



Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline

Semiannual Report: January through June 2020

Background

As required by s. 13.94 (1) (br), Wis. Stats., the Legislative Audit Bureau operates a toll-free hotline (1-877-FRAUD-17) that allows the public and individuals within state government to confidentially report alleged fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Callers may remain anonymous, and the statute governing the hotline specifically requires the Bureau to protect their identities even when other information related to calls is made public. A secure online form is also available to report concerns.

Summary and Key Findings

From the inception of the hotline and through June 30, 2020, we have received 1,226 reports. From January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020, we received a total of [62 reports](#). We highlight findings related to selected reports that we resolved, including at:

- the [Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) which did not follow capital project procurement requirements; and
- the [State Public Defender's Office \(SPD\)](#), which did not sufficiently document certain activities performed by its employees during work time.

Recommendations

We recommended that:

- DNR develop formal written policies and procedures to identify which capital projects need to be combined when determining the required procurement process; and
- SPD develop policies to establish when employees are permitted to use work time for certain activities, such as serving as an instructor for an outside entity, and document in writing the benefits to SPD when employees do so.