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MAY 13, 2010

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**DeNUCCI CITES DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
BACKLOG ON ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci called for increased staffing levels at the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as a result of his audit released today disclosing that elevator inspections have not been completed in a timely manner.

In his report, DeNucci said 11,419 of 37,494 elevator inspection certificates at DPS (30%) were expired, ranging from periods of less than one year to over four years. It is the second DeNucci audit in the past six years to find significant numbers of elevators with expired inspection certificates.

“I understand the budget constraints all state agencies are facing during these difficult economic times, but this has been a long-term problem with potential public safety risk,” said DeNucci. “Fortunately, there have not been any major incidents to date and I hope there never are. Every dollar invested in this area will bring positive returns in terms of revenue and public safety.”

In addition to the public safety risk, DeNucci said the lack of timely annual inspections has led to lost revenue to the Commonwealth. Owners of nearly half of the elevators with expired certificates (5,437) had not applied for an annual inspection, which carries a fee of \$400. This has cost the state \$2,174,800 in revenue. DeNucci’s audit also reported that the state lost an additional \$4.3 million in revenue as a result of situations where annual inspections had not been conducted for a number of years, bringing the total amount of lost revenue to \$6.5 million.

In its response, the Department of Public Safety pointed out that the legal definition of elevators has broadened within the last five years, requiring even more inspections. DPS also indicated that it has purchased new computer software that will enable it to update its inefficient elevator database.

In other findings, DeNucci’s audit found that DPS was not in compliance with Office of the State Comptroller and Operational Services Division requirements for accounting, recording and reconciling its fixed assets. Also, DPS’s Internal Control Plan had not been updated since fiscal year 2002.