

# DAILY NEWS

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*Approved state contracts will have transparency, state controller vows*

*By Joe Mahoney*

ALBANY - State Controller Thomas DiNapoli will announce Thursday that he'll post all approved state contracts on the Internet and call for a "hard cap" on state debt, which now stands at a staggering \$51 billion.

Looking to make his mark as a reformer, DiNapoli will also urge new limits on spending by New York's public authorities to ensure all payouts relate to their "core mission," according to highlights of his speech obtained by the Daily News.

"We've treated reform like little in-between meal snacks - a little debt reform here, a little budget reform there," DiNapoli's speech says.

The state needs "a much more complete reform menu."

DiNapoli aides said his move to publish state contracts will help stop scandals such as the sweetheart deal state officials cut in 2003 with a developer, handing him the right to build housing along the Erie Canal for just \$30,000.

Gov. Pataki canceled the contract after it became public and drew howls from lawmakers.

Other initiatives DiNapoli will lay out include producing an easy-to-understand "taxpayer budget."