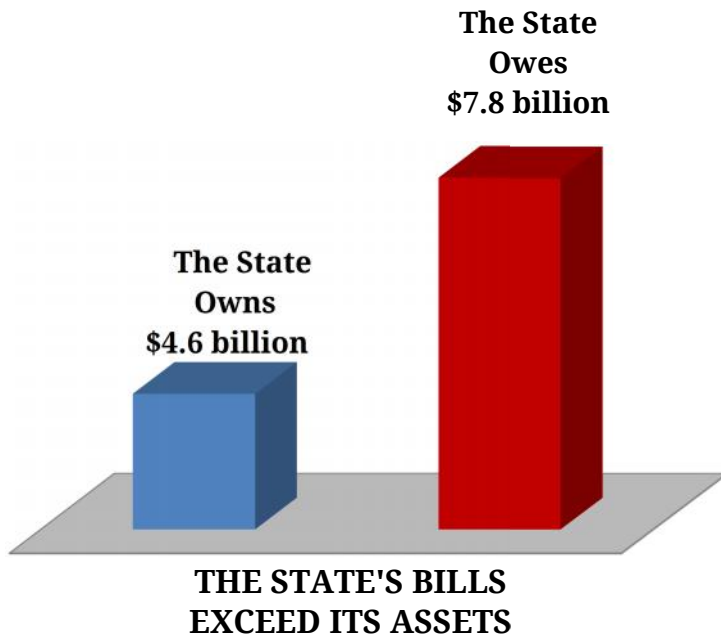


## THE 37th WORST STATE

### VERMONT IS A SINKHOLE STATE



The state of Vermont is sinking in debt. The State's \$3.2 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs that have been pushed into the future.

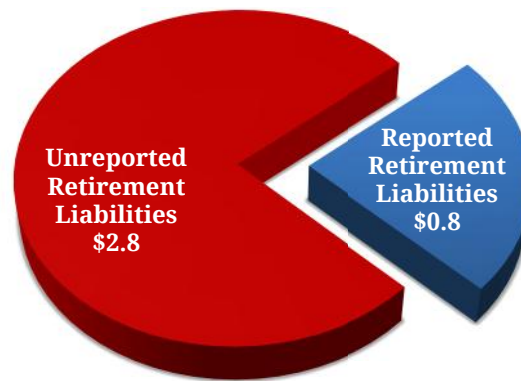
### Each Taxpayer's Share of This Financial Burden is \$14,500

One of the reasons Vermont is in this precarious financial position is state officials use antiquated budgeting and accounting rules to report Vermont's financial condition. Since employee retirement benefits are not immediately payable in cash, the related compensation costs have been ignored when calculating budgets.

*Number of taxpayers based on the number of Vermont federal tax filers with a tax liability.*

## 77% OF RETIREMENT LIABILITIES ARE NOT CLEARLY DISCLOSED

Truth in Accounting's detailed analysis discovered a total of \$3.6 billion of retirement benefits have been promised but not funded. Because of the confusing way the State does its accounting, only \$835.7 million of these liabilities are reported on Vermont's balance sheet.



The Institute for Truth in Accounting is committed to compelling governments to provide citizens with truthful and transparent financial information.

We call on governments to truthfully balance their budgets by including all real and certain expenses when incurred not when paid.

A transparent budget process would provide citizens with the information they need to be knowledgeable participants in their state government.

**To be knowledgeable participants in their State government, citizens need to be provided with truthful and transparent financial information.**

*Data is derived from the state of Vermont's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.*

The Financial State of Vermont  
As of June 30, 2012

**The State's Bills Exceed Its Assets**

Assets	\$8,665,449,000
Less: Capital Assets	\$2,715,232,000
Restricted Assets	\$1,328,814,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$4,621,403,000
Less: Bills	\$7,833,084,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	<b>\$3,211,681,000</b>
<b>Each Taxpayer's* Burden</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>

The state of Vermont has \$8.7 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay State bills.

The \$2.7 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of \$1.3 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves \$4.6 billion of State's assets available to pay \$7.8 billion of bills as they come due.

The \$3.2 billion shortfall represents compensation and other costs incurred in prior years that should have been paid in those prior years. Instead these costs have been shifted to future taxpayers.

**Today Each Taxpayer Owes \$14,500**

*Number of taxpayers is based on the number of Vermont federal tax filers with a tax liability.*

*Data is derived from the state of Vermont's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.*



**The Bills the State Has Accumulated**

State Bonds	\$3,984,231,000
Other Liabilities	\$1,096,128,000
Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets	\$844,251,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,347,328,000
Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	\$2,249,648,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$7,833,084,000</b>

The State has accumulated bonds of \$4 billion and other liabilities of \$1.1 billion. The calculation of assets available to pay bills does not include capital assets, so \$844.3 million of related debt is removed from the calculation of State Bills.

Unfunded employees' retirement benefits represent 46% of State bills. These unfunded liabilities have accumulated because State employees have been promised \$1.3 billion of pension benefits and \$2.2 billion of retirees' health care benefits, but the State has not adequately funded them.

Unless these pension and retirees' health care benefits are renegotiated, future taxpayers will be burdened with paying for these benefits without receiving any corresponding government services or benefits.

**All Retirement Liabilities Are Not Clearly Disclosed**

Reported Retirement Liabilities	\$835,694,000
Unreported Retirement Liabilities	\$2,761,282,000
<b>Total Retirement Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,596,976,000</b>

A detailed study of Vermont's actuaries' schedules found retirement benefits totaling \$3.6 billion have been promised, but not funded. But a review of the State's balance sheet determined only \$835.7 million of these liabilities are reported. This means that \$2.8 billion of retirement liabilities are not reported on the State's balance sheet.