

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**Office of the State Auditor**



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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## Agencies implementing 86 percent of recommendations made in Performance audits, Ralph Campbell says

RALEIGH \_ State agencies have implemented or are in the process of implementing 86 percent of the recommendations made in Performance audits by the Office of the State Auditor for the last three years, State Auditor Ralph Campbell said in a follow-up report released Wednesday.

The Office of the State Auditor routinely examines its own performance in conducting audits, including an assessment of whether recommendations made in Performance audits are being put in place. Performance audits are intended to focus on ways agencies or programs can improve their efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

The report released Wednesday tracked recommendations made in 18 Performance audits conducted from January 2000 to December 2003. Those audits included programs ranging from the State's information technology purchasing system to the Smart Start and Juvenile Justice programs.

"Too often in State government, reports are put together, then are consigned to a shelf where they do nothing more than gather dust," Campbell said. "We want to make sure that our reports, and particularly our Performance audits, do not end up in that category. We want our reports to be useful to the agencies we audit and to the taxpayers who expect government to make every effort to be more effective and efficient.

"This follow-up report on recommendations we made from 2000 through 2003 indicates that agencies are taking our suggestions seriously and that the recommendations are being used for their intended purpose: to make the best use of scarce resources," he said. "We are pleased as auditors that our efforts as watchdogs for the public are having their intended effect on government agencies."

The audits conducted from 2000 to 2003 had a total net financial impact on the State of \$745 million for the proposals that auditors were able to quantify. That included \$981 million in savings and questioned costs that should be recouped and \$236 in additional spending where auditors believed increased staffing or program enhancements would improve services to the public and lead to more efficiency.



Many of the recommendations which have not been implemented involved reallocating resources during tough budget times or changes in State law that have not yet won legislative approval. In most cases, recommendations that allowed agencies to improve their efficiency without changes to State law or large budget adjustments have been implemented.

The individual Performance audits conducted over the last three years are available on-line at the Office of the State Auditor web site: [www.ncauditor.net](http://www.ncauditor.net). The follow-up report is available on-line at <http://www.ncauditor.net/EPSSWeb/EDSreportdetail.asp?RepNum=PER-2004-0207>

Printed copies of all reports produced by the Office of the State Auditor can be obtained by filing a request under the Audits section of the web site or by calling the Office of the State Auditor at 919-807-7500.

