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Testimony to Senate Government Affairs Committee
23 April 2003
By State Controller Kathy Augustine

The State Controller's Office is here to support AB 217, particularly Section 24. Our office has been referred over 300 payroll overpayment accounts to collect. More than 50% of these accounts are anticipated week overpayments totaling over \$75,000. We would hope voluntary reduction by employees of the anticipated week payroll account by using accrued annual leave will reduce the number of overpayments being made when a state employee separates from state service. Also, out of the over 300 payroll overpayment accounts referred to our office, twenty five of these accounts were for less than \$50 and eleven were for less than \$25.

Section 36 of the bill delegates authority to the State Board of Examiner's Clerk to designate any payroll overpayment of \$50 or less as bad debt. As presented in the fiscal note accompanying this bill, the cost of postage and the cost of time spent handling these small accounts is usually greater than the amount recovered.