



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

State Senator Robert Cowles

State Representative Samantha Kerkman

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2020

For More Information Contact:
Senator Cowles ~ 800.334.1465
Representative Kerkman ~ 888.529.0061

Report Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement in State Government to Legislative Audit Bureau Hotline (1-877-FRAUD-17)

MADISON – Today, the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released its semiannual report highlighting the activities of LAB’s Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline ([report 20-6](#)). The hotline was established in April 2008 and provides the public and individuals within state government way to confidentially report potential fraud, waste, and mismanagement in state agencies or programs, including at institutions in the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

“The hotline is one of our best opportunities to be made aware of mismanagement and waste within state agencies and programs,” said State Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem Lakes). “LAB investigation of hotline reports prompts agencies to implement best practices and take corrective action before fraud, waste or mismanagement become substantial risks to the state.”

Since inception and through June 30, 2020, 1,226 reports were made to the hotline. From January through June 2020, LAB received 62 hotline reports, 44 of which were specific to state agencies or programs. These reports involved a variety of topics, including alleged mismanagement, agency compliance with state laws or regulations, and concerns about contractors. In report 20-6, LAB also highlights findings related to selected reports that were resolved at the Department of Natural Resources and the State Public Defender’s Office.

“The Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline continues to serve as a useful tool to maintain accountability in government. I want to encourage any citizen that believes they have identified waste, fraud, or abuse in government to call the hotline and report their concerns,” said Senator Cowles (R-Green Bay).

Individuals may report concerns related to state government activities to LAB by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-877-FRAUD-17, through a secure online reporting form available at www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/hotline, or by mail. By law, the identity of the individual making the report will remain confidential.

Copies of report 20-6 may be obtained from LAB’s website at www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab or by calling (608) 266-2818.

-###-