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State Auditor's Performance Division Wins National Award

RALEIGH, N.C. – The Performance Audit Division of the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor has won a national award for its audit that recommended that state prisons reduce inmate medical costs by using Medicaid for eligible prisoners.

The National State Auditors Association selected "Department of Correction—Inmate Medicaid Eligibility" as one of three audit reports from across the country to receive the NSAA Excellence in Accountability Award. The audit, released in August 2010, estimated that the State could save over \$11 million a year in medical costs by using Medicaid coverage for eligible inmates. The State is implementing the recommendation, which would save the equivalent of nearly the entire General Fund appropriation for the Office of the State Auditor.

"This is precisely the sort of economy and efficiency that our audit teams are seeking," said State Auditor Beth Wood. "The value of our office is not only to keep an eye on tax money for taxpayers, but also to find ways that North Carolina can improve its business operations to save those tax funds."

Since its release, the audit has drawn inquiries from eight other states seeking to use similar methods to reduce inmate medical costs.

Wood and members of the Performance Audit Division have been invited to discuss their audit at the national meeting of NSAA in Williamsburg, Va., on June 17.

The winning audit report is available on the State Auditor's website at:
<http://www.ncauditor.net/EPSWeb/Reports/Performance/PER-2010-7260.pdf>