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CHRONICLE

Gov. Schweitzer sends revenuers after more out-of-state firms

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By **MATT GOURAS**, Associated Press Writer

HELENA (AP) — Gov. Brian Schweitzer says he is sending the state revenuers after online travel booking sites and out-of-state oil lease traders he suspects may be shirking their Montana taxes.

It is the latest in a string of moves by Schweitzer to crack down on tax cheats, mostly from out of state. His Department of Revenue was recently credited with a big increase in audit collections.

Schweitzer says he now wants the agency to look at the Internet sites that book hotel rooms. He suspects they are not paying Montana's full lodging tax.

The governor says he also suspects nonresidents who package and trade Montana oil leases have not been paying income tax on profits they make on those transactions. The agency will be looking at ways to track the deals.