF PUBLIC MONEYS.

2. STATE AGENCIES SHALL FULLY SUPPORT AND COOPERATE WITH THE STATE COMPTROLLER BY PROVIDING THE STATE COMPTROLLER WITH ACCESS TO DATA REQUESTED BY THE STATE COMPTROLLER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, TO ALLOW SUCH DATA TO BE INTEGRATED INTO SUCH ANALYTIC EFFORTS AS THE STATE COMPTROLLER MAY DEEM NECESSARY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE TERM "STATE AGENCY" SHALL MEAN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PERFORMING A GOVERNMENTAL OR PROPRIETARY FUNCTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE: A STATE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, AND ANY BOARD, BUREAU, DIVISION, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, COUNCIL, OFFICE OR SIMILAR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

3. IN SUPPORT OF THE ENTERPRISE FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION SYSTEM, THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL ESTABLISH PROTOCOLS:

(A) FOR DATA SHARING, SECURE FILE TRANSFERS AND/OR OTHER METHODS TO OBTAIN REAL-TIME, REGULAR AND/OR PERIODIC DATA FROM STATE AGENCIES, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT ACCESS TO SUCH DATA BY THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL NOT WAIVE ANY PRIVILEGE OR RIGHT OF CONFIDENTIALITY;

(B) TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, SECURITY, INTEGRITY AND PRIVACY OF ALL DATA SHARED WITH HIS OR HER OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SYSTEM; AND

(C) FOR THE AUTHORIZED RETENTION AND DELETION OF DATA OBTAINED FROM STATE AGENCIES.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH SYSTEM, THE STATE COMPTROLLER, IN HIS OR HER DISCRETION, MAY:

(A) DEVELOP A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR PREVENTING OR DETECTING IMPROPER PAYMENTS OF PUBLIC MONEYS, AND THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS;

(B) ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOFTWARE THAT ENHANCES THE FOLLOWING CAPABILITIES: (I) AUTOMATED DETECTION AND ALERTING; (II) CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF PROGRAM TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITY, TO DETECT FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENTS BOTH PROSPECTIVELY (BEFORE THE PAYMENT IS MADE) AND RETROSPECTIVELY (AFTER PAYMENTS ARE MADE); (III) DETECTION OF NON-TRANSACTIONAL FRAUD SUCH AS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ISSUES AND IDENTIFY THEFT; AND

(C) EVALUATE POTENTIAL SAVINGS RESULTING FROM SUCH EFFORTS.

5. THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE LEGISLATURE NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER ON THE PROGRESS, STATUS AND RESULTS OF THE SYSTEM CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED THREE OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW.

S 3. Section 2803 of the public authorities law, as added by chapter 327 of the laws of 1958 and as renumbered by chapter 838 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

S 2803. Examination of the books and accounts of public authorities by the state comptroller. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the state comptroller shall, from time to time but not less than once in every five years, examine the books and accounts of every authority or commission heretofore or hereafter continued or created by this chapter, including its receipts, disbursements, contracts, leases, sinking funds, investments and any other matters relating to its financial standing. In lieu of such an examination, the state comptroller is hereby authorized to accept from every such authority or commission an external examination of its books and accounts made at the request of such authority or commission.

2. (A) THE STATE COMPTROLLER MAY, PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISIONS TWO AND THREE OF SECTION EIGHT-C OF THE STATE FINANCE LAW, IN HIS OR HER SOLE DISCRETION, APPLY TO STATE AUTHORITIES THE ELECTRONIC DATA ANALYTICAL ENTERPRISE FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION SYSTEM AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUCH

1 SECTION EIGHT-C OF THE STATE FINANCE LAW. PUBLIC AUTHORITIES SHALL FULLY  
2 SUPPORT AND COOPERATE WITH THE STATE COMPTROLLER BY PROVIDING THE STATE  
3 COMPTROLLER WITH ACCESS TO DATA OF THE AUTHORITY REQUESTED BY THE STATE  
4 COMPTROLLER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, TO ALLOW SUCH  
5 DATA TO BE INTEGRATED INTO SUCH ANALYTIC EFFORTS AS THE STATE COMP-  
6 TROLLER MAY DEEM NECESSARY.

7 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE TERM "STATE AUTHORITY" SHALL  
8 HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION TWO OF THIS CHAP-  
9 TER, PROVIDED THAT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE TERM "PUBLIC  
10 BENEFIT CORPORATION" AS USED IN SUCH SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION TWO OF  
11 THIS CHAPTER SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS IN SUBDIVISION FOUR OF  
12 SECTION SIXTY-SIX OF THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LAW.

13 S 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to in any way alter or  
14 diminish any statutory or constitutional power, duty or authority of the  
15 state comptroller.

16 S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
17 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-  
18 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation  
19 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are  
20 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.