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**AUDITOR SAND ADVISES GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES  
TO BE WARY OF FAKE EMAILS FROM REAL VENDORS**

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This Alert is the result of notifications the Office of Auditor of State has received in accordance with section 11.6(7) of the Code of Iowa. Unknown parties are attempting to fraudulently misdirect state and local governmental entities in Iowa into issuing payments by posing as vendors.

Specifically, the Auditor has been notified by representatives of several entities they have received emails which appear to be from vendors who are currently providing services to them. The email requests a form to change banks to which electronic payments should be directed. Alternatively, the email advises the vendor has switched financial institutions and directs the entity to change the bank routing information for future electronic payments issued to the vendor. The emails contain logos, contact information, and formatting which are consistent with other communications received from the vendor. The emails do not ask for immediate payment.

However, the emails are not authentic. Upon close examination, it was determined the fraudulent emails have an address that varies from the authentic vendor's email address by a single letter/digit or by an alternate extension, such as ".net" rather than ".com". If the revised bank routing information is used for future electronic payments, the payments will be misrouted.

In order to ensure the validity of any instructions to revise bank routing information, Auditor Sand strongly advises representatives of all governmental entities to call any vendors to independently confirm instructions received electronically. Do not respond to the email, but instead use previously held contact information to ensure the appropriate party is reached.

If a representative of a governmental entity learns it received an email improperly instructing them to revise bank routing information for future payments, this information should be reported to the FBI through <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. In addition, the entity should immediately contact the Office of Auditor of State at 515-281-5834 to report the suspected irregularity as required by section 11.6(7) of the Code of Iowa. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Office of Auditor of State at 515-281-5834.