

**BRIEFING SHEET**

Report 19-1

January 2019

State Auditor

[Joe Chrisman](#)**Biennial Report***January 21, 2017 – December 31, 2018***Background**

The Bureau supports the Legislature in its oversight of Wisconsin government and its promotion of efficient and effective state operations by providing nonpartisan, independent, accurate, and timely audits and evaluations of public finances and the management of public programs. Bureau reports typically contain reviews of financial transactions, analyses of agency performance or public policy issues, conclusions regarding the causes of problems found, and recommendations for improvement.

From January 2017 through December 2018, the Bureau published more than 40 reports, including financial audit reports, performance evaluations and reviews, and numerous other audit opinions and certifications. This biennial report, which is required under s. 13.94 (1) (j), Wis. Stats., describes the Bureau's statutory responsibilities, highlights noteworthy findings, and summarizes activity for the Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018.

Noteworthy Findings

The Bureau's audit and evaluation work frequently identifies opportunities for the Legislature to increase its oversight of high-profile initiatives, important policy issues, and government operations. In 2017 and 2018, the Bureau's work identified:

- improvements that could be made to financial reporting, information technology security, and administration of federal funds by state agencies;
- oversight of programs or third-party administrators that should be improved;
- areas where improvements to program operations and effectiveness could be achieved; and
- matters that are likely to be topics of ongoing legislative consideration.

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline

Since its inception in April 2008, the hotline has received 1,098 reports. From January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018, 125 of the 203 concerns reported to the hotline were state-related issues. The majority of these reports related to concerns about state agency mismanagement, such as compliance with applicable laws or policy issues. Reports resolved in 2017 and 2018 include:

- allegations pertaining to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King;
- a \$404,250 payment by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to a contractor for an unneeded construction item;
- policy noncompliance for 28 of 287 construction contracts awarded by DOT in fiscal year 2017-18;
- a \$5,000 reconciliation variance for the criminal records check system at the Department of Justice; and
- allegations involving an interstate motor fuel carrier; purchasing activities at the Northern Wisconsin Center; and hiring practices at the State of Wisconsin Investment Board.

Individuals may report concerns to the hotline by calling 1-877-FRAUD-17. Persons contacting the hotline may remain anonymous, and state law specifically requires the Bureau to protect callers' identities. Additional information is available on the Bureau's website.

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