

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
ILES PARK PLAZA  
740 EAST ASH • 62703-3154  
PHONE: 217/782-6046  
FAX: 217/785-8222 • TTY: 888/261-2887



CHICAGO OFFICE:  
MICHAEL A. BILANDIC BLDG. • SUITE S-900  
160 NORTH LASALLE • 60601-3103  
PHONE: 312/814-4000  
FAX: 312/814-4006

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL  
WILLIAM G. HOLLAND

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor  
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State  
The Honorable Dan Rutherford, State Treasurer  
The Honorable Judy Baar Topinka, State Comptroller  
Members of the General Assembly

**FROM:** William G. Holland, Auditor General

**RE:** Report # 2 Pursuant to the Taxpayer Accountability and Budget  
Stabilization Act (P.A. 96-1496)

**DATE:** March 31, 2011

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**A. INTRODUCTION**

This report is made pursuant to the Taxpayer Accountability and Budget Stabilization Act (the "Act") (P.A. 96-1496). The Act increased the income tax rates imposed on individuals, trusts, estates, and corporations. The Act also established State spending limitations for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2015, and provided for a reduction in tax rates should those limitations be exceeded. Among its provisions, the Act requires the Auditor General to examine each Public Act authorizing State spending from State general funds and prepare a report indicating:

- i. The amount of State spending set forth in the applicable Public Act;
- ii. The total amount of State spending authorized by law for the applicable fiscal year as of the date of the report; and
- iii. Whether State spending exceeds the State spending limitation.

In the event that the Auditor General determines that State spending has exceeded the State spending limitation in any given fiscal year, the Act provides certain mechanisms and timeframes by which State spending may be reduced to a level that does not exceed the State spending limitation, including by passage of a bill or bills or designation of reserves. Under these circumstances, the Auditor General is required to issue a

supplemental report summarizing the actions taken by the General Assembly and Governor, indicating whether the level of State spending has changed since the initial report, and indicating whether State spending still exceeds the State spending limitation. If State spending still exceeds the State spending limitation, then the income tax rates will be reduced as provided by Section 201.5 of the Illinois Income Tax Act.

A complete text of the Taxpayer Accountability and Budget Stabilization Act is available on the Illinois General Assembly website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

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## B. DEFINITIONS

Under the Act, the State spending limitation applies to specific types of appropriations or transfers from the State's general funds. The Act provides the following definitions of terms pertinent to the reporting requirement:

“*State spending*” means:

- i. The total amount authorized for spending by *appropriation* or *statutory transfer* from the *State general funds* in the applicable fiscal year; and
- ii. Any amounts the Governor places in reserves that are subsequently released from reserves following authorization by a Public Act.

“*Appropriation*” means authority to spend money from a State general fund for a specific amount, purpose, and time period, including any supplemental appropriation or continuing appropriation, but does not include reappropriations from a previous fiscal year.

“*Statutory Transfer*” means authority to transfer funds from one State general fund to any other fund in the State treasury, but does not include transfers made from one State general fund to another State general fund.

“*State general funds*” means the General Revenue Fund (Fund 0001), the Common School Fund (Fund 0412), the General Revenue Common School Special Account Fund (Fund 0005), the Education Assistance Fund (Fund 0007), and the Budget Stabilization Fund (Fund 0686).

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## C. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

### Public Acts, Continuing Appropriations and Statutory Transfers

The definition of “appropriations” for purposes of the State Spending Limitation includes “continuing appropriations.” Continuing appropriations are those expenditures that are authorized by law for one or more fiscal periods without the necessity of further legislative action. Further, the definition of “state spending” includes “statutory

transfers.” Like continuing appropriations, statutory transfers can occur in one fiscal period based on authorization granted in prior fiscal periods. Therefore, continuing appropriations and statutory transfers impacting the State spending limitation may occur in Fiscal Year 2012 based on laws passed in previous years, and in some instances, several years ago.

Under the Secretary of State Act [15 ILCS 305/5 (9)], as amended by the Taxpayer Accountability and Budget Stabilization Act, the Secretary of State is required to notify the Auditor General of any *new* Public Act filed with that Office making an appropriation or a transfer of funds from the State treasury. Additional spending may occur based on *existing* statutory authority, and would be documented at the time of authorization or transfer in forms C-45 (Chart of Accounts Maintenance and Inquiry) and C-55 (Fund Transfer Notification) on file with the State Comptroller's Office.

The Auditor General's Office will review new Public Acts as they are filed with our Office by the Secretary of State. We will also review forms C-45 and C-55 on file at the State Comptroller's Office on a monthly basis. The purpose of our reviews will be to identify all appropriations, supplemental appropriations, continuing appropriations and statutory transfers constituting “State spending” from “State general funds” (as those terms are defined in P.A. 96-1496). We will issue a report or reports under the Taxpayer Accountability and Budget Stabilization Act showing authorizations for spending or actual spending and their impact on the State spending limitation.

### **Reserves**

Under the Act, any amount placed in reserves is not State spending and shall not be considered when calculating the total amount of State spending [35 ILCS 5/201.5 (d)]. Notice of the Governor's designation of amounts to be set aside as reserves shall be given to the Auditor General, among other parties. However, any Public Act authorizing the use of amounts placed in reserve by the Governor is considered State spending, unless such Public Act authorizes the use of amounts placed in reserves in response to a fiscal emergency.

### **Fiscal Emergencies**

Under the Act, State spending authorized by law to address a fiscal emergency declared by the Governor and concurred in by the State Comptroller and State Treasurer shall not be considered “State spending” for purposes of the State spending limitation [35 ILCS 5/201.5 (g)].

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## **D. STATE SPENDING LIMITATION**

The State Spending Limitation for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$36,818,000,000 [35 ILCS 5/201.5 (b)].

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**E. REPORT DEADLINE**

The Auditor General's report is due no later than 30 days after receiving notification of a new Public Act from the Secretary of State or 60 days after the effective date of the Public Act, whichever is earlier. As long as the deadline is met, the Auditor General may issue one report covering multiple Public Acts.

All reports are available on the Auditor General's website at [www.auditor.illinois.gov](http://www.auditor.illinois.gov).

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**F. LOG OF STATE SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS****Report #1:**

On February 1, 2011, pursuant to 15 ILCS 305/5 (9), the Auditor General's Office received the following Public Acts from the Secretary of State:

- P.A. 96-1501, effective 1/25/11;
- P.A. 96-1503, effective 1/27/11; and
- P.A. 96-1511, effective 1/27/11.

**Report #2:**

On March 1, 2011, pursuant to 15 ILCS 305/5 (9), the Auditor General's Office received the following Public Act from the Secretary of State:

- P.A. 96-1530, effective February 16, 2011.

On March 11, 2011, pursuant to 15 ILCS 305/5 (9), the Auditor General's Office received the following Public Act from the Secretary of State:

- P.A. 96-1543, effective July 1, 2011.

The complete text of all Public Acts and statutory citations is available on the General Assembly's website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

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**G. STATE SPENDING ANALYSIS**

As of this report:

- Cumulative State Spending for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$0; and
- The balance of the Fiscal Year 2012 State Spending cap remaining is \$36,818,000,000.

See Exhibit 1, which is attached to this report, for detail on all authorized State spending for Fiscal Year 2012 to date.

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**H. CONCLUSION**

It is our conclusion that the amount of State spending authorized to date for Fiscal Year 2012 does not exceed the State spending limitation. This report does not constitute a post audit or examination as that term is defined in generally accepted government auditing standards.



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William G. Holland, Auditor General

**3-31-11**

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Date

Exhibit 1

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZED STATE SPENDING vs. FISCAL YEAR 2012 SPENDING CAP OF \$36,818,000,000**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Report Number	Authorization Type	Citation	Does it Impact the FY12 Cap?	Fund Number	Spending Authorization	FY12 Cumulative State Spending To Date	FY12 Balance of State Spending Cap Remaining
1	PA	96-1501	No	–	\$0	\$0	\$36,818,000,000
	PA	96-1503	No	–	\$0	\$0	\$36,818,000,000
	PA	96-1511	No	–	\$0	\$0	\$36,818,000,000
2	PA	96-1530	No	–	\$0	\$0	\$36,818,000,000
	PA	96-1543	No	–	\$0	\$0	\$36,818,000,000

**Notes to Exhibit 1**

**Abbreviations (Column 2):**

CA = Continuing Appropriation  
 FE = Fiscal Emergency  
 PA = Public Act  
 R = Reserves  
 ST = Statutory Transfer

**Funds (Column 5):**

0001 = General Revenue (GR)  
 0005 = GR Common School Special Account  
 0007 = Education Assistance  
 0412 = Common School  
 0686 = Budget Stabilization

**Notes:**

- A positive amount in Column 6 reduces the amount remaining in Column 8.
- A negative amount in Column 6 increases the amount remaining in Column 8.