EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

We found that the financial transactions included in our testing were related to the office's programs, were reasonable, and were recorded properly in the accounting systems. Our audit found opportunities for cost savings and revenue enhancements in the areas of salary reimbursement, changing the ticket taxes and media taxes, and increasing the use of the state's program for electronic payment of payroll and web-based notifications.

AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Attorney General appointed an individual as acting prosecutor for one of the counties. This individual is on the state payroll while working for this county. For the 13 month period ending March 31, 2012, salary and fringe benefits totaled $230,000. As of August 1, 2012, this individual remains on the state’s payroll while employed by this county. In addition, N.J.S.A. 2A-158-10 allows for partial reimbursement of salary costs to counties. Although amounts were paid by the state, in November 2011 the county received $65,000 in reimbursement aid from the Department of Community Affairs intended to offset a portion of the prosecutor's salary. There was no request by the state for reimbursement from the county for these amounts.

- The State Athletic Control Board which is under the control of the Office of the Attorney General has not changed their fees and tax rates since 1985. In addition, ticket taxes and media taxes are based on a tiered rate schedule ranging from three to six percent capped at $100,000 per event. If the state’s seven percent sales tax rate amount was applied, without a cap, the extra revenues for calendar year 2011 would have amounted to $160,000.

- New Jersey has a voluntary program for electronic payment of payroll and web-based notifications. We noted that the Department of Law and Public Safety issued 11,700 payroll type items for the pay period ending March 9, 2012. Approximately 8,700 were either a paycheck or paystub and 3,000 were web-based notifications. The current process is wasting state resources. Approximately $60,000 could be saved annually for printing, postage, and physical distribution if all payroll was electronic with web-based notifications.

AUDITEE RESPONSE

The department generally concurs with our findings and recommendations.

For the complete audit report, click here.