



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Released: Municipal Liquor Store Report
 2. Released: Pension Division Newsletter
 3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Monitoring Internal Controls
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1. Released: Municipal Liquor Store Report

The Office of the State Auditor has released the 2009 Analysis of Municipal Liquor Store Operations. The report provides comparative data on liquor operations that are owned and operated by Minnesota cities. In 2009, 210 Minnesota cities operated 242 municipal liquor stores, with 118 cities operating both on-sale and off-sale liquor establishments and 92 cities restricting their municipally-owned establishments to off-sale liquor stores. To view the complete Report, which includes an Executive Summary, tables, and graphs, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110330.000>.

2. Released: Pension Division Newsletter

The March **Pension Newsletter** has been released. It provides information about the 2010 reporting-year forms, a state aid certification update, and a reminder about the Broker Certification requirement. The Newsletter also has details on insurance requirements for consultants who provide legal or financial advice to volunteer fire relief associations.

The Newsletter can be viewed at:

http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/PensionDocs/pensionNewsletter_1103.pdf.

3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Monitoring Internal Controls

Public entities need to monitor their internal controls on a regular basis to determine if the controls are still effective. Changes in an entity may reduce the effectiveness of internal

controls. Those changes could stem from budget reductions, which could result in organizational restructuring or in a modification in the services provided by the entity, or from an updated information system.

The implementation of internal controls should also be monitored. An entity may adopt a control, but that control will not be effective if employees or management consistently ignore or circumvent the control.

Maintaining sound internal controls is an ongoing process, which is vital to protecting public assets.

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