

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

66 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0066

TEL: (207) 624-6250

B. Melissa Perkins, CPA
Acting State Auditor

September 1, 2022

Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor of the State of Maine

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

I am pleased to submit the State Auditor's Fraud Hotline Semiannual Reports for the periods January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 and July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Sincerely,

B. Melissa Perkins, CPA
Acting State Auditor



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STATE AUDITOR'S FRAUD HOTLINE
<http://www.maine.gov/audit/fraud/index.html>
Semiannual Report
For the Period 7/1/2021 to 12/31/2021

Total number of complaints received	59
Complaint sequence: Complaints No. 773 through No. 831	
Number of complaints closed for not meeting requirements, or not allegations of fraud	26
Number of referrals made to the Office of the Attorney General	11
Number of complaints investigated by Office of the State Auditor personnel	0
Number of referrals to the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability	0
Number of complaints still open	0
Complaints about individuals referred to (some to more than one agency):	
Fraud Investigation and Recovery Unit – DHHS	5
Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery – DHHS	0
Maine Revenue Service	7
Department of Labor	2
Maine State Housing Authority	9

Types of complaints Office of the State Auditor personnel investigate:

- illegal acts affecting State government such as theft, fraud, and financial conflict of interest,
- financial fraud depleting resources or increasing expenditures of the State,
- significant abuse of State equipment or property,
- clear misuse of State property, programs, or work time for personal gain,
- gross misconduct with significant financial effects,
- consistent, wasteful conduct with significant financial implications, and
- kickbacks or similar acts involving return payments to State workers or vendors.

Types of complaints Office of the State Auditor personnel do not investigate, but the Office does generally refer these complaints to other State agencies or other government authorities:

- personal conflicts between individuals or domestic or other threats of violence,
- alleged improper acts by Federal officials,
- personal gripes against State employees about personal matters,
- mistakes made by State personnel,
- insignificant matters or complaints without sufficient factual basis, and
- matters handled by other specific State investigation units.

The Office of the State Auditor does not have enforcement power. However, we work with governmental entities that do have enforcement power. This includes, but is not limited to, the Attorney General's Office and the District Attorneys' Offices.

A legend for the abbreviations used in this report appears on page three.

A listing of the complaints received from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 begins on page four of this report.

Agency acronyms that may be used in the report:

AG - Office of the Attorney General

BBB- Better Business Bureau

DSER- Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery (a division of DHHS)

DHHS - Department of Health and Human Services

DOL - Department of Labor

MRS - Maine Revenue Services (a division of DAFS)

MSHA- Maine State Housing Authority

OSA - Office of the State Auditor

ID	Type or Name of <u>Potential</u> Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
773	DSER complaint	None	N/A	Closed- Advised to resolve with DSER	No action warranted
774	Email scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- Individual already in contact with AG	To be determined by AG
775	Benefit scam	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Anonymous complaint	No action warranted
776	Unemployment fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Referred to DOL	To be determined by DOL
777	Town property tax	None: Municipal fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- OSA referred individual to town office	No action warranted
778	Mail fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- Nothing to refer	No action warranted
779	Request for benefits/assistance	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- Referred to MSHA/DHHS	To be determined by MSHA/DHHS
780	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
781	Loan issue	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- Nothing to refer	No action warranted

ID	Type or Name of Potential Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
782	Business fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Complainant withdrew complaint	No action warranted
783	Unemployment fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Permission to refer not received	No action warranted
784	Email/telephone fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
785	Online social media issue	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Nothing to refer	No action warranted
786	Benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- OSA reached out multiple times, received no response	No action warranted
787	Benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to DHHS	To be determined by DHHS
788	ERA program/benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
789	Email scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
790	Sales tax fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Improper collection of sales taxes	Closed-Referred to MRS	To be determined by MRS
791	Credit card refund scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
792	Falsified medical releases	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to DHHS	To be determined by DHHS

ID	Type or Name of Potential Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
793	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
794	Benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Nothing to refer	No action warranted
795	Telephone scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
796	Business fraud/tax fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of unpaid taxes	Closed-Referred to MRS/Office of Cannabis Policy	To be determined by MRS
797	Landlord/tenant issue	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
798	Business fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
799	HR-related complaint	None: Private HR issue	N/A	Closed- No fraud alleged	No action warranted
800	Unreported income/benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to DHHS and MRS	To be determined by DHHS and MRS
801	DHHS complaint	None: Private legal matter	N/A	Closed- Legal matter	No action warranted
802	Unemployment fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Complainant already in communication with DOL	To be determined by DOL
803	Online scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG

ID	Type or Name of Potential Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
804	Online scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Additional information not provided	No action warranted
805	Embezzlement	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Nothing to refer	No action warranted
806	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
807	Phone scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
808	Multiple complaints	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
809	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
810	Rent scam/ tax scam	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits and unpaid taxes	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
811	Email scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
812	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
813	Tax fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recover of any unpaid taxes	Closed-Referred to MRS	To be determined by MRS

ID	Type or Name of Potential Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
814	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
815	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
816	Unreported income/sales tax	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits and unpaid taxes	Closed-Referred to MRS	To be determined by MRS
817	Fraudulent rental	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Nothing to refer	No action warranted
818	Online scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
819	Business complaint	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Directed to BBB	No action warranted
820	Identity theft/telephone scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
821	Municipal complaint	None: Municipal fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Referred to AG	To be determined by AG
822	Maine Housing fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed-Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
823	Personal matter	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed-Nothing to refer	No action warranted
824	Child Tax Credit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of inappropriate tax benefits	Closed-Referred to MRS	To be determined by MRS

ID	Type or Name of Potential Fraud	Agency Complained of:	Potential Impact on Government:	Action taken by the Office of the State Auditor:	Substantiation of Complaint:
825	Business scam	None: Private fraud alleged	N/A	Closed- Permission to refer not obtained	No action warranted
826	Unreported income/ benefit fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Complainant in contact with State Agencies who have jurisdiction	No action warranted
827	Multiple complaints	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recover of any unpaid taxes	Closed- Complainant already in contact with MRS	No action warranted
828	Tax fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recover of any unpaid taxes	Closed- Referred to MRS	To be determined by MRS
829	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Complainant already in contact with MSHA	No action warranted
830	Rental assistance fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits	Closed- Referred to MSHA	To be determined by MSHA
831	Benefit/tax fraud	None: Private fraud alleged	Possible recovery of any inappropriate benefits and unpaid taxes	Closed- Referred to MRS and DHHS	To be determined by MRS and DHHS