



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Neil D. Breslin

## Senator Breslin: Does the State Owe You Money?

NEIL D. BRESLIN July 22, 2010

Thursday July 22, 2010

(**Albany, NY**) Senator Neil D. Breslin (D-Delmar) announced today that New Yorkers are owed hundreds of millions in unclaimed funds from the State, and can get any money they are owed simply by calling the state Comptroller's office or going online.

"The Comptroller has made it easy for New Yorkers to find out if the state owes them money," said Senator Breslin. "This money does not belong to the state and I urge all New Yorkers to take a minute of their time to find out if they have money coming to them." The Comptroller has more than 25 million outstanding accounts, which may be worth as little as a few dollars to several thousand.

For consumer protection, the state requires that banks, insurance companies, utilities, investment companies and other businesses are required by law to surrender inactive accounts for oversight. The Comptroller's office then serves as a custodian of the money until claimed by the rightful owner. The state never takes ownership of this money. If one can prove they are entitled to the money, including that of a deceased relative, the state will return it without any charge.

New Yorkers can call (800) 221-9311 or visit the Comptroller's website at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us> and search the list of unclaimed funds by entering their last name, first name and middle initial, or the name of a business along with a city in the search fields.

"Some people forgot they left money in a neighborhood savings bank after moving, or they forgot to update their information on an investment account after taking a new job. That money is just waiting to be claimed," Senator Breslin said.

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