

TUA NEWS RELEASE

TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

407 S. Dearborn Street • Suite 1170 • Chicago, IL 60605-1150 • Fax: (312) 427-5139
• www.taxpayersunited.org • E-mail: tobin@taxpayersunited.org

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Contact: Jim Tobin (773) 354-2076
(312) 427-5128

200 ADDITIONAL IL STATE POLICE WILL COST TAXPAYERS \$1.5 BILLION

CHICAGO—Ill. Gov. Patrick [Quinn's proposal to add roughly 200 additional state police](#) will cost Illinois taxpayers \$1.5 billion, conservatively, over the troopers' expected lifetime—a cost the bankrupt state and battered taxpayers can't afford, according to Jim Tobin, President of Taxpayers United of America.

“Gov. Patrick Quinn (D) is ‘concerned’ that too many state police officers are retiring. And why wouldn't they retire? They can retire in their 50s and get millions of dollars in retirement benefits over a normal lifetime. Getting paid not to work is a terrific deal.”

“Using a conservative estimate of \$80,000 annual base pay over 25 years, these 200 additional state troopers will cost taxpayers at least \$400 million in wages alone. After working for 25 years and retiring, if they live to age 85, they will cost taxpayers an additional \$1.1 billion in pension benefits. Contrary to popular belief, actual employee contributions to the pension fund average only about 3% of their total, lifetime pension payouts. The total tab to taxpayers will be about \$1.5 billion.”

“[They will be paid *more not to work, for more years, than they will be paid to actually work.*](#)”

“Besides handing out speeding tickets and doing politicians' dirty-work, the state police contribute little to the state's quality of life. Only the state crime lab is essential. The state troopers are superfluous and expensive.”

“[We sent a letter to Gov. Quinn](#) asking for government pension reforms that include raising the retirement age to 67, increasing employee pension contributions 10%, requiring all members to contribute 50% to their healthcare premiums, ending cost-of-living increases, and immediately replacing defined pension benefits with contributions made by all new hires.”

“We need a hiring freeze of all state government agencies whose employees participate in the crippled Illinois government pension system until comprehensive government pension reform is implemented.”