Governor proposes returning \$1 billion to Hoosier taxpayers

INDIANAPOLIS -- Governor Eric Holcomb today announced a plan to return \$1 billion of state reserves to Hoosier taxpayers, following higher than expected revenue performance this fiscal year.

Each taxpayer would collect about \$225 in addition to \$125 Hoosiers are currently receiving from the state's automatic taxpayer refund (ATR). All told, each eligible Hoosier would receive about \$350; a married couple filing jointly would receive about \$700.

"Hoosiers have real needs right now during this period of high inflation, from the gas pump to buying groceries, and everyone should benefit from the state's success," said Holcomb.

The governor has outlined his plan with legislative leaders.

"I've met with Speaker Huston and Senator Bray and have asked them to discuss getting a billion dollars back into Hoosier hands with their colleagues," said Holcomb. "I've committed to work with them to call a special session before the end of June to take action to align this second round of returns with our current ATR."

The state's reported revenues for May, released today, were \$209 million over forecast. For 11 months of the fiscal year, revenues are \$1.075 billion over forecast.

If approved, an additional deposit would be made to the bank accounts of eligible Hoosiers, just like the current ATR. For those who will receive paper checks beginning in August, one check for \$350 for individual taxpayers, or \$700 for those filing jointly, would be issued.

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Huston supports special session to provide inflation relief to Hoosiers

Note to the Press – House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) provided the following statement today after Gov. Eric Holcomb announced his plan to call state lawmakers back to the Statehouse for a special session to provide inflation relief to Hoosier taxpayers:

STATEHOUSE (June 9, 2022) – "Inflation is having real and negative effects on everyday Hoosiers, whether it's record gas prices or rising grocery and energy bills. That's why I fully support the governor's call for a special session to put more money directly back into taxpayers' pockets. By issuing another round of automatic taxpayer refunds, we can provide quick and substantial relief while maintaining the state's prudent reserves and providing budget flexibility moving forward. We'll work with the governor and our Senate colleagues on scheduling a special session, so we can return to the Statehouse and do what's right by Hoosiers."

Click <u>here</u> for a link to the governor's full announcement.

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House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) represents House District 37, which includes Fishers and portions of Hamilton County.

Statement from Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) made the following statement today regarding the governor's proposal:

STATEHOUSE (June 9, 2022) – "We recognize many Hoosiers are facing uncertainty, in large part due to the unprecedented level of inflation our nation is experiencing. While this is a product of policies from Washington, D.C., we want to provide some help where possible.

"Thanks to Indiana's continued fiscal prudence, we can consider providing some relief to Hoosiers who are trying to adapt to today's challenges by returning some of their hard-earned money back to them."

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Taylor Comments on Governor's Plan to Send Refund to Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS—Today Governor Holcomb shared his Inflation Relief Plan, which would return \$1 billion of Indiana's \$6.1 billion surplus to taxpayers in an automatic refund. That would amount to \$225 per eligible Hoosier filer. Governor Holcomb also announced that he would call a special session before the end of June to advance his proposed agenda.

Senate Democratic Leader Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis) released the following statement on the proposed plan:

"Getting money directly into the pockets of struggling Hoosiers is always the right decision, and I'm glad that Governor Holcomb heard our calls to provide direct relief to Hoosiers. Providing every Hoosier with \$225 will help a lot of people trying to make ends meet right now. However, this one-time payment is temporary relief. It isn't enough to address the ongoing struggles that Hoosiers are facing. Hoosiers' financial struggles are ongoing and relief needs to be ongoing as well.

"I do think we can go further, but I'm happy to see the Governor taking action to relieve Hoosiers during tough times. I look forward to discussing expanded relief measures we can take to help Hoosiers on a long-term basis once we head into special session."

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