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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the State of Ohio (the State), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the State's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the State, as of June 30, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the following organizations which represent the percentages of total assets and expenditures/expenses/deductions indicated for the related opinion units as of June 30, 2022 and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows, thereof for the year then ended:

Opinion Unit	Organization	Percent of Opinion Unit's Total	
		Assets	Expenditures/ Expenses/ Deductions
Governmental Activities (GA)	Treasurer of State Lease Revenue Bonds and Buckeye Tobacco Settlement Financing Authority (BTSFA)	2%	1%
Business-Type Activities (BTA)	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation	90%	34%
GA/BTSFA Revenue Bonds	Buckeye Tobacco Settlement Finance Authority	100%	100%
BTA / Workers' Compensation	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation	100%	100%
Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units	Bowling Green State University; Cleveland State University; Columbus State Community College; JobsOhio; Kent State University; Miami University; Ohio State University; Ohio University; Shawnee State University; University of Akron; University of Cincinnati; University of Toledo; Wright State University; and Youngstown State University	92%	92%
Aggregate Remaining Fund Information	State Highway Patrol Retirement System; State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio; and Treasurer of State Lease Revenue Bonds	41%	2%

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Those statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us, and our opinions, insofar as they relate to the amount included for these independently audited organizations, are based solely on the reports of other auditors.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the State, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The financial statements of JobsOhio, which represents five percent of total assets and eleven percent of the total expenses of the aggregate discretely presented component units, were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Emphasis of Matters

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, during 2022, the State adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As discussed in Note 20 to the financial statements, the State reported known fraud and non-fraud Unemployment Compensation overpayments totaling \$2.77 billion to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) as of June 30, 2022. Of the total overpayments reported to the DOL, \$598.2 million was fraud and \$2.17 billion was non-fraud. These overpayments were regular unemployment as well as federal pandemic unemployment benefits. The federal government gave discretion to states to waive the need for repayment of pandemic funding related to non-fraud. Due to the nature of these known overpayments along with federal waiver discretion, most of these monies have not been subject to a collection process. Additionally, the State has flagged as possible overpayments, certain claims with one or more fraud identifiers. These flagged claims were both regular unemployment and federal pandemic unemployment benefits with an accumulated amount of \$1.08 billion. Despite being flagged as potential overpayments, until the claims are fully adjudicated, no determination can be made on the outcome. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the State's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing*

Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the State's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis*, *Required budgetary comparison schedules*, *Schedules for infrastructure assets accounted for using the modified approach*, and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with evidence sufficient to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements as a whole. The financial section's combining statements and individual fund statements and schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the financial section's combining statements and individual fund statements and schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual financial report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections, but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 21, 2022, on our consideration of the State's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the State's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 21, 2022