

WRN News

Risser wants more auditors

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By **Bob Hague**

Governor Jim Doyle may be calling for layoffs of state workers, but a legislator says there's one area where the state needs **more** hiring. "We have close to a billion dollars in back taxes and penalties that are owed the state state," says State Senator Fred **Risser**. "We just don't have the capability of collecting it because we have a limited number of number of auditors."

State Revenue Secretary Roger Ervin said in March that he didn't actually want any **more** auditors -- but **Risser** says that not all Ervin said. "He indicated that an average **auditor** brings in a about \$1.9 million a year, and it costs about \$120,000 to hire the **auditor**."

In a report to the Joint Finance Committee Co-Chairs, **Risser** concludes that given the state's current fiscal situation, the amount of delinquent taxes owed, and the positive return on investment of hiring **more** auditors, it would appear prudent for Wisconsin to do that.