Oversight in the News

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- **Vermont** auditor finds substantial delays, inadequate record-keeping in state paving projects (Vermont Public, 3/17/2023)
  - A recent audit of state paving projects in Vermont revealed substantial delays and inadequate record-keeping, particularly in the planning stages of more complex projects. The State Auditor's Office found that the Agency of Transportation often exceeded cost estimates and completed projects years behind schedule. While simple paving projects were generally completed on time, the audit highlighted the need for improvements in project documentation to address delays and enhance accountability.

- Audit: Eldercare Homes Need More State Oversight (Seven Days, 3/29/2023)
  - A state audit in Vermont has found that regulators are not inspecting eldercare homes frequently enough and are too lenient when addressing safety issues that could threaten residents. The audit recommends lawmakers set more stringent rules and highlights shortcomings in oversight, leaving residents vulnerable. The findings align with a 2019 investigation that revealed issues across the eldercare industry in Vermont, an industry subject

to light regulation and enforcement compared to nursing homes.
    - State Auditor’s Report

- State auditor finds delays and cost overruns in information technology projects (VTDigger, 5/30/2023)
    - A report from the Vermont State Auditor reveals that out of six audited information technology projects undertaken by the Vermont Agency of Digital Services, only one was completed on time and within budget. The report highlights instances of delayed and over-budget projects, such as the Secretary of State’s Office failing to deploy a usable website for its business portal two years after the planned launch. The report emphasizes the need for better measurement of project performance and responsibility in ensuring the proper use of public funds by the Agency of Digital Services.
        - Read the State Auditor’s report

- Audit finds Vermont failed to complete steps to reduce risk from natural disasters such as flooding (NBC Boston, 9/7/2024)
    - An audit found that Vermont failed to implement key measures designed to reduce the risk of natural disasters such as flooding. The report highlighted shortcomings in updating hazard plans and completing required assessments. This oversight leaves the state vulnerable to future disasters, says State Auditor Doug Hoffer, despite frequent severe weather events.
        - Read the audit

- Vermont state auditor takes issue with two COVID-relief program designs (Times Argus, 9/30/2024)
    - Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer criticized the design of two COVID-19 relief programs, the Capital Investment Program and the Community Recovery and Revitalization Program, for potentially awarding excessive funds to entities that did not demonstrate financial need. Hoffer noted that the state Department of Economic Development, which managed these programs, did not sufficiently assess applicants' financial conditions or reserves. In response, Department Commissioner Joan Goldstein defended the agency's decisions, arguing that it followed federal guidelines and that the definition of "need" differed from the auditor's perspective.

- Oversight reports warn of risks in delayed $70-plus million state IT project (vtdigger, 2/2/2025)
  - A legislative oversight report raised concerns about delays and cost overruns in a Vermont state IT project exceeding $70 million. Lawmakers reviewed findings that warned of potential risks related to project management, vendor accountability, and system implementation. Officials defended progress but acknowledged challenges, while legislators emphasized the need for stricter oversight to prevent further issues.